

FINDING JESUS

VBS 2026

AN UNDERSEA ADVENTURE

Seek Him. Find Him. Follow Him.

Synopsis: Kids will journey beneath the waves to discover that the greatest adventure in life is knowing Jesus.

Objective: Learn that God calls each of us, has a purpose for our lives, and wants us to boldly follow Him.

Memory Verse: And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Lessons:

Night 1 - Coral Reef

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11, Calling of the First Disciples

Coral reefs are large underwater ecosystems built by sea creatures to provide a home and safety. It's a great big sea kingdom! Kids will learn that Jesus is calling us to become a part of the kingdom that he is creating.

Monday Night Verse: And he saith unto them, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Matthew 4:19-20

Night 2 - Whales

Scripture: Exodus 14:5-31, Crossing the Red Sea

As one of the largest animal to ever live on earth, the Blue Whale fills the seas with its majesty. It is amazing simply for its size. Kids will learn that God is big, and able to do big things to help us.

Tuesday Night Verse: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; Psalm 145:3

Night 3 - Shrimp

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Samuel Anoints David as King

Because of their small size, shrimp might not seem that impressive. However, shrimp are plentiful and add much to the health of the sea. Kids will learn that even though they may be small, God still has a special purpose for them.

Wednesday Night Verse: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1 John 4:4

Night 4 - Dolphins

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40, Philip and the Ethiopian

Dolphins are very social animals talking with one another through vocal clicks and non-verbal behaviors. Kids will learn that when we know Jesus, we should be vocal about it and talk about Jesus with others.

Thursday Night Verse: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: Romans 1:16



Welcome to
KINGDOM COVE

Coral Point

Turtle Cove
Creations

The Reef
District

Seashell Café



CORAL REEF

BOTTOM LINE:

God invites everyone to join his kingdom.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God wants them to join and share the good news about his kingdom.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 5:1-11, Calling of the First Disciples

WEEK MEMORY VERSE:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

NIGHT 1 MEMORY VERSE:

And he saith unto them, Follow me and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.
Matthew 4:19-20

SUMMARY:

Coral reefs are large underwater ecosystems built by sea creatures to provide a home and safety. It's a great big sea kingdom! Kids will learn that Jesus is calling us to become a part of the kingdom that he is creating.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,
Thank you for calling us and inviting us to live forever with you. In Jesus' name,
Amen

MEMORY VERSE

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

LARGE GROUP:

As a group, see if the kids can recite the memory verse without seeing it onscreen. Then put the verse on screen and read it once more together.

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Party invitations

Bring in a few different types of party invitations. Have one for a boy birthday party, a girl birthday party, a wedding, and a graduation party. Ask the kids to identify what kind of party each invitation is for.

If you look at a coral reef, it sort of looks like a party. You see fish and wildlife in all sizes and colors and shapes. It's an entire kingdom unto itself, right in the middle of the sea.

That's how it is with God's kingdom. Right here on Earth, in the midst of all the craziness this world contains, is a kingdom that will last for eternity. The people in that kingdom come from all walks of life. They are as diverse as the creatures of the reef. And they are all there because they accepted an invitation.

God's Word is our invitation. It's a love letter asking us to join his eternal kingdom. It's an invitation to live for Christ here on Earth, growing in your faith and sharing the invitation with others. And it's an invitation that will lead to eternal life.

God has sent you an invitation, just as he invited the disciples. What's keeping you from joining the party?

LARGE GROUP GAME

OPEN INVITES

ITEMS NEEDED:

A table

Greetingcards

INSTRUCTIONS:

Set five greeting cards on a table, opened with the open end facing down like a tent. Choose one player for this game. The player has 60 seconds to blow twocards toward the edge of the table, getting one side of the card to drop off while the other side stays on the table. If they can get two cards hanging off the edge in60 seconds or less, they win.

VARIATION:

Cut the number of cards needed to win to one for younger kids, or make it three for older kids.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God has invited everyone to join his kingdom.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God invites everyone to join his kingdom.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God wants them to join and share the good news about his kingdom.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 5:1-11, Calling of the First Disciples

INTRO:

Up until now, we've focused our under the sea series on individual creatures. We've looked at big creatures like sharks and whales to small creatures like jellyfish. Today, we're looking at a part of the sea that is teeming with life, the coral reef. Coral reefs are the home to tiny little creatures known individually as polyps. These little creatures are the ones who come together to build the elaborate, rock-like formations that give the coral reef its unique look.

The little tiny polyps aren't the only inhabitants of the coral reef. Every coral reef is home to literally hundreds of different species of sea life! Just one reef off the Florida Keys is home to 45 species of stony coral, 37 species of octocoral, five species of sea turtles, 500 species of fish, about 1,700 species of mollusks and hundreds of species of sponges!

Coral reefs are beautiful structures that provide a home to a community of sea creatures. These creatures come together for mutual benefit, and coral reefs themselves benefit our planet. They help protect coastlines against storms, and they provide food and jobs to humans.

The coral reef is a beautiful picture of God's vision for the church. Just like a coral reef, the church is made up of all kinds of people from different backgrounds. There are people from all races, all nations, and all classes in God's kingdom on Earth, and we've all come together to serve and worship the Lord. What's more, the church united is able to benefit our planet by reaching out to the lost, caring for the sick and needy, and standing up for the rights of those who are oppressed.

Every coral reef begins with a few tiny coral polyps coming together, and God's kingdom began in a similar way.

God sent his son Jesus to be the Savior of the world, and after he was baptized, Jesus began bringing other people into his kingdom.

READ LUKE 5:1-11

MAIN POINT:

Peter, Andrew, James, and John were the first disciples called to serve Christ. They were with him from the beginning, hearing every sermon and witnessing every miracle. They were with him in the garden when he was betrayed by one of their own. Two of them followed him to his trial, and one went all the way to the cross.

Common wisdom says there were twelve disciples, but that's just not true. Yes, Jesus had twelve that he kept close, but disciples are still being called today. Every person who accepts Jesus becomes his disciple. Every new face added to the church becomes another coral, growing God's kingdom here on Earth.

The invitation has come down from one generation to the next, right down to yours. That's why we're here every week, to invite you into God's kingdom.

DRIVE IT HOME:

So what does it mean to be in God's kingdom? It means loving and living in community, just like the creatures of the coral reef. We come together each week to worship God. We share one another's ups and downs, and we pray with those in need. We band together to help our fellow believers and to do good in our community. We raise money for missions, we collect food for food banks, we collect clothes for the homeless. We are the hands and feet of Jesus, serving our community and our world in the storms of life.

Not only do we serve, we invite others to join with us. Peter, Andrew, James, and John were told they would no longer fish for fish, but for people. God wants us to reach out and draw others into the church, growing his kingdom until it reaches the whole Earth.

The work we do, serving those in need, is one way of inviting others to know Jesus. When we give of ourselves in love, we are being Christ in our community. Nothing drew people to Jesus like the love he had for others. Christians haven't always done the best job loving our neighbors, but when we do, it's amazing how God can use us to grow the church.

We can also invite people by, well, inviting them to church! We can invite them to a Bible study, or a kids event, or a concert. We can bring our friends to the coral reef and let them see for themselves what it's like to be part of God's family. We can share our experiences with God, and we can lead our own friends to Jesus.

God's kingdom is like a coral reef. It's always growing. It's full of diversity. And all are welcome who want to come in and join. Let's commit ourselves to leading others to Jesus by our work, by our words, and by our love.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God

Thank you for calling us and inviting us to live forever with you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (PRE-K/K & 1ST - 3RD)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever been to the beach?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids choose different creatures that live in or around coral reefs and act as those creatures, creating your own "coral reef."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 5:1-11

Where did Jesus meet Simon?

What was Simon's job?

What did Jesus tell Simon to do with his nets?

What did Jesus ask Simon to do after the miraculous catch of fish?

Whom has Jesus invited to join his kingdom?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to spread the good news that all are invited to the kingdom of God.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (4th - 6th & H.S.)

ICEBREAKER:

Have you ever been to the beach?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Have the kids collaborate on a musical version of the Bible verse. Can it be sung to a popular tune, or can you invent your own?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids act out the story from today's scripture.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 5:1-11

What did Jesus tell Simon to do when they met?

What did Jesus ask Simon to do after the miraculous catch of fish? Whom has Jesus invited to join his kingdom?

How can someone become part of God's kingdom?

Why is it important that we share the news about God's kingdom with others?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to spread the good news that all are invited to the kingdom of God.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

WHALES

BOTTOM LINE:

God is greater than we can ever imagine.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God can do great things in their lives.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 14:5-31, Crossing the Red Sea

WEEK MEMORY VERSE:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

NIGHT 2 MEMORY VERSE:

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
Psalm 145:3

SUMMARY:

As the largest animal living on earth, the blue whale fills the seas with its majesty. It is amazing simply for its size. Kids will learn that God is big, and able to do big things to help us.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for calling us and inviting us to live forever with you.
In Jesus' name,

Amen

MEMORY VERSE

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

LARGE GROUP:

Play a hip-hop beat and sing the memory verse for the kids, then have them repeat it back to you. Do this 3-4 times. See if they can do it the last time without reading it.

SMALL GROUP:

Put each word of the memory verse on a card. Have kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Flour, water, yeast, two mixing bowls

An hour or so before your program, mix a batch of flour and water with yeast in one bowl and just flour and water in the other. Follow directions so the dough with yeast rises.

Begin the lesson with a packet or jar of yeast. Open it up and let the kids see it.

Does anyone know what this is? This is called yeast. Yeast is a kind of fungus that, believe it or not, is often used in cooking. Doesn't look like much, does it? it's so tiny. But yeast is what makes bread big, light and fluffy.

Show the kids the dough without the yeast.

Take a look at this dough. This is just flour and water. I mixed them together before you got here. I could bake this, and it would be okay bread, but it would be very thick and tough. Now, take a look at the difference a little yeast makes.

Show the kids the risen yeast dough.

Just a little yeast, something we can barely see, in flour and water turns something small into something big!

It's a good reminder that God, whom we cannot see, can still do big things in our lives. Just as he parted the waters for the Israelites, God will be there to do big things through those who believe in him.

God is big, and he's in the habit of doing big things. let's ask God to do some big things through us and through our group.

LARGE GROUP GAME

BIG MOUTH

ITEMS NEEDED:

Three McDonald's cheeseburgers

3 Paper Plates

3 Plastic Cups

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose three players for this game who like cheeseburgers. Give each one a McDonald's cheeseburger. One at a time, have all of the contestants take one giant bite out of their burger. (So they don't have to swallow such a big bite let them spit the big bite out into the plastic cup) Set the burgers down on the plates and compare them to see who took the biggest bite. Whomever took the biggest "whale-sized" bite wins.

VARIATION:

Instead of a big bite contest, you could see who could blow the biggest bubble with gum or with bubble mix.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God is big and can do big things in our lives.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God is greater than we can ever imagine.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God can do great things in their lives.

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 14:5-31, Crossing the Red Sea

INTRO:

If you go to a zoo or an aquarium you may see hundreds of different kinds of animals. Most of the animals you see, however, are going to be smaller. You're going to see frogs, snakes, fish, turtles, toads, or rodents, small creatures that live in small enclosures. A reptile house, an aquarium, or birdhouse alone could house literally hundreds of different kinds of species under one roof.

But let's face it: we don't go to zoos and aquariums to see little stuff. We go to see the big stuff. At the zoo, we want to see elephants, rhinos, giraffes, hippos, and the big cats. At the aquarium we want to see dolphins, sharks, rays, and other giant creatures.

The difference between zoos and aquariums is zoos can house the biggest creatures on land, but an aquarium can only house animals so big. There are huge creatures living in the oceans that, because of their size, could never be kept in captivity.

The biggest creature still living is the blue whale. The blue whale can grow up to 98 feet long and weigh as much as 200 tons. That's 400,000 pounds! These amazing creatures living in the oceans that, because of their size, could never be kept in captivity.

There's no way we could ever build an aquarium large enough to contain the mighty blue whale. It needs the wide-open spaces of the ocean to survive. It is completely wild and untamed. It is a beautiful picture of just how big and amazing our God is.

The Bible is filled with stories that tell us how big God is. God created the whole world. He made every animal on Earth, big and small. Our fossil records tell us he made creatures even bigger than the blue whale! But some of the biggest things God has ever done are the miracles he's performed for people who love him.

One such miracle happens in today's scripture. The children of Israel were finally free of slavery from their Egyptian captors when they came up on the Red Sea. They turned back and saw the Egyptians were chasing after them. They were trapped! But then God did something big to save his people from Egypt forever.

READ EXODUS 14:5-31

MAIN POINT:

God had already performed a series of miracles to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites leave his kingdom. But God knew the ten plagues would not be enough to save his people. God saved his most amazing miracle for last when he parted the Red Sea to save Israel and then sent the waves crashing down on their enemies.

God is a big God. He is powerful and holds dominion over all creation. He was even big enough to send his only Son to be our Savior. God can do big things through us as well. But before we can see miracles, we have to place our trust in Jesus.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Some people ask, "If God could do all those miracles in the Bible, how come he doesn't do them now? Why don't we see fire falling from the sky, or waters parting for people to cross over today?"

God may not be doing the dramatic miracles he did in the Bible, but he is still doing miracles. Most of these miracles take place in the lives of individual people. He allows parents and kids to forgive one another and fix their differences. He heals broken hearts and broken friendships. He brings hope to the hopeless, and he uses people like you and me to do miracles for people in need.

There's another reason people don't see the big miracles like they used to. There aren't enough believers who trust God to do those miracles. Miracles take faith, and without faith, there's very little God can do.

That's probably why God gave us the blue whale and other big signs in creation. He wanted to show us that yes, he is real. Yes, he is big. And yes, he does still perform miracles.

God can do big things through anyone who believes. Doesn't matter if you're young or old, big or small. Just as the tiny plankton can give nourishment to the mighty blue whale, we can be the spark that causes a big miracle to happen.

God is a big God, and God is still doing big things. If you trust God, obey his teachings, and ask him to use you, he will do miracles through your life just as he did Moses.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God

We praise you for how great and wonderful you are.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (PRE-K/K & 1ST - 3RD)

ICEBREAKER:

What's the biggest creature you've ever seen?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Put each word of the memory verse on a card. Have the kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids get up. Give them one minute to move around the group and give aBIG hug to everyone in the group. Can everyone get their hugs in before time is up?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Exodus 14:5-31

Why did Pharaoh chase after the Egyptians?

What did the Israelites say when they saw Pharaoh and his army coming?

What did God tell Moses to do?

How did God save Israel from Egypt?

Can God still do big miracles today?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the faith to believe in miracles so you can do big things in our lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (4th - 6th & H.S.)

ICEBREAKER:

What's the biggest creature you've ever seen?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Put each word of the memory verse on a card, Have the kids rearrange the cards and put the words in order.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids get up. One at a time have them do their biggest jump from the same starting point. See who can do the biggest jump.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Exodus 14:5-31

Why did Pharaoh chase after the Egyptians?

How did God save Israel from Egypt?

Can God still do big miracles today?

Why do you think we don't see more miracles happen?

Have you ever seen a miracle in real life?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the faith to believe in miracles so you can do big things in our lives.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Shrimp

BOTTOM LINE:

God has a special purpose for everyone.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God can use them even though they are small.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 16:1-13, Samuel Anoints David as King

WEEK MEMORY VERSE:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

NIGHT 3 MEMORY VERSE:

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1 John 4:4

SUMMARY:

Because of their small size, shrimp might not seem that impressive. However, shrimp are plentiful and add much to the health of the sea. Kids will learn that even though they may be small, God still has a special purpose for them.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Use us to do big things and share your love with others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

MEMORY VERSE

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

LARGE GROUP:

Bring as many adult leaders up on stage as possible. Let the adults go first, reciting the memory verse from memory, then let the kids go. Who did the best job?

SMALL GROUP:

Have the kids practice saying their memory verse, and then see who can say it backwards.

OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A single serving packet of Kool-Aid

A large clear pitcher of water

Set the pitcher of water in front of the kids.

Kids, what we have here is a glass of water. It's cool, it's refreshing, and it's good for you. But let's face it: water is kind of boring sometimes. It has no flavor. It's clear, colorless, and just kind of there.

Pull out the Kool-Aid packet.

Inside this packet is a tiny powder. You couldn't even pick up one piece of the powder in the packet, it's so small. But these small bits of powder can have a big impact if we set them loose in this pitcher of water.

Pour the Kool-Aid packet into the water and stir it up. Let one of the kids have a sip.

Just a tiny bit of powder has a big impact on a large pitcher of water. If a little powder can change a pitcher of water into a colorful, flavorful drink, what can God do with kids like you in a world like this?

Don't let anyone tell you that you can't change the world just because you are young. David shocked the world by taking down Goliath. God can use you to do great things and share God's love with the world.

LARGE GROUP GAME

BIG BALL, LITTLE BALL

ITEMS NEEDED:

A basketball

An orange cone

A bag of small bouncy balls

INSTRUCTIONS:

Set the basketball on top of the orange cone. Choose one player for this game, and give them the bag of bouncy balls. The player has as many throws as there are balls to try and knock the basketball off the cone. Have the player stand several feet from the cone and toss the balls at the basketball. If they can knock the basketball off the cone, they win.

VARIATION:

Instead of limiting the game by the number of bouncy balls, you can make this a timed contest and give the player 60 seconds to knock off the basketball. You can also cut the game to one ball and make them chase it down after each throw to make it more active and exciting.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God can do big things through small things - even small people.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God has a special purpose for everyone.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God can use them even though they are small.

KEY PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 16:1-13, Samuel Anoints David as King

INTRO:

How many of you have ever been called a shrimp? Do you have a big brother, a big sister, or an uncle who thinks he's funny and calls you shrimp? Maybe there's a big kid at school who thinks it's funny to call you shrimp, just because you're smaller than them. They're not being very nice when they call you shrimp, are they? But you know something, if that mean kid or relative knew what I knew about shrimp, they might see things a little differently.

Most people know shrimp as small creatures that end up on our dinner plates boiled, steamed, grilled, sautéed, or fried. But they don't know what shrimp do in the wild. Shrimp are really important to our environment. Shrimp live at the bottom of the sea, and they keep the ocean floor clean by eating a lot of the junk that sinks to the bottom. Many shrimp also have symbiotic relationships with other creatures of the sea. That means the shrimp and those other creatures can help each other out. Some shrimp feast on parasites and other pests that attach themselves to larger sea creatures like sea cucumbers. Some shrimp seek shelter in coral and sponges and, in turn, keep their dwellings nice and tidy.

The pistol shrimp has a really unique relationship with coral. The giant claw of the pistol shrimp is a deadly weapon. When the claw snaps, it creates a loud pop and a burst of light that actually heats the water up to 8000 degrees! They use their claw to stun and kill prey, but they can also use that claw to chase away starfish that try to feast on the coral.

When you know how important shrimp are to the ecosystem, and all the good that they do, being called shrimp isn't nearly as insulting as it sounds. It's a compliment, because the tiny shrimp does a lot of good for other sea creatures and the environment as a whole.

Shrimp remind us that you don't have to be big to make a big impact on your world. Just as shrimp can make a big difference in the ocean, kids can make a big difference in their world too. If you don't believe me, wait until you meet the main character in today's scripture.

READ 1 Samuel 16:1-13

MAIN POINT:

I'm guessing many of you already know the main character in this story. David, the boy God chose to be Israel's new king, is an important hero of the Old Testament. He became king, just as God said, and he wrote most of the Psalms. But David is best remembered for something he did when he was just a boy: he killed the giant Goliath!

It's amazing to think that a small boy could defeat a giant warrior, but when we look at history and even our world today, it shouldn't be that big of a surprise. We see David and Goliath stories all the time. A small time candidate for political office comes out of nowhere and defeats the incumbent politician. A small college no one's ever heard of knocks off a top ranked team in the NCAA tournament. Over and over, giants fall and David's win because people underestimate the little guy.

Don't let anyone underestimate you. If you believe in God and give your heart to him, God can do great things in your life too!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Many kids and adults look at childhood as a time of preparation and waiting. When you are a child, you are growing up, learning about the world, learning about God, and learning about yourself. It's assumed that when you are grown, you'll figure out what God's plan is for your life and do it. Sounds like a good plan anyway, right?

But David's story tells us that God's plan doesn't begin with adulthood. Kids can do big things to change their world. Just like the tiny shrimp, we can make a big impact on our community and the lives of others. We just need the will to let God use us.

Kids have done incredible things in this world. Kids have invented useful things we use every day. Kids have founded charities to help the needy here and around the world. Kids have raised money to support missionaries. And kids have raised money to fight diseases and search for a cure.

Kids have also changed their friend's lives just by sharing their faith. They told a friend about Jesus, brought them to church, and helped them to accept Christ as their Savior.

God has a plan for each one of your lives. No matter what anyone else may tell you, that plan doesn't start on some future date when you leave high school or college.

That plan started the day you met Jesus.

God can use you to share his love. He can use you to spread the good news. He can use you to clean up this world and lead people to Jesus.

Shrimp are tiny creatures, but shrimp make a big difference in our planet every day. Imagine what God could do if everyone in here asked God to use them, not in the future but right now. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Ask God to use you to change your world starting right now!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Use us to do big things and share your love with others.
In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (PRE-K/K & 1ST - 3RD)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you like shrimp? If so, what's your favorite way to eat shrimp

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids do a lap around the room, crawling on the floor like shrimp. What's it like having a shrimp's eye view of the world?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Who was Samuel?

Why did Samuel go to the house of Jesse?

Why did Samuel think Jesse's oldest son was God's choice for king?

Why did God choose David over his brothers?

Can God use little kids to do great things?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us your plan for our lives, and use us to share your love with others

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (4th - 6th & H.S.)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you like shrimp? If so, what's your favorite way to eat shrimp?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Pair the kids off and have them recite the verse to each other.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Hand each person a Jelly Belly. One at a time, have the kids taste theirs, and see who can guess the small flavor correctly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Why did Samuel think Jesse's oldest son was God's choice for king?

Why did God choose David over his brothers?

How did God use David to do great things as a kid?

Do you think a kid your age can make a difference for good in our world?

How can God use you to share the good news with others?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us your plan for our lives, and use us to share your love with others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Dolphins

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to share Jesus with other people.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that when we know Jesus, we should share Jesus with others.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 8:26-40, Philip and the Ethiopian

WEEK MEMORY VERSE:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

NIGHT 4 MEMORY VERSE:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:
Romans 1:16

SUMMARY:

Dolphins are very social animals talking with one another through vocal clicks and non-verbal behaviors. Kids will learn that when we know Jesus, we should be vocal about it – talking about Jesus with others.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to be talkative about Jesus and share his love with others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

MEMORY VERSE

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

LARGE GROUP:

Put the verse on the big screen and read it aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP:

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A football

Can someone tell me what kind of dolphin likes to play with a football?

Okay, it's a trick question. The Dolphins who play football are actually people. But just like real dolphins, the Miami Dolphins of the NFL are always talking. If you don't believe me, listen closely next time a game is on. Listen to the quarterback calling plays. Watch the coaches talking to their players and sending signals. And listen for the defense, barking out play calls and pointing out assignments, as they get ready to stop their opponents.

Communication is important to real dolphins and Miami Dolphins. It's important for Christians, too. God has given us the awesome task of sharing the good news of Jesus with the world. He wants us to tell friends, classmates, anyone who will listen that Jesus loves us.

If the Miami Dolphins stopped communicating, they'd lose the game. If we stop communicating, people we know may lose a whole lot more. Don't be quiet. Don't be shy. Tell someone you know that Jesus loves them.

LARGE GROUP GAME

WALKING ON EGG SHELLS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Raw eggs, or eggshells

A blindfold

INSTRUCTIONS:

Lay out the raw eggs or shells across the stage. Choose two players. Have eachone stand on opposite sides of the stage. Blindfold one of the players.

The player with the blindfold must cross from one side of the stage to the other without stepping on any of the eggs. It is the other player's job to guide them, telling them when to stop, turn, take a big step, take a small step, etc., as they cross the stage. If they can successfully navigate the stage without stepping on an egg, they win.

VARIATION:

To make this challenge harder, take off the blindfolded player's shoes, or make this a timed, beat the clock contest.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

We need to let our voices be heard so people will know the good news about Jesus.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God wants us to share Jesus with other people.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that when we know Jesus, we should share Jesus with others.

KEY PASSAGE:

Acts 8:26-40, Philip and the Ethiopian

INTRO:

How many of you guys have seen dolphins in real life? Have you ever been to a zoo or an aquarium and seen what a dolphin can do? Dolphins are the smartest creatures in the sea. In fact some people, based on what we know about a dolphin's brain, say dolphins may be smarter than us! Dolphins can do some amazing things. They can learn tricks. They respond to commands very well - especially if there's fish treats involved. And dolphins, better than almost any other animal, can communicate. They don't use words like we do, but they use squeaks and chirps and clicks and all sorts of other sounds to talk to us - and to one another.

Out in the wild, dolphins are always chattering with one another. Their ability to communicate helps them to hunt and to avoid danger. And dolphins love to talk! If you ever see them in the wild, they are always talking. Makes you wonder just what they're all saying. "Hey, Larry, look up on the boat. It's people again! Let's do a flip and splash them!"

Dolphins are social creatures, and they love to talk. It's one thing we love about dolphins because we have that in common. People are always talking. They talk about school, about family, about sports, about music, about what's on TV. A lot of that talk is just chatter, and there's nothing wrong with that. But today, I want to challenge you to become believers who talk about something truly important - Jesus.

When Jesus left Earth, he gave his followers a challenge, to take the good news about his resurrection to the world. Jesus is counting on us to share that good news with our family, our friends, our classmates, and with everyone we meet.

The man named Philip who we meet in Acts is remembered for one thing: he was always bringing people to Jesus. One day God led Philip out to meet a man he had never seen before. Philip went, and what happened next caused the good news of Jesus to spread farther than ever before.

READ Acts 8:26-40

MAIN POINT:

Philip wasn't a shy man, was he? How many of you would go up to a new kid on the playground and say, "Hey, did you know Jesus loves you?" But that's sort of what Philip did! He introduced himself, he saw what the man was reading and he used it to share the good news of Jesus. Because he did, the gospel was taught to the man from Ethiopia, and that man took the good news back to Africa with him.

Humans are social creatures like dolphins. We love to talk, and we spend a lot of our day talking. Jesus wants us to talk to others about him so that the people we meet can know Jesus too.

DRIVE IT HOME:

It's not always easy to strike up a conversation about God, especially when most of the world seems so anti-God these days. But I want to share with you a few things from this story that I hope will encourage you.

First, God was the one who led Philip to the eunuch. It was God who made sure that Philip was at the right place at the right time to meet this man. We don't think of God working so actively in our world today, but he is still working. Every day he puts people in our paths, hoping that through words or actions, we'll show the person Jesus loves them. If we ask God to put people in our lives so we can share the gospel, he will answer and he will give us that opportunity.

Second, Philip used what the man was reading to share the good news. The man happened to be reading the Old Testament, which made things easy for Philip, but if we are wise, we can use almost anything to share Jesus with someone. We can look for Christian themes in movies and in music. We can listen to someone's troubles and offer them hope by telling them Jesus loves them, no matter what they've been through. There's always a way, and God will help you find that way if you pray and listen.

The third thing I want you to remember is how the eunuch responded to the gospel. He was so excited, he wanted to be baptized. Right away. "Look! Here's some water!" There's nothing more exciting for a believer than seeing someone accept Jesus for the first time. And once you lead one person, you will want to bring more to Jesus.

Dolphins are chatty creatures. So are humans. We love to talk and let's face it, we do it well. My prayer is that we will take the time to talk about something that truly matters.

Ask God to give you the opportunity to share Jesus with others, and let's use our gift for gab to spread the gospel every chance we get.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to be talkative about Jesus and share his love with others.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (PRE-K/K & 1ST - 3RD)

ICEBREAKER:

What's the coolest sea creature you have ever seen in real life?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

See if you have the skills of a dolphin. Stand in a circle and toss a beach ball in the air. How long can you keep it aloft just bouncing it with your heads or noses?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Acts 8:26-40

Who was Philip?

How did Philip meet the Ethiopian?

What was the Ethiopian reading?

What did Philip teach the Ethiopian?

What did the Ethiopian want to do after he learned about Jesus?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the words to share with others so we can tell other people Jesus loves them.
In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (4th - 6th & H.S.)

ICEBREAKER:

What's the coolest sea creature you have ever seen in real life?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

See if you have the skills of a dolphin. Stand in a circle and toss a beach ball in the air. How long can you keep it aloft just bouncing it with your heads or noses?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Acts 8:26-40

How did Philip meet the Ethiopian?

What was the Ethiopian reading?

How did Philip use the Old Testament to teach the Ethiopian about Jesus?

Whose job is it to tell other people about Jesus?

How can we become more "talkative" about our faith?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the words to share with others so we can tell other people Jesus loves them.
In Jesus' name,

Amen