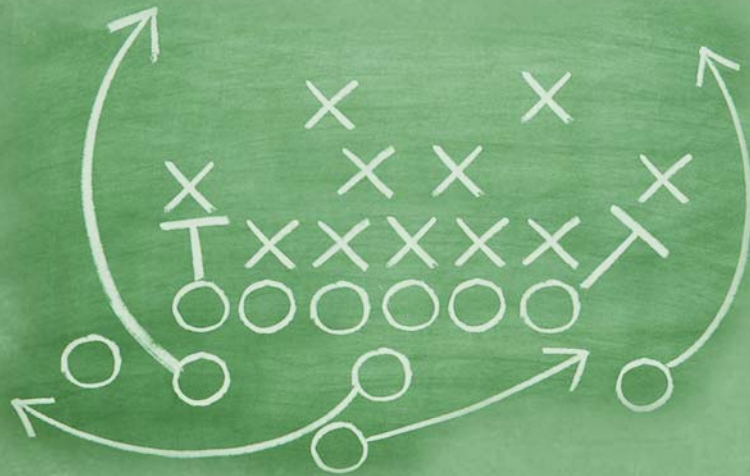


VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



PART I
INTRO

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

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



Welcome to the 2017 VBS All Star Games.

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

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

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

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



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

How to Read these Lesson Plans

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

...A crown that will last forever."

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

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

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

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

Starting Lineup

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

Kickoff

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

Game Day

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



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

VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



MONDAY



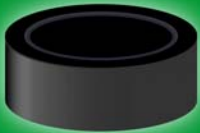
TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



The Scoreboard

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



Goal!

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

(Time Out!)

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



Extra Point

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

...A crown that will last forever."

Play Book at a Glance

MONDAY

From Pit to Power...
Joseph exercises forgiveness.

Genesis 50:15-21



"Forgive each other."
Colossians 3:13

God's Champions Exercise Forgiveness

TUESDAY

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

Numbers 13-14



*"I have finished
the race."*
2 Timothy 4:7-9

God's Champions Run With Their Faith

WEDNESDAY

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

Judges 4:1-23



*"The LORD himself
goes before you."*
Deuteronomy 31:8

God's Champions Help Others Succeed

THURSDAY

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

John 1:29-42



*"Take up his cross
and follow Me."*
Matthew 16:24

God's Champions Listen to Their Coach

FRIDAY

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

Acts 16:1-5



*"Proclaim the gospel
to the whole creation."*
Mark 16:15

God's Champions Train More Athletes

Presented by your total VBS sports network



VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



MONDAY



TUESDAY



WEDNESDAY



THURSDAY



FRIDAY



Daily Schedule

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

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

VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



PART II

DEVOTIONS



Devotion for Joseph

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. Joseph had to endure hatred.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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

3. Joseph had to endure an empty pit.

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

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

4. Joseph had to endure slavery.

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

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

5. Joseph had to endure temptation.

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

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





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

6. Joseph had to endure false accusations.

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

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

7. Joseph had to endure being forgotten.

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

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

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

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

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

Conclusion:

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

The Lord Is With Us In Our Pits.

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

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

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





thrown into prison.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So, how are you enduring your pits?

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Scripture References are from the King James Version.

www.juliabettencourt.com

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Day 2 Caleb Devotion

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

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

Numbers 13 and 14 – Faithful Spy

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

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

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

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

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





Joshua 14 – “Give me this mountain!”

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

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

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

Joshua 15 – Caleb the Giant Slayer

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

Faithful Man

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

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

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

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





Day 3 Deborah Devotion

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

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

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

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

Fearless in Battle

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

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

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

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

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

Marching Orders

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





you?" (Judges 4:14).

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

Grand Finale

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

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

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

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

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

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



Day 4 Devotion – Andrew

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Ephesians 4:1-3)

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

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

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

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Day 5 Devotion – Timothy

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

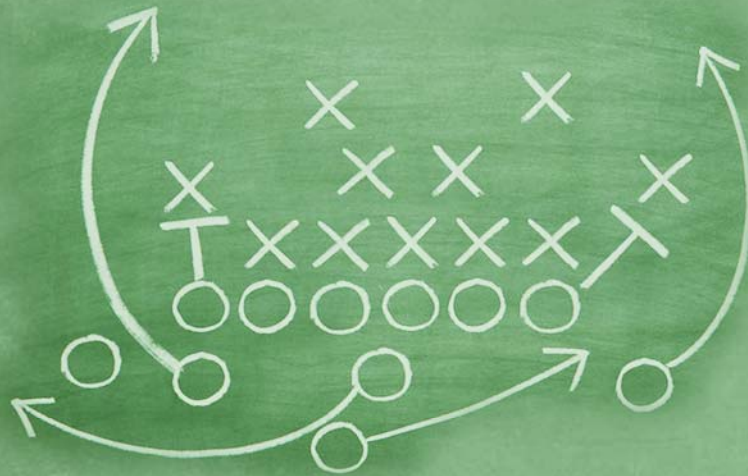
Paul says Timothy had a “genuine faith,” the same as that which lived in his mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:1-5). Eunice and Lois prepared Timothy to accept Christ when he heard of Him by teaching him the Old Testament Scriptures and preparing him “from infancy” to recognize the Messiah when He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

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

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



VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



PART III
LESSONS

NOTES

MONDAY

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**



**From Pit to Power
Joseph Exercises Forgiveness**



**“Forgive each other.”
Colossians 3:13**





Starting Lineup

- 1 coffee filter per child, watercolors, newspaper, marker to write their names
- 1 popsicle stick per child, 1" white construction paper circle (for his head), yarn for hair – cut to about 1" in length, marker, glue, tape
- Paper, crayons or markers
- Coloring sheets
- Before class starts, draw a happy face on each of the white circles.
- Cover tables with white butcher paper or newsprint
- Set out watercolor paints and cups of water
- Brushes
- Two large cutouts of a robe
- Two long strips of paper with today's memory verse
- Newsprint or butcher paper to cover the tables



Make sure you cover the tables and set out the water colors, brushes and coffee filters before the players come to class.

Tape the two "robe" cutouts to the wall making sure you do not tape the painted wall.

Get your CD ready to play the exercise song

Kickoff

Every day you will begin class by playing the exercise song with all of your players. It will be song # 1 on your VBS 2017 CD. Please make sure you have your CD cued and ready to start before the class enters your locker room.

Play and sing the exercise song.

Watercolor Coffee Filter – Instruct the children to use the watercolor paints to paint a coffee filter...let it dry...and it will be used later in the lesson. Make sure that you attach each child's label on their coffee filter so that you will be able to give them their own filter later. You might want to set the painted filters in another part of the classroom or outside of your classroom in the hallway to dry.



EXERCISE FORGIVENESS



ROBE RUN

Show the players the two robe outlines in your class. Divide the class into 2 teams. Tell the players they will run a relay taking turns coloring ONE stripe with colored marker or crayon of his/her choice and then run back to the team for the next player to run to the coat designated for their team, add another color to the next stripe and repeat until all of the stripes have been colored in.

The Scoreboard

Today's memory verse is loosely from Colossians 3:13, modified for the younger audience. "Forgive each other."

After each robe has been colored, tape the words of today's memory verse to each coat and have the class repeat the verse a few times.

Forgive each other.

What does forgiveness mean?

Wait for a few responses.

Are you ready to hear God's Word?

Wait for the response.

I can't hear you!

Are you ready to learn how to be champions?

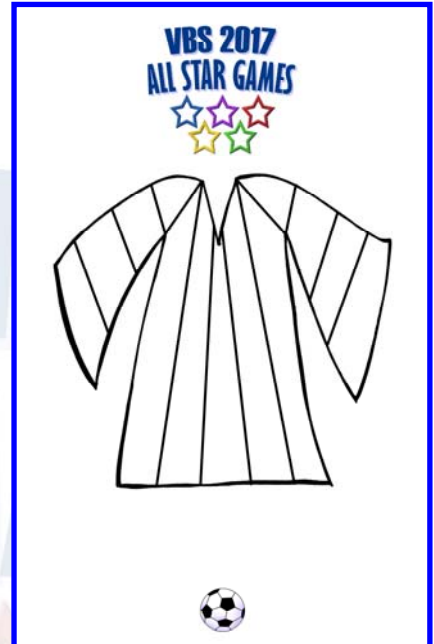
Wait for the response.

Louder!

Are you ready to learn about Joseph?

Wait for the response.

Great! Let's get started.



Extra Point

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

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



Game Day

How many of you have brothers or sisters? Have you ever had an argument or fight with one of them? Have you ever wanted something that your brother or sister had but your parents said you couldn't have it?

Well, in our Bible story today, we're going to learn about some brothers who were not very kind to each other.

This reminds me of a story in the Bible about a boy named Joseph. Our story is found in the book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible.

(Hold up the Bible and turn to Genesis.)

Jacob, Joseph's father, had twelve sons. Of all his sons, he loved Joseph best because he was born to him in his old age. To show how much he loved Joseph, he made him a beautiful coat that had many colors. Joseph's other brothers didn't get a beautiful coat to wear.



Joseph's brothers were jealous because it showed that he was his father's favorite son.

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

"Let's kill him and throw him into a pit and say that he was eaten by a wild animal."

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

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



EXERCISE FORGIVENESS



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

When Joseph arrived, his brothers grabbed him, ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing, and threw him into the pit. Then they sat down to eat their dinner. As they were eating, they looked up and saw a caravan of merchants coming their way. They were on their way to Egypt.

"What will we gain if we kill our brother? Let's sell him to these merchants instead."

So when the merchants came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him up out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver.

The brothers began make up a story to tell their father. They killed a goat and smeared its blood over Joseph's coat of many colors. They took the bloody coat back to Jacob and said to him.

"We found this bloody coat in the wilderness. Look at it and see if it is Joseph's coat."

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

What a terrible thing for Joseph's brothers to do -- just because they were jealous of their brother. I hope that we would never do anything so terrible, but we can learn from this story that jealousy can cause us to do things that will hurt other people.

Extra Point

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

(Time Out!)

Continue the story after craft/recreation.

Can anyone remember how our story ended before the break?

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



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Guess what? The story of Joseph and his brothers is not over yet. Our Bible story has a very happy ending.

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

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

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

The brothers finally stood in front of Joseph. Although they did not recognize him, Joseph knew who they were.

What do you think Joseph did next? Did he punish them for being mean to him many years before? Did he put them in prison for their wickedness? No!

Instead, Joseph said to them, "You don't recognize me, but I am Joseph. I forgive you for all the evil things you did to me. You meant to harm me, but God meant it to serve for my good and the good of others. Don't worry; I won't harm you."

What a lesson we can learn from Joseph! Although his brothers hated him, Joseph still loved them. Instead of harming them, Joseph simply forgave them. We should follow Joseph's example and always forgive those who harm us.

Just as Jesus died on a cross to forgive all the bad things we do, so we should also forgive those who do wrong to us. That's the sign of a real champion!

Extra Point

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



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



The Scoreboard

At the beginning of class, you made a beautiful painting with watercolors. We are now going to turn that into Joseph's colorful robe.

Give each child a Popsicle stick and their watercolor coffee filter from the Kickoff Activity.

1. *Help the children poke their Popsicle stick through the center of their coffee filter.*
2. *Help the children tape their coffee filter onto their Popsicle stick as Joseph's robe.*
3. *Have the children glue the Bible Verse onto Joseph's robe.*
4. *Have the children glue Joseph's head onto the Popsicle stick.*
5. *Help the children glue yarn onto Joseph's head for hair.*

Hold up one of the crafts.



Goal!

Everyone hold up your Joseph craft and say our memory verse for today.

Forgive each other. Colossians 3:13 *Repeat a couple of times.*

If you have extra time you can hand out today's coloring page and let them color before time to go. If you don't have time to color today, you can either send the page home today with the players or set them aside to go into their "take home" bags on Friday night.



VBS 2017 ALL STAR GAMES



TUESDAY

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**



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



**"I have finished the race."
2 Timothy 4:7-9**





GOD'S CHAMPIONS

Starting Lineup

- CD with VBS songs cued to the opening song
- Grape pom pom balls
- Grape cluster paper
- Glue
- Picture cards of grapes, honey, milk, giants, walls.
- Magnifying (spy) glasses, 1 per student

Before the players come to class, hide the cards around the room.



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Kickoff

Welcome everyone back to the class.

Begin with the opening song.

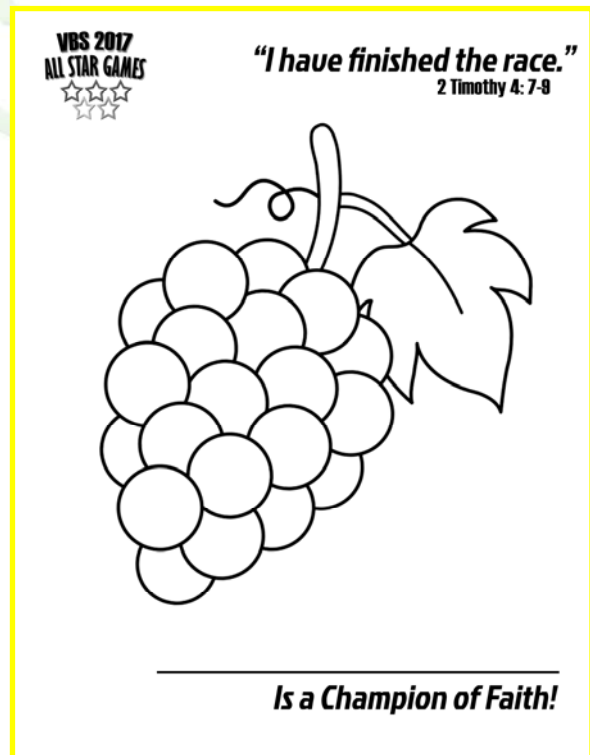
Today we're going to make something fun!

"Bunch of grapes" activity:

Players will:

1. Glue the purple pom pom's onto the grape cluster paper.
2. Color the green leaf and brown twig..
3. Write their names on their paper above "Is a champion of faith."

When they have finished with the activity put the papers somewhere to dry. You might want to put them in the hallway outside of the classroom.



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

RUN WITH THEIR FAITH



Game Day

Today our story is about a very brave man named, Caleb. We are going to see that Caleb was a real champion of faith!

How many of you know the story of the Israelites that escaped from a bad man named Pharaoh? Pharaoh had kept the Nation of Israel in a country called Egypt for many years. The Israelites were forced to be Pharaoh's slaves.

One day God told Moses, his leader, that he would rescue the Israelites and set them free from Pharaoh. God rescued them by parting the Red Sea and allowing all the people to walk through the parted water to safety.

God also promised Moses that He would give them a land that would be their home.

The Israelites walked a long time in the desert that was on the other side of the Red Sea. After two years the Israelites reached the land that God had promised to give them.

Our story begins today when God spoke to Moses and gave Moses directions for 12 spies.

How many of you know what a spy does?

(Wait for a few responses. Have your helpers pass out the spy glasses.)

As you listen to the story today, I want you to hold up your spyglass when I get to the part where God tells Moses what He wants the spies to look for in the land.

Use your spyglass and hold yours up to demonstrate what you want the players to look for. The underlined words will help you.

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

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

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

Extra Point

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

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



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

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

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

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

But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people. They are stronger than we are." The men spread a bad report about the land among the people of Israel.

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

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

Why do you think the people were crying?

They were afraid of the people in the land of Canaan. They said there were giants who lived in the land and the giants would kill them!

What were some of the things that the spies found in the land of Canaan?

Grapes, high walls, huge people

Why did Caleb tell the people that they would be able to conquer the land of Canaan?

The Lord is with us. So nothing can save them. Don't be afraid of them.

Lead your players in answering these questions:

What do you think happened at the end of the story?

Do you think God protected Caleb and the people of Israel?

Do you think God protected them and made it safe for them to live in Canaan?

Does God always keep his promises?

Collect the magnifying glasses and save them for later.

Extra Point

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



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

RUN WITH THEIR FAITH



The Scoreboard

I'm going to pass out the crayons and coloring sheets for today.

Review the Bible lesson while they are coloring.

What did the 12 men show the people that they brought back from the land?

(The fruit of the land, grapes.)

How big were the people in the Promised Land?

(Giants)

How many men came back to Moses and gave him a bad report about the land?

(10)

What were the names of the two men who told Moses and the people not to be afraid of the people in the land?

(Caleb and Joshua)

Do you think God was happy with the people who were afraid to go into the Promised Land?

Do you know why God was unhappy with the people?

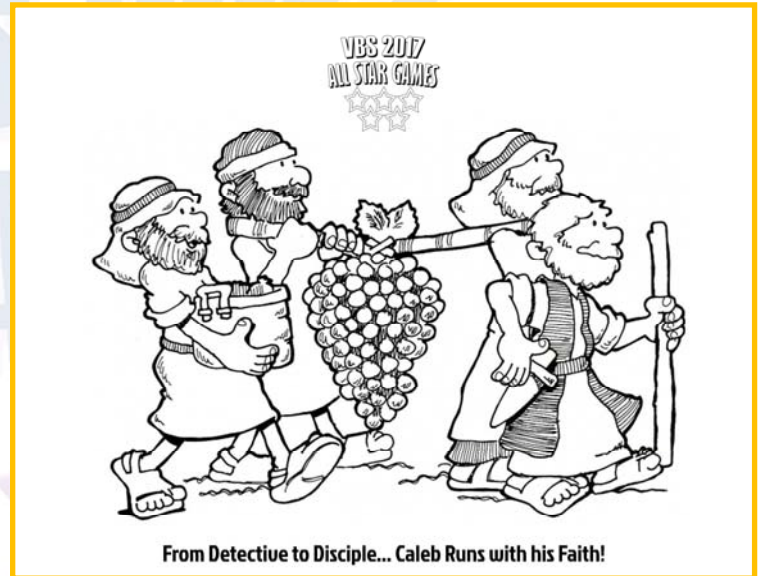
(He was unhappy because the people did not trust God to keep them safe. God had already promised the people of Israel that they would be safe when they conquered the people in the Promised Land. But the people did not trust God and were punished because of their sin.)

Only Joshua and Caleb and those under 20 years old would see the new land.

How sad! Now the people had 40 more years of wandering in the wilderness all because they didn't trust God. We can learn a lesson from Joshua and Caleb.

They knew the people of the new land were powerful, but they also knew that God would be with his people. They trusted in God, just as we should trust in God.

And just as God promised to be with his people, so he has promised to be with us. No matter what the problem. Just like Caleb was a champion of faith, we can be champions of faith too!



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



Goal!

Get the players into groups of four.

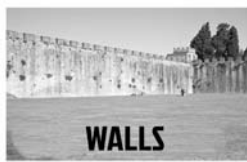
Let's play a game of "I Spy."

Hand out the spyglasses again.

There are some cards hidden around the room and I want to see if you can find them.

Let each group have a turn finding the cards. Make sure the assistants help the players find the cards. I spy something purple. I spy something yellow, etc. Continue the game until each group has had a chance to find a set of the cards. Make sure they only take one card per color until they have found all five colors.

Take one card from each group and put the daily Bible verse together on a wall or somewhere visible. Have the players repeat the verse several times.



NOTES



WEDNESDAY

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**



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



**"The LORD himself
goes before you."
Deuteronomy 31:8**





Starting Line Up

Supplies needed for Palm tree craft:

- One paper plate for every two children in the class
- Brown tree trunks
- Green handprint "palm fronds"
- Glue
- Light Brown crayons/markers
- Deborah cut-out
- Two copies of the Deborah/Barak skit
- Coloring pages



Kick Off

Play and sing the exercise song.

Today we're going to make a palm tree craft that's going to help remind of a story about a champion in the Bible named Deborah.

Pass out the craft.

Directions:

1. Trace each child's left and right hands on the green paper
2. Either cut out the handprint or have the class players cut out their handprints.
3. Glue the handprints to the brown palm tree trunk
4. Have each player color their plate light brown
5. Glue the palm tree onto the plate
6. Glue the cut out of Deborah under the palm tree.
7. Make sure you label each player's craft.





Game Day

Yesterday we talked about Caleb and how he stood up for what was true and right. Caleb was a great leader of the Israelites. Caleb helped the people of Israel go into the Promised Land and build homes and places to worship God.

One of the things God told his people was they could not serve any other gods. But some of God's people decided that they would serve other gods too. After the Israelites got into the Promised Land of Canaan they were faithful to God as long as men like Joshua and Caleb were alive.

But very soon after the mothers and fathers of the Israelites stopped telling their boys and girls about God and His power. All the wonderful miracles happened before they were born, and their parents and teachers failed to teach them about Him.

The adults did not follow God's command. They did not get rid of the idols and altars that the people had built for their false Gods. Soon God's own people were worshipping idols, too.

(You may need to briefly pause here and make sure the kids know what an idol is.)

This made God very sad and angry. God told them that He would not fight their battles for them anymore, so their enemies began to capture them. God's own people ended up being slaves again.

But God did not forget the Israelites. When their suffering got so bad, they would cry out to God. They would say, "Please God, please help us! We're sorry we started worshipping other idols and we don't want to be slaves anymore."

So do you know what God did? He listened to His people and He began to raise up judges to deliver them. Today we're going to learn about a woman named Deborah who became judge over her people in Israel.

Extra Point

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

Barak (*Pronounced BEAR-ACK*)

Ehud (*pronounced EH-HOOD*)

Jabin (*Pronounced YAH-BIN*)

Hazor (*Pronounced HA-zor*)

Sisera (*Pronounced SIS-er-uh*)

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

Lapidoth (*Pronounced lap-pee-DOTH*)

Ramah (*Pronounced RAY-muh*)

Ephraim (*Pronounced EE-fray-ihm*)

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

Tabor (*Pronounced TAY-buhr*)

Kedesh (*Pronounced KEE-dish*)



GOD'S CHAMPIONS

God raised up Deborah to be judge after the people had been treated harshly by King Jabin of Hazor. God spoke to Deborah under her palm tree. God told her to send for a man named Barak and tell him to take ten thousand soldiers to Mount Tabor. There he would fight against King Jabin's army.

When Deborah told Barak to lead God's army, he refused to go by himself.

Let's take a look at what happened when Deborah gave Barak God's message.

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

Barak: Come in. Oh, hi Deborah.

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

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

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

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

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

Barak: Nope! Go find someone else.

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

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

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

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

Extra Point

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



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

HELP OTHERS SUCCEED



Barak gathered the ten thousand Israelite soldiers together on Mt. Tabor and Deborah went with him. Down below in the Keshon Valley was Sisera, with all his chariots and men. Sisera thought he would get rid of the Israelites quickly.

When everything was ready, Deborah gave the signal, “Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has delivered Sisera into your hand. Has not the Lord gone out before you?” Then Barak charged down the mountain, followed by his soldiers.

When they reached Sisera’s army below, God had made Sisera’s army so confused about everything that the Israelites defeated them easily with their swords. Deborah, Barak and the Israelite soldiers had won the battle for God!

Scoreboard

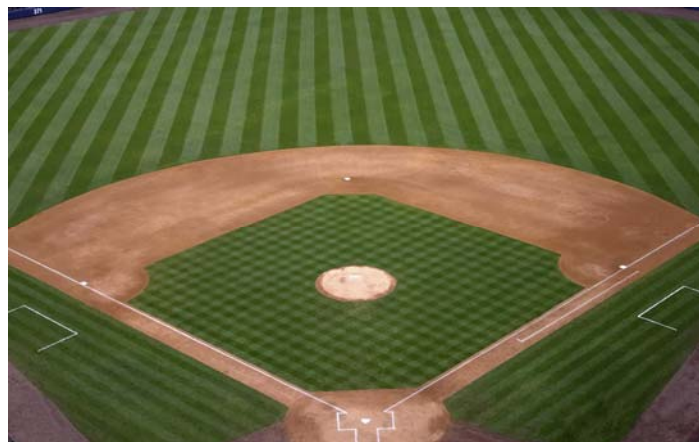
Today’s shortened Bible verse for the younger audience is from Deuteronomy 31:8. “The Lord Himself goes before you!”

Now we’re going to practice our memory verse for today. I want everyone to remain seated. When I give the command, “Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has delivered Sisera into your hand,” you will stand up and yell back to me, “The Lord Himself goes before you!” Let’s practice.

Have the players practice, then, repeat this activity a few times. Then have them add “Deuteronomy 31:8” and march around the room with you leading the group giving the call, “Up! For this is the day in which the Lord has delivered Sisera into your hand,” and have them respond with the verse.

Goal!

If there is extra time, the students can color the coloring sheet for today’s lesson.



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

THURSDAY

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**

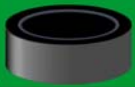


**From Fisherman to Follower
Andrew listens to the coach.**



**"Take up his cross
and follow me."
Matthew 16:24**





Starting Lineup

- CD with VBS songs cued to the opening song
- Fish template
- Tissue paper bits
- Crepe paper streamers
- Googly Eye Stickers
- "Fishing poles" with magnets
- Fish with paper clips
- Glue
- Coloring page



Kickoff

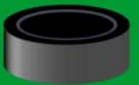
Welcome everyone back to the class.

Begin with the opening song.

Tissue paper fish craft.

1. *Hand out the fish template.*
2. *Hand out tissue paper bits.*
3. *Instruct the students to glue tissue paper to the fish.*
4. *When they have completed the fish, hand out the streamers, a few per player.*
5. *Hand out the googly eyes.*
6. *Attach name label.*
7. *When the fish are dry, attach the memory verse to the back at the end of the day.*





Game Day

How many of you have ever been fishing? Today we're going to learn about a champion named Andrew. His coach was Jesus. And Jesus taught Andrew how to be a disciple. Let's listen to our story.

There once was a man named John the Baptist. He was an unusual man who wore strange clothes and ate odd food like grasshoppers. John went around the countryside telling everyone that Jesus was coming and they should get ready for him.

One day as John was teaching the people, who do you think stopped by? It was Jesus. John looked at Jesus and said to the crowd, "Look, here is the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world." John meant that Jesus would die on a cross to take away our sins.

Andrew was one of the people in the crowd. He was a fisherman. He was curious who Jesus really was, so he decided to follow Jesus, hoping to speak to him. Soon Jesus turned around, and there stood Andrew. Jesus asked, "What do you want?"

Andrew said that he wanted to learn more about Jesus. Jesus smiled and invited him to a house where they could talk.

Andrew listened carefully to what Jesus had to say. Andrew learned that Jesus was indeed the Son of God and that he had come to die for the sins of everyone.

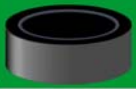
That was just what Andrew wanted to hear. He was so happy to have met Jesus that he ran to tell his brother, Peter. Peter and Andrew both became followers of Jesus.

A short time later when Andrew and Peter were back home working at their fishing business, Jesus again came to them. This time Jesus told Andrew and Peter to drop their nets and leave their boats behind.

From then on they would be fishing for men. In other words, they would share the message of Jesus with everyone they met. Peter and Andrew would now be Jesus' special followers.

Extra Point

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



Can we become followers of Jesus too? When we say that we believe in Jesus as our Savior, we promise to follow Jesus, because we know that he will lead us to heaven. We follow Jesus when we obey what he has to say. We also follow Jesus when we tell others about his love and forgiveness.

We have many opportunities to be followers of Jesus, just as Andrew did. Team Jesus is made up of followers of Jesus!

Do you know what a coach does on a team? What happens when soccer players don't listen to their coaches?

(Briefly give kids time to answer and discuss.)

Well Jesus was like a coach to Andrew. He taught Andrew how to listen to God's directions and then Andrew taught other people how to listen to God. If you want to be on God's team you have to let Jesus and God be your coach!

If you run out of time, you can play the fishing game on Friday morning after the opening song.

The Scoreboard

How many of you want to play a fishing game?

While some players are fishing, the others will be attaching the memory verse labels to their fish from earlier and can color the coloring sheet for today.

Call up groups of four to "fish". Scatter the fish with the paperclips onto a small area of the floor. Have the players stand around the "fishing pond" and let them "fish" for one fish. Collect the fish and keep each group's fish separated. At the end of the game when everyone has had a chance to fish, read the word on the back of the fish and see if each group has enough words to make the memory verse. If the group is missing one or more words, fill in the other words.

Goal!

Practice the memory verse. Refer to the directions above.

"Take up his cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24



FRIDAY

**VBS 2017
ALL STAR GAMES**



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



**"Proclaim the gospel
to the whole creation."
Mark 16:15**





Starting Lineup

- Football templates
- Yarn pieces
- White crayons
- Memory verse

Kickoff

Welcome everyone back to the class.

Begin with the opening song.

Game Day

I know you are all really excited about Waterday but we need to do a few things before you go outside.

What does it mean to be a leader?

(Allow kids to answer and discuss.)

What does it mean to be a follower?

(Allow kids to answer and discuss.)

Today we're going to learn about a man named Timothy and his friend, Paul.

The Bible tells us that Timothy only lived a little while after Jesus ascended into heaven. What does it mean when I say Jesus ascended into Heaven? In our story Timothy is just a young man, perhaps only a teenager. Do you know any teenagers?

(Allow kids to answer and discuss.)

Timothy lived in Lystra with his father, his mother Eunice and his grandmother, Lois. Eunice and Lois spent many hours teaching Timothy about God and reading the Bible to him. Young Timothy loved to learn about God just as you are learning about God right now.

There was a church in Lystra that was started by a preacher named Paul. What's our preacher's name?

(Allow kids to answer and discuss.)



Extra Point

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



TRAIN MORE ATHLETES



Paul traveled from town to town starting new churches. He was called a missionary. Once, while missionary Paul was visiting the church in Lystra, he met Timothy. He liked Timothy very much and noticed that Timothy knew the Bible well.

Paul asked Timothy if he would like to become a missionary too. Paul wanted to take Timothy along on his travels to faraway cities, sharing the Word of God.

Timothy packed his bags and left his parents and grandmother behind. Do you think that was hard for Timothy to leave his family and go travel with Paul?

(Allow kids to answer and discuss.)

Have you ever gone any place to visit someone and had to leave your mom and dad?

(Allow kids to answer and discuss.)

Sometimes it can be a little scary, right?

(Allow kids to answer and discuss.)

Timothy spent the rest of his life traveling to different places and telling everyone about Jesus. How do you think Timothy kept from being so sad?

(Allow kids to answer and discuss.)

Do you think it was hard for Timothy to be away from his family for so long?

(Allow kids to answer and discuss.)

But Timothy had Paul to help him. Paul became like Timothy's big brother. Timothy knew that following Jesus and telling others about Jesus and God was the best thing for him to do with his life.

We can learn a lesson from Timothy. Even though we may never be asked to become a missionary to faraway places, we can still be missionaries right in our own homes and neighborhoods.

Timothy was a real champion because he lived his life as one of God's children. He wasn't afraid to tell others about Jesus. We should be like Timothy. We have the same good news to share that Timothy did. We can tell everyone that Jesus died for our sins and one day we will go to heaven to live with him forever.

Extra Point

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

(Matthew 17:24-25)

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



The Scoreboard

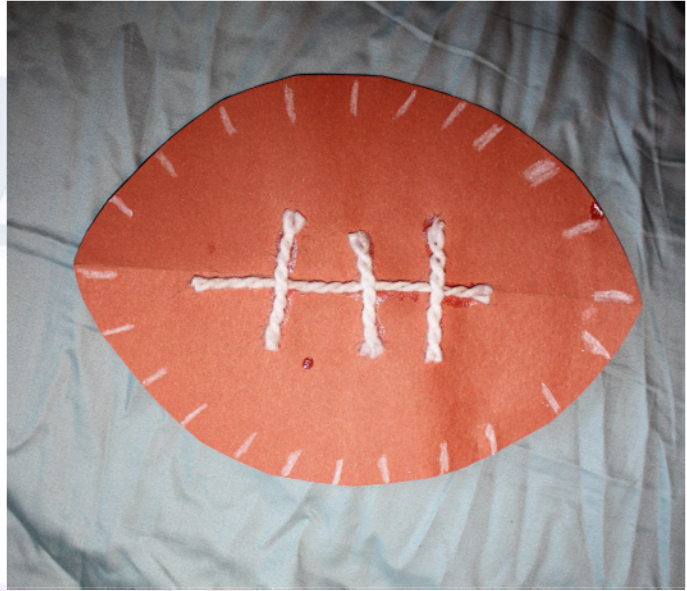
Football craft

Use the template provided.

Instruct the players to decorate one football with the yarn provided. The long piece of yarn glues onto the center down the middle of the football and the three shorter pieces of yarn are glued across the large piece, as shown in the picture. Instruct the students to draw the strings on the sides of the football with white crayon.

Next attach the memory verse to the back of the football. Make sure you label each players football.

Set the footballs aside to dry.



Goal!

Play "Follow the Leader." You can either take the players outside or you can play in your classroom and have them follow you around. You can also "coach" them to do simple exercises like "repeat the memory verse standing on one foot," "repeat the memory verse by jumping up and down," etc. Be creative. Emphasize that good followers pay attention to their leaders. If you want to, you can have one of the players be a leader. Like Timothy, you're never too young to be a good leader for Jesus!

Memory verse. **"Proclaim the gospel to the whole creation." Mark 16:15**

If you have extra time you can color the coloring sheet for today, play the fishing game again, etc.

Make sure you pack up each player's bag with crafts, extra coloring pages, etc. for the week. Enlist everyone's help today so that you'll be ready for tonight.

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

