

DAY ONE
BOLD
BEGINNINGS

DAY TWO
BOLD
CALLING

DAY THREE
BOLD
UPRISING

DAY FOUR
BOLD
FORGIVENESS

DAY FIVE
BOLD
COMMISSION

COM/NAV

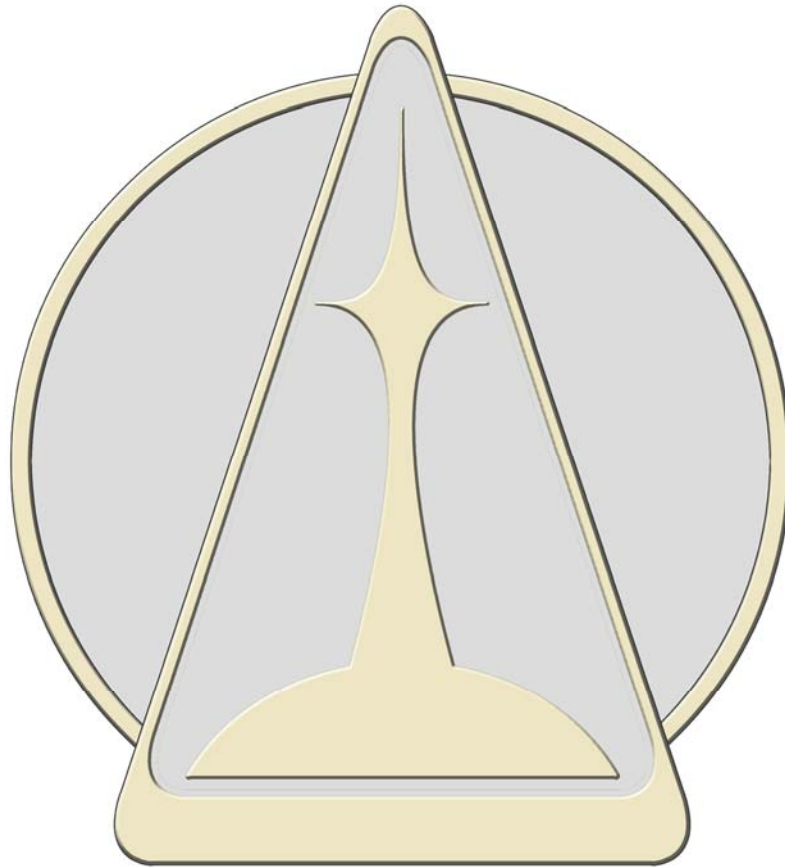
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USS FELLOWSHIP CREW TRAINING OPS MANUAL ELEMENTARY LEVEL K-5

"Therefore
go and make
disciples of
all nations."
Matt. 28:19

2997



VBS-2014

Exploring God's Awesome Universe

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“Space, the final frontier...

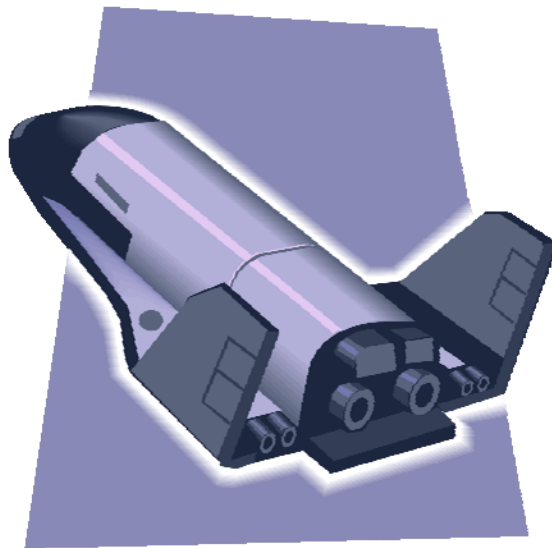
These are the voyages of the U.S.S. Fellowship. Its lifelong mission, to explore God’s Word, to seek out strange new worlds and make new friends, to boldly go and share the Good News with all!”

TO: All VBS-2014 Shuttlecraft Commanders
FROM: Commodore Kris and Captain Becky
STARDATE: 0402.14
SUBJECT: Introduction to Mission Curriculum

Welcome aboard the USS Fellowship. Are you ready to show your cadets how awesome God’s universe is, and how much He loves all of us? Then put on your flight suit, strap into your seats and let the adventure begin!

This document will give you an introduction to the Bible lessons you will be teaching each day during VBS-2014. It also includes guidance on running games and making crafts in your spaceship classroom.

As you look this material over and contemplate what you will do each day, don’t stress out and go to Red Alert! We are here to help you prepare at every step. If you have any special requests for lesson-related materials, contact Captain Becky at 795-7535 or via e-mail at raddurance@gmail.com. A list of provided supplies is included in this document.



Please know that if you have any questions or problems preparing for VBS, or during the week itself, both Captain Becky and Commodore Kris will be available to beam right in and help you troubleshoot whatever it is. We are totally here to support you to make this the most out of this world VBS ever.

Amen! Make it so! Engage!

**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.”
Matt. 28:19**

1540

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Set Up Supplies for Each Spaceship

First, a note about your spaceship classroom supplies. After all, no mission can be launched without enough provisions.

Large paper is located in "Ann's Closet" located across from the Church Toddler classes. **PLEASE** keep this area picked up and the doorway unblocked. If you borrow a whole roll of paper, please return it to the closet when you are finished. Always use a minimum of staples with paper. Absolutely **NO TAPE** is allowed on the walls! If you are painting paper on the walls, **PLEASE** make sure the paint is not bleeding through. (Hanging a garbage bag behind the paper can help!)

Viewgraphs are available for making **HUGE** pictures for your walls. Please use the viewgraphs in the Fellowship Hall if possible. If you need a transparency made, please let us know via Captain Becky's teacher In Box. Please share the viewgraphs with other teachers, as we don't have many available. Please let Captain Becky know if you need help finding a picture.

Construction paper is in Commodore Kris' office. Please let Captain Becky know if you need any of this paper and she will help you get it.

Don't forget to decorate your door with your Cadet's names. The kids love to see their names!!!

LEAVE THE DOOR WINDOW UNCOVERED! NO EXCEPTIONS!

You may hang items from the ceiling, but they must dangle at least 24 inches for fire safety reasons. Also, you cannot cover the sprinklers or fire alarms.

Please check you have all of these VBS Classroom Supplies in you box.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crayons, 1 box or bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Pens for Adults, 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Markers, 1 box or bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils, 15 each |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Scissors, 15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Hole Punch, 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Scissors, 1 pair | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels, 1 roll |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glue bottles, 10 for grades 3-5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Staples, 1 bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glue sticks, 15 for grades P-2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Stapler, 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scotch Tape, 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Staple remover, 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CD Player, 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tissue, 1 box |

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COMMISSION

Mission Summary

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Our primary mission is to successfully train our cadets so they can graduate and earn a great commission to serve on God's crew and boldly share the Good News with all.

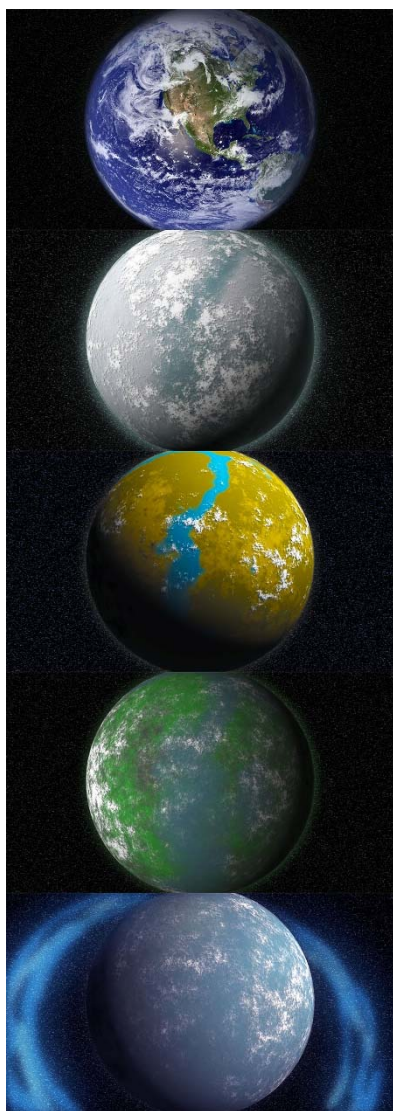
Our flight plan will take us to five different planets, where each day we will hear a bold Bible story and learn a bold fact that will help equip us to serve on God's crew.

Feel free to incorporate the daily planet theme into your daily lesson plan, the way you decorate your spaceship, or by any other creative use you are inspired to do.



**"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."
Matt. 28:19**

1540



Day One: Bold Beginnings

Planet: Earth

Bold Fact: God made the universe.

Bible Story: The Creation Story

Bible Verse: Psalm 9:1

Day Two: Bold Calling

Planet: Epsilon Weber 2 (Ice)

Bold Fact: God can solve any problem.

Bible Story: Moses and the Burning Bush

Bible Verse: Exodus 3:5

Day Three: Bold Uprising

Planet: Delta Haugen 3 (Desert)

Bold Fact: God is the best friend ever.

Bible Story: Elijah goes to heaven/Elisha in charge

Bible Verse: 2 Kings 2:2

Day Four: Bold Forgiveness

Planet: Viridian Four (Jungle)

Bold Fact: God's love is bigger than the universe.

Bible Story: Jesus dies on the cross

Bible Verse: John 3:16

Day Five: Bold Commission

Planet: Beta Hydra 5 (Water)

Bold Fact: God wants us to share the Good News.

Bible Story: The Great Commission

Bible Verse: Matthew 28:19-20

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How to Use this Training Manual

The daily lesson pages are color coded. Each section begins with the daily Bible verse. Ask your cadets to say it aloud and try to memorize it. And guess what? The verse has something to do with the lesson! Next you will find these sections:

Teacher Preparation and Devotion

Written by Pastor Jeff Hoy, please use this section as a personal Bible study that will give you an adult-level understanding of the lesson you will teach that day to your cadets.

Today's Flight Plan

This is a review of the daily schedule, which is just unique enough so each day needs to be planned accordingly. Pay attention to it. Last-minute updates will be handed out each morning.

Supplies Needed for Today

Here's a list of what you should have on hand each day. Note that the church will provide some items, but there are others you'll be responsible for tracking down as best you can.

Daily Bible Lesson

Here's the main course of the day. If you don't do anything else in your spaceship each day, make sure you do this Bible lesson. Feel free to creatively embellish on this plan, but be sure to focus on the key message. To help you follow along in this section, *general directions are written a little smaller in italics*, words you can say aloud are written in normal text, and **any direct quotes from the Bible are bold faced and color coded red.**

Onboard Game/Activity

Either as part of the actual lesson, or as a separate activity depending on the schedule, instructions are offered for an "onboard spaceship" game or activity. On the final day you may repeat a favorite game, or make up your own. It's a good idea to always have an activity ready in case you wind up with extra time.

Spaceship Craft

In addition to the "main" crafts your cadets will assemble in the Crew Lounge of Fellowship Hall on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, there will be time for making crafts in your spaceship classroom most days during the week. This section provides the details and instructions to engage your cadet's creative side — and decorate your spaceship along the way. (Cadets can take everything home on Friday night.

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**BOLD
BEGINNINGS**

“I will praise you oh Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonders.”

Psalm 9:1



Teacher Preparation and Devotion

In the beginning God.

The boldest fact of Creation is simply... God. The Bible begins with four words “In the beginning God...” There is no effort to explain this person, entity, or force. The Bible does not see the need. God is the One who has always existed and always will be. He is the ever-existent One who is before all things. He is the Creator. The beauty around us did not just happen. Everything was created by God with intention and purpose. You and I are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. Our response to this truth is simple: “I will praise you, oh Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.” Psalm 9:1.

BOLD FACT:
God made the
universe.

1114

BIBLE STORY:
The Creation.

We also see that there is a bold order in the Creation. This was not magic. This was energy becoming matter in an instant at the command of the bold God who spoke everything into existence. This was chemistry, geology, physics and tectonic plates that God not only understood... but He thought it up! What great wonder!

1244

BIBLE VERSE:
Psalm 9:1

Heavens and Earth...

The earth was still formless and empty. Darkness was over the surface of the deep - surging waters. But the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. The wind or breath of God was moving over the surface of the waters. The presence of God hovering upon His creation is another Person of the Trinity that we call Holy Spirit.

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“Let there be...”

A bold fact of creation is that God spoke creation into existence. By WORD God made all that we see. We find in the New Testament that the Word is Je-

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sus Himself. He was there at Creation and was part of Creation.

John 1:1-6 (NIV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Colossians 1:16 (NIV) For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

“We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power...”

Let there be light...

Let there be light in the darkness of the earth. This is the illumination of morning and the sun. The light was good but God divided the light and the darkness so that there would be day and night. The pattern of light and darkness was created.

The first day – evening and morning.

God created the pattern of a 24 hour span of time for our living. The first 24 day occurred once illumination was created by the WORD of God upon the face of the deep, in the presence of the Spirit hovering.

The second day – sky.

God called for an expanse... a separation of waters... a "sky" between the waters of the deep and heavens above. This may have been a removing of the vapor between heavens and earth.

The third day – dry ground and seas.

God called for dry ground called land and gathered waters called seas. The dry ground and seas were good, beautiful and bountiful. God called for the land to produce vegetation... plants and trees according to their various kinds. It was



good.

The fourth day – lights in the expanse of the sky.

To separate day from night and to mark the seasons and days and years two great lights were given to govern the day and the night. And this was good.

The fifth day – creatures of the water and air.

God called for the water to teem with living creatures and birds fly in the expanse. God created great creatures of the sea - and every living creature that teems. Those that swarm "wiggle, breed, creep and move" and every winged bird. Each was created according to its kind—species.

All this was good. And he blessed them.

The first "blessing" in the Bible was over the living creatures of the sea and air. Fish and birds to be fruitful and multiply or increase on the earth. There is no indication development into higher species - one from another. This does not mean that there is no "natural selection" but God created the kinds and they did not develop into higher orders.

The sixth day – creatures of the land... and the humans.

Let the land produces living creatures according to their kind. Cattle, creeping things, beasts-- all after their kind. Wild animals and creatures moving on the ground. All this was good.

The seventh day – God rested

The Sabbath Day. "By the seventh day God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day He rested from all His work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested [or ceased] from all the work of creating that He had done." This day is the basis for The Fourth Commandment. (Genesis 2:2-3)

Creation...

Is not something to worship but it is something to be in awe of. Creation is God's amazing gift to Himself and then to us. Creation is the basic ground of

**BOLD
BEGINNINGS**



**BOLD FACT:
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**BIBLE STORY:
The Creation.**

1244

**BIBLE VERSE:
Psalm 9:1**

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our blessing and existence. Creation is itself the great witness to the wonder and character of God. Creation is surely not something to divide or fight over. "I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders."
Psalm 9:1

Today's Flight Plan

Refer to the Daily Mission Briefing handout for specific times of all activities.

Today's activity highlights:

- Daily snack (Pick up at 10 a.m.)
- Individual Picture Day
- Recreation outside on the Holodeck
- Crafts in the Crew Lounge
- Classroom Game – Win, Lose or Draw
- No Classroom Craft planned for today

Supplies Needed for Today

In addition to your standard VBS Classroom Supplies, you will be supplied with:

- Play dough
- White non-line 8 1/2" x 11" paper for drawing, markers or pencils
- White butcher paper & markers for game.



Also please make sure you scrounge up enough Bibles so each cadet has one.



Daily Bible Lesson

**BOLD
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Some Initial Advice

First, you should know this is probably the "hardest" lesson of the week, at least in terms of what needs to be covered in the amount of time available. But we think it is important for the cadets to have an appreciation of God's role in the creation of the universe and what the Bible tells us about it. This is a great way to kick off our travels in space together. Remember that even in those parts of the lesson where it is suggested you read aloud, feel free to tell the story in your own words so long as the main points are covered.

Let's Get Started

Welcome your plebes to their spaceship classroom. Show them around and just have fun with the space theme. Then when you're ready, get everyone settled down and begin your Bible lesson.

Give each child a small piece of play dough and tell them to create something with it while you are getting everything ready. Give them about one minute to create something.

Say aloud: Have you finished with your creation? Was it hard to make something in just one minute? Well, today we're going to learn about our amazing God and how He created the entire, awesome universe in just six days!

Have your helpers collect the play dough. Then have the children open their Bibles to Genesis 1:1-5, making sure to help them find it! All of the Bible verses are from the New International Reader's Version (NirV).

Ask these questions:

What is the first book of the Bible? (Genesis)

Which part of the Bible is Genesis in? (Old Testament)

You're now going to read the Bible story of creation. You might hand out paper and markers/colored pencils to your cadets and suggest that they draw the story as you tell it. As you describe the additions that God created each day, cadets can add to their creation drawings.

Now we're going to talk about what happened on Day 1

Read Genesis 1:1-5 aloud to the children:

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. Darkness was over the surface of the ocean. At that time, the ocean covered the earth. The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. God said, 'Let there be light.' And there was light. God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light 'day.' He called the darkness 'night.' There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one."

Discuss the Bible reading:

Who was there in the beginning? (Only God!)

What does created mean?

*Explain that in the dictionary, create means, "to bring somebody or something into existence." In the dictionary, "make" means, "to assemble something from parts." You used play dough to make something. Imagine how you would have felt if I had asked you to make something today but didn't give you anything to use like play dough or paper or pencils or any other materials. Many people say that God made the world. No, He didn't!! He **created** the world! That means that God created something with nothing! He didn't have parts lying around and decided to make the world. No! He didn't have anything, but He created! Just think how awesome that really is!*

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

What was there before God created the heavens and the earth? (*Allow for responses*) Nothing. Absolutely nothing. How did God create the heavens and the Earth? (*Allow for responses, if any*) I really don't have the answer, other than God is God and His power is beyond our comprehension.

So the Earth had no shape, it was empty, it was dark and the ocean covered the Earth. Wow! What a sight! Well, not really a sight, because you can't see anything since there was only darkness. So, at this point, there is only water in the Earth? Strange!



BOLD BEGINNINGS



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God saw that the light was good.

God liked what He saw. You know, God has an opinion of things, whether it's good or bad. Sometimes we think of God as something completely different from us. Well, He did make us in His image and so we do have some of the same characteristics as God.

He separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day." He called the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one.

It only took God one day to create the heavens, the Earth and light? Isn't that just amazing?

Now we're going to talk about what happened on Day 2

God said, "Let there be a huge space between the waters. Let it separate water from water."

God knew that we would need air to breathe, so He made air. God made a huge space between the waters, exactly how He said He would. "He separated the water that was under the space from the water that was above it." God separated the water. God now made a space in the water. So, now there is water above and below the space. The clouds are water. Rain, snow, sleet are all water that come from above the space.

"God called the huge space 'sky.' There was evening, and there was morning. It was day two."

So far, in two days, God has created the heavens, the earth, light and the sky.

Now we're going to talk about what happened on Day 3

Read Genesis 1:9-13 aloud to the children.

"God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered into one place. Let dry ground appear.' And that's exactly what happened. God called the dry ground 'land.' He called the waters that were gathered together 'oceans.' And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the land produce plants. Let them bear their own seeds. And let there be trees on the land

that bear fruit with seeds in it. Let each kind of plant or tree have its own kind of seeds. And that's exactly what happened. The land produced plants. Each kind of plant had its own kind of seeds. The land produced trees that bore fruit with seeds in it. Each kind of tree had its own kind of seeds. God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning. It was day three."

God is pleased with His work. He sees that what He has done is good. This shows that God has feelings and that He thinks about things. He made dry ground and stood back to admire what He did. He looked at it and saw that it was good.

"Then God said, 'Let the land produce plants. Let them bear their own seeds.'"

God needed the plants to be able to make more plants, so He gave them seeds.

"God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning."

Again, God is looking at His creation and saw that everything He had created so far was good.

What a big day the third day of creation has been! God made dry ground, plants and trees with fruit. He also named the land and the oceans.

Now we're going to talk about what happened on Day 4

"God said, 'Let there be lights in the huge space of the sky.'"

Wait a minute! I thought God created light on the first day of creation? He did, these are specific lights that He created.

"Let them separate the day from the night."

God needed something to separate the day from the night. He gave us something specific to mark the days with.

"Let them serve as signs to mark off the seasons and the days and the



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years."

What do we have that helps us keep track of days, years and seasons? We have calendars to help us keep track of those things. But thousands of years ago, we looked up at the stars and kept track of their movement, so we knew when to plant our seeds and when winter was coming. God gave us the lights so that we could have a sort of "calendar" to go by.

"Let them serve as lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth. And that's exactly what happened.

God made the lights to give light to the entire Earth.

"God made two great lights. He made the larger light to rule over the day. He made the smaller light to rule over the night."

What did God make today? (*Allow for responses*) God made the sun and the moon today. He made the bigger light, the sun, be in the daytime and the smaller light, the moon, for the night. God made it lighter in the day and darker at night on purpose.

"He also made the stars. God put the lights in the huge space of the sky to give light on the earth. He put them there to rule over the day and the night. He put them there to separate light from darkness."

What light rules the day? What light rules the night? What else do you see in the night sky? So, He didn't just make the sun and the moon, but He made the stars too.

"God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning. It was day four."

Now we're going to talk about what happened on Day 5

Read Genesis 1:20-23 aloud to the children.

"God said, 'Let the waters be filled with living things. Let birds fly above the earth across the huge space of the sky.' So God created the great creatures of the ocean. He created every living and moving thing that fills the waters. He created all kinds of them. He created every kind of bird that

flies. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them. He said, 'Have little ones and increase your numbers. Fill the water in the oceans. Let there be more and more birds on the Earth.' There was evening, and there was morning. It was day five."

He looked at His creation and saw, again, that it was good. It's okay to look at a job well done, and feel good about it. That's not prideful or bad. What's bad is when you brag about your work or when you look down on others because of their work.

"God blessed them."

This was God's first blessing. He gave His first blessing to animals.

"He said, 'Have little ones and increase your numbers. Fill the water in the oceans. Let there be more and more birds on the Earth.' There was evening, and there was morning. It was day five."

God did a lot on the fifth day. He made all of the animals in the waters and in the sky.

Now we're going to talk about what happened on Day 6

Read Genesis 1:24-27 aloud to the children.

"God said, 'Let the land produce all kinds of living creatures. Let there be livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals. Let there be all kinds of them.' And that's exactly what happened. God made all kinds of wild animals. He made all kinds of livestock. He made all kinds of creatures that move along the ground. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make man in our likeness. Let them rule over the fish in the waters and the birds of the air. Let them rule over the livestock and over the whole Earth. Let them rule over all of the creatures that move along the ground. So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female."

Discuss the Bible reading. Please note the following discussion of what you might say aloud is given as a guide. Be sure to personalize your teaching for the needs of your class!



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God said, "Let the land produce all kinds of living creatures.

Now God is creating life on land. "Let there be livestock, and creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals. Let there be all kinds of them."

He didn't just say, "Let there be animals." No. He listed the kinds of animals that He wanted to create.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our likeness." Man is finally created. Man is the last thing that God created.

"Let them rule over the fish in the waters and the birds of the air. Let them rule over the livestock and over the whole Earth. Let them rule over all of the creatures that move along the ground." God is making sure that man would be at the "top" of His creation. Man is to rule over everything else in creation. "So God created man in his own likeness. He created him in the likeness of God. He created them as male and female."

Wow! God created us in His image or likeness! We are the only thing of creation that is in His image. This means that we have a soul. No other animals can think, act or feel like us.

Again, God is pleased with His creation. But, notice how God says that it was "very good". This is the first time that He said anything was very good. He was proud of His work until now, but it wasn't complete. Once He completed His creation, then it was "very good."

"There was evening, and there was morning. It was day six."

Six days to create everything! Wow! So the heavens and the earth and everything in them were completed. In just six days God had completed all of creation! What an amazing and awesome God we have!

Now we're going to talk about what happened on Day 7

"By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing. So on the seventh day he rested from all of his work."

God rested? God did a lot of work and so He rested. God shows us that it's okay to rest. God blessed the seventh day and made it holy. This is why we are

supposed to rest one day a week and keep it holy. God really didn't need to rest because He never runs out of energy, but He wanted to give us an example.

God wants us to work hard for six days but he wants us to take one day a week to rest and worship Him. We call that day the Sabbath!

So now let's do a quick review: Let's see who remembers what God created on each day of Creation?

Creation Day 1 (Genesis 1:1-5)

God created the heavens and the earth. "The heavens" refers to everything beyond the earth, i.e. outer space. The earth is made but not formed in any specific way, although water is present. God then speaks light into existence. He then separates the light from the dark and names the light "day" and the dark "night."

Creation Day 2 (Genesis 1:6-8)

God creates the sky. The sky forms a barrier between water upon the surface and the moisture in the air. At this point earth would have an atmosphere.

Creation Day 3 (Genesis 1:9-13)

God creates dry land. Continents and islands are above the water. The large bodies of water are named "seas" and the ground is named "land." God creates all plant life, large and small.

Creation Day 4 (Genesis 1:14-19)

God creates the sun and the moon. He also creates all the stars and heavenly bodies.

Creation Day 5 (Genesis 1:20-23)

God creates all life that lives in the water. Any life of any kind that lives in the water is made at this point. God also makes all the birds.

Creation Day 6 (Genesis 1:24-31)

God creates all the creatures that live on dry land. This includes every type of creature not included on previous days and man.

Creation Day 7 (Genesis 2:1-3)

God rests.



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Now would be a great time to say a prayer:

Dear God, the Bible story of creation is incredible. You are an amazing God who has created an awesome universe for us to explore. Thank you for everything you've done to make possible our life on Earth. We give you all of our praise and love. Amen. Engage. Make it so!

Onboard Game/Activity

Using the white butcher paper and markers, play a creation-themed Win, Lose or Draw game. If you're not familiar with this, the game is basically charades with drawings. You can set up teams to compete, or draw the words/phrase yourself and see which cadet can guess first. However you're comfortable doing it or think will work best.

Use items from the creation story as your answers. For example, "the sun," or "the animals," or "Adam and Eve," or "the Moon." If you play in teams, pick someone to draw and secretly show them the answer on a piece of paper. How long should you play? See the section on Spaceship Craft coming next!

Spaceship Craft

It is unlikely you will have time for making a separate take-home craft in your spaceship classroom today because of the lengthy lesson and individual pictures being taken. However, if you do wind up with extra time, we suggest you extend your game playing time or come up with a second game/activity to fill out the remaining time. If you need any ideas, ask any fellow USS Fellowship officer!



BOLD SPACE FACT

The International Space Station has had someone living and working on board non-stop since November 2, 2000. That's a lot of spaceflight experience!

JOHN GLENN LAUNCH: 02/20/1962

FD01



1045

THE STAR GAZER

NOTE TO ALL COMMANDERS:
ALL NEWS ITEMS FOR
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ARE DUE TO COM
BY 2 P.M. TODAY.

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BOLD SPACE FACT

Pete Conrad was the third man to walk on the Moon. His first words: "Whoopie! Man, that may have been a small one for Neil, but that's a long one for me."



**BOLD
CALLING**

BOLD FACT:
God can solve
any problem.

1231

BIBLE STORY:
Moses and the
Burning Bush.

4102

BIBLE VERSE:
Exodus 3:5

3132**VBS-2014**

“Do not come any closer, God said. Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

Exodus 3:5

Teacher Preparation and Devotion

At the end of the biblical book of Genesis, Joseph brings his family to Egypt. During the following centuries, the descendants of Joseph's family (the Hebrews) become so numerous that when a new king comes to power he fears what might happen if the Hebrews decide to rise against the Egyptians. He decides that the best way to avoid this situation is to enslave them (Exodus 1). These enslaved Hebrews are ancestors of modern day Jews, and Jesus.

Despite the Pharaoh's attempt to subdue the Hebrews they continue to have many children. As their numbers grow, Pharaoh comes up with another plan: he will send soldiers to kill all newborn male babies who were born to Hebrew mothers. This is where the story of Moses begins.

Moses

In order to save Moses from the grisly fate pharaoh has decreed, his mother and sister put him in a basket and set it afloat on the river. Their hope is that the basket will float to safety and whomever finds the baby will adopt him as their own. His sister, Miriam, follows along as the basket floats away. Eventually it is discovered by none other than pharaoh's daughter. She saves Moses and raises him as her own, so that a Hebrew child is raised as a prince of Egypt.

Upon reaching maturity (Exodus 2:11), Moses' sympathies lay with obtaining freedom for his own people, and he murdered an Egyptian who was mistreating a Hebrew. Moses fled from Pharaoh's wrath and settled in the land of Midian east of the Sinai Peninsula, across the Gulf of Aqaba. He lived in Midian as a shepherd, married a woman named Zipporah who was a daughter of the

priest, Jethro, of Midian, and had sons, one of whom was named Gershom. Meanwhile the Israelites suffered in their slavery under Pharaoh in Egypt.

One day, while out tending the sheep, Moses meets God in the wilderness. The voice of God calls out to him from a burning bush and Moses answers: "Hineini!" ("Here I am!" in Hebrew.) God tells Moses that he has been chosen to free the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt. Moses is not sure he can carry out this command. But God reassures Moses that he will have help in the form of God's aide and his brother, Aaron.

The Ten Plagues

Soon afterward, Moses returns to Egypt and demands that pharaoh release the Hebrews from bondage. Pharaoh refuses and as a result God sends ten plagues upon Egypt.

1. Blood – The waters of Egypt are turned to blood. All the fish die and water becomes unusable.
2. Frogs – Hordes of frogs swarm the land of Egypt.
3. Gnats or Lice – Masses of gnats or lice invade Egyptian homes and plague the Egyptian people.
4. Wild Animals – Wild animals invade Egyptian homes and lands, causing destruction and wreaking havoc.
5. Pestilence – Egyptian livestock is struck down with disease.
6. Boils – The Egyptian people are plagued by painful boils that cover their bodies.
7. Hail – Severe weather destroys Egyptian crops and beats down upon them.
8. Locusts – Locusts swarm Egypt and eat any remaining crops and food.
9. Darkness – Darkness covers the land of Egypt for three days.
10. Death of the Firstborn – The firstborn of every Egyptian family is killed. Even the firstborn of Egyptian animals die.

The tenth plague is where the Jewish holiday of Passover derives its name, because while the Angel of Death visited Egypt it "passed over" Hebrew homes, which had been marked with lamb's blood on the doorposts.

The history of Moses life and an explanation of how the Hebrew people be-



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came enslaved in Egypt is contained in Exodus 1 and 2.

It's helpful for you to become reacquainted with Moses' life so that the story of the Burning Bush can "come alive" for you. Imagine how Moses must have felt all these years, desperately wanting to help his people, the Hebrews, enslaved by the Egyptians and the evil Pharaoh. Remember that Moses was once a prince in Pharaoh's home and given royal treatment during his early years. Our story begins 40 years after Moses has returned to his Hebrew people and is tending sheep for his father-in-law, Jethro.

Quick review

The fact that God foreknew the enslavement of the Hebrews in Egypt is shown in Genesis, as God gives the covenant to Abraham: Genesis 15:13 – 14, "Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a country not their own, and they will be enslaved and mistreated four hundred years. But I will punish the nation they serve as slaves, and afterward they will come out with great possessions." This enslavement came about after Abraham's grandson, Jacob, took his family to Egypt to live. While Jacob's son Joseph was alive, and while Pharaohs (Kings of Egypt) reigned who remembered Joseph, the Hebrew people enjoyed a good life in Egypt. Then "a new king, who did not know about Joseph" (Exodus 1:8) came to power in Egypt, and in fear that the Israelites might join Egypt's enemies in battle, he imposed slavery on them. The king also decided to kill all the little boy babies, so that when Moses was born his mother had to hide him. When he grew too big to hide in the house, she made him a little floating basket bed so that his sister Miriam could watch him from the riverside. Thus it happened that when Pharaoh's daughter came to bathe in the river Nile that she found baby Moses and adopted him as her own. The princess, thanks to Miriam's vigilance, chose Moses' mother to be his nurse, and so his mother was able to teach him about his people and about God's ways.

At the right time, God decided to get Moses' attention as Moses pastured his flock at Horeb, "the mountain of God" (Exodus 3:1). God appeared to Moses as a bush that was burning, but not burned up, and God called Moses from the bush. Moses answered, "Here I am," and he obeyed when God said, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

When Moses realized he was talking to the Almighty, he **“hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.”** (Exodus 3:6) Later in his life Moses would beg God, **“show me your glory”** (Exodus 33: 18), and God would answer, **“I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”** (Exodus 33:19 – 20)

When God spoke to Moses and promised to deliver the Israelites from the Egyptians and lead them to **“a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey”** (Exodus 3:8) by sending Moses to Pharaoh and causing Moses to lead the people out of Egypt, Moses protested, **“Who am I...”** (Exodus 3:11). We also often answer God with our inadequacies, and God answers with His abundant presence and supply, revealing Himself as **“Jehovah-shammah”, “the LORD is there”** (Ezekiel 48:35), and as **“Jehovah-jireh”, “the LORD our provider”** (Genesis 22:13 – 14).

When Moses asked God for His credentials, His Name, God revealed Himself to Moses as the eternal, self-existent God, **“I AM,”** and He gave Moses his instructions. Moses protested that neither the leaders of Israel nor the pharaoh would believe that God had sent him, and so God gave Moses three miraculous signs. Moses’ walking stick became a snake and then returned to being a stick (Exodus 4:2 - 4), his hand became leprous and then was healed (Exodus 4:6 – 7), and God promised to turn a sample of Nile river water to blood when Moses poured it on the ground (Exodus 4:9).

Moses protested again that he was a poor speaker, **“slow of speech and tongue”** (Exodus 4:10), and God replied, **“Who gave man his mouth?”** (Exodus 4:11), and promised to help. Moses protested again, and even asked God to send someone else, and God said that Moses’ brother Aaron would help him, and promised, **“I will help both of you speak and teach you what to do.”** (Exodus 4:16)

God had a plan for Moses; He says to Pharaoh in Exodus 9:16, **“...I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that**



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my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." Believers in Jesus in whom God's Holy Spirit dwells are also called to be humble and obedient so that God can show His power, and so that His "name may be proclaimed in all the earth." The believer, even as a child, is called to seek God's presence, to listen to His Word, and to listen and obey in prayer. We continue throughout our lives to know more of who God is and of who we are as His people.

Today's Flight Plan

Refer to the Daily Mission Briefing handout for specific times of all activities.

Today's activity highlights:

- Daily snack (Pick up at 10 a.m.)
- Recreation outside on the Holodeck
- Crafts in the Crew Lounge
- Classroom Game – Shoe Puzzle
- Classroom Craft – The Burning Bush

Supplies Needed for Today

In addition to your standard VBS Classroom Supplies, you will be supplied with:

- Two print outs of the script, with each part color highlighted.
- Paper lunch bag, one per cadet.
- "Burning Bush" cut-outs.
- Battery-operated tea lights, one per cadet.

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- Scripture verse sticker.

In addition to the supplies provided by the church, you should use your own resources to gather these supplies that will help make your day with the cadets a little more special:

- Headdress and robe for the part of Moses. (Could be towels or blankets.)
- Red, orange or yellow cloth large enough to cover the “burning bush” sitting down.
- Small flashlight to help the Burning Bush read the script.
- Crown for Pharaoh (Trip to Burger King?)

Also please make sure you scrounge up enough Bibles so each cadet has one.

Daily Bible Lesson

Today you will be telling the story in a different way by performing a skit. You don't have to memorize any lines, just use the script! You will need the assistance of your teacher aide and props. You will be Moses and your aide will be both the “burning bush” and then Pharaoh. Enlist the help of the aide before VBS week so that he/she will be familiar with the part. Find a red or bright yellow cloth to cover your aide and have her/him sit on a chair. To make it more interesting for the kids, you might want to dress up in a robe (we have many in the church) or wear a headdress like Moses would have worn. When the “burning bush” becomes Pharaoh, take off the cloth, place a crown on their head and have the person move to another corner of the room to indicate Pharaoh's authority.

Before beginning the story divide the class in half. Have the children remove their shoes and place them in two separate piles in the classroom. Don't tell them why you are doing this.



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The Story of Moses

Narrator/Teacher

Pharaoh was an evil Egyptian ruler who had enslaved all of the Hebrew people. Remember that slaves had no rights. They had to do whatever the ruler said. They were treated very badly and had very little food, clothing or good homes for their families. One day a man named Moses saw an Egyptian guard beating a Hebrew man. Moses got so mad that he killed the Egyptian. When Pharaoh found out that Moses had killed an Egyptian. His guards chased Moses into the desert, but they didn't find him. Moses left Egypt and hid in the desert in a place called Midian. In the desert Moses met a wise man named Jethro, and Moses married one of Jethro's daughters. During the next 40 years, they raised their family in the desert.

Start walking around the room as though you are tending your sheep.

Narrator/Teacher

One day, Moses led Jethro's sheep to the far side of the desert, to Horeb, which was known as the mountain of God. There he saw something very strange.

Go over to the "burning bush".

Narrator/Teacher

At the foot of the mountain, he saw a bush on fire. But the fire did not spread. And the bush did not get burned up by the fire. Then Moses heard a voice call him:

Burning Bush

"Moses, Moses!"

Moses

"Here I am," Moses replied, with his shepherd's staff in his hand.

Burning Bush

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"Don't come any closer! Take off your sandals, for the ground on which you are now standing is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Narrator/Teacher

It really was God! When Moses heard the voice, he fell to his knees. He was afraid to look at the bush, which he knew was God.

Burning Bush

I have seen how cruel the Egyptians have been to you and the other Hebrews, who are my chosen people. The time has come for me to rescue you from the Egyptians.

Therefore, I promise to bring you back to the land that I promised to Abraham and Isaac a long time ago. This is known as the promised land of Israel, which is a lovely land, with plenty of water for you to grow your crops. So go now, Moses, and tell Pharaoh that you will be the one chosen by me to lead my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. Moses, you and my Hebrew people are to take with them gold, silver and clothing, which they will "receive" from their Egyptian neighbors.

Narrator/Teacher

You see if the Israelites asked for these "gifts" from their Egyptian masters, and the gifts were received, the Israelites would know that the parting was done in good faith. Otherwise, the Israelites would always think of the Egyptians as their enslavers, and nothing more. God didn't want the Israelites to leave on bad terms.

Moses

Why have you chosen me? I'm not really that important. Certainly, I'm not important enough to tell Pharaoh he should let the Hebrews leave Egypt.

Burning Bush

I will be with you.



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Moses

But no one's going to believe that I speak for you. How am I supposed to show the people who you are?

Burning Bush

Tell them, "I AM WHO AM." That is my name. Tell them that. Tell my people that the God who made them my people also chose you as my servant, my servant who will take them out of Egypt — away from being slaves to the Egyptians. Tell them I have sent you.

Narrator/Teacher

But Moses was tough to convince.

Moses

The people will never believe me. They will never believe that I actually talked to God. I just can't do this!

Narrator/Teacher

This made God a little frustrated.

Burning Bush

The older people will believe you. To prove that I'm with you, first ask Pharaoh if you can take people on a journey into the desert for just three days. During that time, the people can worship me, as I have commanded them. When Pharaoh says no — and I'm pretty sure he will — then I can work miracles and strike down the Egyptians.

Moses

But what if they still don't listen to me?

Burning Bush

Throw your shepherd's staff to the ground!

Narrator/Teacher

Moses threw down his staff and God turned the staff into a snake. That scared Moses, so he ran away from it at first, but when he picked up the snake again, it turned back into his shepherd's staff. Moses was out of excuses, except for one.

Moses

I confess to you my God that I am not very good at public speaking. I can't do a good enough job of presenting the request to Pharaoh.

Narrator/Teacher

But God solved that problem, too.

Burning Bush

You can bring your brother, Aaron, and he can speak for you.

Moses should then turn around and walk slowly around the room to give the Burning Bush time to change into Pharaoh and move to another side of the room.

Narrator/Teacher

Now that Moses was out of excuses, he bowed his head and accepted his role as God's chosen one. Moses' brother joined him on the way to Egypt, after Moses had said good-bye to his family.

Moses

(Approaching Pharaoh)

The Lord, the God of Israel, says, you should let his people go, so they can worship him for three days in the desert.

Pharaoh

Why should I obey *this* God? I don't even know this God, so no! I won't let the people of Israel go!



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Narrator/Teacher

God told Moses to try again, which he did, but Pharaoh never agreed to let the Israelites go to the desert for three days to worship God. I encourage you to go home and read your Bible you will learn how God did rescue Moses and his people. God always keeps his word!

THE END

Now would be a great time to say a prayer:

Dear God, thank you for this story about Moses. You are an awesome God who can help us solve our problems, just like you did for Moses and his people. We know that you will always be with us as you boldly call us to go out into the universe and share the Good News about your Son, Jesus. We love you so much. Amen. Engage. Make it so!

Onboard Game/Activity

We're going to play a game now. I want you all to get back into your two separate groups. When I say, "GO," the first person goes to the pile of shoes, finds his/her shoes and puts them on. Then you run back, and the next person goes to the pile of shoes. We'll see which group is the fastest at finding shoes and putting them back on. Remember, you must have your shoes on your feet before running back to your group!

You can repeat this game as time permits, perhaps by mixing up into different teams.



BOLD SPACE FACT

The Milky Way galaxy is our home in the universe. It contains as many as 400 billion stars. Yet our galaxy is only one of billions more galaxies in the known cosmos.

Spaceship Craft

Now without burning down your spaceship classroom, you are going to help all of your cadets make their very own Burning Bush! Here are instructions:

1. Take a paper lunch bag and attach the scripture verse to the top of the bag on one side.
2. Open up the bag being careful not to tear it open and then set it aside.
3. Glue the outline of the "Burning Bush" on the inside of the paper bag on the same side as the scripture verse.
4. Place the tea light in the bag.
5. Turn on the tea light, turn off the lights, sit back and watch your very own Burning Bush!

EXAMPLE OF BURNING BUSH CRAFT

FD02

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**BOLD
UPRISING**



BOLD FACT:
God is the best
friend ever.

1250

BIBLE STORY:
Elijah goes to
heaven/Elisha
in charge.

1122

BIBLE VERSE:
2 Kings 2:2

0629

VBS-2014

*“As surely as the Lord lives and as you live,
I will not leave you.”*

2 Kings 2:2

Teacher Preparation and Devotion

Elijah lived at a time of spiritual tyranny and terror. Ahab, the king of Israel, had forsaken the true God, yielding to his wicked wife, Jezebel, who not only had God's prophets murdered but had banished the worship of God and replaced it with Baal worship. Elijah's name means “Jehovah is God.” He was called Elijah the Tishbite, and he lived in Gilead. There is no genealogy, and no character development of Elijah to be found in the Bible. He just showed up one day and bluntly told the King of Israel, Ahab, **“As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”** (1 Kings 17:1) And then he left, and in no way was he intimidated.

In Matthew 3:4, John the Baptist is described as a man that wore clothes that were made with camel's hair, with a leather belt, and for food he ate locusts and wild honey. Perhaps he got this unique fashion sense from Elijah, whose only description is in 2 Kings 1:8: **“A hairy man wearing a leather belt around his waist.”** Elijah was on a mission to do the will of God. Nothing else mattered. He was tuned in and receptive to the voice of God and he was obedient.

After delivering his message to Ahab, God told Elijah to hide himself by a brook called Cherith where he could get water. God directed ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat every morning and evening until the stream dried up. After a time, God told Elijah to go to Zarephath where a widow would provide accommodations for him. According to God's revelation to Elijah, there was a miraculous unending supply of oil and meal for Elijah, the widow and her son. When her son became sick and died, Elijah again believed God and obeyed His revelation, and raised the boy from death.

After three years and six months, there had been no rain and there was a great famine. Elijah arranged a meeting with King Ahab, and had the king assemble 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah, all commissioned and supported by Jezebel. At this gathering, Elijah confronted Ahab and the people of Israel for abandoning God. He built an altar of stones, placed a sacrificial bull on the altar, and had four barrels of water emptied three times all over the sacrifice. Elijah prayed, **“Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.”** (1 Kings 18:36, 37)

When the fire of God fell and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the water, all assembled fell on their faces, saying, **“The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”** Elijah then had every pagan prophet executed. Then Elijah announced to Ahab that it would rain. That evening, it poured.

When Ahab told Jezebel, she sent a messenger to Elijah promising his death. This incident is the only time that Elijah seemed shaken. Amazingly, Elijah walked 40 days and nights to Mount Horeb. Elijah poured out his heart to God, thinking he was the only true believer left, and that his life was in jeopardy. God gave him three assignments and assured him that there were 7,000 believers who had not bowed to Baal.

Elijah again obeyed and left Mount Horeb to fulfill God's will, to anoint Hazael to be King of Syria, Jehu to be King of Israel, and to select and train Elisha to be his own successor. Elijah re-appeared after Jezebel had murdered an innocent man, again went to meet King Ahab, and foretold Jezebel's horrific death and Ahab's grim future. The next time Elijah showed up, it was to inform King Ahaziah, Ahab's son, which because he too sent messengers to inquire of Baalzebub, and failed to seek the true God for physical healing, his days were numbered.

One day Elijah was with Elisha. **“Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire,**



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BIBLE VERSE:
2 Kings 2:2

0629

and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven." (2 Kings 2:11) Elijah vanished more mysteriously than he had first appeared. Yet he is forever remembered in the hall of fame of faith.

Elijah was courageous, committed totally to God, and not influenced by people with power. He knew he served the all-powerful God. Elijah's extraordinary faith and powerful prayer life distinguish him as a prophet among prophets, a man's man, and a champion who loved God more than his own life. Elijah knew the provision and the power of God, the life-giving mercy and the fiery wrath of God. He lived up to his name: The Lord is God.

Today's Flight Plan

Refer to the Daily Mission Briefing handout for specific times of all activities.

Today's activity highlights:

- Daily snack (Pick up at 10 a.m.)
- Recreation outside on the Holodeck
- Crafts in the Crew Lounge
- Classroom Game – Verse Scramble
- Classroom Craft – Friendship Bags

Supplies Needed for Today

In addition to your standard VBS Classroom Supplies, you will be supplied with:

- Friendship Bag to be decorated (one per two cadets)
- Contents for Friendship Bag including an eraser, pencil, tissue, bag of Smarties candy, package of gum, and a granola bar – with descriptive cards attached to each item.
- Four sets of "Bible Verse" cards in which today's Bible verse is printed with one word on each card.

Also please make sure you scrounge up enough Bibles so each cadet has one.

Daily Bible Lesson

Say aloud: Today we're going to learn about two of God's prophets from the Old Testament. Their names were Elijah and Elisha. Does anyone know what a prophet is? *(Wait for responses.)*

The kind of prophets we're going to talk about today are those that God chose for a very special purpose. Back in Old Testament day's people had to rely on the prophets to give them messages from God. God chose special people or prophets to tell people what He wanted them to know. Sometimes he would use these men to warn the people of danger or to tell the people when they were making very bad choices in life. Sometimes He used the prophets to tell them that He was sending His son, Jesus, to save them.

God chose Elijah and Elisha to be two of His very special prophets. It's a little difficult to keep these two guys separate because their names sound so much alike! Maybe if you remember that the letter "j" like in Elijah's name comes before the letter "s" like in Elisha's name, it will help you remember which one came first in our story.

Elijah was older than Elisha, but they became very good friends. How many of you have a very good friend? *(Wait for responses.)* How many of you have ever had a really good friend tell you that he or she had to move away? *(Wait for responses.)* Is it hard to say goodbye to your friends? *(Wait for responses.)* In our story we're going to find out how good friends had to say goodbye to each other. Let's listen and find out what happened!

Elijah lived at a time when Ahab was king of Israel. Ahab was a really mean king and he had an evil wife named, Jezebel. Ahab had turned away from God and God's ways. He had forbidden the people of Israel to worship God and had even started worshipping a false idol named Baal. Elijah was sent by God as a prophet to warn Ahab of his evil ways. The Bible doesn't tell us a whole lot about Elijah's family or anything about his history. Elijah just



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showed up one day in the Bible. But God sent Elijah to warn Ahab that if he didn't turn from his wicked ways that God was going to punish Ahab!

But Ahab didn't listen to Elijah's warning and so many bad things happened to Ahab and his people. These bad things happened for many years, but Elijah just kept on preaching God's message. He was a very brave prophet for God. Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, got so mad at Elijah that they decided that they were going to hunt Elijah down and get rid of him! They thought if they got rid of Elijah, they wouldn't have to listen to what Elijah had to tell them about God!

Elijah had a servant that traveled with him. The Bible doesn't tell us what this servant's name was but we know that he stayed with Elijah for a long time. But one day when Elijah got into big trouble with the king, his servant decided that he didn't want to travel with Elijah anymore. So, when Elijah had to go live in the desert to hide from the king his servant decided to stay behind! He didn't want to go with Elijah!

How many of you think that Elijah's servant was being a good friend? *(Wait for responses.)* Why or why not? *(Wait for responses.)* What do you think happened next? *(Wait for responses.)*

God knew that Elijah still needed a servant and a friend. So God told Elijah who he wanted him to choose as his new servant and friend. One day as Elijah was out walking, he saw a man named, Elisha out plowing his fields with 12 yoke of oxen. As Elijah was walking by this field God told Elijah to place his cloak upon the shoulders of Elisha.

Let's read the Bible to find out how this happened Get out your Bibles and let's turn to 1 Kings 19:15, 19-21.

"The Lord said to him, 'Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet.'"

Skip down to verse 19

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"So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. 'Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,' he said, 'and then I will come with you.' 'Go back,' Elijah replied. 'What have I done to you?' So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant."

God spoke to Elijah and encouraged him by telling him that he still had a plan for his life. God was in control of his life not Jezebel or the evil Ahab. He didn't need to be afraid. God gave Elijah instructions for what he was to do and one of those instructions included going to a man named Elisha who would work with him and be a prophet just like him. God was giving Elijah a companion who would serve God with him.

After hearing God's voice and being encouraged that he wasn't the only one left who loved God and served him, Elijah set out to find Elisha and anoint him to be God's prophet.

When Elijah arrived at Elisha's home, he found him busy working. He was plowing in his father's field with 11 other men. Elisha was a farmer. As he was plowing the field Elijah came up beside him and threw his cloak upon his shoulders. Imagine what Elisha must have thought when Elijah the prophet came over to him as he worked and placed his cloak on his shoulders. Why do you think Elijah place his cloak over Elisha's shoulders? This might seem like a strange custom to us. In those days what Elijah did meant God was calling Elisha to serve Him.

It is always exciting when God calls a person to serve Him. God has a purpose for each person He has created. God prepares men, women, boys and girls to serve Him. God had been preparing Elisha's heart for this important day. Elisha was faithful in his life where God had placed him. He farmed and did his job well because that was the job God had given him at that time. Elisha was faithful to do this work until God told him what to do next. When the cloak was placed on his shoulders, he knew in his heart he was ready to



BOLD UPRISING



BOLD FACT:
God is the best
friend ever.

1250

BIBLE STORY:
Elijah goes to
heaven/Elisha
in charge.

1122

BIBLE VERSE:
2 Kings 2:2

0629

VBS-2014

serve God and follow Him. He immediately went to his family and said good-bye and followed Elijah to be God's servant.

Do you think it was hard for Elisha to leave his family that day and follow Elijah? *(Wait for responses.)*

Elisha obeyed the call to follow Elijah. Elisha and Elijah became great friends. Elijah and Elisha worked together in schools for God's prophets. Today we would say these schools were like colleges for prophets. Together Elijah and Elisha trained many young men known as the sons of the prophets to serve God. As Elisha worked with Elijah God was preparing him to take over as His prophet when Elijah was taken to heaven. Elisha loved Elijah and tried to learn all he could about serving God from Elijah.

But one day God told Elijah that it was time for Elijah to go to Heaven and leave Elisha to continue his work on earth.

Let's turn again to our Bibles and see what happened next.

2 Kings 2:1-18

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel.

The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?"

"Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "so be quiet."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho."

And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?"

“Yes, I know,” he replied, “so be quiet.”

Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.”

And he replied, “As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on.

Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?”

“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

“You have asked a difficult thing,” Elijah said, “yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not.”

As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!” And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

Elisha then picked up Elijah’s cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. “Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.

The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, “The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.” And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him. “Look,” they said, “we your servants have fifty able men. Let them go and look for your master. Perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has picked him up and set him down on some mountain or in some valley.”

“No,” Elisha replied, “do not send them.”



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But they persisted until he was too embarrassed to refuse. So he said, "Send them." And they sent fifty men, who searched for three days but did not find him. When they returned to Elisha, who was staying in Jericho, he said to them, "Didn't I tell you not to go?"

Elijah must have been excited when he knew the time was drawing close for him to go to heaven and live with God forever. The Lord sent Elijah to Bethel and Elijah told Elisha to stay behind so he could go on. Elisha wanted to stay close to Elijah. He loved him very much. When they got to Bethel they met young men from the school of the prophets. These young men knew that Elijah would be going to heaven soon. They said to Elisha, "Do you know that the Lord is going to take away your master away today?" Elisha said, "Yes I know, please be silent!" It must have been difficult for Elisha to talk about losing his friend and teacher.

Elijah went to Jericho and on to Jordan. Both times he went to leave he asked Elisha to stay behind but Elisha would not and was determined to say by Elijah's side.

When Elijah and Elisha reached the Jordan River, Elijah took off his cloak and rolled it up. He struck the Jordan River with his cloak and the river divided so the two could walk through.

Elijah knew his time to be with God in heaven was really close. He turned to Elisha and asked, "What shall I do for you, before I am taken away?"

If you were Elisha what would you have asked for? *(Wait for responses.)*

Elisha is standing there realizing that this prophet of God who had courage to stand up against evil was now leaving him. He could have asked for lots of money so he could settle down and buy a nice house. He could have asked to be a famous prophet in all the land. He could have asked that he not have to face the danger and trouble that Elijah faced with Jezebel. Did Elisha ask for any of these things? *(Wait for responses.)*

No! Elisha asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. This didn't mean he wanted to be more powerful than Elijah. According to Jewish law a double portion was given to the firstborn son as an inheritance when the father died.

The firstborn son had the honor of leading the family when his father died. Elisha was asking for the ability to inherit Elijah's prophetic ministry and his ability to serve God after he died. Elisha wanted to do great things for God. He wanted God's power to do a great work for Him. Elisha wanted to do his very best for God.

Elijah had no way of granting Elisha's request. He knew that only God could give Elisha His spirit. Elijah said, "If you see me when I am taken away, you will receive your request."

As the two men walked along together a chariot of fire and horses came between them. Elijah was taken into the chariot and whisked off in a whirlwind to heaven. Elisha must have been sad to know he wouldn't be with his friend any more on this earth. He looked and saw Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him as he went off to heaven.

Elisha took Elijah's cloak, rolled it up and went back to the Jordan River. He struck the river and just as it had before it divided and he was able to cross over. God had answered his request. He had been given God's power through His Spirit.

How do we know that Elijah and Elisha were friends? *(Wait for responses.)*

What are some things that Elijah did to show Elisha he was his good friend? *(Wait for responses.)*

What did Elisha do that tells us how much he loved Elijah? *(Wait for responses.)*

What are some things you can do to show your friends how much you care for them? *(Wait for responses.)*

Now would be a great time to say a prayer:

Dear God, thank you for this story about Elijah and Elisha and showing us how to be good friends with each other. It's so great to know that as we explore God's awesome universe with our friends, we have the best friend forever in you. We love you so much. Amen. Engage. Make it so!



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Onboard Game/Activity

Today's game is a Bible verse match up game. Divide your cadets into three or four teams and give each team a set of Bible verse cards. Each set of 16 cards has today's verse printed on them, one word on each card:

As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you. 2 Kings 2:2

Each team needs to work together to put the cards in the correct order. You can do this as a race with everyone going at the same time to see who finishes first, or you can use a timer and go one team at a time to see who does it the fastest. You can run multiple races fill time, or come up with your own idea. So long as everyone is involved and cadets are learning the Bible verse in the process, go wild!

Spaceship Craft

For today's spaceship classroom craft your cadets will be assembling Friendship Bags that will be handed out the following week to kids participating in "Mission is Possible."

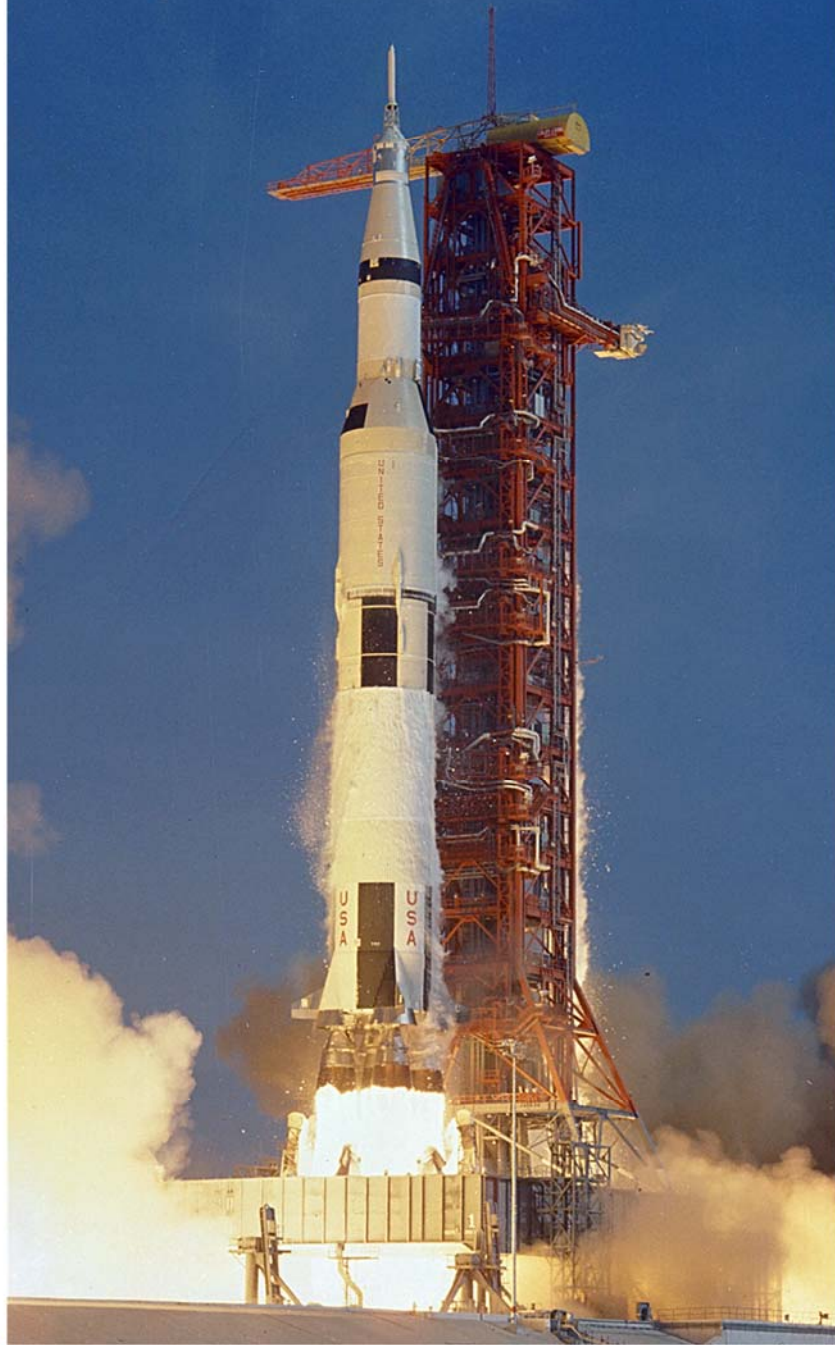
Divide the class into pairs. Each pair will use color markers to decorate a Friendship Bag with a space-related theme, and then fill the bag with a set of helpful items, each with a card attached. You might take a moment and explain the meaning intended for each item:

- Eraser - Jesus erases our sins
- Pencil - List your blessings
- Tissue - Jesus wipes away your tears
- Smarties - Jesus love is sweet
- Gum - Stick with God
- Granola bar - He feeds your every need

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APOLLO 11 LAUNCH: 07/16/1969

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THE STAR GAZER

NOTE TO ALL COMMANDERS:

**ALL NEWS ITEMS FOR
NEXT STAR GAZER
ARE DUE TO COM
BY 2 P.M. TODAY.**

TEXT: 3216980591

E-MAIL: VBS2014@AOL.COM



BOLD SPACE FACT

Scientists studying data taken from NASA's Kepler space telescope continue to discover more planets circling other stars in our galaxy. The count so far: Nearly 1,700,



BOLD
FORGIVENESS



BOLD FACT:
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universe.

4399

BIBLE STORY:
Jesus dies on
the cross.

1203

BIBLE VERSE:
John 3:16

8243

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"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 3:16

Teacher Preparation and Devotion

Today's story is the most important one of the whole week. It's important that you are prepared to answer any questions that the children might have regarding the cross. Just to review...as you remember from the story of creation on Monday, Adam and Eve were created on the sixth day. God told them that they could do whatever they wanted to do in the garden. They lived in an absolutely perfect world! The only thing God had forbidden Adam and Eve to do was eat from this one tree, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. But because God wanted the communion and friendship of humans, not robots, He gave them free will. God absolutely forbid them to eat from the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

As we all know first Eve, then Adam, ate of the fruit from the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Exercising their free will, they chose to go against God and eat the fruit. When they disobeyed God, they separated themselves from Him, committing sin. From this point on man has needed a perfect man to restore our relationship with a Holy God. Because of His Holiness, God cannot look on sin. Sin cannot touch God.

In order to be restored to God, all men must have a perfect man to stand before God to restore us to Him. The only way this could be accomplished is through the cross. Jesus, having no sin, took upon Himself all of the sin of mankind, starting with Adam and Eve and ending with the last person who will live on this earth. By accepting this fact, that everyone sins and is separated from God, and, consequently, creates a need for a savior.

This savior is Jesus Christ who willingly went to the cross so that we could be restored in our relationship with a Holy God. This is the Biblical story of the

Mission to the Cross. It is important that you familiarize yourself with the story.

LUKE 23:26

Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the Cross that he might bear it after Jesus.

LUKE 23:27-31

And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him. But Jesus, turning to them, said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children." For indeed the days are coming in which they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, wombs that never bore, and breasts which never nursed!' "Then they will begin 'to say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"' "For if they do these things in the green wood, what will be done in the dry?" There were a lot of people who followed Jesus to the place where He was crucified; many of them were women. Jesus always had women who supported him in His ministry.

LUKE 23:32-35

There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots. And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

LUKE 23:35-38

And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them Made fun of Jesus, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."



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VBS-2014**LUKE 23:39-43**

Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

LUKE 23:44-49

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last. So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!" And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Jesus hung on the cross for six hours, from nine a.m. until three p.m. The last three hours, there was darkness over the entire earth. When we accept Jesus as our savior He takes the darkness out of our lives and puts in the light of His grace and forgiveness. Jesus died for you and me.

The Trial, Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

Here's how "The Message" translation tells the story from Luke 23:

The Jewish High Council took Jesus to Pilate and began to bring up charges against him. They said, "We found this man undermining our law and order, forbidding taxes to be paid to Caesar, setting himself up as Messiah-King." Pilate asked him, "Is this true that you're King of the Jews?" "Those are your words, not mine", Jesus replied. Pilate told the

high priests and the accompanying crowd, "I find nothing wrong here. He seems harmless enough to me". But they were vehement. "He's stirring up unrest among the people with his teaching, disturbing the peace everywhere, starting in Galilee and now all through Judea. He's a dangerous man, endangering the peace".

When Pilate heard that, he asked, "So, he's a Galilean?" Realizing that he properly came under Herod's jurisdiction, he passed the buck to Herod, who just happened to be in Jerusalem for a few days. Herod was delighted when Jesus showed up. He had wanted for a long time to see him, he'd heard so much about him. He hoped to see him do something spectacular. He peppered him with questions. Jesus didn't answer, not one word. But the high priests and religion scholars were right there, saying their piece, strident and shrill in their accusations. Mightily offended, Herod turned on Jesus. His soldiers joined in, taunting and jeering. Then they dressed him up in an elaborate king costume and sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became thick as thieves. Always before they had kept their distance. Then Pilate called in the high priests, rulers, and the others and said, "You brought this man to me as a disturber of the peace. I examined him in front of all of you and found there was nothing to your charge. And neither did Herod, for he has sent him back here with a clean bill of health. It's clear that he's done nothing wrong, let alone anything deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go."

At that, the crowd went wild: "Kill him! Give us Barabbas!" (Barabbas had been thrown in prison for starting a riot in the city and for murder.) Pilate still wanted to let Jesus go, and so spoke out again. But they kept shouting back, "Crucify! Crucify him!" He tried a third time. "But for what crime? I've found nothing in him deserving death. I'm going to warn him to watch his step and let him go."

But they kept at it, a shouting mob, demanding that he be crucified. And finally they shouted him down. Pilate caved in and gave them what they wanted. He released the man thrown in prison for rioting and murder, and gave them Jesus to do whatever they wanted.



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As they led him off, they made Simon, a man from Cyrene who happened to be coming in from the countryside, carry the cross behind Jesus. A huge crowd of people followed, along with women weeping and carrying on. At one point Jesus turned to the women and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for your children. The time is coming when they'll say, 'Lucky the women who never conceived! Lucky the wombs that never gave birth! Lucky the breasts that never gave milk! Then they'll start calling to the mountains, 'Fall down on us!' "Calling to the hills, 'Cover us up!'" "If people do these things to a live, green tree, can you imagine what they'll do with deadwood?"

Two others, both criminals, were taken along with him for execution. When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing".

Dividing up his clothes, they threw dice for them. The people stood there staring at Jesus, and the ringleaders made faces, taunting, "He saved others. Let's see him save himself!

The Messiah of God, ha! The Chosen, ha!"

The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it. They toasted him with sour wine: "So you're King of the Jews! Save yourself!" Printed over him was a sign: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: "Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!" But the other one made him shut up: "Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him, he did nothing to deserve this." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom." He said, "Don't worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise."

By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours, a total blackout. The Temple curtain split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, "Father, I place my life in your hands!" Then he breathed his last. When the captain there saw what happened, he

honored God: "This man was innocent! A good man, and innocent!" All who had come around as spectators to watch the show, when they saw what actually happened, were overcome with grief and headed home. Those who knew Jesus well, along with the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a respectful distance and kept vigil.

There was a man by the name of Joseph, a member of the Jewish High Council, a man of good heart and good character. He had not gone along with the plans and actions of the council. His hometown was the Jewish village of Arimathea. He lived in alert expectation of the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Taking him down, he wrapped him in a linen shroud and placed him in a tomb chiseled into the rock, a tomb never yet used. It was the day before Sabbath, the Sabbath just about to begin.

The women who had been companions of Jesus from Galilee followed along. They saw the tomb where Jesus' body was placed. Then they went back to prepare burial spices and perfumes. They rested quietly on the Sabbath, as commanded.

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Today's Flight Plan

Refer to the Daily Mission Briefing handout for specific times of all activities.

Today's activity highlights:

- Daily snack (Pick up at 10 a.m.)
- Recreation outside on the Holodeck
- There are no Crafts in the Crew Lounge today
- Classroom Activity – Cross of Forgiveness
- Classroom Craft – "Mission to the Cross" booklet
- Classroom pictures with former astronaut Sam Durrance
- NOTE: You will likely have more time in your spaceship classroom today than during previous days this week.

Supplies Needed for Today

In addition to your standard VBS Classroom Supplies, you will be supplied with:

- Picture of astronaut Jeff Hoffman servicing the Hubble Space Telescope http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/07/STS-61_Hubble_servicing.jpg
- A picture of the Hubble Space Telescope http://www.nasa.gov/images/content/350234main_s125e012033_hires.jpg
- Sandwich-sized baggies, one per cadet
- A set of six "Mission to the Cross" posters
- A small piece of rope, small piece of purple cloth, a Band-Aid, a penny, a red heart, and a small cross.
- A length of yarn, one for each cadet

In addition to the supplies provided by the church, you should use your own resources to gather these supplies that will help make your day with the cadets a little more special:

- A single small prize for each cadet in your spaceship. See the Gospel Bucks counter or any Oriental Trading catalog for ideas. Could be a candy bar (no peanuts!) or something similar. An annual pass to Disney World is probably too much.
- A large cross made of butcher paper that you can hang on the wall.
- A small strip of paper, cut or torn – one for each cadet.

Also please make sure you scrounge up enough Bibles so each cadet has one.

Daily Bible Lesson

This lesson begins with an "Attention Grabber" called The Willingness Game. However, you'll have to gage your time when you get into the classroom. You'll know by now how your class handles getting into the room and getting ready for the lesson. This Bible lesson is really important, so skip the Attention Grabber if you need extra time.

Preparation for the Bible Lesson

Place the six "Mission to the Cross" posters in various areas around the room so that your cadets will "travel" to complete the mission. Gather your six items (small piece of rope, small piece of purple cloth, a Band-Aid, a penny, a red heart, and a small cross) but don't hand them out until you have completed the portion of the lesson at each poster. When you do hand out an item, have your cadet place it in the baggie you will give them.

The Willingness Game

Have all of your cadet's sit in an arrangement that has a beginning and an end (a row or series of rows will work best, as opposed to a circle). Pass out small prizes (the ones you acquired) to all but the last child in the arrangement.

Instruct your class to pass down their prize to the next person. This should leave



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the first person with nothing. This first child will be either willing or unwilling to follow your instructions.

If he/she passes on his/her prize, reward him/her by giving him/her another. If he/she does not, give the cadet that has ended up with nothing a prize. Ask your cadets to explain how they felt to give their prizes away. Was it easy to do it willingly? Ask the cadet who was left without how he/s felt? Explain to your class that today's lesson teaches how Jesus willingly did something that no one else could do: Jesus died for you and me.

Bible Lesson Begins Here

Say aloud:

How many of you have ever dreamed of going on a Space Mission? *(Wait for responses.)*

How many would like to go on a mission to the Moon? *(Wait for responses.)*

Can any of you tell me why we want to go to the Moon or to the planet Mars? *(Wait for responses.)*

Every mission that we go on has a reason. We travel to space because we want to learn something, or build something, or maybe because we need to repair something. There's a huge telescope in space called the Hubble Space Telescope. How many of you have heard of it? *(Wait for responses.)* Here's a picture of it. *(Show the picture.)*

But let me tell you a secret about Hubble. After the Hubble was put into space, the scientists discovered that it wasn't working right. So what do you think they did to fix the Hubble Space Telescope? *(Wait for response.)* That's right! They had to send astronauts up into space to fix it. Here's a picture of astronaut Jeff Hoffman repairing the Hubble Space Telescope. *(Show the picture.)*

Well today we're going on a mission! In today's lesson we are going to learn about the most important mission of the entire Bible. It is the story of Jesus' crucifixion. It is the greatest story the world has ever heard. The entire Bible is centered on this story.

HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

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Today we are going on a Mission to the Cross! Why is this such an important mission in the Bible? *(Wait for responses.)* Just like Jeff Hoffman needed to fix the Hubble Space Telescope so that it would work properly in space, God needed to send someone to “fix” us so that we could live like He created us to live. And that was Jesus! What would the world be like if Jesus had never died on the cross? *(Wait for responses.)* Do you think your life would be different today? *(Wait for responses.)*

Does anyone know why Jesus went on a Mission to the Cross? *(Wait for responses.)* Who remembers our creation story from Monday? *(Wait for responses.)* Who remembers what God created on the Sixth day? *(Wait for responses.)* Yes, He created Adam and Eve, the first humans. Did you know that when Adam and Eve were first created they had no sin at all? They were perfect human beings! They hadn't done anything wrong at all!

But something really sad happened. Adam and Eve didn't stay perfect. God told them not to eat the fruit from a special tree called the tree of knowledge. But Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. Because they ate the forbidden fruit, they were separated from God! They needed to have a way for God to forgive them! Just like Adam and Eve got separated from God, that happens to all of us too. Whenever we do anything wrong like hit our brother or sister,



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VBS-2014

or tell a lie to our parents, or even when we think really mean thoughts about someone else, we need God to forgive us. But God is perfect so He needed a perfect person to ask for forgiveness for us! So Jesus, being the only perfect man, took all of our sins upon Himself and went on a mission to the cross.

So guess what? This is where our Mission begins today! We're going to find out how God provided a mission for us so that we could be forgiven or fixed so that we could get back close to God again. Not only is our Mission to the Cross the most important story in the Bible, but it is the most important thing for us to know about. Without Jesus' death on the cross we could not be saved and spend eternity with Him. We would still be in a hopeless, sinful condition. But thankfully, Jesus did go to the cross for you and for me. Thankfully we get to enjoy the benefits of a wonderful salvation because He gave His life for us. Jesus died for you and me. The mission to the cross is the most important mission you will ever take in your entire life! I hope you decide to embark on this mission someday so that you can enter the final frontier of heaven one day!

Today we are going to learn about what happened to Jesus the day He gave His life for you and me. We can learn about the events of the crucifixion, but we can never fully understand the suffering of the cross of Jesus Christ. The lesson today is an explanation and example of the love of God. John 3:16 says, **"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."**

Every mission, just like a space mission, takes a lot of planning and happens in different stages. Well, in today's lesson we're going to visit the different stages that led Jesus to the cross. As we travel to the different stages, you will be given a small remembrance of each part of the mission, so that you can remember what Jesus did for you and me. Keep everything you collect in your plastic baggie because we're going to make something later for you to keep.

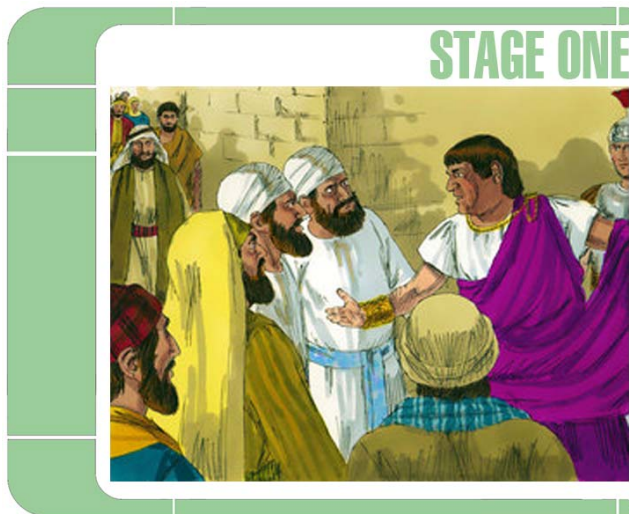
Are you ready? Everyone stand up, put on your imaginary spacesuit. Now put on your helmets! Now strap yourselves into our imaginary spaceship and let's get started on our Mission to the Cross!

Mission to the Cross

(Walk to the first stage of the mission.)

Our mission begins after Jesus has already been arrested by the Roman soldiers.

Very early in the morning, the soldiers bring Jesus to Pilate, who was the governor at the time. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Yes, I am." This upset the chief priests who were the religious leaders because they were jealous of Him and the friends He had made with the Jews.



Pilate listened to the complaints of the people that brought Jesus, but he couldn't find any reason to punish Him. Pilate questioned Jesus, but Jesus didn't stick up for himself. He knew that they wouldn't listen anyway. He had done nothing wrong.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people and said to them, "I have talked to Jesus, and I find no reason to kill Him."

After they heard that all the people shouted, "We want Jesus! Release Barabbas instead!" Barabbas had been in jail because he had killed someone, and the people wanted him to be free, and Jesus to be punished. It sounds strange but it was like peer pressure. The chief priests went around telling people lies about Jesus, so that they would be afraid of Him, and want to kill Him.

Pilate didn't like this one bit. He wanted to let Jesus go, so he tried to talk to the people but they didn't let him. They just kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate tried again, yelling, "What has Jesus done wrong? I can punish Him



**BOLD
FORGIVENESS**

BOLD FACT:
God's love is
bigger than the
universe.

4399

BIBLE STORY:
Jesus dies on
the cross.

1203

BIBLE VERSE:
John 3:16

8243

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but then I must let Him go, He doesn't deserve to die!" But the people just shouted louder to crucify Jesus and Pilate wanted to please the crowd so he freed Barabbas and sent Jesus to die. So the soldiers tied Jesus' hands with rope. I am giving you all a small piece of rope. This rope is to remind you that although Jesus did nothing wrong, they still treated him like a criminal. Make sure you put your rope in your baggie.

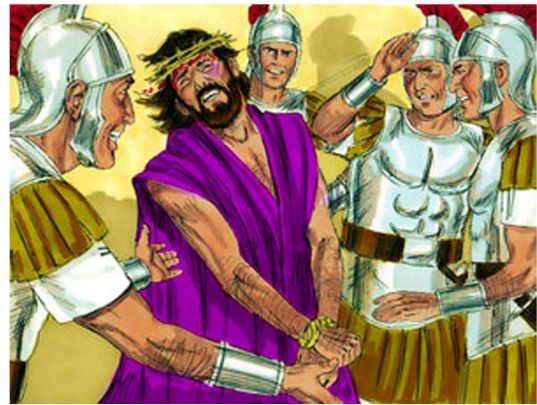
(Walk everyone to the second stage of the mission.)

The soldiers led Jesus into the palace and made Him put on an old royal robe and they twisted together a crown of thorns to put on His head. Then they made fun of Him and said, "Hail, king of the Jews." They didn't understand that He was a king, that's why they made fun of Him. Were the soldiers really

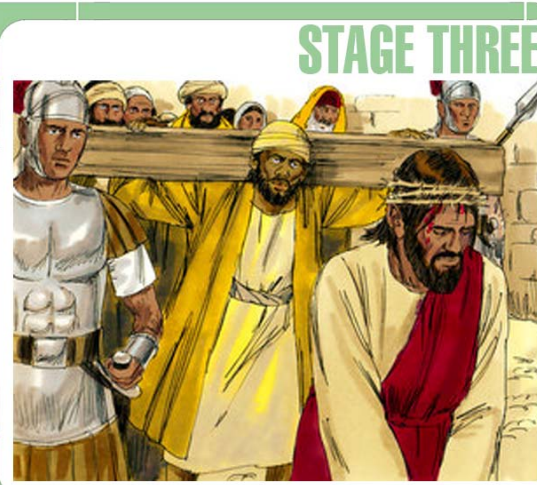
calling Jesus a King? No they were making fun of him! They were being really mean to Jesus! What do you think Jesus did? Do you think he fought them or tried to get away? No Jesus was silent and did not fight back. I am giving you a small piece of purple cloth. This is to remind you that, although Jesus really was a king, He went to the cross without fighting back or trying to defend himself.

(Walk everyone to the third stage of the mission.)

Next the soldiers led Jesus toward a hill called Golgotha. They made Him carry the cross on His back, but Jesus couldn't carry it the whole way, he fell down. The soldiers had whipped His back and it hurt so much that Jesus couldn't handle the weight of the cross on His shoulders. A man named Simon happened to be near Jesus when He fell, and the soldiers grabbed him, and made him carry the cross the rest of the way. The soldiers offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh. This was supposed to help make it less painful, but Jesus refused to have any. Now I am giving you each a Band-Aid. A Band-Aid is

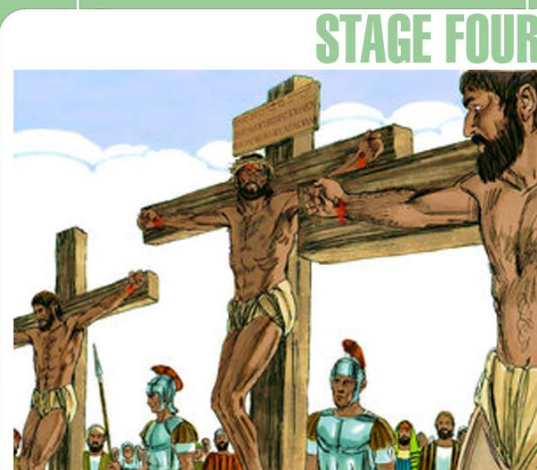
STAGE TWO

used to help us when we get hurt. Simon was chosen to help Jesus carry His cross. This Band-Aid is to remind you of the terrible hurt and pain that Jesus suffered even before He got to the cross. He was so badly hurt that He had to have Simon carry His cross.



(Walk everyone to the fourth stage of the mission.)

When they reached the top of the hill they nailed Jesus to the cross. There were three crosses, Jesus was in the middle and there was a criminal on His right and on His left. Pilate made a sign to be put on the cross. It read what He was being punished for: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews. The soldiers watched Jesus and made fun of him, they even divided up his clothes to be even meaner. The soldiers were so terrible that they gambled money for his clothes! And some people walked by and shouted, "You saved others, why can't you save yourself?" Jesus could have saved himself, but he chose not to, He wanted to save us instead. This penny is to remind you of the terrible way that Jesus was treated when he was put on the cross.



(Walk everyone to the fifth stage of the mission.)

Jesus ignored the people, but He did see his mother, his aunt, and some other women he knew. Jesus felt bad for His mother, she was so sad to see her son die, just like your parents feel when you get hurt. Then Jesus saw one of



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his disciples close to his mother, and he said, "Mother, here is your son, and friend here is your mother." Jesus couldn't say too much, he was very weak. But he wanted his friend, the disciple, to be like a son to his mother, and take care of her. And from that day on this disciple took care of Mary, Jesus' mother. This red heart will remind you that even though He was in so much pain on the cross, He still was thinking of His mother. It will also remind you of how much Jesus loves you and me.

(Walk everyone to the sixth stage of the mission.)

This is our final stage of our mission. Later, Jesus could not handle the pain any longer and He said, "It is finished." When Jesus said these words He bowed His head and went to Heaven. Suddenly, a huge curtain that hung at the temple was torn in half, from top to bottom. And a man that had wanted Jesus to die saw all of this and he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!" He realized he had been wrong about Jesus. The last thing you get is a small cross. This cross is to remind you that Jesus took all of the bad things that you and me and everyone else does and took them to the cross with Him. He gave His life for all of us so that we could go to Heaven and be with Jesus and God.

(You can stay at the same spot or "go back" to where the cadets usually sit, and then wrap up the lesson with this important talk:)

STAGE FIVE



STAGE SIX



It seems like a really sad story, but it's one of the greatest stories of all! Jesus died knowing that you and me would do things wrong (that is what a sin is), things that you're not supposed to – such as not obeying your parents, saying something mean to your sister or brother, or not telling the truth. He knew what you would do when He died so many years ago.

Jesus died for everybody's sins, so now when we ask God to forgive us, and we are truly sorry for what we've done, He will act like it never happened. That's right He forgets what we did! Now that doesn't mean we should ever make the same mistake again, because by doing that it's like we're hurting Jesus all over again.

So next time you do something you're not supposed to, remember to say sorry to Jesus, and remember what He did for you!

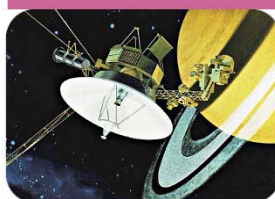
(If you are not back to your main meeting area by now, it might be a good time to do so.)

Well guess what? The Mission to the Cross doesn't just end with Jesus dying on the cross! In fact, some of you might know what happened after Jesus was taken down from the cross and put into a grave. Can anyone tell me what happened next? *(Wait for responses.)*

Yes! After three days in the grave Jesus rose from the dead. He's alive today! Jesus' mission goes on and on!

Let's say a prayer thanking Jesus for taking all of our sins to the cross and providing a way for us to be forgiven for our sins.

Lead your cadets in a short prayer using your own words. Finish with Amen. Engage. Make it So!



BOLD SPACE FACT

Voyager 1 is the most distant man-made object from Earth. It was launched from Cape Canaveral in 1977 and is now more than 11,806,052,000,000 miles away.



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Onboard Game/Activity

Following immediately on the heels of the Bible lesson, hand out a slip of paper to each cadet and ask them to write down a sin that they are struggling with, or of a generic sin they know lots of people are tempted by.

Then have each cadet "nail" their piece of paper (using tape) to the big cross made from butcher paper that you hung up in your spaceship classroom. Remind everyone again how Jesus died for our sins.

Once all the pieces of paper have been taped up, lead the cadets in a short prayer asking Jesus to forgive them. Finish with Amen. Engage. Make it So!

Then as the teacher, you should get up and carefully remove all the pieces of paper, crumple them up into a ball and throw them away – the symbolism being that God has forgiven all of the sins and the battered cross, which remains, is always there for us just like Jesus.

Spaceship Craft

Lead your cadets in making a scrapbook using each of the six items they were given during the Bible lesson so they can remember their Mission to the Cross. The basic idea is that the cadets will glue each item to a page, which they can embellish by decorating with markers or write a sentence that reminds them of its meaning. A small length of yarn can be used to bind the booklet together. A cover made of colored construction paper with their name on it is a nice option to consider.



BOLD SPACE FACT

Three giant Deep Space Network radio antennas were built around Earth so that one dish is always pointed toward a distant robot probe in space or another planet.

FD04

DELTA 2 LAUNCH: 12/20/2007



0142

THE STAR GAZER

NOTE TO ALL COMMANDERS:

ALL NEWS ITEMS FOR NEXT STAR GAZER ARE DUE TO COM BY 2 P.M. TODAY.

TEXT: 3216980591

E-MAIL: VBS2014@AOL.COM



BOLD SPACE FACT

Gone are the days of the astronaut wearing a silver spacesuit. Today's crews are most comfortable hanging around in orbit wearing polo shirts and slippers.



**BOLD
COMMISSION**



BOLD FACT:
God wants us
to share the
Good News.

7521

BIBLE STORY:
The Great
Commission

0441

BIBLE VERSE:
Matthew 28-
19-20

8912

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28: 19 - 20

Teacher Preparation and Devotion

Below are two different accounts from the Bible of the events leading up to “The Great Commission”. Luke also includes the ascension of Jesus. After the crucifixion, Jesus was buried in the tomb, and was raised from the dead on Easter Sunday. For forty days after Easter, Jesus was seen here on earth. He visited people and talked with them. He ate with them and taught them. Many, many people saw Him alive again. Jesus visited with the disciples during those 40 days and, it was during the end of His time with them, that Jesus gave His disciples their new job. Before His ascension into Heaven Jesus sat down with His disciples and told them that their new job was to “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” This is what is called today, The Great Commission. Jesus wanted His disciples to continue His mission after He had ascended into Heaven. The Great Commission is just as important today as it was in Biblical times. Please review these Biblical accounts so that you will be prepared to help your students understand that all Christians are called upon to tell others about Jesus.

The account from Luke 24 – New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Has Risen

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not

find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them,

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words.

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

On the Road to Emmaus

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

“What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early



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this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked

VBS-2014

them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

The Ascension of Jesus

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

The account from Matthew 28 – New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Has Risen

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."



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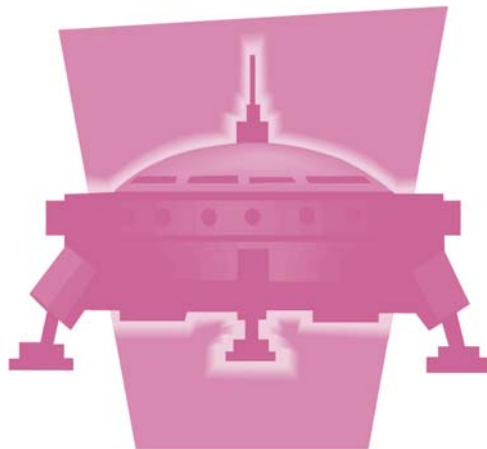
So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Guards' Report

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

The Great Commission

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



Today's Flight Plan

Refer to the Daily Mission Briefing handout for specific times of all activities.

Today's activity highlights:

- Daily snack (Pick up at 10 a.m.)
- Water Play Day! outside on the Holodeck
- There are no Crafts in the Crew Lounge today
- Classroom Game – Repeated from earlier, or a new one
- Classroom Craft – Bold Commission posters
- NOTE: You will likely have more time in your spaceship classroom today than during previous days this week.
- Commissioning Ceremony begins at 6:30 p.m.

Supplies Needed for Today

In addition to your standard VBS Classroom Supplies, you will be supplied with:

- Earth poster boards for creating "Bold Commission" posters
- A secret package that is to remain wrapped until told otherwise
- A letter from Commodore Kris attached to the secret package
- A secret codes handout for each cadet
- Ship insignia pins for Friday night's Commissioning Ceremony

Also please make sure you scrounge up enough Bibles so each cadet has one.



Daily Bible Lesson

**BOLD
COMMISSION**



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First, here's a little orientation on the lesson plan: Today's lesson is about the Great Commission. After you present the Bible Lesson, you will separate your cadets into four groups to work on "Bold Commission" posters. As part of your classroom preparations, select four different work spaces for the cadets to work together on creating/coloring their posters. It is likely you will not have enough time to complete your posters during your first block of spaceship classroom time, so they can be finished during the second block of time.

Remember, with today being the last day, and Water Play Day, it's likely your cadets will be a little more animated than usual. Plan your schedule and timing of events accordingly.

To begin the lesson, read this aloud to your class:

Welcome back to the Starship Fellowship. I can't believe this is our last day! I'm really going to miss you all. Well, I think Commodore Kris is going to miss you too because she left this package for us. It's marked "Top Secret". I wonder what's in it? Anybody got a guess? *(Build up the suspense and intrigue!)*

Hmmm, maybe this will help. There's a note attached to the package. It says:

"Dear Space Cadets of the USS Fellowship. You have been selected to participate in a special mission. You have been chosen because of your unique abilities and your genuine hearts. You have worked very hard this week and because of your work, you have been invited to become **CIA AOG**.

Those of you who agree to carry out this mission will be working with the **KOK** and the **LOL**. Someone will communicate with you at each stage of the mission through the guidance of the **HS**. No one is to speak to anyone about this mission until you are fully trained. From now on you will only refer to this mission as the **GC**.

Please listen carefully. Planet Earth is in real danger! A lot of humans on planet Earth have refused to listen to **TOTG**. They have stopped going to church, have rejected the **GHW** and are doing a lot of really bad things. They don't even believe in **JC**!

FLIGHT DAY FIVE

You must help save this planet. The items in this package will be handed out to you after your Bible Lesson. The lesson today will give you vital information about your mission. After you have heard the message and after you open your special messages, I hope you all will agree to accept this mission today. The **KOK** and **LOL** are counting on you!


Good luck, Commodore Kris”

Well that sounds exciting, but I’m a little confused. Are you? I’m not really clear about our mission. I’ll try to get in touch with Commodore Kris and see if she can help explain this a little better. But in the meantime, let’s continue with our lesson.

Today we’re going to learn about some very important **AOG**. Your **MIP** is to follow the **AOG** example and join the **FLOG**. Oh wait, I forgot to explain something. When we travel in space we try to bring only what we need. We keep everything as light as possible, even the paper we use. So to fit as much information as we can on as little paper as possible, we use abbreviations and acronyms a lot. You’ll need this secret decoder card to help you understand our story today. *(Ask your aide and helpers to pass out the secret decoding sheets.)*


Now that we have the decoder card, you will understand the story better. Now where were we?

USS FELLOWSHIP



0912

AGL'S	ANGELS	GN	GOOD NEWS
AMZ	AMAZING	GP	GOSPEL
AOG	AGENTS OF GOD	HS	HOLY SPIRIT
BD	BURIED	JC	JESUS CHRIST
BTL	BACK TO LIFE	JR	JERUSALEM
CIA	CADETS IN ACTION	KOK	KING OF KINGS
CM	COMMISSION	LOL	LORD OF LORDS
DD	DEAD OR DIED	MIP	MISSION IS POSSIBLE
FLOG	FULLY LEANING ON GOD	RUAA	ROSE UP ALIVE AGAIN
GC	GREAT COMMISSION	TOTG	THE ONLY TRUE GOD
GHW	GOD'S HOLY WORD	VIM	VERY IMPORTANT MISSION



MISSION DECODER CARD

ELEMENTARY LEVEL K-5

BOLD COMMISSION



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Imagine that you are just about to go away to live on another planet. You only have 30 seconds to tell your friends, your family, your teachers, everyone something very important. What would you tell them? In today's lesson we are going to learn about the time when JC left this earth. JC said some very special and important things to his friends. He told them about a very important MIP that he wants them to carry out.

Do you remember yesterday's lesson about how JC was crucified on the cross? He DD and was BD in a tomb but then he came BTL after three days. After this, JC spent forty days visiting with people. JC wanted to make sure that they saw that JC was not DD any more.

JC spent lots of time with his special friends, the AOG. JC told them not to leave JR because some great things were going to happen and the AOG needed to be there. JC told the AOG that the HS was going to come very soon and give the AOG special powers so the AOG could show everyone how good JC is.

JC told the AOG they would have a VIM. When someone gives you a VIM to carry out and then gives you instructions on how to complete the VIM that is called a CM.

The CM that JC told the AOG to do was such a special VIM, we call it a GC! Here is what JC actually said in giving the GC to the AOG: **"Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** (Matthew 28:19-20)

Telling people the GN about JC is telling them the GP. Telling people the GP is telling three things: JC DD, JC was BD and JC RUAA.

After JC told them these things, something very AZ happened. JC began to float up. He floated all the way up into the clouds while the AOG were watching. Soon the clouds hid JC and the AOG could not see JC any longer.

While the AOG all were looking up into the sky trying to catch another glimpse of JC, two men dressed in white stood beside them. They must have been AGL. They told the AOG that JC went up into the clouds and that some-day (many years later) JC would come back to the Earth on clouds again.

The **AOG** were very happy. **JC** was **AMZ!** They would miss **JC** but the **AOG** couldn't wait to get started on the **GC** to tell everyone how **JC** **RUAA** from the **DD**. And that's what the **AOG** did. The **AOG** went on a **VIM** to tell people about the **AMZ** things **JC** had done.

Where do you think the **AOG** went after this? Who wants to guess?

Remember where **JC** had told them to go? He told them to go to **JR** and wait for the **HS** to come. So the **AOG** went to **JR** and waited just as **JC** said., and very soon after, the **HS** came just as **JC** had promised the **AOG**.

Now lead your cadets in reviewing what you just covered by asking these questions and encouraging them to answer and talk about it.

What is the **GC**? (*The instructions that Jesus gave to the apostles. **He said:** "Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*)

What is the **GP**? (*The good news about Jesus. He died, was buried, and rose from the dead.*)

How did **JC** leave the earth? (*Rose up into the clouds*)

While the **AOGs** were trying to get a last glimpse of **JC** in the clouds, who spoke to them? (*Two angels*)

What did the **AGLs** say after **JC** went up into the clouds? (*They said not to be sad because Jesus would come back again someday in the clouds.*)

Wrap up your discussion with a prayer thanking God for sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins. Amen. Engage. Make it So!



BOLD SPACE FACT

Before astronauts can take a walk in space they have to take a dip in the world's largest swimming pool to train for their mission. Talk about water play day!



Spaceship Craft

**BOLD
COMMISSION**



BOLD FACT:
God wants us
to share the
Good News.

7521

BIBLE STORY:
The Great
Commission

0441

BIBLE VERSE:
Matthew 28-
19-20

8912

VBS-2014

How many of you want to open your special envelopes from Commodore Kris? Well I think now that you've heard today's lesson, you are qualified to handle what's inside. In fact, I'll bet it won't be long until you are promoted from cadet to ensign!

Open up the package. Inside there will be a bunch of envelopes, each with a number 1 through 4 on them. Give each cadet one envelope, but they are not to open it until you tell them. Then tell them that, depending on which number they have, they are to gather in four groups and go sit at one of the four special work areas you set up earlier.

For example you might say:

We're going to separate into groups. If your envelope has a #1 on it I want you go to this area of the room. All the #2 envelopes will go to this area. All the #3's will go to this area and, #4's go over there.

Then hand out the Earth circle posters and decorating materials to each group. Once that is done, tell the cadets they can open up their envelopes and read the special instructions inside. Based on what they read, they are then to begin working on their assigned project, which is to decorate the back of their Earth posters with phrases and images representing the "Bold Commission" they are agreeing to undertake. Make sure you and your class helpers are ready to assist the students if they get "stuck." Encourage them to do their best as these posters will be displayed for their parents and everyone in the church to see during the Commissioning Ceremony beginning at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

Onboard Game/Activity

As noted earlier, you may not have time to finish the Bold Commission posters after the lesson and before Water Play day. In that case, finish the posters after you return to your spaceship classroom. On the other hand, if you do wind up with some bonus time toward the end of the morning, please come up with a game to play until it is time to return the Main Bridge for the Daily Closing Briefing.

We suggest you consider repeating a favorite game from earlier in the week, or pick a classic favorite on your own.

Commissioning Ceremony

The Friday night closing event for VBS-2014 will be a Commissioning Ceremony. A final mission briefing and space adventure will take place in the Main Bridge, beginning promptly at 6:30 p.m., at which all of the cadets will earn their right to officially join God's crew and take their posts aboard the USS Fellowship. After this time of singing, dancing and stories, all cadets – along with their friends and family – will move to their spaceship classroom for the official commissioning ceremony.

Your job will be to host the commissioning ceremony for your cadets, with the highlight being when you present each member of your crew with a pin of the official insignia of the USS Fellowship. You can make this as quick and simple as you want – or you can go wild and get everyone cap and gowns, hire an orchestra to play "Pomp and Circumstance," and invite U.S. Senator (and one-time Shuttle astronaut) Bill Nelson to provide a commencement address.

In any case, be sure to make it special and give each member of your crew their own recognition as they are promoted from cadet to ensign. Maybe have them all repeat/recite an oath in which they promise to serve faithfully on God's crew?

Close your "graduation" event with prayer, and then spend some time with everyone showing off your spaceship and the work your crew has done throughout the week.

THE STAR GAZER

**NOTE TO ALL COMMANDERS:
ALL NEWS ITEMS FOR
NEXT STAR GAZER
ARE DUE TO COM
BY 2 P.M. TODAY.
TEXT: 3216980591
E-MAIL: VBS2014@AOL.COM**

FD05



0716

SIMULATION:
HOLODECK COMPUTER EXTRAPOLATION
OF USS FELLOWSHIP CADETS AS THEY
MIGHT APPEAR SHORTLY AFTER EARN-
ING THEIR ENSIGN PINS AND GC
CREW ASSIGNMENTS.



DAY ONE

DAY TWO

DAY THREE

DAY FOUR

DAY FIVE

BOLD
BEGINNINGS

BOLD
CALLING

BOLD
UPRISING

BOLD
FORGIVENESS

BOLD
COMMISSION

COM/NAV

5193



0554

2997

VBS-2014

EXPEDITION SPACE

Exploring God's Awesome Universe

**“Therefore go and make
disciples of all the nations!”
Matthew 28:19**

“Dear God, as I prepare for VBS this year, please give me strength and wisdom to boldly share your love with my young cadets, and show them how they can join your crew to continue the mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ throughout your awesome universe.”

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