

## God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

### Director's guide

Be creative. There are plenty of ideas but no set program.

Objectives –

Children will be encouraged to:

- experience the presence of God through sharing many multisensory activities and stories
- experience different cultures and ideas through traditional games, music, crafts, music, stories, cooking and trying new foods
- recognize the church as a welcoming place
- Share the fun of being church together

Responsibilities –

Ensure safety and comfort of each child

Determine where daily offering will be given

Encourage each child to participate in their own way but don't force active participation. Encourage parent participation as well.

Determine dates, times, and rotation schedule that works best for your church. Choose countries to be studied.

Recruit volunteers (including assembly leaders, rotation leaders, small group counselors, registration, decoration, publicity, greeters, photographer, etc)

according to their skills and talents and support them along the journey

Communicate plans, problems, & successes with pastor(s) and other leaders

Ideas-

Create an inviting atmosphere with decorations and music

Look through multicultural activity books at the library

Consider a multicultural celebration during your regular worship or the evening following the final day of VBS

**Decorations** - flags, suitcases with bumper stickers, maps, tour agency posters, clocks with times from various time zones, and a large background map which can be added to each day and perhaps used again every year!

Specific country ideas –

Prepare worksheets for each country being studied. Have a cover sheet with information on each country including a map, flag, some interesting facts, names of missionaries and partners there, and some words in the language spoken there.

Consider other media as well: free-puzzles.net (make your own word search), printableMaps.net, [www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk), and others

## God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

### Assembly Leader(s), opening and closing

Be creative. There are plenty of ideas but no set program.

Objectives –

Children will be encouraged to:

- Celebrate the presence of God thru worship and gathering activities
- experience different cultures, ideas and scriptures
- learn some basic facts about the country being “visited” each day including our partner organizations associated with Global Ministries
- recognize the church as a welcoming place
- Share the fun of being church together
- Identify that God’s love is everywhere!

Responsibilities –

Ensure safety and comfort of children

Encourage all children to participate

Recruit volunteers in cooperation with VBS directors as needed

Work with music rotation leader to coordinate songs and music

Consider showing videos when appropriate

Dress the part of a mission explorer, tour guide or similar position

Ideas–

#### **Opening Assembly**

Collect offering, which can be danced to the front, early as otherwise money may be lost or cause unnecessary distraction

Help children imagine a very long plane ride by having them close their eyes. Name specific areas that will be crossed over such as oceans, mountain ranges, continents, etc.

Consider having a large world map which can be marked with the day’s destination and added to each day

See page 32 of Journey to India for further ideas

#### **Closing Assembly**

Keep it simple; intersperse some music, briefly review the day and memory verse, encourage one group to share each day, and include a prayer.

Remember that this may be some children’s’ (and parent’s) first experience with worship. Children can march down the flag representing the day.

## God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

### Music

Be creative. There is no set music program.

Objectives –

Children will be encouraged to:

- experience the presence of God through music.
- experience different cultures and ideas through music
- share the fun of music with others
- learn songs that are used in worship and at church camp as well as other songs appropriate to theme

Responsibilities –

Lead singing during opening and closing worship

Learn and teach songs (movements) to youth helpers

Find music from countries being studied

Assist with dramatic presentations as needed

Recruit volunteers in cooperation with VBS directors

Supervise music volunteers

Ensure music area is cleaned up each day

This is a half rotation; children will share a snack together after the music portion is complete

Begin singing when first person arrives

Ideas-

Rhythm games, singing, hand motions, instruments, dancing, marching, ribbon waving, and puppets

Play music from other countries/areas

Look through multicultural music books and CDs at the library

Specific country ideas

Monday -

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday -

Friday -

# God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

## Crafts

Be creative. There is no set craft program.

Objectives –

Children will be encouraged to:

- experience the presence of God through art.
- experience different cultures and ideas through art
- share the fun of hands on crafts with others by placing more emphasis on creating crafts than on finished projects

Responsibilities –

Collect supplies needed for craft projects

Prepare parts of projects ahead of time as needed

Recruit volunteers in cooperation with VBS directors

Supervise craft volunteers

Ensure craft area is cleaned up each day

Ensure children are able to take crafts home when completed

Prepare appropriate crafts for each age group at VBS

Ideas-

Consider playing quiet music in background while working on art

Display famous or not so famous artwork from selected country

Look through multicultural art/craft books at the library for ideas

Specific country ideas

Monday -

Tuesday-

Wednesday -

Thursday -

Friday -

# God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

## Games

Be creative. There is no set games program.

Objectives –

Children will be encouraged to:

- experience the presence of God through movement and play.
- Experience different cultures and ideas through games
- Share the fun of and play with others

Responsibilities –

Assemble supplies for each game/activity

Have plan for inclement weather

Prepare appropriate games for each age group at VBS

Recruit volunteers in cooperation with VBS directors

Supervise games volunteers

Ensure game area is cleaned up each day

Clearly explain each activity and guide children in playing safely

Ideas-

Look through multicultural game books at the library for ideas

Great activities that can be adapted to any country or culture include: bubbles, sidewalk chalk, “painting” outdoor surfaces with water, and obstacle courses using objects that relate to the day’s theme.

Specific country ideas

Monday -

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday -

Friday -

# God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

## Story

Be creative. There is no set story program.

Objectives –

Children will be encouraged to:

- experience the presence of God through stories, relationships and sensory experiences.
- Celebrate Jesus' gift of storytelling
- Experience different cultures and ideas through story
- Share the mission stories of our church
- Identify and begin to understand who “your neighbor” is by hearing stories about our partner churches and organizations

Responsibilities –

Dress the part and include other props as appropriate. Brightly colored shawls or leis are welcome gifts from India for example

Learn the story so you can speak without a script

Welcome children as special visitors from another country

Consider showing video clips from the Global Ministries website or use some of their videos or other appropriate media

Play music from the country being studied that day

Consider activities such as simple games

Try to meet someone who has been to each country and speak to them about their experience

Ideas-

Look at [www.Globalministries.org](http://www.Globalministries.org) for recent updates on missionary stories, partner organizations, and opportunities/news.

Consider mats, carpet squares or other seating for children

Pray each day using different prayer methods including: having children repeat the lines said by the leader, every child says one thing for which they are thankful, or have one person pray while others have heads bowed.

Specific country ideas

Monday -

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday -

Friday -

## God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

### Cooking

Be creative. There is no set cooking program.

Objectives –

Children will be encouraged to:

- experience the presence of God through being in the kitchen together and hands on discovery.
- experience different cultures and ideas through traditional recipes and cooking together

Responsibilities –

Encourage all children to participate in some way

Make snack for each group to eat during the next rotation

Recruit volunteers in cooperation with VBS directors

Supervise cooking volunteers

Ensure safety of each student with regard to hot and sharp items

Ensure cooking area is cleaned up each day

**Review list of food allergies prior to VBS and each day with kids prior to beginning activity in cooking area**

Ideas-

Consider making food that can be sent home and let the snack rotation leader know if there will be no snack provided by the cooking rotation on any certain day

Look through kid friendly multicultural recipe books at the library for ideas

Specific country ideas

Monday -

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday -

Friday -

## God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

### Snack

The cooking rotation will prepare a snack for each day

Objectives –

Children will be encouraged to:

- experience the presence of God through sharing a snack together
- Experience different cultures and ideas through traditional recipes and trying new foods

Responsibilities –

Snack may be combined with another rotation such as music or story. Past experience has demonstrated that having snack after, rather than before, the combined activity is preferred

Speak with cooking rotation staff to ensure you have an appropriate plan to deliver snack.

Ensure you have service ware (plates, bowls, napkins) needed

Recruit volunteers in cooperation with VBS directors

Supervise snack volunteers

Ensure safety of each student with regard to hot/warm foods

Ensure snack area is cleaned up each day

**Review list of food allergies prior to VBS and each day with kids prior to beginning snack**

Ideas-

Consider playing music in background while eating

Create a fun atmosphere with tablecloths, placemats, eating on floor, or traditional meal settings such as a tea party

Specific country ideas

Monday -

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday -

Friday -

## God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

### Preschool

Be creative. There is no set preschool program.

Objectives –

Children will be encouraged to:

- experience the presence of God through sharing many multi sensory activities and stories
- experience different cultures and ideas through traditional games, music, crafts, music, stories, cooking and trying new foods
- recognize the church as a welcoming place
- share the fun of being church together and begin to form relationships with the adults and children present

Responsibilities –

Ensure safety and comfort of each child.

Recruit and supervise volunteers in cooperation with VBS directors. Ask parents to consider volunteering for a day or more.

Encourage participation of each child but don't force active involvement

Consider which rotations/activities are appropriate for this age group and go to these centers or have them come to your room

Plan alternate activities for preschool group when rotations are not appropriate for their age group.

Consider combining snack with story

Allow plenty of time for organized as well as free play

Ideas-

Create an inviting atmosphere in the classroom; consider music, decorations, books, games from other countries, etc.

Look through preschool multicultural activity books at the library

Speak with a preschool teacher for ideas, resources and advice

Great preschool activities that can be adapted to any culture/country include: salt dough or clay creations, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, water color painting or simply painting outside with plain water.

Specific country ideas

Monday -

Tuesday -

Wednesday -

Thursday -

Friday -

# God is Everywhere! VBS 2010

## Small Group Counselors

Be creative and treat the children in your group as a family

### **Family groups –**

Recommend up to 10 kids (multiage or all the same age) per group. Consider having a color and name for each group. Have them make a poster or flag for their group.

Each group will have a medium size tent as a home base and will meet there each morning. The children will learn about the day's theme and culture a bit before progressing through the day. Below are activities to consider for each day.

- Getting to know each other games
  - **Spider Web** – throw ball of yarn from player to player saying one thing about themselves. May progress to saying something they like about the person receiving the yarn.
  - **Name Game** – Have each person say their name and something they like that begins with the same letter. There are many variations.
  - **Yard Stick Lift** – Have each person tie a piece of yarn a bit above the ½ way point of the yard stick. Ask one person to try to lift the stick straight up with the bottom on the floor. They can't do it. Have 2 people try. Maybe they can do it. Now have everyone try. Wow, it works. What if one person lets go? We all have to work together to get the job done.
  - **Can Do Cans** – Have children write or draw things they have learned that they can do to share God's love or help others. Put them in a can labeled Can Do Can.
  - **Follow the Leader** – Everyone does what the designated leader is doing
- Prayer chain or tree – Children write or draw their prayer for the day and add it to the prayer chain or tree.
- See page 47 of Journey to India for listening guide
- Assist with making and using VBS books/journals for each student. Have school supplies available in each tent
- Hand out name tags at the beginning of each day and collect them at the end of the day
- Present idea that children in each country have the same kinds of feelings, hopes, dreams, and concerns as they do. Discuss how their lives might also be different (poverty, illiteracy, family, respect of elders, school)
- Present local greeting, traditions, history, flag, look at maps, talk about climate
- Review Bible verse/lesson point, memory verse
- Ensure all students get to each rotation safely and on time. Assist rotation leaders by participating in each rotation activity.

**Remember** - The relationship you form with the children in your family group could be the first way somebody comes to understand the love God has for them and each of us!