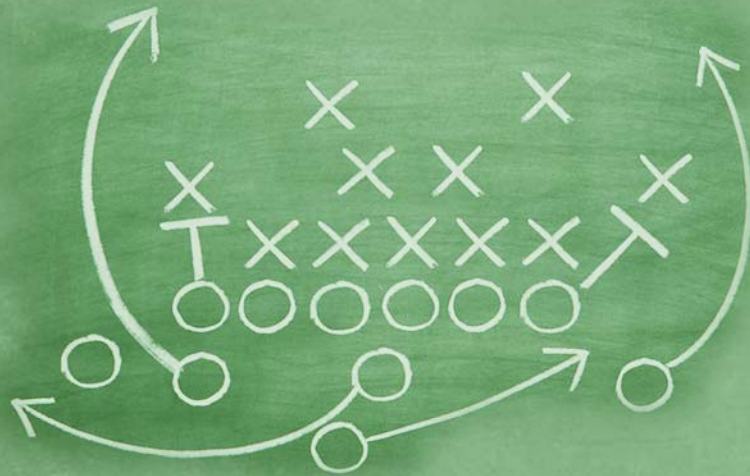


VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



PART I
INTRO

“Run in such a way as to get the prize...”

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



Welcome to the 2017 VBS All Star Games.

With the selection of Melbourne, Florida as the site for this world-class sporting event, plans for this week's player activities have been years in the making. Everything about this gathering of athletes is designed to train us all to become champions for God.

All of the lessons, games, crafts and schedule details are packed into the official Playbook you now hold in your hands. It is divided into three major parts.

Part I contains the introduction you're reading right now. This part explains how the rest of the Playbook is organized and includes some of the key information from our 2017 VBS All Star Games Orientation Manual – which you should already have read!

Part II is an adult-strength introduction to each daily lesson in the form of a brief devotion written especially for you, the coach. Please take advantage of the more in-depth Biblical background information, which is there to better equip you, both factually and spiritually, to make a difference in the lives of the players you are about to touch.



Part III contains the meat of the Playbook, the daily Bible lessons you will lead in your Locker Room each day.

How to Read these Lesson Plans

If you see something written in italics – (*Just like this. Arial, 12 pt., sometimes surrounded by parentheses.*) – then those are instructions to you, answers to questions, and generally helpful stuff you ought to know.

...A crown that will last forever."

If you see something written in just plain, ordinary Arial, 12 pt. typeface exactly like this, then those are words that were written with the intent that you say them out loud to your Players. **Direct quotes from the Bible are given special treatment by appearing in bold just like this.**

Yup, the whole week is scripted for you. You don't have to ever worry about what to say in front of the kids. Of course, you are free to use your own words and make the lesson "your own." But please be sure you understand the intent of each lesson and don't stray from it.

If the kids have questions, answer them as best you can and let the conversation go where it might, but be sure to bring the conversation back to the key phrase of the day. If you ever have any questions about the lessons, feel free to contact a member of the Host Committee (such as Becky Durrance) or your All Star Sports Commissioner, Kris Pakulak.

Each lesson is organized in a certain order. These are:

Starting Lineup

Your daily list of supplies, including those we will provide and those you need to scrounge up on your own. Each day you'll find your provided supplies in a "craft bag" that is color coded. Need a reminder of what the day's color is? Just look at your lesson. It's pretty obvious what the daily color is!

Kickoff

This is the opening activity at the beginning of each lesson. It's the first thing you'll do when you arrive at your Locker Room following the daily Opening Ceremony at the Son Light Stadium. This section sets up the Bible lesson that comes next.

Game Day

This is the meat of the daily Bible lesson. Take your time teaching this. Make sure you've read everything in advance and think about how you are going to teach this. This is where the rubber hits the road. Or maybe where the puck hits the hockey stick!



“Run in such a way as to get the prize...”

VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



The Scoreboard

Following the lesson, where for the most part you've asked your Players to sit still for a few moments, now is time for a fun follow-up activity to reinforce the lesson you just taught. Some of these are Q & A based, while others are a fun game. Be sure everyone participates and gets a chance to move around a bit.

Goal!

This is a final chance to make sure your Players go home each day with the lesson in their heads, and the daily Bible verse in their hearts. For Elementary age kids it includes a relay-style game based on the daily sports theme. And for everyone it means one more fun thing to do before everyone returns to Son Light Stadium for the daily Closing Ceremony.

(Time Out!)

In a few of the lessons you'll see this call, which is a reminder that you should check the clock to see how you're doing in terms of the time, how much more of the lesson is remaining, and when it's time for your Locker Room to head out for games and/or crafts.



Extra Point

Throughout the lessons you'll see these “Extra Point” boxes sprinkled randomly among the pages. They are filled with interesting information from the Bible you may share with your players if you'd like. It's up to you. In truth, they're mostly there to break up the text on the page so it looks a little nicer. It's a graphics design trick.

...A crown that will last forever."

Play Book at a Glance

MONDAY

**From Pit to Power...
Joseph exercises forgiveness.**

Genesis 50:15-21



*"Be tolerant of one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, you also should forgive."
Colossians 3:13*

God's Champions Exercise Forgiveness

TUESDAY

**From Detective to Disciple...
Caleb runs with his faith.**

Numbers 13-14



*"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
2 Timothy 4:7-9*

God's Champions Run With Their Faith

WEDNESDAY

**From Judge to Warrior...
Deborah helps the team.**

Judges 4:1-23



*"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."
Deuteronomy 31:8*

God's Champions Help Others Succeed

THURSDAY

**From Fisherman to Follower...
Andrew listens to the coach.**

John 1:29-42



*"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'
Matthew 16:24*

God's Champions Listen to Their Coach

FRIDAY

**From Teen to Teacher...
Timothy trains more athletes.**

Acts 16:1-5



*"And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'
Mark 16:15*

God's Champions Train More Athletes

Presented by your total VBS sports network

ESPN



VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY

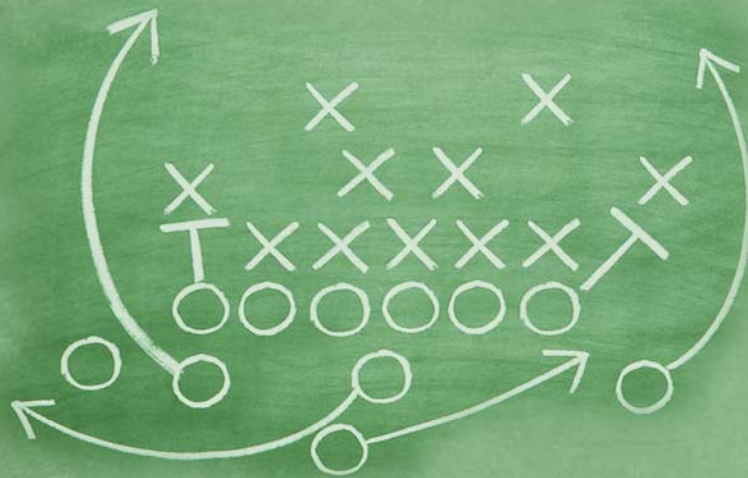


Daily Schedule

8:30 AM	Coaches check in at their Locker Room and then head to Son Light Stadium no later than 8:45 AM.
8:45	Referees in place in their row at the Stadium. Doors open for all Guests to enter.
9:00 – 9:30	Opening Team Activities at the Stadium.
9:30 – 10:15	Locker Room Time. (45 minutes)
10:00	Send your Referee to Concessions Café to pick up the snack for your Locker Room.
10:15 – 11:15	Organized Team Activities. Recreation time at Weber Field. (M, T, W, Th) Craft Hall open. (T, W, Th) Water Day at Weber Field. (F)
Specific rotation times for daily team activities will be shared later.	
NOTE: Expect extra team time in your Locker Room on Monday and Friday.	
11:15 – 11:35	Locker Room Time. (20 minutes)
11:40 AM	Closing Team Activities at the Stadium.
12:00 PM	Players dismissed to parents.
12:15	Coaches return to Locker Rooms.
12:30	Referees check out with their Coach.
2:00	All news items due for the daily Highlight Reel. Text (321-608-0591) Email (vbs2017@aol.com).

**Sun Bowl with Medal Ceremony
Begins promptly at 6:30 PM Friday.**

VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



PART II

DEVOTIONS



Devotion for Joseph

And they took him, and cast him into a pit... Genesis 37:24

Joseph is one of those Biblical characters who got down in the pits-literally. We sometimes get down in the pits too, maybe not literally like Joseph, but when we are there we feel like it's a real pit with high walls, stinky and damp, and nothing but dirt at the bottom.

Have you ever been in one of life's pits and you keep climbing and climbing trying to get out? You think you are making progress, and the next thing you know, you've landed back at the bottom again. God knew all about Joseph being down in that pit and he knows about our pits too.

If you are not familiar with the story of Joseph, you'll find his story begins in Genesis chapter 37. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and put him in a pit. Sometimes we get into pits too. It may be that others push us there like Joseph's brothers did or it may be we just don't see that hole, and trip and fall.

Joseph was not in that pit his brothers put him in too long but when he emerged he didn't stop to have a bowl of ice cream with a cherry on top. He went straight to being a slave. He ended up being in yet another pit in his life.

Personally, I love the story of Joseph. Every time I read through it, I see so many things that we can relate to in the now and now. Some of the pits of daily life that Joseph faced are the same ones we face today.

1. Joseph had to endure hatred.

If you remember this Bible story, you know that Joseph was his father's favorite son because he was the son of his father's old age. Joseph's father gave him a coat of many colors and this made his brothers jealous of Joseph and they hated him.

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Genesis 37:4

Hate is an awful thing, especially when it is directed at you. It is especially awful when it is directed at you by a family member. Poor Joseph. Here he was with 10 older brothers that hated him. This story starts off in Genesis 37 with Joseph being 17 years old.

Being a teenager is hard enough without all of your brothers hating you. Talk about dysfunctional families. Doesn't this sound like an episode from today's TV talk shows? Tune in to the story of a boy named Joseph and his 10 older brothers who hated him enough to leave him in a pit.

As the story goes along, Joseph told his brothers about his dreams of how they were all going to bow down to him. What happened? His brothers hated Joseph even more.

Hate upon top of hate is a very cruel thing and if you are the object of hate at this moment, I feel for you, as that pit can be a dark and murky place to be.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. Genesis 37:5





2. Joseph had to endure mean speech directed toward him.

Not only did Joseph endure hatred from his brothers but notice that last part of verse 4 of Genesis 37. ... **they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. Gen. 37:4**

Have you ever found yourself the target of disagreeable words directed to you or about you? Some people endure this situation at their workplace every single day.

Dealing with disagreeable people and their mean speech day in and day out can really grate on your nerves and you may feel like you are down in that pit with the high walls about you.

3. Joseph had to endure an empty pit.

I've never had to endure being put into a pit in the ground but Joseph did. He wasn't even grabbed by a stranger and put there but Joseph's own brothers did this to him. How that must have made Joseph feel. He was not only in an empty pit but how he must have felt empty inside himself as well.

I know we have all felt emptiness at one time or another in our lives, maybe through a loss of a loved one or some other tragedy that we've experienced.

4. Joseph had to endure slavery.

None of us will probably ever have to endure the pit of slavery but it was something that came along in Joseph's life that he had to deal with. While Joseph was in the pit his brothers had placed him in, some Midianites came along and got him out. They sold him to some Ishmaelite's, and they took Joseph down to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh,

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels[a] of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. Genesis 37:28 Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard. **Genesis 37:36**

5. Joseph had to endure temptation.

One of the things Joseph faced was temptation. He didn't give into that temptation but he was faced with it just the same. While he was working for Potiphar, Potiphar's wife came to Joseph and wanted him to lie with her.

7 and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!" 8 But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. 9 No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" 10 And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her. Genesis 39: 7-10





Notice in verse 10 of that passage that she spoke to Joseph day by day. Some of us have trouble dealing with temptation at some point or another but to be met with the same temptation day after day must have made it a trying time for Joseph.

6. Joseph had to endure false accusations.

Another thing Joseph had to endure was false accusations. When his master's wife couldn't get Joseph to do what she wanted, she falsely accused him of trying to attack her.

The result of this was that Joseph was thrown into prison, yet another one of those pits he had to face. That part of the story is found in Genesis 39:7-20.

7. Joseph had to endure being forgotten.

Have you ever been in one of those pits in your life, whether it is spiritual, financial, physical, or something else, and the walls are growing higher and the darkness is closing in, and you just feel forgotten? You feel like God has forgotten you and every friend you've ever had has forgotten you as well?

Although God never forgot Joseph, others forgot him for a time. Joseph had interpreted the dreams of two other prisoners while in prison. One of those men was restored to his position as Pharaoh's butler and Joseph asked him to remember him.

14 But when all goes well with you, remember me and show me kindness; mention me to Pharaoh and get me out of this prison. Genesis 40:14

This man eventually remembered Joseph when Pharaoh needed help with his own dreams, but it was an entire two years later.

Being falsely accused for any reason can really bring you down low and you may feel like you are face down in the dirt at the bottom of nowhere. When you try to climb out you find that the walls can be slick and you may think there's no escape in sight.

Conclusion:

Even through all of these things that Joseph faced, I see two remarkable things that stand out. One is that the Lord is with us in our pits and the other is that the Lord can bless us while we are in our pits. Perhaps these two things are what helped Joseph endure all that he did.

The Lord Is With Us In Our Pits.

God was with Joseph in his pits. Look what it says in the first few verses of Genesis chapter 39.

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. 2 The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. Genesis 39:1, 2

We also see this later in the chapter after the incident with his Potiphar's wife when Joseph was





thrown into prison.

21 the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. **22** So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. **23** The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph's care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. **Genesis 39:21-23**

The Lord is with us in our pits too. Sometimes we don't think He is because we are too busy whiffing in all that stinky musty smell that we are surrounded with down in the pit that we are in at the time. We forget to look around and see the Lord because we're too busy concentrating on the bad part of our pit.

The Lord Can Bless Us While We Are In Our Pits.

Don't you think it's amazing how God worked within Joseph's life right when he was in the midst of his pits? Even though Joseph was in the pit of slavery, God still was blessing him.

3 When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, **4** Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. **5** From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. **6** So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome. **Genesis 39:3-6**

If you know the whole story of Joseph, you know that later on he was blessed even more by being put into place as the highest authority in the land other than Pharaoh but it was a long road in getting there.

We might be going through some real difficulties in our own lives. It could be financial; health problems, or some other type of pit, but the Lord can still bless us in the midst of it, even when we are way down there seemingly all alone and our heart is heavy and our tears are flowing.

Sometimes we overlook the blessings that come at those times. We're so busy seeing what the Lord isn't doing in our lives that we miss the things He is doing.

I hope I can be like Joseph and endure the things that are placed in my path on an every day basis. Everything isn't always smooth sailing but we have a God that never leaves us and is always there to bless us no matter what the situation holds.

So, how are you enduring your pits?

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Scripture References are from the King James Version.

www.juliabettencourt.com

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Day 2 Caleb Devotion

One of the well-known heroes of the Old Testament is Joshua, the military leader who led Israel into taking possession of the Promised Land. However, right beside this great man is Caleb. While Caleb does not have as many verses dedicated to him in the Bible, what we are told in few words speaks volumes to who Caleb was as a dedicated servant of God.

Joshua 15:13-14 “And unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh he gave a part among the children of Judah, according to the commandment of the Lord to Joshua, even the city of Arba the father of Anak, which city is Hebron. And Caleb drove thence the three sons of Anak, Sheshai, and Ahiman, and Talmi, the children of Anak.”

Numbers 13 and 14 – Faithful Spy

In Numbers 13 Moses chose 12 men who were leaders in their tribes. Caleb was the head of the tribe of Judah—the same tribe as David and the Lord Jesus Christ. Caleb and Joshua, along with 10 other men, were sent into Canaan to see if the land was good or bad and whether the land that God had promised them was even worth fighting for (Numbers 13:17-20). If there were any doubts in Moses’ mind about the worthiness of the land, the report brought back by the spies should have easily dispelled those fears.

After 40 days of spying out the land during the beginning of the grape harvest, these spies brought back an amazing report. One cluster of grapes was so heavy it took two men to carry it between them on a pole. These men also brought pomegranates and figs that must have been as impressive. The spies told of an amazing abundance of fruit, milk and honey (Numbers 13:23-27)

As impressive as the food was, so were the people, but not in a good way. The spies were fearful of what they found concerning the men and the cities. Their report was that the cities were large and had strong walls around them. The children of Anak, who were known to be giants, along with many of the future enemies of Israel lived in Canaan (Numbers 13:28-33).

While there was much concern for the strength of the cities and the size of the people, Caleb stood up for the promises of God. Caleb—later we learn Joshua supported him—urged Moses and the people of Israel to trust God and possess the land (Numbers 13:30). The sorry report of the majority of the spies scared the people so much that they wept all night after their return and longed for the days in Egypt wishing to die at the hand of their slave masters (Numbers 14:1-4). Joshua and Caleb pleaded with the people to trust God for His promises. The people were so angry with these two faithful spies that they wanted to stone them on the spot (Numbers 14:6-10).

Sadly, the people turned away from the land of God’s promise and wandered around in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adults, except Joshua and Caleb, died (Numbers 14:30; 26:65; 32:12). In fact, it was a promise of God that Caleb would own all the land that he saw as a spy (Numbers 14:24).





Joshua 14 – “Give me this mountain!”

Caleb’s motivational speech is found in Joshua 14:6-12. He said that he was 40 years old when he went with the other spies to see the land of Canaan for the first time. He spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness with Israel patiently waiting for the time that the Lord would allow him to realize the promise of God concerning his possession of the land.

“Now therefore give me this mountain, whereof the Lord spake in that day ... “

After the 40 years of wandering and 5 years of war, Caleb was still ready to battle on for the Lord. When he gave his great speech he was 85 years old and claimed to be as strong then as he was the first day he saw those beautiful grapes in Canaan. There was still a war to fight. Caleb intended to be at the front of the battle taking possession of the land God had promised. His confidence was not as much in his own ability to fight as it was in absolute trust in the promises of God.

Joshua 15 – Caleb the Giant Slayer

God promised that Caleb would possess the land which he saw when he originally spied out Canaan. Yet in this portion of the Promised Land is where the giants lived. The 10 spies were so scared of the sons of Anak that they allowed that to keep them from taking ownership of the land God had given them. Caleb was so assured of the promises of God that he gladly accepted the challenge to fight the very men that so frightened his own countrymen (Joshua 15:13-14).

Faithful Man

From these few chapters in the Bible we get a sense that Caleb was a faithful man of God. He trusted the promises of God even when others did not. I imagine the speech he delivered in Joshua 14 was very motivational. He was the oldest man in the whole country of Israel when he spoke those words. All of the people had heard stories about how Caleb stood against the nation. Consequently, every man who disagreed with Caleb died in the wilderness. What a powerful speech that must have been to those who were there that day.

God blessed Caleb for his faithfulness and his patience. Caleb was ready to fight the battles that were his to fight. That included taking possession of the land. However, it was not Caleb’s job to punish the people of Israel. He was silent those 40 years in the wilderness. He patiently allowed God to handle His own war. Caleb prepared himself for the battle God wanted him to fight.

What an encouragement to us to be faithful to the promises of God. We don’t have to make God’s promises happen—He is perfectly capable of that. But, like Caleb, we should be prepared to follow God and patiently anticipate the fruition of those promises.

Read more: <http://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/bible-character-study-on-caleb/#ixzz4afH5Ny3x>





Day 3 Deborah Devotion

Judge Debby she was not, dispensing criminals with a sarcastic barb and a wave of her hand. Instead, the biblical Deborah was a renowned prophetess, an honored judge, and an ideal role model for every woman called to lead others.

Three millennia ago Deborah convened her court under a palm tree where "the Israelites came to her to have their disputes decided" (Judges 4:5). Undoubtedly their greatest disputes revolved around their oppressors, the Canaanites. Something had to be done, and Deborah was the woman for the job.

When she ordered Barak, her secretary of defense, to amass an army, Deborah made it clear who reigned as commander in chief: "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you" (Judges 4:6). Unlike take-charge Jezebel, who sought no one's counsel, levelheaded Deborah obeyed the Lord and insisted his will—not hers—be done.

Even if our "army" is a small group of volunteers or a kitchen full of kids, we can learn from Deborah's leadership style by putting aside any personal agenda, listening for God's clear direction, and letting others know who's really running the show.

Fearless in Battle

As courageous as she was wise, Deborah promised to lure Sisera, the enemy commander, to the riverside and deliver him into Barak's waiting hands.

Levelheaded Deborah obeyed the Lord and insisted his will—not hers—be done.

But Barak balked. "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go" (Judges 4:8). What's the deal? Was he a weak-kneed wimp? Or did Barak think the Lord would bless his efforts only if godly Deborah was by his side?

Whatever the case, her response was swift. "Very well," Deborah said, "I will go with you" (Judges 4:9). As her modern counterpart, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher once quipped, "In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman."

Deborah indeed took action, yet warned Barak that he'd forfeited any claim in the victory: "Because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the Lord will hand Sisera over to a woman" (Judges 4:9).

Marching Orders

The two armies mustered: ruthless Sisera with iron chariots and countless men pitted against Barak with 10,000 foot soldiers and nary a chariot. Before Barak lost his nerve, Deborah told him, "Go! This is the day the Lord has given Sisera into your hands. Has not the Lord gone ahead of





you?" (Judges 4:14).

Once again, Deborah resisted the urge to take credit or take charge, and made the chain of command clear. Oh, that I'd paid attention to Deborah's story a dozen years ago! In my short stint as an employer, overseeing three women who worked for me, I discovered my strong-willed nature didn't always serve me well. My management style was all about "follow me" and "do it my way." Yet as Deborah demonstrates, it's in following the Lord and doing things his way that we truly lead others.

Grand Finale

Just as expected, God's will prevailed on the battlefield: "All the troops of Sisera fell by the sword; not a man was left" (Judges 4:16). The one exception was Sisera himself, who fled on foot and sought refuge inside the tent of a woman named Jael.

Hardly a safe haven, since Jael owned a tent peg, a hammer, and two strong hands ...

I'll spare you the gory story of Sisera's demise and jump to Deborah's response. When she learned her prophecy that God would hand Sisera over to a woman had come true, the sound of music rang out across the land. Her Song of Deborah, the oldest remaining fragment of Hebrew literature, was dedicated to the One she loved: "I will make music to the Lord, the God of Israel" (Judges 5:3).

She also sang the praises of those who served her well—"My heart is with Israel's princes, with the willing volunteers among the people" (Judges 5:9)—and she commended Jael at length, calling her "most blessed of tent-dwelling women" (Judges 5:24). A final leadership lesson from Deborah: Acknowledge the efforts of others, rather than pat yourself on the back.

Beginning to end, Deborah was God's woman. If the Lord has called you to lead others, consider taking Deborah's motto as your own: "March on, my soul; be strong!" (Judges 5:21).

Liz Curtis Higgs is the author of 25 books, including Embrace Grace (WaterBrook Press). She lives with her husband and their two teenagers in Kentucky. Visit her website: www.lizcurtishiggs.com.



Day 4 Devotion – Andrew

Mark and John write that Andrew was born at Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee to a man named Jonah (John) and his wife. Several major trade routes passed through Galilee at the time, and this fact suggests Greek language and culture, in addition to His Jewish roots, influenced Andrew throughout his early life. It is quite likely he spoke both Aramaic and Greek, and his knowing a smattering of Latin is possible.

Although Andrew was a native of Bethsaida and spent his early years as a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee, he later moved to Capernaum. On learning of the message of John the Baptist, he, along with a group of others from his area, traveled to Bethany beyond the Jordan River, where John the Baptist was baptizing. While a disciple of John, Andrew learned of the imminent coming of the Son of God. Upon first hearing Jesus' teachings, Andrew, thrilled to have found the Messiah, ran to tell his brother Peter and take him to where Jesus was staying. Andrew was so quickly and fully impressed with Christ and His message that He was among the first to follow Him.

The name Andrew means "manly" or "courageous" which he had to be to face the hurdles of an apostle. From the information we have available in the gospels and Acts, Andrew must not have been much of a talker, as only a dozen or so of his words are preserved in the Bible. Nor did he write any epistles.

It is significant that Jesus called Andrew first of all His disciples. The choice was an important one because Christ would want to choose someone who possessed a keen perception of spiritual truth and pursued the knowledge of God until he had a deep understanding. Andrew was a man of strong conviction, enabling him not only to accept Jesus as the Messiah, but also to encourage Peter to become a disciple. Christ might have chosen Andrew knowing that He could develop genuine humility in him, making him a useful instrument in God's church.

Having been with Him longer than the other disciples, Andrew witnessed most of Christ's miracles. Jesus' feeding of the five thousand illustrates Andrew's humble nature (John 6:1-14). John records that Jesus was concerned about the condition of the crowd that had been listening to Him teach for a long time. Hungry and tired, they needed to eat. The natural disciple to turn to was Philip, since as a resident of Bethsaida he would know about local food supplies, so Jesus asked him where they could buy food.

Philip's answer seemed discouraging. Even if they could find food for this vast throng, it would cost 200 times an average day's wage for a workingman. He calculated that it would take more

than six month's wages to begin to feed everyone in the crowd even a little food.

Then Andrew walked up. He had been quietly working on the problem himself, but all he had been able to find was a boy carrying his dinner. Nonetheless, Andrew presented his "solution" to Christ: "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" (John 6:9). Barley bread, made from the cheapest of the locally grown grains, was what the poor ate. The fish most likely were of modest size since a boy carried them. Andrew's find was totally inadequate by any standard.

He did not make his suggestion in a haughty or pushy way. Andrew was a man of sound common sense, the kind who stabilizes and lends help in situations where a need must be filled. But he or the other disciples could do nothing about the lack of food physically. It took a miracle of astounding magnitude to fill this need.

Although details are sketchy, Andrew fulfilled important supportive roles in Jesus' ministry in a humble, unpretentious manner. At Passover, the Greeks who wished to "see Jesus" inquired of Philip, but he did not know what to do. Obviously respecting Andrew's decision-making abilities, he turned to Andrew for advice. In no doubt of what to do, he led them to Jesus (John 12:20-36). He had discovered that no one could ever be a nuisance to Jesus if he was seeking the truth.

Andrew seems more concerned with serving than building his reputation. His attitude was opposite that of James and John when they asked to be first in the Kingdom. There were times when some of the disciples would haggle over who would be the greatest, but Andrew was not involved in these debates. He did not press for a conspicuous place of honor.

Andrew's emphasis was on the work of Jesus Christ. He exemplifies quiet humble labor, "not with eye service as men-pleasers" (Ephesians 6:6; Colossians 3:22), but service from the heart. Although he was the first disciple called, he never reached a place of "prominence." God inspired His Word to record Andrew on the scene of significant events, yet working quietly in the background.

It is to his credit that he was satisfied to work in relative obscurity more than some of his fellow disciples were. A person cannot be in the forefront of every activity, although many try. Someone once said, "Humility is like underwear, essential, but indecent if exposed." Humble Andrew was content with his lesser role, showing no envy of those who played the lead.

As a disciple, Andrew followed the example and teachings of Jesus Christ. He had the wonderful blessing of face-to-face contact with the most humble individual to live on this earth. Of that example, **Philippians 2:7-8** says Jesus Christ "made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He

humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

By Andrew's following the humble example of our Savior, he was able to contribute a great deal to the unity of Christ's work through the apostles. Humility is absolutely necessary for unity. Paul writes:

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

(Ephesians 4:1-3)

Philippians 2:3-4 connects humility with love: **"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."**

An obvious truth mostly ignored by the world is that, if we intend to be successful at developing true humility, we must overcome pride. Andrew read and studied the Scriptures. He knew that **"before honor is humility" (Proverbs 15:33; 18:12)**. He understood that he could overcome any pride he had by taking the lower seat and allowing God to exalt him in due time (Luke 14:7-11).

Modern Scottish tradition believes that Andrew preached to their ancestors. The story of his martyrdom says he was first stoned then crucified at Patras in Achaea on an X-shaped cross, commonly known as a "St. Andrew's cross." Legend holds that he hung there two days, continuing to preach the gospel until he died. Today, the "St. Andrew's cross" is a unique emblem of the Scottish people.

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Day 5 Devotion – Timothy

Timothy was a teenager when he met Paul. His family lived in Lystra so he was a Galatian. His father was a Greek man; we know nothing of his faith. But, Timothy's mom and grandmother were faithful Jewish women who taught the Old Testament scriptures to this boy they loved so much (Acts 16:1; 2 Timothy 1:5). As the women heard Paul preach, they believed in Jesus, and so did Timothy. Timothy may have seen Paul heal a lame man in his town. That would have been exciting! He may also have watched as an angry mob threw stones at Paul and left him for dead (Acts 14:8-20). Yet, he also knew Paul survived. When Paul came back to Lystra a couple of years later on his second journey, Paul invited Timothy to travel with him.

Timothy helped Paul to establish churches at Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea (Acts 16:1 – 17:14). When Paul left Berea to go to Athens he left Timothy and Silas behind, but later sent word for them to join him (Acts 17:13-15). Timothy was sent to Thessalonica to strengthen the faith of believers there (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2).

Timothy was a trustworthy friend who carried money collected by the Philippian church to care for Paul's needs in Corinth. During the 3 years Paul was in Ephesus teaching them about the amazing power of God, Timothy was there, too. When Paul was imprisoned in Rome for two years, Timothy was right alongside him much of the time unselfishly taking care of Paul's needs. By now, Timothy was a young man of about 30 who for at least 13 years had been learning how to teach about Jesus and serve God's people well as he watched Paul do it. Paul thought of Timothy not only as a very faithful friend but also as his spiritual son.

After Paul's release from prison in Rome, Timothy and Paul traveled to visit friends in the churches they had founded. When they got to Ephesus, Paul recognized some men in the church were teaching error about Jesus saying that Jesus could not have been a man and God at the same time. Paul wanted to go on to visit his friends in Macedonia, but he didn't want to leave the Ephesian church in turmoil. So, he left Timothy to teach truth to the church there while Paul went on to Macedonia. As an "apostolic representative, Timothy had the authority to order worship (1 Timothy 2:1-15) and appoint elders and deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-3). Paul thought he'd get back to Ephesus soon, but that didn't happen. He was concerned about what was going on in Ephesus, so he wrote Timothy the letter called 1st Timothy around AD 64 from Rome or Macedonia.

Six of Paul's epistles include Timothy in the salutations. The most tender and moving of Paul's letters was his last one to Timothy. He was a prisoner in a Roman dungeon when he wrote 2 Tim-





othy, approximately AD 67. He knew he had a short time to live, so the letter is his spiritual last will and testament – his “dying wish” – to encourage Timothy and to request that Timothy join him during his final days of imprisonment (2 Timothy 1:4; 4:9, 21).

Question: "What can we learn from the life of Timothy?"

Answer: Timothy, the recipient of the two New Testament letters bearing his name, was the son of a Greek father and a Jewish mother. He joined Paul during one of Paul's later missionary journeys. Paul addresses Timothy in his first letter to him as "my true son in the faith" (1 Timothy 1:2). He was probably no older than late teens/early twenties when he joined Paul, but had already distinguished himself as faithful, so that the elders noticed him. He probably heard the gospel when Paul came through the area on his first missionary journey, but we don't know for sure. Timothy served as Paul's representative to several churches (1 Corinthians 4:17; Philippians 2:19), and he was later a pastor in Ephesus (1 Timothy 1:3).

Paul says Timothy had a “genuine faith,” the same as that which lived in his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:1-5). Eunice and Lois prepared Timothy to accept Christ when he heard of Him by teaching him the Old Testament Scriptures and preparing him “from infancy” to recognize the Messiah when He appeared (2 Timothy 3:15). When Paul came preaching Christ, all three accepted his teaching and committed their lives to the Savior. We must prepare our children to be ready when Christ knocks on the door of their hearts. They must know how to recognize that pull on their spirits as coming from the Savior, and the only way to do that is to follow the example of Eunice and Lois and teach our children the Word of God.

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he warns Timothy about the false teachers that he will encounter and tells him to continue in the things he has learned because he knows the character of those he learned them from, namely Paul himself and his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 3:14-15). These three lived the truth which they knew. They didn't just preach one thing and live another. Our children watch how we live out our faith more than they listen to what we say about our faith. “Do as I say and not as I do” doesn't work for children. The truths Timothy was taught from infancy were able to make him “wise for salvation,” which are the truths about sin and our need for a Savior. As parents, we are to follow the godly example of Eunice and Lois and prepare our children to hear the Lord calling to them and to distinguish truth from error.

Recommended Resource: The Great Lives from God's Word Series by Chuck Swindoll.



VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



PART III
LESSONS

NOTES

MONDAY

VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



From Pit to Power Joseph Exercises Forgiveness



“Be tolerant of one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, you also should forgive.”

Colossians 3:13





Starting Lineup

- Two large sheets of paper with robe pattern and stripes drawn on it
- Hang the two large robe patterns on the wall making sure you don't tape anything to the painted wall surface.
- Crayons/markers
- Skit script (2 copies)
- Four large pieces of paper with questions printed on it for the "Soccer Game"
- Make sure you have your "goal line" taped down on the carpet
- "FORGIVE" worksheets, one for everyone



Kick Off

After welcoming the class ask for two players to volunteer to help you with a skit. Have your Assistant Coach take the volunteers into the hallway and show them the skit.

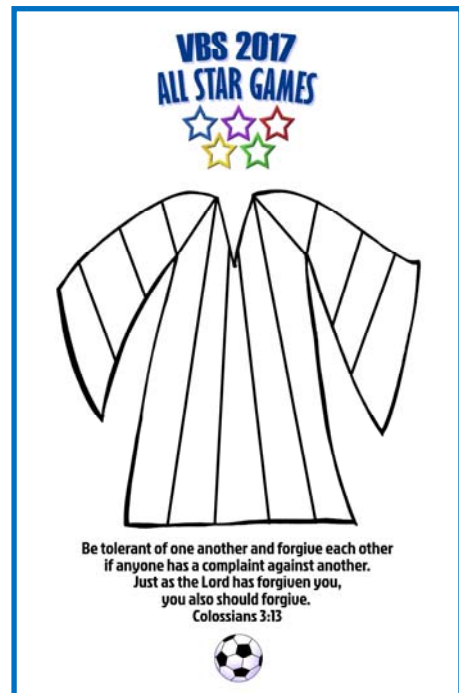
Assign the two roles to the players. Give the players time to read and practice the skit a couple of times. If you have a girl volunteer, change "Clarence" to "Sally." Explain to the players that they will continue the skit after Recreation is over and everyone returns to the classroom.

While the two players are practicing the skit the rest of the class will play this relay coloring game:

ROBE RUN GAME

Divide the class into two teams and assign one of the taped-to-the-wall robes to each team. Using a colored marker or crayon of their choice, players will run a relay taking turns coloring ONE stripe of the robe. When the stripe is filled in to the satisfaction of the coach, the player will run back to their team so the next player can their turn. The first team to fully color in their "coat of many colors" wins.

Then, invite the two volunteers back into the classroom and introduce them as their skit names, Clarence and Pete. (Or



EXERCISE FORGIVENESS



one girl's name and one boy's name.)

This relay game reminds me of a story in the Bible about a boy named Joseph. Jacob, Joseph's father, had twelve sons. Of all his sons, he loved Joseph best because he was born to him in his old age. To show how much he loved Joseph, he made him a beautiful coat that had many colors. Joseph's brothers were jealous because it showed that he was his father's favorite son.

Let's all have a seat and listen as our two volunteers perform a skit for us.

Players will perform the skit.

The Power of Forgiveness

Pete What's up Clarence? You look a little angry.

Clarence Humph, I'm not very happy right now.

Pete Well, tell me what happened to make you so unhappy.

Clarence Last night Billy came over to play my new Xbox game, Minecraft. I've been playing the game for a week. I let Billy play it and he totally deleted all of the progress I had made with the game. Now I have to start all over!

Pete Well that sounds awful, but I'm sure Billy didn't mean it. He probably didn't know what he was doing.

Clarence Well he did say it was an accident and he was sorry...but I can't forgive him, it was my favorite game, Minecraft!

Pete You know that reminds me of a story in the Bible.

Clarence Minecraft reminds you of a story in the Bible?

Pete No silly, the forgiving part.

Clarence Oh!

Pete This story was about a young boy who was very special in his father's eyes.

Extra Point

The agriculture areas around the Nile River were totally dependent upon the annual flooding of the Nile. Without the flooded delta no crops could grow, animals and humans could not eat and famine resulted in the deaths of many. This area is still dependent upon the flooding of the Nile region.

...A crown that will last forever.” 1 Cor. 9:24-25



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

- Clarence Yeah, I've heard all about that stuff in Sunday School.
- Pete Yeah, but this is a movie I saw on Netflix. It was about a guy named Joseph, one of the 12 sons of Jacob. Jacob loved his son, Joseph, so much, he made him a very special coat of many colors.
- Clarence Well, that's nice but I wouldn't wear something my father made!
- Pete Wait, just listen! Joseph loved his coat very much. But his eleven other brothers became very jealous. They didn't get a beautiful coat.
- Clarence So, what did they do?
- Pete What they did was really mean. First, they put Joseph in a deep hole to die, but then decided to sell him instead to some salesmen traveling to Egypt.
- Clarence I bet Joseph was really angry.
- Pete He was at first, just like you are angry now, but he also loved God.
- Clarence So what happened?
- Pete I don't know. My mom made me turn it off and go to bed.
- Clarence Well, that's just great! How does that help me out with my Minecraft game?
- Pete I think Joseph forgave his brothers. My mom said that I could read about the story in Genesis.
- Clarence Ok, well I guess that's one way to find out about the rest of the story. But I'm still angry with Billy. Even though he's my best friend, I don't think I'll ever forgive him.

STOP THE SKIT HERE!

Continue the skit after the team comes back from Recreation.

Make sure you thank the boys/girls for helping out.



“Run in such a way as to get the prize...”



Game Day

What does it mean to forgive someone?

(To stop feeling angry or resentful towards someone who has wronged you.)

When was the last time you had to forgive someone?

(Allow anyone who is comfortable to share.)

Is it always easy to forgive other people?

(Nope!)

When was the last time someone had to forgive you for something?

Today's lesson is about a champion in the Bible named Joseph.

Today we are going to hear about the power of forgiveness!

The story of Joseph is found in the book of Genesis, the first book in Bible.

Jacob, Joseph's father, had twelve sons. Of all his sons, he loved Joseph best because he was born to him in his old age. To show how much he loved Joseph, he made him a beautiful coat that had many colors. Joseph was a little arrogant and boastful. He wore his beautiful coat all of the time! Does it bother any of you when someone keeps bragging about something?

(Quick pause to let any players answer/discuss.)

Joseph's brothers were jealous because the coat showed that he was his father's favorite son. They weren't given a beautiful coat to wear.

A few days later Joseph's father said to him, "Your brothers are out tending my sheep. I want you to go check and make sure that they are ok." Joseph did what his father told him, but when his brothers saw him coming, they made plans to kill him.

Doesn't it make you wonder why the brothers were out working and Joseph was with his father at home?

(Quick pause to let any players answer/discuss.)

"Let's kill him and throw him into a pit and say that he was eaten by a wild animal," the brothers said to each other.

When Reuben, the oldest of the brothers heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue.

"Let's not take his life. Instead, let's throw him into this pit here in the desert, but don't harm him. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him."

Extra Point

Almost all ancient Egyptians wore jewelry. They wore amulets and rings for both fashion purposes as well as religious ones. Pierced ears, amulets, bracelets and necklaces were common among peasants, while the wealthier folk wore jeweled or beaded collars and pendants, as well as jewelry made from gold, silver and electrum.



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Reuben said this because he planned to come back later and rescue Joseph and take him back to his father.

When Joseph arrived, his brothers grabbed him, ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing, and threw him into the pit. Then they sat down to eat their dinner.

What do you think Joseph was thinking while he was down in the dirty pit and could hear his brothers eating dinner?

(Quick pause to let any players answer/discuss.)

As they were eating, they looked up and saw a caravan of merchants coming their way. They were on their way to Egypt. "What will we gain if we kill our brother? Let's sell him to these merchants instead." So when the merchants came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him up out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver.

The brothers began to make up a story to tell their father. They killed a goat and smeared its blood over Joseph's coat of many colors. They took the bloody coat back to Jacob and said to him. "We found this bloody coat in the wilderness. Look at it and see if it is Joseph's coat."

"It is my son's coat!" Jacob cried. "Surely some ferocious animal has eaten him."

If you were Jacob, how would you feel? Do you think any of the brothers were sorry for what they had done?

(Quick pause to let any players answer/discuss.)

What a terrible thing for Joseph's brothers to do -- just because they were jealous of their brother! I hope that we would never do anything so terrible, but we can learn from this story that jealousy can cause us to do things that will hurt other people. It is something that we should guard against. We have to learn to be happy with whatever our Heavenly Father has given us.

Thankfully, this is not the end of the story of Joseph and his brothers.

(Time Out!)

(You might want to stop here if you are out of time and continue the story after recreation.)

Extra Point

The Israelite people were not enslaved by the Egyptians when Joseph was sold by his brothers. The Egyptian rulers had just begun the practice of slavery during Joseph's capture and enslavement by the Egyptians.



“Run in such a way as to get the prize...”

EXERCISE FORGIVENESS



Let's continue the story.

The travelers took Joseph to Egypt and sold him as a slave. Joseph was all alone without his family and the father he loved.

For many years, Joseph worked hard until he became a leader in Egypt. The king of Egypt chose Joseph to store food to give the people because there had been no rain in the land for many years. The king liked Joseph and trusted him.

How many of you know what a draught is?

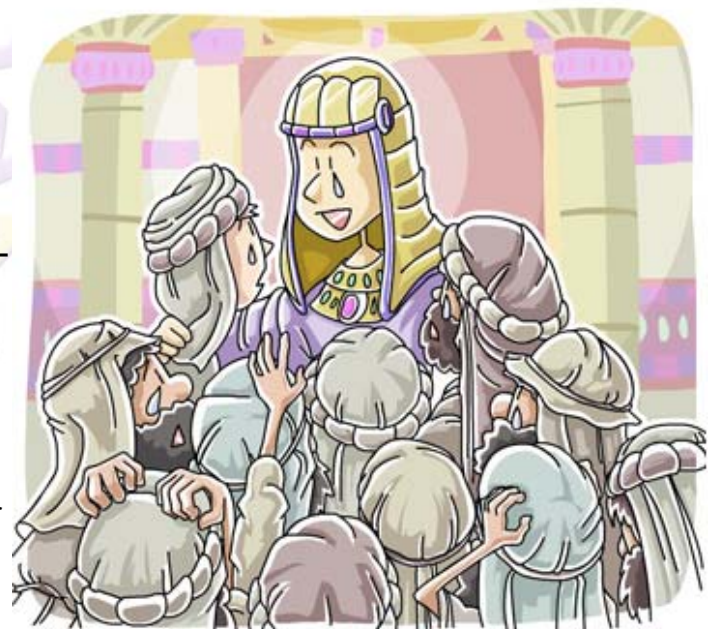
(Quick pause to let any players answer/discuss.)

This draught was caused because there was no rain. The draught lasted for SEVEN years!!!

One day Jacob told his sons to go to Egypt and buy some food because their crops weren't growing either. When they arrived, the brothers were told to get their food from the man in charge. Who do you think that was? It was Joseph!

The brothers finally stood in front of Joseph. Although they did not recognize him, Joseph knew who they were. What kind of emotions did Joseph feel when he saw his brothers after so many years?

What do you think Joseph did next? Did he punish them for being mean to him many years before? Did he put them in prison for their wickedness? No. Instead, Joseph said to them, "You don't recognize me, but I am Joseph. I forgive you for all the evil things you did to me. You meant to harm me, but God meant it to serve for my good and the good of others. Don't worry; I won't harm you."



What a lesson we can learn from Joseph. Although his brothers hated him, Joseph still loved them. Instead of harming them, Joseph simply forgave them. We should follow Joseph's example and always forgive those who harm us. Just as Jesus died on a cross to forgive all the bad things we do, so we should also forgive those who do wrong to us. That's the sign of a real champion!

The most important example of forgiveness is what we see in Jesus. When we give our lives to him we find forgiveness for everything we've ever done wrong. It's as if it never even happened! When we experience forgiveness like that, it's easier for us to forgive others.

...A crown that will last forever." 1 Cor. 9:24-25



The Scoreboard

So let's see what our friends, Pete and Clarence are up to...

(Instruct the skit players to continue the skit.)

Pete Joseph made his home in Egypt and soon became an important person there. One day God told him in a dream that there would be great famine in the land. Do you know what a famine is?

Clarence I think that is where there is nothing to eat.

Pete That's right and this famine was going to last for seven years.

Clarence Wow! That's a long time, everyone would starve to death.

Pete Yes, but Pharaoh was no dummy. He let Joseph get ready for the famine by storing large amounts of food to eat later. Finally, the famine came and Joseph's brothers ran out of food....

Clarence ...So they tried to get some food from Joseph?

Pete Yes they did.

Clarence But he was still angry and wouldn't give them any. Get away he said, starve to death, go...

Pete Wait a minute! That's not what happened. He forgave them and shared the food because he realized that God had planned the whole thing. Because of his brothers, Joseph went to Egypt and was able to save all of them from starving to death. You see God knows what is best for us even when we don't and when we learn to forgive others in our hearts, He can do great things for us.

OK everyone, now we are going to divide our team into small groups to play a game. Everyday we're going to play a game and you will be playing with this same group. We're going to keep score every day and at the end of the week, the small group with the most points will win a prize. OK, let's divide into groups.

Divide the players into four groups with 3-5 players in each group.

You will be playing a relay-type game each day based on the sport of the day. Make sure you keep score of which team wins this closing relay every day! Perhaps make a simple scoreboard and put it up somewhere.



EXERCISE FORGIVENESS



This is where the line on the carpet you placed before VBS began comes into play. For this relay the players will move a “soccer” ball across the line. If you want to make a small goal – maybe a wastepaper basket on its side – you can do that too.

Today we’re going to play indoor soccer. I’m going to give each team six questions on a large 11x17 piece of paper. When I say “go” you will write down the answer to each question. Remember to work as a team. You may use the Bible if you want to find the answers. Then, when you show one of us (*meaning you, your assistant coach or referee*) that you have correctly answered all the questions, you will gently crumple up your paper into the shape of a small ball. Make sure you don’t tear up your answers.

Then, one at a time, each player on the team will move the “soccer ball” across the room using only your feet. When you get the ball into the goal, you will carry the ball back to the next player on your team and that player will move the ball to the soccer goal. Keep playing until everyone has had a turn. Then everybody on the team will sit down.

(Make sure that you keep score of which team finishes first. At the end of the week the team with the most points will get a prize. You can always give extra points to teams if they learn the memory verses.)

Questions for relay race that will be on the paper:

How many brothers did Joseph have?

How did the brothers get rid of Joseph?

Joseph was taken to what country?

How long was the famine?

What did Joseph do for the King of Egypt to save his country from starving?

How did Joseph show that he forgave his brothers?

Ready? GO!

Goal!

When everyone has had a turn and all the teams are seated, review the questions.

Review the memory verse and see which team has memorized it first.

Be tolerant of one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, you also should forgive. Colossians 3:13



...A crown that will last forever.” 1 Cor. 9:24-25



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

If there's time, hand out the "Forgive" activity sheets and have the students complete the sheets individually.



F-O-R-G-I-V-E

Be tolerant of one another and forgive each other if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, you also should forgive. Colossians 3:13

Directions: We need to be forgiven for the sins we do. Make a list of some of the times you've needed forgiveness. Begin each item with a letter from the word FORGIVE. The first one has been done for you.

Forgot to do something a parent told me to do.

O

R

G

I

V

E

God's Champions Exercise Forgiveness



"Run in such a way as to get the prize..."

EXERCISE FORGIVENESS



Use this scoreboard each day to keep track of the points you award each small team you formed within your Locker Room.

Team	Today's Points	TOTAL POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

...A crown that will last forever.” 1 Cor. 9:24-25



NOTES

VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



TUESDAY

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**



**From Detective to Disciple
Caleb runs with his faith.**



**"I have fought the
good fight, I have finished
the race, I have kept
the faith."**

2 Timothy 4:7-9





GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Starting Lineup

- Pictures of grapes, walls, milk, honey and giants. You should have four of each picture. Hide the pictures around your classroom.
- One Clue Card for each small team in your Locker Room
- Blank 8.5 x 11 inch paper, one per player



Kickoff

How many of you have ever seen a spy movie?

(Wait for responses.)

What were the spies looking for?

(Wait for responses.)

Today I'm going to make you all spies. Let's get into our four teams from yesterday. I'm going to hand out a list of clues and you need to find the items in the classroom from the clues I hand out. After you have completed the blanks on your handouts, you will need to find all of these items that will be hidden around the room. You only need one item from each clue. If you find more than one, leave it there. Work as a team.

Hand out the Clue Cards. These are the questions, with the correct answers:

I come in bunches and I am purple. (GRAPES)

I am made by an insect and I am sweet. (HONEY)

I am HUGE. (GIANTS)

I am something built around houses especially castles. (WALLS)

I come from cows. (MILK)

Collect the cards and picture cards from each group.

You will use them again later.

Today we're going to learn about some people who God sent into a different country as spies. God told these people to report back to him what they saw in the country. Today we're going to focus on two of those people. Let's all get a Bible and open it to the book of Numbers.

TUESDAY
CLUE CARD

Fill in the blank for each clue, then look around your Locker Room for a picture of that clue. Take only one picture for your team.

I come in bunches and I am purple.

I am made by an insect and I am sweet.

I am HUGE.

I am something built around houses, especially castles.

I come from cows.



“Run in such a way as to get the prize...”

RUN WITH THEIR FAITH



Game Day

What part of the Bible is Numbers in?

(The Old Testament)

Read Numbers 13:1-3, 18-20, 26-32 & 14:1-9, 22-24, 29-34 (below, in bold) aloud to the kids. Hand each player a blank 8.5x11 inch piece of paper.

As I read from Numbers, I want you all to listen for the list of items that God wants the “spies” to check out.

The Lord spoke to Moses. He said, “Send some men to check out the land of Canaan. I am giving it to the people of Israel. Send one leader from each of Israel’s tribes.”

So, Moses sent them out from the Desert of Paran. He sent them as the Lord had commanded. All of them were leaders of the people of Israel.

“See what the land is like. See whether the people who live there are strong or weak. See whether they are few or many.”

“What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Do the towns have high walls around them or not? How is the soil? Is it rich land or poor land? Are there trees on it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land.” It was the season for the first ripe grapes.

The men came back to Moses, Aaron and the whole community of Israel. The people were at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There the men reported to Moses and Aaron and all of the people. They showed them the fruit of the land.

They gave Moses their report. They said, “We went into the land you sent us to. It really does have plenty of milk and honey! Here’s some fruit from the land.

“But the people who live there are giants. Their cities have high walls around them and are very large. Then Caleb interrupted the men who were speaking to Moses. He said, “We should go up and take the land. We can certainly do it.”

But the men who had gone up with him spoke. They said, “We can’t attack those people. They are stronger than we are.” The men spread a bad report about the land among the people of Israel. They said, “The land we checked out destroys those who live in it. All of the people we saw there are very big and tall.

That night all of the people in the community raised their voices. They sobbed out loud.

Extra Point

Hair and beards were worn long by Hebrew men of Bible times; they abhorred baldness. Women also wore their hair long and already practiced artificial curling.

...A crown that will last forever.” 1 Cor. 9:24-25



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Joshua, the son of Nun, tore his clothes. So did Caleb, the son of Jephunneh. Joshua and Caleb were two of the men who had checked out the land. They spoke to the whole community of Israel.

They said, "We passed through the land and checked it out. It's very good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he'll lead us into that land. It's a land that has plenty of milk and honey. He'll give it to us.

"But don't refuse to obey him. And don't be afraid of the people of the land. We will swallow them up. The Lord is with us. So nothing can save them. Don't be afraid of them."

The Lord said, "And you can be just as sure that these men will not see the land I promised to give them. They have seen my glory. They have seen the miraculous signs I did in Egypt.

And they have seen what I did in the desert. But they did not obey me. And they have put me to the test ten times. So not even one of them will ever see the land I promised with an oath to give to their people of long ago. No one who has made fun of me will ever see it.

"But my servant Caleb has a different spirit. He follows me with his whole heart. So I will bring him into the land he went to. And his children after him will receive land there.

You will die in this desert. Every one of you who is 20 years old or more will die. Every one of you who was counted in the list of the people will die. Every one of you who has spoken out against me will be wiped out.

I lifted up my hand and promised with an oath to make this land your home. But now not all of you will enter the land. Caleb, the son of Jephunneh, will enter it. So will Joshua, the son of Nun. They are the only ones who will enter the land.

As for you, you will die in the desert. Your children will be shepherds here for 40 years. They will suffer because you were not faithful. They will suffer until the last of your bodies lies here in the desert. For 40 years you will suffer for your sins.

That is one year for each of the 40 days you checked out the land. You will know what it is like to have me against you."

Now let's see how many of you were listening!

Divide your players into two teams for this activity only. If you want to combine your smaller groups into two teams, and then award those groups points from this game, that's fine too.

Extra Point

In ancient Bible times, as today, people of the Middle East spent much time playing checkers, backgammon, and chess. Board games were very popular.



"Run in such a way as to get the prize..."

RUN WITH THEIR FAITH



I'm going to read a question. When you think you know the answer to the question, have only one person from your team stand up. Which ever team has a person stand up first and give the correct answer will score a point.

Have one of your assistants keep score.

How many spies did Moses send to explore the land of Canaan?

(12 spies)

How long were the spies gone?

(40 days)

List two things that the spies were to look for?

(What the land is like, what the people are like, what kind of towns they live in, how is the soil, are there trees, bring back some produce)

What was a good thing that the spies reported?

(Land flowing with milk & honey; brought back huge bunch of grapes)

The spies also reported that the people of the land were so huge they looked like

_____?

(Giants)

How did the people of Israel feel about this report?

(Grumble & complain, want to go back to Egypt because they don't want to be killed by these giant enemies)

What were the names of the two spies who wanted the people of Israel to go and take possession of the Promised Land?

(Joshua & Caleb)

Joshua and Caleb told the people to trust in God—He would help them take over the land. What did the people want to do to Joshua and Caleb?

(They responded by talking about stoning Joshua and Caleb.)

What was the people's punishment for not trusting God and refusing to go into the Promised Land?

(Had to wander in the desert for 40 years until all who were adults at that time had died)

...A crown that will last forever." 1 Cor. 9:24-25



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Who were the only two people from that time who were allowed to enter the Promised Land 40 years later?

(Joshua and Caleb)

Let's see which team had the most correct answers!

(Time Out!)

If there is still time before Recreation/Craft either put on the VBS music and have them practice the songs from this morning or they can complete an activity sheet from your supply bag.

The Scoreboard

In a minute, I'm going to pass out the picture cards from the spy game this morning. When you get your cards, put the scripture verse in order, and then copy it onto a blank piece of paper. Gently wad up the paper and stand up when your group is ready.

Pass out the cards and a piece of paper and pencil. They can look up the verse in the Bible.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2 Timothy 4:7-9 NIV

When I say, "Go", you're going to get your group into a line behind this mark.

The first player in line will turn around and face the next player and make a basketball net with their arms.

The player without the "net" will toss the ball into the basket.

The net player will go to the end of the line and the player who tossed the ball becomes the "net" player.

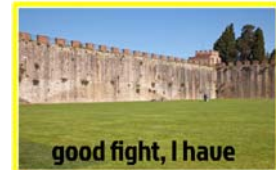
Keep playing the game until you have reached the goal line.

Then, still playing the game, you will play back to the starting line.

The first team of players who returns to the starting lineup will be the winners.



I have fought the



good fight, I have



finished the race, I



have kept the faith.



2 Timothy 4:7-9



"Run in such a way as to get the prize..."

RUN WITH THEIR FAITH



Goal!

Encourage the teams to memorize the scripture verse. The team with all of their players able to repeat the memory verse will get extra points that will be added to the week's total. Remind the players that there will be a special prize on Friday for the team with the most points.

Team	Today's Points	TOTAL POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

...A crown that will last forever.” 1 Cor. 9:24-25



NOTES

VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



WEDNESDAY

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**



**From Judge to Warrior
Deborah helps the team.**



**"The LORD himself goes before
you and will be with you; he will
never leave you nor forsake you.
Do not be afraid; do not be
discouraged."**

Deuteronomy 31:8





Starting Lineup

- *Enough regular blindfolds for at least half of the number of children in your class.*
- *Choose two of your classroom helpers to perform the skit. It would enhance the play if you gave them a couple of props.*
- *Two copies of the skit.*
- *Review questions*
- *Sets of Bible verse printed in parts on separate sheets of paper. (Important! Make sure that you have read the directions for the game you will be playing at the end of the day. If necessary, have your referees demonstrate the line-up for the players before they begin the game.)*
- *Scotch tape*



Kickoff

Obstacle Course

Before the players come to the classroom, set up an “obstacle course” more or less in a circle so the start and end is in the same place. When the players arrive from the Son Stadium, form the class into pairs. Hand out the blindfolds, one to each pair. Explain to the class that the “seeing player” will carefully lead the blindfolded player around the obstacle course by giving directions. Explain to the class that they may not go around or in front of another pair of players. After everyone has completed the course have the players reset the room and then sit down.

Lead your players in a brief discussion, giving them a chance to answer each question:

Why was it important to have one player that was not blindfolded?

How are the blindfolded and seeing players like us following God?

What would have happened if everyone had been blindfolded?

Why is it important to have someone you trust help you in life?

Why is it important that the person you trust is also a Christian?

Today we’re going to learn why it’s important to trust God and let Him be our Helper through the obstacles of life. We’re also going to learn why we all need to help each other follow God’s plan.





It is hard to stand up for truth, even among friends; yet God desires us to take a stand for Him, and He will enable us. It is also important to help others when they are down and feel like quitting. Let us show our trust in God, even when others do not.

Game Day

Lead your players in a brief discussion, giving them a chance to answer each question

Who remembers what we learned about yesterday?

Was Caleb a follower or a leader?

Did Caleb trust God?

Who was Caleb's helper in the story? (*Joshua*)

In our lesson today, we will learn about Deborah—a woman of faith and courage. But Deborah was also a great helper. We're going to find out today that because Deborah obeyed God's command and chose to help a man named Barak, the enemies of the Israelites were destroyed.

Our story begins in the land of Canaan, the Promised Land that God gave to Caleb and Joshua. The people of God, the Israelites, finally had a land of their very own.

It was called the land of Canaan. Even after God gave the Israelites the Promised Land of Canaan, God's people still had to find a way to live with the people who were not followers of God.

Sometimes enemies would try to hurt God's people, but God promised to take care of them. The Lord promised to take care of His people as long as they obeyed Him. If they did not obey Him then the Lord would allow Israel's enemies to hurt them and win their land.

Sometimes it seemed like the Israelites never learned a lesson. The same thing happened to them again and again.

First, the Israelites would begin to leave God and disobey Him.

Extra Point

In today's Bible reading from the Old Testament there are a number of names that may be unfamiliar to you. Here is a list of some of the more difficult ones and how to pronounce them:

Barak (*Pronounced BEAR-ACK*)

Ehud (*pronounced EH-HOOD*)

Jabin (*Pronounced YAH-BIN*)

Hazor (*Pronounced HA-zor*)

Sisera (*Pronounced SIS-er-uh*)

Harosheth Hagoyim
(*Pronounced huh-ROH-sheth-huh-GOI-im*).

Lapidoth (*Pronounced lap-pee-DOTH*)

Ramah (*Pronounced RAY-muh*)

Ephraim (*Pronounced EE-fray-ihm*)

Abinoam (*Pronounced uh-BIN-oh-uhm*)

Tabor (*Pronounced TAY-buhr*)

Kedesh (*Pronounced KEE-dish*)



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Then, the Lord would let enemies win battles against them and treat them badly. When the people were suffering, they were sorry they had disobeyed God. They would pray to God to help them.

Finally, the Lord would send someone to help the people and save them from their enemies. This person was called a judge.

Before Israel had kings, they had judges. These were men or women chosen by God to lead His people, Israel.

These judges were different than our judges today. They didn't decide whether someone was innocent or guilty. They were chosen by God to listen to the problems of the people, pray, and then give them counsel.

There were some good judges and some evil judges. Whenever Israel had an evil judge, they always got into trouble. Before Deborah became a judge, Ehud was judge. He was an evil judge and a terrible leader.

During the time of Ehud, God allowed Israel to become captives to a Canaanite king. Let's read from the Bible. You can follow along in your Bibles if you'd like. Turn to Judges 4:1- 16.

At this point, send "Deborah" outside of the room and make sure that "Barak" is ready for today's skit.

When Ehud was dead, the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD.

So the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who dwelt in Harosheth Hagoyim.

And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD; for Jabin had nine hundred chariots of iron, and for twenty years he harshly oppressed the children of Israel.

Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time.

And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the mountains of Ephraim. And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment.

After 20 years of Jabin's rule, the Israelites once again cried to God for help.

Deborah was the judge at that time, and all of Israel came to her with their problems. God told Deborah that He would deliver Jabin to Israel in battle. So Deborah called a man named Barak to gather ten thousand men to go fight.

Extra Point

According to the Guinness Book of World Records' the largest modern cluster of grapes was grown by a man in Chile and it only weighed almost 21 pounds. That is the weight of a small child. Assuming that two men had to carry the cluster from the Promise Land, it is safe to assume the cluster referred to was heavier than 21 pounds.



"Run in such a way as to get the prize..."

HELP OTHERS SUCCEED



Let's take a look at what happened when Deborah instructed Barak, a leader of the army, to go into battle.

Deborah is outside of the classroom and knocks on the door.

Barak: Come in. Oh, hi Deborah.

Deborah: Barak, I have something I need to tell you!

Barak: I know, I know. I haven't gotten around to trimming your palm branches yet.

Deborah: No, no, that's not why I'm here. I've had a message from God. He has told me to tell you to gather our army and go fight the Canaanites.

Barak: What? Are you kidding me? They've got iron chariots and lots of weapons. All we have are swords. We don't even have any horses. No way, I'm going to fight them.

Deborah: Barak, have you forgotten that when God tells us to do something that He will be with us and will make sure we can win the battle?

Barak: Nope! Go find someone else.

Deborah: Barak, it's not a good idea to go against God. You have to go!

Barak: Well, okay, but I'm not going without you.

Deborah: Come on, Barak. You've got this. Okay, I'll go with you. But just remember this. You're not getting any of the credit for winning this battle. Just sayin'!

Deborah and Barak exit the room together. They both head out to Kedesh for the battle.

Barak told Deborah that he would not go unless Deborah went with him to fight the battle. Deborah was a woman of faith and courage. Though Barak and the children of Israel feared Jabin, their powerful enemy, God had spoken to Deborah, and she trusted Him. The might of Jabin, the enemy, did not keep her from following God's command.

So what happens next?

Sisera, commander of Jabin's army, heard that Barak had gathered an army, and he prepared his army to move into the battle against Israel.

Let's read the rest of the story from the Bible.

...A crown that will last forever." 1 Cor. 9:24-25



JUDGES 4:12-16

And they reported to Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor.

So Sisera gathered together all his chariots, nine hundred chariots of iron, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth Hagoyim to the River Kishon.

Then Deborah said to Barak, "Up! For this is the day in which the LORD has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the LORD gone out before you?" So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.

And the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot.

But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.

Sisera, Jabin's commander, brought 900 chariots into battle against the Israelites! In an amazing victory, Israel, with only swords with which to fight, defeated Sisera's army! Barak chased all of the chariots and killed all of Jabin's men except Sisera who ran away on foot.

God is faithful. Although the Israelites had turned away from Him again, He delivered them from their enemies. With God on their side, there are no circumstances too difficult. The enemy had 900 iron chariots; the Israelites had no horses or great weapons (only swords); yet, the Lord gave them the victory.

Like Deborah, Barak and the children of Israel, we may face enemies much stronger than us. Remember that God is much stronger than any enemy we could ever face--even an enemy with 900 iron chariots. If God is on our side, we can win any battle.

Extra Point

Tradesmen would be instantly recognizable by the symbols they wore. Carpenters stuck wood chips behind their ears, tailors stuck needles in their tunics, and dyers wore colored rags. On the Sabbath, these symbols were left at home.

Many scholars believe that the average life expectancy during Jesus' time on Earth was about 30-40 years.

Extra Point

The Jews, like the Romans and the Greeks, generally drank their wine liberally mixed with water. To drink unmixed wine was regarded as a sign of great intemperance.

Beer was the number one drink of the Egyptians.





Scoreboard

Review Questions:

Why were the Israelites slaves to the Canaanite King?
(They disobeyed God and God let the Canaanites make them slaves.)

What was the name of the woman Judge?
(Deborah)

Who was the commander of God's army?
(Barak)

Why did Deborah go with Barak into the battle?
(He wouldn't go without her.)

What did the Israelites use to win the battle against an army with 900 iron chariots?
(Swords)

At the end of the battle, who managed to escape on foot?
(Sisera)

Why do we call Deborah a helper?
Pause for responses.

How does this make Deborah a champion for God?
Pause for responses.



Goal

I want everyone to get into their sports teams from yesterday and make a line. Today we're going to play baseball with our memory verse.

Hand out one portion of the memory verse to each member of the team.

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Deuteronomy 31:8

We'll play this game kind of like we played yesterday's basketball game.

I want the first player in the line to take two steps forward, then turn and face your team.



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Then, the next member will take the portion of the memory verse he or she has in your hand, read your paper out loud, form your paper into a “baseball” and toss the paper ball to your team mate facing you.

The team member must catch the paper ball holding both of his/her hands cupped like a baseball glove. You must keep tossing the paper ball until your team member catches it.

Once that person has caught the paper baseball, the next player lined up will step forward, get in front of the player catching the ball.

Then he or she will turn and face the player and get ready to catch that player’s paper ball after he/she has read the next part of the memory verse.

The last player should have reached the classroom goal line.

When everyone has had a turn and the complete verse has been read, the players will get back together, put the memory verse in order and tape it together.

Watch while we demonstrate the game for you.

And then show how it is to be done!

Ready? Play ball!

If you have time after this activity, see if each team can memorize the verse and give extra points to the team or teams who have succeeded. Make sure you are keeping score each day and remind the players that the team with the most points at the end of the week will get a special prize.



“Run in such a way as to get the prize...”

HELP OTHERS SUCCEED



Have you been keeping track of points?

Add up the daily points from each day and keep a running sum

in the TOTAL POINTS column!

Team	Today's Points	TOTAL POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

...A crown that will last forever.” 1 Cor. 9:24-25



NOTES

VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



THURSDAY

VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



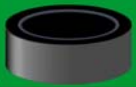
**From Fisherman to Follower
Andrew listens to the coach.**



"Then Jesus told his disciples,
'If anyone would come after me,
let him deny himself and take up
his cross and follow me.'"

Matthew 16:24





Starting lineup

- Inflatable hockey sticks, 4 per class
- Paper for hockey puck
- Tape for hockey puck
- Football craft for service project
- Yarn pieces
- Staplers
- White crayons
- Andrew costume for the person who will tell the story
- Andrew script



Kick Off

Welcome your players back to their locker room and lead them in a brief discussion about hockey.

How many of you like the game of hockey?

What's your favorite team?

Does anyone have a favorite hockey team or favorite hockey player?

Who's the leader of every sports team?

Is it the players?

It's the coach, right?

What's a coach's job?

What would happen if the team players decided they weren't going to do what the coach told them to do during a hockey game or a basketball game or even a soccer game?

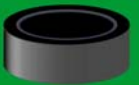
Well today we're going to find out what happened when one man named, Andrew, decided to follow Jesus. He found a coach who changed his life forever.

Game Day

Invite Andrew into the classroom and only introduce him as your friend, Andrew. Andrew will then use this script to tell his story.



LISTEN TO THEIR COACH



Hi, my name is Andrew and I was, or rather am, a disciple of Jesus. I am not famous like my brother Simon – you probably know him by another name, Peter.

Our family was in the fishing business – quite successful, I might add. The business had been handed down for several generations to our father, John. We were next in line to inherit the business.

We had several boats and other partners – like James and John and their Dad, Zebedee. We have worked together all of our adult lives – even as kids. We have been friends forever. It's hard work, but we didn't mind.

But it could be tricky, too. You never knew when you would have a good night of fishing – or catch nothing – or when a storm would suddenly arise in the middle of the night. It could capsize your boat, or you could lose all the fish you had caught.

No, it wasn't an easy way to make a living, but we loved the challenge and the smell of the salt in the air and the pull of the nets when you had a large catch.

I have always had a hunger for spiritual things. My friend John and I had heard about a man named John the Baptist and wondered if he could be the Messiah. We had been taught all of our lives that a man was going to come from God and save all of our family and the rest of the Jewish people.

So, we left our boats one day and traveled into the wilderness where we heard that John the Baptist was preaching.

Repent was his message. He urged everyone to repent – whether they were common people, tax collectors, or even Roman soldiers. We thought John could be the Messiah our people had been waiting for for years.

John the Baptist said he wasn't the Messiah. He said he was just the one who was sent from God to prepare the way for the Messiah. John and I decided to follow this guy, John the Baptist, for a while to hear what he had to say. We also decided that we wanted to follow this Messiah if we ever met Him.

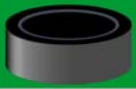
One day as John was speaking, he paused and blurted out, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." That was the day we left John the Baptist and started to follow Jesus.

When we got close to this guy, Jesus, we started to ask him questions. "Where do you live," we asked. "Where are you staying?" His answer surprised us.

He said, "The birds of the air have nests, and the foxes have dens, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." Well, that sounded pretty weird to me. John and I couldn't figure out what He meant by that!

It was late afternoon when we first met Jesus, and we spent that afternoon till evening sitting at his feet, listening to his words and wondering if this really was the Messiah that our nation has longed for over the years.

...A crown that will last forever." 1 Cor. 9:24-25



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

We stayed with Jesus for a while, but, shortly after that we went back to the family businesses. We really couldn't stay around and listen to this man's stories. Yep, back to work we had to go! Hey, look at the time. I better go check on how the fishing is going. See you later!

Andrew leaves the room.

Hmmm, I wonder what happened to Andrew and his friend, John. Maybe we'll find out later.

(Time Out!)

If you still have time you can begin the craft. If not, work on the craft when you get back from Recreation/Craft.

How many of you remember the service projects we made last year? Can someone tell me why we make crafts and gifts to give to other kids your age?

(Wait for several responses.)

This year to go with our Sports theme we're going to be making a "football" craft.

Our service project this year will go to the children at "Kids Helping Kids". Not all missionary work has to be done in another country. We don't even have to look outside of Brevard County to find people in need.

Your football projects will be given to kids that live in Palm Bay & Melbourne and other places close to you. Unfortunately, their parents aren't able to take them to VBS. Most of these kids aren't blessed to have really nice homes to live in or a lot of toys and IPADS and games like you all have.

Getting a special gift made by you is a very special treat for them.

Pass out the football craft. Instruct the players to do their very best in making the crafts. Directions are also in your supply bag.

Football Craft

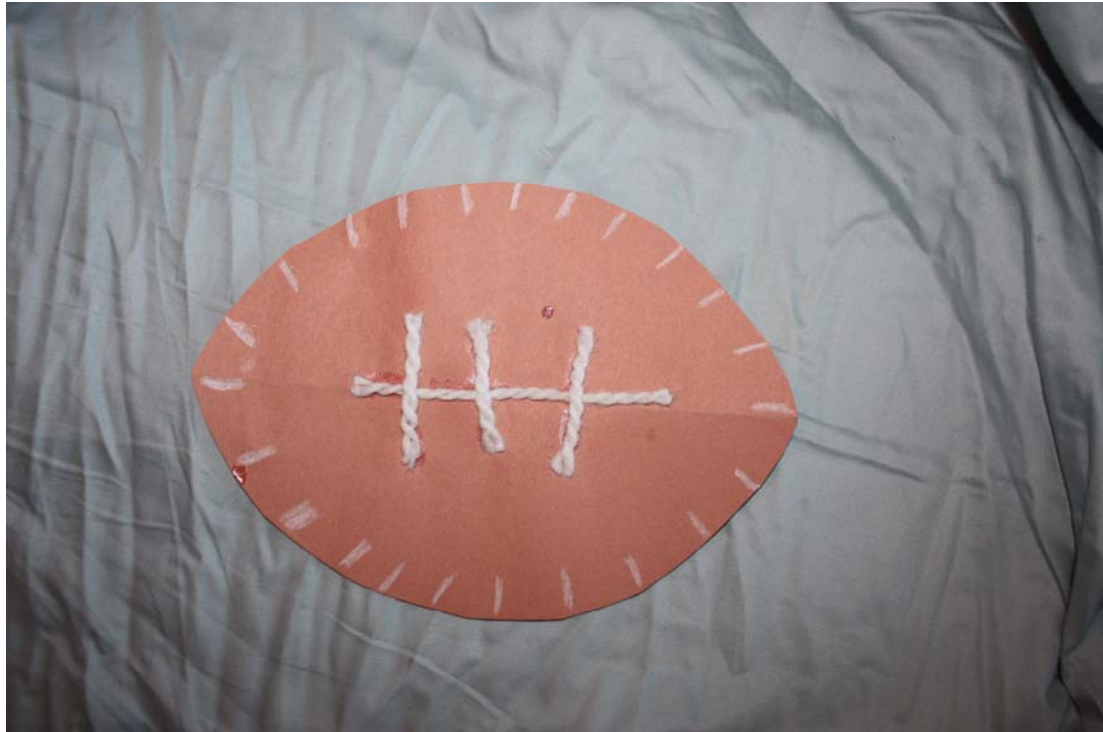
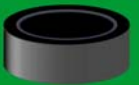
Use the template provided.

Instruct the players to decorate one football with the yarn provided (pretending to be the laces).

The long piece of yarn glues onto the center down the middle of the football and the three shorter pieces of yarn are glued across the large piece, as shown in the picture.



"Run in such a way as to get the prize..."



Instruct the students to draw the strings on the sides of the football with white crayon. Next, staple the football together but leave one of the tops open to be filled tomorrow. Each player should make two footballs.

The Scoreboard

Invite Andrew back into the room.

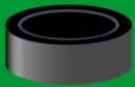
Hi Andrew, welcome back! We can't wait to hear the rest of your story!

Andrew:

Well okay. Shortly after we met Jesus we went back to the family businesses – John with his father Zebedee, and I with my father John. We had stayed away as long as we could from the boats and the nets and the fishing. I could hardly wait to talk to Simon, my brother, and tell him about meeting Jesus for the first time.

“I really believe that we have found the Messiah, Simon. You have to go with me and meet him. I have never heard a Rabbi speak as Jesus does. He speaks with authority, not like the Scribes and Pharisees. I just know that he must be the one our nation has been waiting for.”

Simon agreed that if Jesus ever came up to Capernaum, he would give him a chance to prove that he was the Messiah.



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

It wasn't long before Jesus made his way to Capernaum where we lived and worked at the Sea of Galilee. It was morning and after fishing all night and taking our catch to markets around Galilee, we were busy repairing our nets.

It was a tedious job, but one that was necessary if we didn't want the fish that we caught to slip back out of the nets. Jesus saw us working hard on the shore with our fathers, Jonas and Zebedee.

It was obvious that all six of us were fishermen. Jesus looked at Simon, John, James, and me and offered us a new job – fishers of men – if we would follow him. I'd already convinced Simon that this was the Messiah, and James must've been convinced too, for all four of us that day left our fathers and became disciples of Jesus.

I am sure that our fathers thought we had lost our minds, leaving a thriving business, a business that would become ours one day. They thought we were crazy to leave and follow a stranger. This man, Jesus, didn't even know where he would sleep the next night! But there was something about Jesus that caused all four of us to want to follow him.

The next three or four years were not easy for us. We traveled all over the area of Galilee and watched Jesus preach, teach, heal the sick, and perform many miracles. Other men became disciples of Jesus as well, but we were the first ones. The group continued to grow until there were twelve of us who were with Jesus during his ministry on earth.

Jesus was such a wonderful teacher. I learned so much from Him. He taught me about how to love all people, even the ones I didn't like so much. He taught me how to be strong and not worry about things like what me and the other guys were going to eat or where we were going to sleep.

Jesus also taught us about His Father, God, and how we could always depend on God. I guess you might even say that Jesus was like a great coach and we were His team of disciples. He said that if we continued to follow Him, He would coach us in how to be good teachers like Him.

Would you believe that Jesus even gave my brother, Simon, a new name? He changed Simon's name to Peter and told Him that he was going to be a great leader. He said he would become someone who would be really famous all over the place.

Now, if Jesus could change my brother, the blabber mouth, He could do anything! Eventually, I began to look up to Peter, not only as a brother, but as a follower and disciple of Jesus Christ.

And so before I have to go today, I would ask you to do what Jesus coached me to do and each of his disciples to do – just bring people to Jesus.

Thanks for letting me visit your locker room. Goodbye!

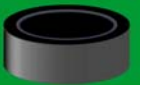
Extra Point

The Bible testifies that the death and resurrection of Jesus was so powerful that tombs broke open in Jerusalem and holy people who had died were raised to life. They appeared to many and then lived out a normal life until they died again. (Matthew 27:52-53)



“Run in such a way as to get the prize...”

LISTEN TO THEIR COACH



Andrew exits the class.

Wow, that was a great story! Are you all ready to divide into your teams?

Goal!

Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

Let’s play some hockey!

Hand out the inflatable hockey sticks and the paper and pencils or markers.

Instruct each team that every member will need to write the memory verse on a blank sheet of paper. Then, they will all work to combine and form their papers into a hockey puck, wrapping some tape around it to hold it together.

When they have the puck ready, they will one by one use the flyswatter to move the puck past the goal line and back to the next player. When everyone has had a turn, the team should sit down to let you know they have completed the hockey game. (Your daily score sheet is on the next page.)

Ready, set, go!



...A crown that will last forever.” 1 Cor. 9:24-25

Daily Scoreboard

Team	Today's Points	TOTAL POINTS
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		



FRIDAY

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**



**From Teen to Teacher
Timothy trains more athletes.**



**"And he said to them,
'Go into all the world and
proclaim the gospel to the
whole creation.'"**

Mark 16:15





GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Starting Lineup

- Make sure you tally up all of the scores from the individual teams for the special prize.*
- Footballs for the service project begun on Thursday*
- Note paper and stickers to go into the footballs*
- Candy for footballs*
- Service project bags*
- Items to be placed in service project bags*
- Four large buckets or bowls*
- Four footballs for the game*
- Set of Bible verse cards for each team to go with the closing game*
- Special prize*



Today make sure you set aside a table for filling the service project bags. It will take some room to fill the bags. An adult needs to be present at all times as the bags are filled.

You may not get through the entire lesson or you may have to shorten it. The emphasis should be on the last part of the lesson. It's important that these players understand that "you are never too young to be a good example for others and to share Jesus with others."

Kick Off

I know everyone is excited today because today is Water Day!! But before we get to go outside we need to finish up our service projects and learn a little bit more about one of Jesus' youngest followers.

(Lead your players in a brief discussion asking these questions.)

Can someone tell me why we have a service project?

What's the purpose?

Suppose your football was received by someone like you who had never heard about Jesus. What kind of message would you like that person to receive from you?

How did the people in Jesus' day spread God's word?

Did they write letters, use email, Instagram or text?

The people who shared God's word and Jesus' teaching were called disciples. By sharing a note or a scripture verse tucked into your football, you have become a disciple too.



"Run in such a way as to get the prize..."

TRAIN MORE ATHLETES



I'm going to hand out a small piece of paper that will help you tell the kids in the "Kids Helping Kids" group. I want you to either copy one of our verses from this week or our verse from today. Or you can write a friendly note to them. You can even do both. We even have some stickers if you want to decorate the note. When you have finished I want you to sign just your first name.

This next task will be a little tricky as it will take a lot of managing on your part. An adult needs to be present at all times as the bags are filled. As the players bring you their football crafts, check for the note and insert the Smartees, then, staple the footballs closed. You want to make sure everyone has a chance to fill some of the bags if they want to participate. You won't want too many players to be at the table at the same time. We need to make sure that every bag gets one of each item. As each bag is filled fold over the top and set it aside in a safe place. The bags will be collected later.

As you finish your notes bring up your footballs to the table with the supplies for the service projects. We'll staple your footballs together and you can begin filling the bags.

Game Day

Have you ever heard of the Apostle Paul? He is one of the greatest heroes of the Bible. In fact, he was the man God used to write most of the New Testament. Paul traveled the world preaching and teaching to thousands of people.

Paul met lots of people in his travels. One of the people he met impressed him a whole lot. It was a young man named Timothy.

Timothy was much younger than Paul. But that didn't stop Paul from seeing incredible potential in Timothy. Even though he was very young, Paul approached Timothy and said, "You are well thought of by the believers. Will you join my missionary journey?"

WOW! Timothy was just a young person and he was recognized by Paul as a strong example to other Christians.

Paul took Timothy along with him on his missionary journey. They started many churches and accomplished great things over the years.

One day, Paul was thrown into prison for preaching the good news of Jesus. He wanted to make sure Timothy continued to preach the gospel, so he decided to write him a letter.

This letter is what is now known as the book of 1 Timothy in the Bible - because it was the first letter that Paul wrote to Timothy.

Timothy received this letter and began to read it. He read these words from Paul, "**Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers...**"

Extra Point

We all hate to pay taxes — well most of us, anyway. But did you know that even Jesus paid taxes during His time. In the Gospel of Matthew, when the tax collectors came to Peter and asked him if his teacher paid the temple tax, he replied, "Yes, He does."

(Matthew 17:24-25)

...A crown that will last forever." 1 Cor. 9:24-25



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Timothy understood exactly what Paul was telling him. He knew that, even though he was very young, he was able to be an example for other Christians to follow. Timothy continued to preach about Jesus and taught the Christians in the churches.

Timothy understood something very important. You are NEVER TOO YOUNG to be an example for others.

Other kids - even adults - can learn from watching how you live. If you follow God in all you do and set an example for others, you can change the world! That's exactly what I want you to learn in our lesson today!

The truth is, people are watching you. Younger children are watching. Your friends are watching. Adults are watching. One of the biggest ways you can make a difference for others is to show them a good example of what it means to be a Christian.

How do you do that?

The Apostle Paul continues in the same verse, **1 Timothy 4:12**, **"...be an example for ALL believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."**

What a great list! If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in "what you say." Let your words be truthful, helpful, and kind. If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in "the way you live."

Live every moment to please Jesus and follow His commands.

If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in "your love." Show love to others, especially those who least deserve it.

If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in "your faith." Believe that God can use you in a big-time way.

If you want to be a good example for ALL believers, do it in "your purity." Stay away from sin at all costs.

THAT is how you can be a good example for all believers - "in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."

WOW! You can ALL do that! It's what God has called you to do. You are NEVER TOO YOUNG to be an example for all believers. So, here is the last lesson you need to learn...

You must start NOW! You are NEVER TOO YOUNG to do big things for God. God wants to use you to pray for the sick and see them healed. God wants to use you to share the gospel with others and see them become Christians.

God wants to use you to love and encourage others. God wants to use you to give to the "Kids Helping Kids" project so that kids your age in Brevard County, Florida can hear the truth of Jesus.

Extra Point

Timothy was like an ambassador, acting as a representative of Paul, who had the authority to ensure churches were doing things the way Christ wanted. He was from Lystra. His father was Greek and he had a grandma named Lois.



"Run in such a way as to get the prize..."

TRAIN MORE ATHLETES



Goal!

Directions for football game

Each team will be handed a football.

The object of this game is to get as many footballs into your team bucket as possible. Every time you score a bucket, your team gets to get a word or phrase from our Bible verse today. It's your job to run to the bucket and retrieve the football whether you score or not. When you have collected all of the words from the memory verse, you'll start putting the verse together.

**And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."
Mark 16:15**

Tally up each team's scores from the week using the scoreboard on the next page. The team that has the most points from the week will get the special team prize.

Make sure you pack up each player's bag with crafts, extra activity pages, etc. for the week. Enlist everyone's help today so that you'll be ready for tonight's Medal Ceremony, which you will host in your Locker Room.

You may begin packing up your classroom with items you have brought in that you don't want the church to take to Mission Week but be sure you leave up decorations for the parents to see tonight. It's very important that the classroom get vacuumed and all trash removed for tonight's big finale!



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