



# LARGE GROUP GUIDE DAY 1

# VBS 2025

## Large Group Schedule

### **OPENING SESSION:**

5:45 - 6:00 Crew Leader Connection

6:00 - 6:10 Jump Start

6:10 - 6:40 Opening Assembly

6:08 Countdown

6:10 Host Welcome

6:15 Worship (2 songs)

6:25 Bible Story- Host(s)

6:30 Worship (1 song)

6:35 Preschool Dismissal

6:35 Missions Highlight

6:40 Prayer/Dismissal

6:45-7:50 Rotations

### **CLOSING SESSION:**

7:50-8:00 Mini Jumpstart

8:00-8:15 Closing Session

8:00-8:05 Recap

8:05-8:10 Offering Update

8:10-8:15 Worship (1 song)

8:15 Prayer/Dismissal



## "JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!"

### Theme Verse:

*"He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life." John 8:12b*

**Host 1** - a researcher from a place called the Chattanooga Bakery in the state of Tennessee, on a mission to find "moon pies." Names: Luna Baker, Cosmo Baker

**Host 2** - a mechanic for Solar Group in Georgia, studying to become a space captain. Names: Milly Wey, Mickey Wey,

### Day 1 - The Light of Jesus Changes Hearts

**Bible Story:** Jesus accepts Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-9)

**Main Point:** The Light of Jesus Changes Hearts

**Key Verse:** "The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them." (Luke 19:10)

**Skit:** Host 1 and 2 are on the moon. Host 2 is studying to be a starfleet captain and Host 1 is searching the moon for "moon pies". Host 2 has recently chosen to follow Jesus and his heart was changed from pursuing being a captain for money, glory and fame.

### Day 2 - The Light of Jesus Brings Joy

**Bible Story:** Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king (Luke 19:28-40)

**Main Point:** The Light of Jesus Brings Joy

**Key Verse:** "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Luke 19:38)

**Skit:** Host 2 received word that he passed his written exam, but he won't know if he makes captain until he finishes the simulation exercise he's doing on the moon. Host 1 can't understand how Host 2 can still be joyful even though neither of them have achieved their goals (becoming captain, finding moon pies).





## Day 3 - The Light of Jesus Rescues Us

**Bible Story:** Jesus died on the cross and rose again (John 19-20)

**Main Point:** The Light of Jesus Rescues Us

**Key Verse:** "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God." (John 14:1)

**Skit:** Host 1 leads Host 2 to the dark side of the moon as a last effort to find the moon pies and they get lost. Host 1 is consumed with panic and fear while Host 2 is at peace. Host 2 uses a flashlight to shine light in the darkness and lead them back safely. This sparks curiosity in Host 1 about following Jesus. Host 1 ends up choosing life in Christ.

## Day 4 - The Light of Jesus Shines Through Us!

**Bible Story:** Philip helps the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-39)

**Main Point:** The light of Jesus shines through us!

**Key Verse:** "He told him the good news about Jesus." (Acts 8:35b)

**Skit:** Host 2 needs Host 1 to help read a message from his home base. The message reveals that they have to dig for the moon pies. When they find them Host 1 reveals that he never intended to share the moon pies with others. They draw a parallel between sharing Good News and how Host 2 has been consistently shining Jesus' light for him. It ends with them both agreeing to return home and continue sharing the Good News of Jesus - not moon pies.

### As you prepare:

*What is the most important lesson or truth you hope kids will take away from Stellar VBS?*



This year, our kids will participate in a Token Challenge! Tokens will be used throughout VBS to reward kids for remarkable expressions of love, kindness, great listening, participation, memorizing our Main Points and Bible verse, and more!

- **Award Tokens from Stage:** Verbally announce the awarding of tokens and have someone record it to add to the total!
  - *“You all did a great job saying today’s Main Point! But, I’ll give 20 tokens if we can say YESTERDAY’S Main Point right now! 1-2-3- “(insert kids saying it!). Yes! Ryan, did you write that down? +20 tokens!”* Use your physical tokens to award kids as you interact
  - with kids more personally throughout the night.
- **Play into the Hype:** Emphasize the excitement of earning tokens! Reward tokens to recognize and celebrate behaviors you want to see repeated.
  - Be specific as you award tokens so kids can confidently repeat their positive actions. Ex: Great worship participation, getting silent immediately, attentively listening, repeating the Memory Verse, etc.
    - *“Did you hear the way they sang? What a powerful reminder. Let’s add 10 tokens!”*
- **Overall Token Goal:** Kids will work together to reach an Overall Token Goal (please know your campus goal!) and receive a celebration on the last night of VBS!
  - Although the goal is collective, you can still award tokens by crews, to “this side of the room”, to “all the preschool kids”, etc.

**Give Out Tokens Immediately:** We want to help kids connect their positive attitudes, behaviors, and participation with the reward of the token, so as soon as you see a behavior to celebrate, pass out the reward!

Use short phrases like “Everybody say: Way to Go, Friends!” to help kids celebrate receiving tokens, but to also stay on track. We want to minimize the “screaming cheering” as we transition through elements of large group.

**Pick Up Tokens:** Replenish your stash of tokens by visiting the volunteer check-in area.

**Token Collection:** Kids can turn in their tokens during rotations, but they’ll all be brought to the large group bucket at closing so we can update our goal progress each night!

**There will be slides that will be updated nightly with the Token and Missions amounts. Please create this plan with your Production Team and communicate nightly on the plan for announcing progress.**

## Have a GREAT Week!

- **Have Fun and Lead with Joy:** Enjoy your time just as much as the kids as God fuels you!
- **Devotions:** Read the Leader Devotions to personally connect with the nightly lessons.
- **Fuel Yourself:** Let your “why” motivate you during challenging moments.
- **Pray:** Ask God for wisdom, energy, and the right heart as you lead. Pray that He will specifically use you - your time, effort and energy - for His glory!

# DAY 1 - OPENING SESSION



5:45 - 6:00 Crew Leader Connection (15 mins)

6:00 - 6:10 Jump Start (10 mins)

6:10 - 6:40 Opening Session (30 mins)

## VIDEO: THEME

On the first night, Children's Ministers will come on stage ~2 minutes before the countdown begins. Welcome kids to VBS @Rock Bridge, introduce yourself, talk about the flow and what to expect, talk about our Token Challenge for the week. See Token & Behavior Guide for more info.

## 6:08 VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

### SLIDE: BUMPER

### VIDEO SLIDE: THEME

**PROPS NEEDED:** SMALL WALKIE-TALKIE OR OTHER GIZMO TO BE MICKEY'S "COMMUNICATOR", COSTUMES FOR HOSTS (SEE SET DESIGN DOC FOR IDEAS), MOON ROCK (TO TRIP OVER)

## 6:10-6:15 HOST SKIT BEGINS

*Host 1 enters, talking into a walkie-talkie as he walks backward onto the set, inspecting the area.*

**Host 1: Captain's log, star date 2025.6. The moon is...well, still as desolate as ever, full of dust and rocks. (Works his way around the set with their back to Host 2 the entire time.) There isn't much to see in this area, but I will not sleep until I have searched every last grain of moon sand to find a - Moon Pie! (Takes step back, tripping over a moon rock and falls near Host 2, seeing her for the first time. He stands and stares at Host 2 in shock and wonder before finally raising the recorder and speaking into it.)**

**Host 1: WHOA!! Captain's log star date...today....This. Is. Big. I may have just discovered LIFE on the MOON. This is a HUGE discovery. (Turns to see the audience and his/her eyes get wide.) I may have just discovered LIVES on the moon! This is INCREDIBLE! I will call my discovery "Martians"! (To himself) Well, actually, that doesn't make much sense...(More clearly into his walkie-talkie) I will call them Mooooonions...Wait, that doesn't sound great either. I'll just name them later.**

**Host 2: (Interrupts) Hey! Hi...hello! I'm really sorry, but we aren't Martians, or Moonions, or anything else! We're just people...from Earth.**

**Host 1: (Sadly puts away his walkie-talkie as he listens to Host 2.) Oh, well...that's a little embarrassing. I'm sorry for thinking you were space creatures. (Sticks out his hand for a handshake) Hi! I'm (name) a researcher from a place called the Chattanooga Bakery in the state of Tennessee.**

# DAY 1 - OPENING SESSION



**Host 2:** I know where Tennessee is! I'm actually from Georgia. Small world, huh? (Reaches out for a handshake). I'm Mickey /Milly Wey, a mechanic for Solar Group! Well, a future former mechanic, I should say! And these are all my friends who are here for Stellar VBS!

**Host 1:** (Waves to the audience.) How are you a "future...former...mechanic"? That kind of doesn't make sense.

**Host 2:** Well, that's why I'm here on the moon in the first place! This mission is a part of my test to become a captain!

**Host 1:** You want to be a captain?! Like, in charge of your own spaceship? Wow! That's quite a goal!

**Host 2:** You know, if I'd met you a couple of months ago, I'd be talking about how I wanted to become a captain so I could be famous. I wanted people all over the world to know my name. But something happened along the way that changed everything!

**Host 1:** Wait, what happened? You obviously still want to be captain, so...what changed?

**Host 2:** Oh yes, I still want to be captain. But now, it's not to be famous. Before, I was doing things my own way and not thinking about anyone but myself. I was all about fame and glory. But then...I met Jesus. My purpose is so different. Now, I want to be captain to (dramatic pause) explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go where no man has gone before! But, enough about me. Why are YOU here on the moon?

**Host 1:** I'm here on the moon for one reason only... to find Moon Pies! I've been told they're up here, hidden in the moon's craters. Once I find them, I'll be the first person to discover Moon Pies on the moon! (Gets excited.) It's my dream!

**Host 2:** That's awesome! I haven't heard of these "moon pies".

**Host 1:** What?! You should come with me! These things are life-changing!!

**Host 2:** Wow, really? The last time I called something life-changing was when I started following Jesus. If moon pies are up there with that, I don't want to miss it!

**Host 1:** I'm sure it is! But, what do you mean about Jesus being life-changing?

# DAY 1 - OPENING SESSION



Host 2: I was actually getting ready to tell everyone! Today, we are learning that “The light of Jesus changes hearts!” Will you say that with me?

**SLIDE: DAY 1 MAIN POINT** “The light of Jesus changes hearts!”

(Invite audience to repeat it)

Host 2: It sure does - and I’m proof! When I first signed up to take this test, I wanted the world to know my name. Now, I know that nothing is more important than the world knowing that Jesus changed my life!

Host 1: I know what’s the most important thing to me - finding these moon pies! Want to come with me?

Host 2: I sure do! But first, I want to make sure my friends here know something.

Host 1: I need to head back to my ship and submit my report so far. I don’t think anyone will believe there are all these people up here in space! You go ahead and talk to them and I’ll see you later!

Host 2: Okay! See you soon!

Host 1 waves goodbye as Host 2 exits then turns to the audience.

worship team enters

Host 2: We are going to have an amazing time on the moon as I finish up my Captain’s exam. But first, we are going to start each day worshipping Jesus because I know that He changed my heart! Worship is using your words, your thoughts, and your actions to show God how great He is and that you love Him.

Here at VBS @ Rock Bridge, we spend lots of time worshipping God by dancing and singing! We will have an amazing team lead us each day. You can worship however you like, as long as you’re not a distraction to the people around you. We encourage you to dance and sing with your whole heart! Let’s gooo!!!

host(s) exits to side/back stage

# DAY 1 - OPENING SESSION



## 6:15-6:25 Worship

**WORSHIP LEADER:** "Hey everyone! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm so excited to be here with our VBS worship team! These first two songs are all about what we will be learning this week! Listen to the words and join in with the motions! It's ok if you don't know them yet, you will by the end of VBS!"

**VIDEO: SONG 1 - HE IS THE LIGHT**

**VIDEO: SONG 2 - YOUR LOVE FOR ME**

*Hosts enter as the last song is ending. Host 2 is holding a Bible. Worship team exits quickly.*

**SLIDE: THEME**

## 6:25-6:30 BIBLE STORY

**Host 1:** (Frustrated) Ugh! I don't get it! I've searched everywhere, but no Moon Pie! What if I never find it? What if we both came out all this way and we fail? You said today is the last day of your Captain's exam. What if you don't pass?

**Host 2:** Just the thought of failing would have crushed me before. But since the light of Jesus changed my heart, I realize that my purpose isn't to become captain, or famous or anything like that. Here, let me read you a true story from the Bible. I think it might help you understand me.  
Opens Bible to Luke 19:1-9

## **SLIDE: DAY 1 BIBLE STORY PICTURE**

**Host 2:** Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector and was very rich. But Zacchaeus was rich because he collected more taxes than was owed and he kept the extra money. Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. But he was a short man. He could not see Jesus because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree. He wanted to see Jesus, who was coming that way.

Jesus reached the spot where Zacchaeus was. He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay at your house today." So Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this. They began to whisper among themselves. They said, "Jesus has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood up. He said, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of what I own to those who are poor. And if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay it back. I will pay back four times the amount I took."

# DAY 1 - OPENING SESSION



(cont.) Jesus said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to your house. You are a member of Abraham's family line. The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.

Host 1: Was he serious? Just like that he changed from stealing from people to paying them back everything he took from them - plus more?

Host 2: Yes! I know it sounds unbelievable - but it happened to me, too! I went from my whole focus being on getting what I wanted. I didn't care who I took from or hurt, I just wanted to be the most famous captain. But sometimes, when we meet Jesus, He changes what we want!

HOST 1: Whoa. So, Zacchaeus wanted something at first - money - but when He met Jesus, Jesus' light changed his heart?

HOST 2: That's right! He still had a job as a tax collector, but now he did it the right way—with kindness and honesty. Just like I still want to be a captain, but not so I can be famous - and only if God doesn't have something better planned for me. If I fail this test, I'll just ask God if I'm supposed to be doing something else instead! Jesus changes our hearts to show us what really matters.

HOST 1: (Pausing) Hmm... I never thought about that. You know what really matters to me? Moon pies! I KNOW my mission is to find them, so I won't give up. You might be okay not being captain, but I cannot go home empty-handed! Let's keep looking!

*worship teams enters, hosts exit*

WORSHIP LEADER: "Remember, today we are learning the Light of Jesus Changes Hearts. Let's sing another song to worship God together!"

## VIDEO - SONG 3 - TAKE YOU AT YOUR WORD

*host enters and dismisses preschool*

## SLIDE: MISSIONS

## 6:35-6:40 MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT

# DAY 1 - OPENING SESSION



**HOST 2:** We have a special mission for you all! This year, we are teaming up with Samaritan's Purse to help kids all over the world learn about Jesus. Let's watch this video to learn a little more.

**VIDEO: DAY 1 MISSIONS**

**SLIDE: MISSIONS GOAL**

*Host gives directions and information about how offering will work each night and talk about the goal. Explain why we give and why it's important. Refer to the Large Group Huddle Guide for more info.*

**SLIDE: OFFERING TIME**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**6:40 PRAYER/DISMISSAL**

*Children's Minister/Host enters and gives dismissal instructions.*

**6:45-7:50 ROTATIONS**

# DAY 1 - CLOSING SESSION



7:50-8:00 MINI JUMP START  
8:00-8:15 CLOSING SESSION  
8:15 DISMISSAL

**VIDEO: COUNTDOWN**

**SLIDE: BUMPER VIDEO**

**SLIDE: THEME**

8:00-8:05 HOST RECAP

*host enters. Consider using a call and response chant to call attention.*

HOST 2: "Welcome back, friends! What an amazing day we've had! Today we heard the story of Zacchaeus meeting Jesus and being changed. What was our main point today? Let's say it together!"

**SLIDE: DAY 1 MAIN POINT**

We learned that "The Light of Jesus changes hearts!" That's right, and we can open our Bibles and see that everything we're learning this week about Jesus being the Light comes from the Bible! In John 8:12b it says:

**SLIDE: THEME VERSE**

He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life."

HOST 2: "I am so thankful that God's Word reminds us that Jesus is the light of the WORLD. As we work together to help kids all over the world hear the gospel, let's see how far we reached in accomplishing our mission today!"

**SLIDE: MISSIONS**

8:05-8:10 MISSIONS/GIVING UPDATE

# DAY 1 - CLOSING SESSION



*host gives missions/giving update  
worship team enters*

Host: Are you going to come back tomorrow and join me on the moon? Yes!! Let's sing a song to close us out and worship God for all we've learned today!"

**8:10-8:15 WORSHIP**

WORSHIP LEADER: "Let's stand together and tell Jesus He is the light of the world!"

**VIDEO: SONG 4 - SHINE**

**SLIDE: TOKEN CHALLENGE**

**8:15 PRAYER/DISMISSAL**

*Children's Minister/Host enters and gives dismissal instructions.*

**SLIDE: GOODBYE\_MOTION**