



## K-4th VBS Leader Guide

June 2–5, 2026  
The Heights Church

Thank you for joining us for The Best Week Ever 2026! We couldn't do it without all of you coming together to serve, love, lead, and make disciples of Jesus in the next generation. We love you and we are praying that this week the Lord speaks to you in fresh ways as you celebrate Him and share His love with kids at The Heights.

♥ Ivy, Alex, Adrian, Reagan, and Sarah

## Staff Leaders

Ivy Lassiter: Kids Pastor  
214-686-5923  
ilassiter@theheights.org

Alex Lashley: Associate Kids Minister  
903-267-9796  
alashley@theheights.org

Adrian Berkline: Kids Groups  
Coordinator  
972-922-5145  
aberkline@theheights.org

Reagan Shearin: Kids Ministry  
Assistant  
206-423-4462  
rshearin@theheights.org

Sarah Stone: Kids Content  
Coordinator  
972-742-7584  
sstone@theheights.org

Kathy Castleman: Preschool Pastor  
469-556-0544  
kcastleman@theheights.org

Laura Kohutek: Child Care  
Coordinator  
972-375-6380  
lkohutek@theheights.org

Jennifer Becraft: Preschool  
Curriculum Coordinator  
972-251-0447  
jbecraft@theheights.org

Jessica Widmer: Preschool Ministry  
Assistant  
214-529-5292  
jwidmer@theheights.org

## Team Leads

Sam Beazley: Kindergarten  
(214) 676-6755  
sgbeazley@gmail.com

Andrea Krieger: 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
(979) 218-2100  
kodyandandrea@gmail.com

Sabrina Arnold: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
(214) 673-9388  
sabinamrosenthal@gmail.com

Emily Hall: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
(214) 789-5057  
emilym.hall@yahoo.com

Michelle Zukoff: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
(713) 503-7735  
michellezukoff@gmail.com

Katy Dorsey: 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
(972) 310-9093  
kdorsey@theheights.org

# VBS Vision

Thank you for volunteering to serve at VBS this year! Your willingness to give your time and serve in this way has an eternal kingdom impact, and we are so grateful. Your excitement about knowing and loving Jesus is the most important thing! It is contagious to our kids, and it changes lives, so thank you. Our team is praying over you, that you connect with your group, have a blast, and that the Lord does a special work in your life through your time in this ministry.

**PURPOSE:** Invite kids into the love and joy of a relationship with Jesus.

**STRATEGY:** Focus on connection and minimize chaos while still being lots of fun!

## ROTATIONS:

<b>Learn</b> (Small Group)	<b>Create</b>	<b>Move</b>
Kids connect with God and their peers through activities and discussion.	Kids engage in activities designed for creativity and teamwork.	Kids engage in activities designed for connection and fun!

Our core goal of VBS is to draw each child into the love and JOY of following Jesus. We intentionally aim to slow down the pace of events to make space for real connection to happen! Connection with your kids looks like knowing their name, a big smile on your face and a personal greeting when they walk in the room. We aim to foster connection by providing moments for kids to talk about their own lives and interests and giving opportunities for the group to work/play/learn together.

Your 3 Rotations Include:

### **Learn** (in your room)

This is time for daily intentional connection, as well as reinforcing the Bible lesson taught in Opening Rally. This will include a Connection Activity and Story Reminder to review the Bible story. After Bible story time each day, there will be time for you to introduce the daily "You Are Sent" challenge – in lieu of a missions project, we are going to focus all week on the way WE are sent to share the good news of Jesus as we move through our lives.

### **Create** (in your room)

This is time for kids to get creative and hands-on. This is going to be a little different than your traditional "craft." There will not be small things going home each day, but each child is going to get to take home their lanyard with pins at the end of the week! The hope is that they will use this lanyard throughout the school year and it will act as a reminder of who Jesus is.

### **Move** (check the map)

This rotation is time to move, play, and have fun. Check your daily schedule for locations and activities.

\*\*Snack will be in your classroom. As a team, you can determine when you would like to have the daily snack. It's always a good idea to pick a consistent time, so kiddos know what to expect each day, but feel free to make adjustments based on the flow and needs of your group. **Don't forget to double-check your allergy list.**

### Daily Provided Snack:

Tuesday: Chocolate Chip Granola Bars

Wednesday: Pirates Booty

Thursday: Goldfish

Friday: Rice Krispies Treats

**TEAM HYPE:** Each team will have a name with team colors and some "swag" to help kids feel excited and included. You can decorate your room as much or as little as you'd like! We care more about the prayerful preparation of your heart than we do the look of the room. However, we know that décor makes the room feel exciting, so if that's your thing, go for it!

We would love for you to work as a team and invest your creative energy to think of ways to add more flair and personality to your group – like stickers, swag, a team chant or mascot! We will not be doing themed dress-up days, so your team name/color will be the way your kiddos get invested and connected.

# Small Group Leader Expectations

## BEFORE VBS:

- Complete your Ministry Safe Training and Child Protection Policy.
- Watch the Leader Training Video (sent by email).
- Attend the VBS all leader meeting on [Sunday, May 31 in the Worship Center at 4:30pm](#). Check-in is from [4:15-4:30pm](#).
- Coordinate with your team and use one of the designated times to organize materials and prep your room – [Sunday, May 31 from 5:30-7:30](#) or [Monday, June 1 from 9-2](#).
- Work with your co-leaders on team swag and room décor (both are optional) in order to cultivate community.
- Designate one member of the team to be the check-in & check-out lead.
- As a team, familiarize yourself with the supply box in your classroom.

## WEEK OF VBS:

- Keep your group safe.
- Build relationships with the kids in your group.
- Be prepared and ready to implement curriculum.

## ON FRIDAY OF VBS:

- Clear your classroom of VBS materials and decorations and bring leftover items to Room 1204 (in the KIDS Hallway). You will be given a checklist for clean-up on Friday.

# Schedule

## OVERVIEW:

### 8:30 Arrive to Worship Center

*\*\*On Tuesday, be in the Worship Center, ready to go **by 8:20AM!***

### 8:40 Drop-Off Begins in Worship Center

*– greet and welcome students  
Each team will have a designated check-in leader who will hold the clipboard and be ready to greet kids. All other leaders should be interacting with the kids in their group.*

### 9:00 Opening Rally in Worship Center

*This will include worship, Bible story & wrap-up. Be engaged and excited!!  
NOTE: Sit strategically by the kids that need extra support.*

### 9:40 Transition to Rotations

### 9:50 Rotation #1

*Learn, Create or Move – check your nametag for your team's rotation schedule.*

### 10:20 Transition Time

### 10:30 Rotation #2

*Learn, Create or Move – check your nametag for your team's rotation schedule.*

### 11:00 Transition Time

### 11:10 Rotation #3

*Learn, Create or Move – check your nametag for your team's rotation schedule.*

### 11:40 Transition Time

### 11:45 Closing Rally in Worship Center

*This will include games, fun music, the “You are Sent” Challenge and pictures from the day.*

### 12:00 Pick-Up

*Make sure the designated check-out leader is ready for parents to show their security code for pick-up.*

## SPECIFICS:

Schedule	Kindergarten	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	4 <sup>th</sup> Grade
9:00 - 9:50	Opening Rally in Worship Center				
10 min transition					
9:50 - 10:20	Move – check your lanyard (1206, Atrium, Gym or Family Entrance)	Learn (classroom)	Learn (classroom)	Learn (classroom)	Learn (classroom)
10 min transition					
10:30 - 11:00	Learn (classroom)	Create (classroom)	Move – check your lanyard (1206, Atrium, Gym or Family Entrance)	Create (classroom)	Move – check your lanyard (the District, Mezzanine, Gym or Sand Volleyball Court)
10 min transition					
11:10 - 11:40	Create (classroom)	Move – check your lanyard (1206, Atrium, Gym or Family Entrance)	Create (classroom)	Move – check your lanyard (the District, Mezzanine, Gym or Sand Volleyball Court)	Create (classroom)
5 min transition					
11:45 - noon	Closing Rally in Worship Center				

## Curriculum

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
<b>Story</b>	Jesus in the Temple <b>Luke 2:41-52</b>	Jesus Heals a Blind Man <b>John 9:1-11</b>	Jesus Is Anointed <b>Matthew 26:6-13</b>	Jesus Appears to the Disciples <b>John 20:19-29</b>
<b>Big Truth</b>	Jesus is the Son of God.	Jesus is the Light of the World.	Jesus is the Worthy King.	Jesus is the Risen Savior.

### Memory Verse: Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

# DAY 1

Tuesday, June 2

## Jesus in the Temple: Luke 2:41-52

### Learn (30 minutes)

#### CONNECTION ACTIVITY – 15 Minutes

“My Favorite Things” Page

Supplies: worksheet, crayons or colored pencils

1. Fill in and color the worksheet.
2. If time allows, talk about some of the categories on the sheet as a group.

#### STORY REMINDER – 10 Minutes

Big Truth: Jesus is the Son of God.

**Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup>:** Retell the story using the felt board while reading the Bible story from the Nlrv Bible provided (Luke 2:41-52). Gather children around the board, and while one leader reads the story aloud, another leader will move the felt pieces around on the board.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:** Read the Bible story from the Nlrv Bible provided (Luke 2:41-52). Option: Let the kids act out the story as you read.

#### Talking Points:

- Jesus called the temple (where God’s people went to worship Him) His Father’s house – Jesus is the Son of God.
- Mary treasured the truths that she learned about Jesus in her heart.
- Jesus asked lots of good questions and listened to wise teachers. All who saw and heard Jesus were amazed by Him.

**1. What part of this story sticks out as a “wow” moment to you?**

**2. What was Jesus doing in the temple?**

*He was sitting with the teachers, listening to them speak about God, and asking them questions.*

**3. The Bible says that Jesus grew in wisdom and knowledge. What can you do to keep growing your knowledge about God?**

*Go to church, read the Bible, talk to people who know more about God, etc.*

### **You Are Sent Challenge** – 5 Minutes

SAY: Learning about Jesus is exciting! When we love and follow Jesus, He sends us out on a mission to live like Him and show others what He's like! Each day this week, we'll have a special challenge from our story to complete after VBS to help us live like Jesus.

1. Open your daily challenge envelope and read it aloud.
  - We want this to be a fun moment in the classroom! You can make this what you want it to be – pretend that the “mail” was just delivered or hide the envelope somewhere in the room and allow the kids to search for it, etc.
2. Tape the daily challenge to the wall or whiteboard and brainstorm together ways to complete it.
  - You can role play or write down a list of ideas on the whiteboard. If you have questions or need supplies, chat with your Team Lead!

#### Day 1 Mission: Listen Like Jesus!

Just like Jesus listened at the temple, show your best listening skills today. Choose someone to listen to carefully, and then focus, don't interrupt, and give them your full attention. Be ready to report back tomorrow!

## **Create** (30 minutes)

### **LANYARD & PINS** – 5 minutes

Every child will receive a lanyard (separate from their name tag) that they will add a pin to each day. Each pin is meant to help connect to the Big Truth we learn each day. When you distribute these, talk about how kids can use this pin to remember the story we learned and tell other people truths about Jesus.

**\*\*Today, have each child write their name on a paper wristband and attach it to their lanyard. Leave special lanyards in the classroom until Friday.**

Day 1: Jesus is the Son of God – church pin

- Jesus called the temple/church “my Father's house.”

### **ACTIVITY** – 25 minutes

#### **Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup>:**

Activity 1 – Where's Jesus? Search and Find

Supplies: worksheet, pencil

1. Give each child a Search and Find worksheet and several minutes to find all of the hidden items.

2. When it seems like most of the group has finished, go over each item and point them out together.

### Activity 2 – Jesus Hide and Seek

Supplies: Jesus figurine

1. Choose one child to hide the small Jesus figurine somewhere around the room, while the rest of the group closes their eyes or turns away.
2. Then, release the rest of the group to search for Jesus. The child that finds the Jesus figurine can be the next one to hide it.

\*If you need additional activities, there will be daily activity sheets in your box.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:

### Activity 1 – Treasure Box

Supplies: wooden treasure boxes, pieces of paper, pencil, markers, stickers

1. Give each child a treasure box and about 10 minutes to decorate their box using markers.
2. Then, prompt kids to think about some of the things they know are true about God – His attributes, things He has done, His promises, etc. (You can brainstorm as a group.)
3. Have kids write down 3 or 4 truths about God (of their choosing) on the small pieces of paper. Then, fold the pieces of paper and put them inside the treasure chest.
4. Encourage them to continue adding more truths and Bible verses as they learn more at home!
5. And take this home TODAY.

SAY: In today's story, Jesus spent time learning from church leaders and grew in wisdom. Like Jesus, you can seek out ways to learn more about God and His Word. As Mary watched Jesus and learned more about him, she treasured the things she learned. The things you know about God are treasures and you can hold on to them and "hide" them in your heart too.

### Activity 2 – Where's Jesus? Search and Find

Supplies: worksheet, pencil

1. Give each child a Search and Find worksheet and several minutes to find all of the hidden items.
2. When it seems like most of the group has finished, go over each item and point them out together.

\*If you need additional activities, there are daily activity sheets in your box.

## DAY 2

Wednesday, June 3

Jesus Heals a Blind Man: John 9:1-11

### Learn (30 minutes)

#### CONNECTION ACTIVITY – 20 Minutes

Play Would You Rather.

1. Explain that you are going to read two options out loud and everyone must choose which one they “would rather...”
2. As you read the options, point to opposite sides of the room to designate one wall as “option 1” and the opposite wall as “option 2.”
3. After you read, kids will choose the scenario they prefer by moving to the side of the room that you pointed to.
4. Give time between each set of choices for kids to connect and notice others that have similar answers. This is for building community, having fun, and getting out wiggles!

Would You Rather...

- Skydive or scuba dive
- Go to space or to the deepest part of the ocean
- Own a pet tiger or a pet python
- Be able to jump really high or run really fast
- Have legs for arms or arms for legs
- Go to the Grand Canyon or the top of Mount Everest
- Live with the dinosaurs or in the distant future
- See the pyramids of Egypt or the Great Wall of China
- Be able to fly or have super speed
- Be able to speak every language or read people’s thoughts
- Go bungee jumping or parasailing
- Live in the desert or in the rainforest
- Own a personal island or be the mayor of a city
- Ride an elephant or swim with sharks

#### STORY REMINDER – 10 Minutes

Big Truth: Jesus is the Light of the World.

**Kindergarten – 1st:** Retell the story using the felt board while reading the Bible story from the NIV Bible provided (John 9:1-11). Gather children around the board, and while one leader reads the story aloud, another leader will move the felt pieces around on the board.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:** Read the Bible story from the NIV Bible provided (John 9:1-11). Option: Let the kids act out the story as you read.

Talking Points:

- Jesus called Himself the Light of the World – we are all born in spiritual darkness because of sin, but Jesus died on the cross in our place to save us from sin and bring us into the light.
- Jesus has the power to change our lives, too.
- Just like the healed man went to tell other people what Jesus had done, we should tell others about what God has done for us!

**1. What part of this story sticks out as a “wow” moment to you?**

**2. How do you think the blind man felt about Jesus after Jesus had healed him?**

*He probably felt so thankful, wanted to worship Jesus, loved Jesus, was amazed by Jesus, etc.*

**3. Jesus brought us out of darkness and into His light by dying on the cross for us. Like the man in the story, we can be excited to tell others about Jesus. Who could you tell about Jesus today?**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:**

**4. People noticed the man was different after he met Jesus. What is different about your life because of Jesus? If someone asked why you act differently, what would you say?**

*When we love and follow Jesus, He helps us be more like Him and live the way He would. He helps us be more kind, patient, joyful, generous, peaceful, etc.*

### **You Are Sent Challenge – 5 Minutes**

SAY: Learning about Jesus is exciting! When we love and follow Jesus, He sends us out on a mission to live like Him and show others what He’s like! Each day this week, we’ll have a special challenge from our story to complete after VBS to help us live like Jesus.

1. Talk about yesterday’s challenge and allow a few kids to share how they completed it.
2. Open your daily challenge envelope and read it aloud.
3. Tape the daily challenge to the wall or whiteboard and brainstorm together ways to complete it.

### Day 2 Mission: Share About Jesus!

After you leave today, tell one person something you know about Jesus. It could be a friend, a parent, or a neighbor! Come back ready to share who you told!”

## Create (30 minutes)

### **LANYARD & PINS** – 5 minutes

Every child will receive a lanyard (separate from their name tag) that they will add a pin to each day. Add the Day 2 pin and talk about how they can use this pin to remember the story we learned and tell other people truths about Jesus. \*\*Leave special lanyards in the classroom until Friday.

Day 2: Jesus is the Light of the World – light bulb pin

- Jesus is like a light in darkness.
- Jesus moves us from spiritual darkness to light, like He did the blind man.

### **ACTIVITIES** – 25 minutes

Play Activity 1 as a whole class. Split class into five groups for Activity 2.

Activity 1 – What's in the Bag?

Supplies: brown paper bags w/ items inside

1. One child at a time will reach into the bag, feel one item in the bag, and describe it to the rest of the group without saying what the item is or pulling it out of the bag. *(You may need to model this for the first round of the game.)*
2. The rest of the class will try to guess the item being described. Option: You can split into teams and make it a competition – the teams who guess correctly earn a point!
3. When the item is guessed correctly, it can be shown to the rest of the class. The person who guessed correctly can go next.

Activity 2 – Flashlight I Spy

Supplies: page of secret images, small flashlight, baggie of images (for leader)

1. Divide the class into ten groups. Give each group an "I Spy" paper and a flashlight.
2. One leader will pull an image card out of the baggie and show it to the class.
3. Students will shine their flashlight behind their paper to reveal the secret images and find the image that was called.
4. The kids in each group will take turns using the flashlight – pass the flashlight after each image is found.

\*If you need additional activities, there are daily activity sheets in your box.

# DAY 3

Thursday, June 4

Jesus Is Anointed – Matthew 26:6-13

## Learn (30 minutes)

### CONNECTION ACTIVITY – 20 Minutes

Find Your Partner

Supplies: game cards, masking tape

#### Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

1. Pass out one card to each child (they can read it).
2. Kids will move around the room holding their card up in front of them and try to find their “partner.”
3. When they find their partner, they can create a secret handshake together.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:

1. Tape one card to each child's back without them seeing what is on their card.
2. Kids will move around the room asking only “yes” or “no” questions to figure out what is on their card and find their “partner.”
3. When they find their partner, they can create a secret handshake together.

Key:

- Salt and pepper
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Bread and butter
- Shoes and socks
- Fork and knife
- Sun and moon
- Day and night
- Cat and dog
- Pen and paper
- Lock and key
- Mac and Cheese
- Hamburger and hot dog
- Thunder and lightning
- Bow and arrow
- Six and Seven

**STORY REMINDER** – 10 Minutes  
Big Truth: Jesus is the Worthy King.

**Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup>:** Retell the story using the felt board while reading the Bible story from the NIV Bible provided (Matthew 26:6-13). Gather children around the board, and while one leader reads the story aloud, another leader will move the felt pieces around on the board.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:** Read the Bible story from the NIV Bible provided (Matthew 26:6-13). Option: Let the kids act out the story as you read.

Talking Points:

- The woman gave something expensive and precious to honor Jesus. She saw that Jesus was worthy of everything she had.
- Because the woman recognized Jesus as King, she is now a part of God's story. We can be a part of God's story, too.
- The other people in the room didn't fully understand or agree with the woman's decision, but she cared more about worshipping and loving Jesus than what other people thought.

**1. What part of this story sticks out as a “wow” moment to you?**

**2. What did the woman do to worship Jesus?**

*She gave up something very expensive and special to honor Him. Her actions showed that she loved Jesus and believed He was worthy of her worship.*

**3. What can you do to honor God with your time, talent, or treasure like the woman in the story did?**

*Examples: use the things you're good at to serve other people; share the good things God has given you with others; spend time reading the Bible, praying or singing to God, etc.*

**3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:**

**4. Having wise people around you is important, but it is also VERY important that we learn to know what God thinks about our choices. What resource can you turn to in order to know God well? (wait for answer) How does reading the Bible help you know God?**

*The Bible is from God and about God! It tells us about the things God has done and shows us what He is like. Everything in the Bible is true and we can trust what it says.*

**You Are Sent Challenge** – 5 Minutes

SAY: Learning about Jesus is exciting! When we love and follow Jesus, He sends us out on a mission to live like Him and show others what He's like! Each day this week, we'll have a special challenge from our story to complete after VBS to help us live like Jesus.

1. Talk about yesterday's challenge and allow a few kids to share how they completed it.

2. Open your daily challenge envelope and read it aloud.
3. Tape the daily challenge to the wall or whiteboard and brainstorm together ways to complete it.

### Day 3 Mission: Help Like Jesus!

One way we honor God is by helping others. Today, ask an adult in your home how you can help them. Then do it with a great attitude! Be ready to share what you did!"

## Create (30 minutes)

### **LANYARD & PINS** – 5 minutes

Every child will receive a lanyard (separate from their name tag) that they will add a pin to each day. Add the Day 3 pin and talk about how they can use this pin to remember the story we learned and tell other people truths about Jesus.

\*\*Leave special lanyards in the classroom until Friday.

Day 3: Jesus is the Worthy King – crown pin

- The woman poured out expensive perfume on Jesus because He is worthy of all worship and honor.

### **ACTIVITIES** – 25 minutes

#### Activity 1 – Guess that Smell

Supplies: [numbered containers with cotton balls](#), [pencils](#), [scent-matching worksheet](#)

1. Give each child a scent-matching worksheet and a pencil. Explain that you have five scents and they are going to try to figure out what each scent is.
2. Remove the lids from each container and allow kids to take a sniff of each scent. *(Every leader can take one container and move around the room to each kid or place the containers around the room and allow kids to move around to each one.)*
3. As kids smell each scent, have them match the scent to the numbered container on the worksheet.

#### Activity 2 – Make a Scented Jar

Supplies: [model magic](#), [essential oil](#), [paper plate](#)

1. Give each child a package of model magic and a plate. Have each child write their name on one side of their plate.
2. One leader will add 1-2 drops of essential oil to each child's lump of model magic.
3. Instruct kids to work the essential oil into their model magic and then shape it into a bowl or jar. *(This is supposed to remind them of the jar of perfume that the woman used in the Bible story.)*

4. When finished, they will place the jar on their plate. Leave in the classroom to harden overnight, and then take home tomorrow.

\*\*While kids are working on this day, point out that the smell of the oils you are working with are filling the room. Have students imagine how strongly scented the room was after the woman poured out her perfumed oil for Jesus. Did the smell disappear instantly or did it linger in the room? When we draw near to Jesus, his presence and goodness clings to us and lingers as we go about our days, just like the perfume!\*\*

\*If you need additional activities, there are daily activity sheets in your box.

# DAY 4

Friday, June 5

## Jesus Appears to the Disciples: John 20:19-29

### Learn (30 minutes)

#### CONNECTION ACTIVITIES – 20 Minutes

\*\*\*Today, there will be a gospel presentation and invitation in Opening Rally. We want to leave time for gospel conversations, questions, or follow-up chats! While one leader facilitates the group activity, other leaders can pull individual kids who raised their hand in Opening Rally for follow-up conversations.

#### Activity 1 – Reflection Cards

Supplies: reflection cards, pencils

1. Lead the class in a prayer thanking God for time to learn about Him together this week.
2. Prompt kids to spend a moment talking to God on their own.
3. Give everyone a few minutes to complete the reflection card about their week at VBS. (*Give completed cards to the Team Lead at some point today.*)

#### Activity 2 – Best Week Ever Bingo

Supplies: Bingo boards, bingo call cards, smarties

1. Give each child a bingo board and smarties to use as bingo markers. Remind kids not to eat smarties until you are finished playing.
2. Draw bingo cards from the bag and call them out for the group. Kids will place a smartie on the matching image on their bingo board.
3. You can play 5-in-a-row or blackout (leaders' choice).

#### STORY REMINDER – 10 Minutes

Big Truth: Jesus is the Risen Savior.

**Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup>:** Retell the story using the felt board while reading the Bible story from the NIV Bible provided (John 20:19-29). Gather children around the board, and while one leader reads the story aloud, another leader will move the felt pieces around on the board.

**2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:** Read the Bible story from the NIV Bible provided (John 20:19-29). Option: Let the kids act out the story as you read.

#### Talking Points:

- After Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin, He rose from the dead and proved to His disciples that He really is alive.

- The locked door couldn't keep Jesus out. Nothing can stop Him from being with His people.
- Jesus always knows and gives us what we need, just like He knew and gave what Thomas needed to believe.
- Jesus said "Blessed are those who believe without seeing" – when we seek Jesus and believe what the Bible says about Him is true, God gives us blessings.

1. **What part of this story sticks out as a "wow" moment to you?**

2. **How did Jesus treat Thomas, even when Thomas was confused and didn't believe?**

*Jesus was kind, understanding, and patient with Thomas – and He treats us the same way, too!*

3. **God helps us understand and believe more about Him. When you have questions about God, what can you do to ask for help?**

*Prayer/talk to God, write a letter to God, talk to an adult who knows more about God, read the Bible, etc.*

### **You Are Sent Challenge** – 5 Minutes

SAY: Learning about Jesus is exciting! When we love and follow Jesus, He sends us out on a mission to live like Him and show others what He's like! Each day this week, we'll have a special challenge from our story to complete after VBS to help us live like Jesus.

1. Talk about yesterday's challenge and allow a few kids to share how they completed it.
2. Open your daily challenge envelope and read it aloud.
3. Tape the daily challenge to the wall or whiteboard and brainstorm together ways to complete it.

### Day 4 Mission: Spend Time with Jesus!

Jesus came to meet Thomas, and He wants to spend time with you too! Today, find a quiet moment at home to write Jesus a note or draw Him a picture. Tell Him what you love about Him or what you learned this week.

## **Create** (30 minutes)

### **LANYARD & PINS** – 5 minutes

Every child will receive a lanyard (separate from their name tag) that they will add a pin to each day. Add the Day 4 and "You Are Sent" pins and talk about how they can use this pin to remember the story we learned and tell other people truths about Jesus.

Day 4: Jesus is the Risen Savior – empty tomb pin

- Jesus died on the cross to save us from sin, then He rose from the grave and appeared to His disciples.

"You Are Sent" – envelope pin

- Jesus sends us out to be His messengers to the world around us.

**\*\*Take lanyards home today.**

**ACTIVITY** – 25 Minutes

Activity 1 – Summer Journals

Supplies: journals, pencils

SAY: All week we've been learning truths about Jesus from the Bible, and we can keep learning more about Him after VBS is over! This journal can help you spend time with God and learn more about Him throughout the rest of the summer. Today, we're going to do the first journal entry together.

1. Have everyone write their name on the first page in their journal.
2. Open to the first entry. Talk about each section and what it means – model what spending time with Jesus can look like!
3. Complete the first entry together as a group, calling on volunteers to give answers for each section.
4. Talk about where they might keep their journal, so they remember to use it (on their desk, by their bed, etc.), and when they plan on using the journal (in the morning, before bed, every Monday, every day for 10 days, etc.).

Activity 2 – Feather Race

Supplies: feathers, stopwatch on leader phone

This can be played in a couple of ways:

1. Kids will work to move a feather across the room using only their breath (without using their hands) – this can be a team relay or individual race.
2. Kids will try to see who can keep their feather in the air the longest – they can compete against a partner, or you can use a stopwatch to time them.

SAY: We can't see the air holding up the feather, but we can see it move. We can believe in God and experience His power even though we can't see Him!

\*If you need additional activities, there are daily activity sheets in your box.