

VBS Recommendations for 2018

SPLASH CANYON: God's Promises on Life's Wild Ride (Concordia Publishing House)

Theme Focus:

Life is full of thrills and spills; we may not know what's around the bend, but God does and is faithful to His promises! God provides salvation through Jesus and gives life and hope.

Lesson Themes:

- ◆ God Is with Baby Moses in the River – God is with us!
- ◆ God's People Enter the Promised Land – God gives us life!
- ◆ God Heals Naaman in the Jordan River – God is faithful!
- ◆ God Saves Paul from the Sea – God gives hope!
- ◆ God's Yes Is Jesus: Jesus Is Baptized – Jesus is our Savior!

Kit Comments:

Lessons demonstrate a high view of Scripture, a balance of Law and Gospel, and Christ-centeredness. A strength of this kit is the consistent focus stated in the introduction: "After the craft and glue dries, the decorations come down, and the snacks are all eaten, the only thing that matters is that the children in your VBS leave knowing their need for a Savior and that Jesus Christ alone is that Savior." Every lesson indeed deals with sin and our need of a Savior and teaches what God has done for us in Christ. Leaders should always be sensitive to giving opportunity in lessons for students to confess their sin and receive forgiveness and providing opportunity for those who may not have been baptized and are not Christians to believe and receive Jesus the Savior.



TIME LAB: Discovering Jesus from Eternity Past to Eternity Future (Answers in Genesis)

Theme Focus:

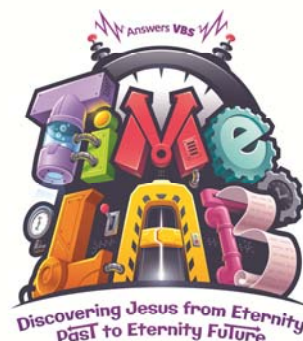
Imagine traveling through time and meeting the most important man ever—a man who was not just a man but also God, who exists outside of time and turned the world upside down.

Lesson Themes:

- ◆ Destination: Creation – Jesus Before and At Creation (Eternity Past to c.4000 BC)
- ◆ Destination: Christophany – Jesus in the Old Testament (4000 BC to 4 BC)
- ◆ Destination: Visitation – Jesus in the New Testament (4 BC to AD 33)
- ◆ Destination: Preparation – Jesus Now (AD 33 to Now)
- ◆ Destination: Celebration – Jesus in the Future (Eternity Future)

Kit Comments:

Overall a strong Gospel focus with an emphasis on our sin and need of a Savior and the truth that Jesus is God. Lessons dig deeper into some less familiar biblical concepts such as God exists outside of time and Christophanies. Also, the New Creation is taught clearly in contrast to how eternity is often portrayed in error as the end being merely some ethereal, heavenly, out-of-body experience. AIG always uses the slogan "Admit, Believe, Forever Receive," which can be perceived as eternal security. Teachers will want to articulate that God will never leave us, but believers can choose to turn away from God.



SHIPWRECKED: Rescued by Jesus (Group Publishing)

Theme Focus:

Venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive.
Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms.

Lesson Themes:

- ◆ When you're lonely . . . Jesus rescues!
- ◆ When you worry . . . Jesus rescues!
- ◆ When you struggle . . . Jesus rescues!
- ◆ When you do wrong . . . Jesus rescues!
- ◆ When you're powerless . . . Jesus rescues!

VBS used by AFLBS
Summer Ministry Teams



Kit Comments:

The concept of Jesus rescuing us is a good and strong biblical theme. But the Bible lesson for Day 1 ("When you're lonely . . . Jesus rescues") is an unfortunate misapplication of the biblical text of Luke 15—parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son. For churches who use this kit, the lesson must be rewritten. Applications should follow those clearly given by Jesus in the biblical text. These parables are about sinners repenting, about the lost being found—a perfect opportunity to teach about sin and grace and to call students to believe in Jesus. Also, lessons regularly refer to sin only as the "wrong things we do" and do not acknowledge our sinful nature. Leaders can use Scripture such as Psalm 51:5 and Ephesians 2:3 to teach our natural spiritual condition.