



Elementary Crew Leader Guide



What's a Crew Leader?

If you've been asked to be a Crew Leader, you've met two important qualifications: You love the Lord and you love children. During Cave Quest VBS, you'll visit different activities with a group of three to five children. *You're not in charge of preparing or teaching activities; you just get to be there and help kids enjoy them as you shepherd the members of your Crew.* Because your Crew is small, you'll get to know and affirm each one by asking questions, really listening, and being encouraging.



This isn't from *our* field test but from a VBS director who frequents our online forum. She reminds the Crew Leaders that some of the kids at VBS might not ever hear a kind or affirming word. She encourages her Crew Leaders to speak God's love to *each child*. This director says it makes a huge difference in the way Crew Leaders treat and speak to the kids. Wonderful idea!

Cave Quest Gear

Bible Memory Buddies®

Each day during KidVid™ Cinema, you'll give each kid in your Crew a Cave Quest Bible Memory Buddy and help kids slide the Buddies onto a carabiner that will easily attach to kids' clothing or personal items to go with them wherever they go. Each Buddy has the day's Bible verse written on the back, plus the Buddies include a FREE cool app that lets the Bible Memory Buddies come to life before your very eyes!

Download the FREE Cave Quest Bible Buddies app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. Then just keep the app open, and lay one of the Bible Memory Buddies on a table a few feet away from you. Point your device at it (as if you're going to take a picture)...and watch what happens!



Bible Quest Maps

Kids love this take-home that includes clues about the next day's Deep Bible Quest. Here's how they work:

- ➔ Each day's unique Bible Quest Map inspires kids to dig into their Bibles at home and apply Scripture to their everyday lives!
- ➔ Bible Quest Maps spark exciting conversations about Cave Quest VBS with friends and family!

The Deep Bible Quests Leader will show the Bible Quest Maps to kids and give enough to each Crew Leader for everyone to have one. You'll keep these in your Crew bag, and then you get to hand them out to each Crew member during Cave Quest Closing to take home. Bible Quest Maps are intentionally woven into Cave Quest VBS as a fun and personal way for kids to connect to Scripture.



Who's Who in the Crew

During their first Sing & Play Rock session, kids will choose Crew jobs. Each child will have one of the jobs listed in the chart. If children can't agree on who should perform each of the jobs, assign jobs to kids for Day 1; then rotate jobs each day so that by the end of the week, all children in the Crew have had an opportunity to do each job. The name badges also list these Crew roles on the back. If your Crew has fewer than five kids, some kids may have more than one job. Kids are excited about having special jobs. Encourage them to fulfill their roles, and provide lots of opportunities for them to do so.

Jobs	Duties
Guide	chooses action ideas for traveling through Cave Quest VBS (such as crawling, tiptoeing, or pretending to be bats)
Materials Manager	distributes and collects supplies and helps carry the Crew's bag
Prayer Person	leads or opens prayer times
Schedule Supervisor	helps monitor the daily schedule to let the Crew know what's coming next
Thank You-er	leads the Crew in thanking Station Leaders each day

The Crew Family

Every member of your mixed-age Crew adds something to every activity.

I've just completed third grade.

I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be challenged. I can help younger members of my Crew with challenging projects.

I've just completed fifth grade.

I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to make choices. I can help younger Crew members with tasks and help the Crew Leader guide everyone in showing Jesus' love.

I've just completed fourth grade.

I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to ask questions. I can help my Crew ask questions to make sure we understand what we're learning.

I've just completed kindergarten.

I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I have a great imagination. I can help my Crew dive into each Bible adventure!

I've just completed first grade.

I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be the best. I can help encourage my Crew to be the best it can be.

I've just completed second grade.

I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I want everything to be fair. I can help make sure we all take turns and treat one another fairly.



Top 4 Crew Leader Tips

Participate!

- ➔ Sing the songs and do the motions.
- ➔ Play the games.
- ➔ Be curious in Imagination Station.
- ➔ Use your imagination in Deep Bible Quests.
- ➔ Share your own God Sightings.
- ➔ Give your own insights during KidVid Cinema.

Support the Station Leaders.

- ➔ Quickly form knee-to-knee circles for Crew discussions.
- ➔ Listen to each Station Leader, and encourage kids to listen too.
- ➔ Put the Crew bag out of the way during activities.
- ➔ Be enthusiastic.

Lavish your attention on the kids.

- ➔ Turn off your cellphone—you can contact your friends *after* VBS!
- ➔ Use kids' names in kind and loving ways.
- ➔ Use eye-to-eye contact.
- ➔ Be an active, tuned-in listener during discussions.
- ➔ Give hugs or high fives throughout the day.
- ➔ Be there for the kids as they arrive. Get there early. Check with your VBS Director to see when he or she would like you to arrive each day.

Be positive.

- ➔ Model the behavior that you want kids to have.
- ➔ Positively acknowledge kids' answers to questions. Rather than saying "No...that's the wrong answer," say, "Thanks for sharing. Anyone else have thoughts?"
- ➔ Smile! Have fun!



Use Positive Words Like These:

- Let's keep moving so we can do as many fun activities as possible.
- Listen carefully so you'll know what to do next.
- Stay with the Crew; we need your help in this activity!
- That's a unique way of doing things! How did you think of that? Let's try it this way.
- It's important that we all follow the instructions and work together as a team.
- Please move over here so you can see better.
- Let's all sit in a circle so we can see and hear one another better.
- Those Buddies sure are cool! Let's keep them put away so we can hear about this next activity.

What to Do If...

Most of the time, things will go smoothly for your Crew, but every once in a while, you may run into a dilemma. Here's some advice on how to handle different challenges.



If my Crew won't stay together...

Encourage your Guide to come up with creative ways to travel. Or work with your Thank You-er to come up with cheers to say as you travel.

If I have a clique in my Crew...

Cliques can make the Crew experience unhappy for the outsiders. Encourage friendships among all Crew members by pairing kids with partners they don't know very well during games and other activities.



If older kids are unhappy being grouped with mixed ages...

Highlight their helping role. Encourage them to help younger kids with snack preparation and other activities. Acknowledge them by telling younger kids, "[Name of older child] is really good at that. Why don't you ask him [or her] to help?"

If a Crew member won't participate...

Help shy children feel welcome by calling them by name and asking them questions directly. Respond to their questions with a smile and a statement such as, "That's really interesting!" Also try giving children special jobs. For example, assign them the task of finding a place for your Crew to sit at each station.

If someone doesn't want to participate in Spelunker Sports & Games, that's okay. Cave Quest VBS can be tiring! Let children rest until they're ready to participate.

If people in my Crew don't get along...

Quietly take the children aside. Tell them you've noticed that they're not getting along. Let them know that although they don't have to be best friends, they do have to be together all week, so things will be a lot more fun if they can at least be kind to one another. (Use the daily Bible Points for these teachable moments!)



If I have an overly active child...

Pair this child with yourself during partner activities, and suggest that he or she sit with you during quiet times. Try to make sitting still a game by saying, "Let's see how long you can sit still without interrupting. I'm timing you. Ready? Go!" If those suggestions don't work well enough, ask your Director if you could have an assistant Crew Leader to help the child focus and participate.

If my Crew gets too big...

Cave Quest VBS is a blast, so it's likely that kids will want to bring friends. However, the activities at Cave Quest are designed to work with a mixed-age Crew of no more than five kids. If you have a small Crew, you'll welcome a few additional friends into your Crew family. But if your Crew grows past five children, talk with your Cave Quest VBS Director as soon as possible. He or she will need to form a new Crew so kids can have the best experience possible.



What Do I Do at Each Station?



Sing & Play Rock is where kids worship by singing upbeat action songs. Your job at Sing & Play Rock is to

- greet your Crew members in your designated seating area.
- follow the motions, and sing out loud.



Cavern Café is where Crews come for a tasty snack. Your job at Cavern Café is to

- gather your Crew in a designated area.
- help your Crew focus on the Cavern Café Leader as he or she explains the snack.
- lead kids in discussing how the snack connects to the day's Bible verse by following a helpful handout.
- help kids clean up your area before leaving.



Imagination Station is where kids can experiment, play, and discover as they use amazing Sciency-Fun Gizmos! Kids also learn about Operation Kid-to-Kid in this station. Your job at Imagination Station is to

- listen carefully to the instructions because you'll most likely need to repeat them for some members of your Crew!
- use *your* imagination and share your curiosity as kids explore their gizmos. It's time to play!
- help kids complete their activities (*only* when they need help).
- help clean up your area before leaving.



Spelunker Sports & Games is where kids play team-building games. (One day of VBS your Crew will skip games to help make treats for the entire VBS!) Your job at Spelunker Sports & Games is to

- listen carefully to the instructions so you can help your Crew members follow them.
- participate in each activity, and cheer on your Crew members as they participate.
- participate during one day's game time in a "photo shoot" for the day's Spotlight VBS slideshow (a customized slideshow featuring the kids and leaders at Cave Quest VBS)!



KidVid™ Cinema is where kids watch a daily video of *real* kids who are following Jesus as they face life's challenges. Your job at KidVid Cinema is to

- encourage kids to tune in and watch the video.
- lead your Crew in participating in the activities before and after the video.
- lead kids in discussion when it's called for. (Expect surprising insights and answers from kids. And don't be afraid of deep, personal conversations—those are where impact and transformation happen.)
- give kids the special Bible Memory Buddies each day.



Deep Bible Questions is where kids experience the Bible story. Your job at Deep Bible Questions is to

- line up with your Crew outside the door.
- listen carefully to hear how Crew Leaders should help out that day.
- encourage Crew members to participate.
- share your own discoveries during discussion times and your excitement during each Bible adventure.

In KidVid Cinema, kids will discuss real-life topics like getting lost, being frightened during a storm, and getting along with family members. Don't worry! Each of these is handled in a kid-appropriate way. The kids in your Crew may share very real experiences with you. Don't feel like you have to have all the answers! Use the Bible Points to reassure kids that Jesus is a light for us during hard times.



Cave Quest Closing is where kids experience an exciting review of the day's lesson. Your role at Cave Quest Closing is to

- lead kids to your assigned seating area.
- participate in singing and other activities.
- remind your Crew to participate without being rowdy or disruptive.
- make sure each child leaves with his or her Sciency-Fun Gizmo and Bible Quest Map.
- collect Crew members' name badges and Bible Memory Buddies and store them in your Crew bag.

DAY 1 Jesus gives us hope.

Prophets foretell the light of the world.
(John 1:1-34; Isaiah 9:2)

As You Read, Keep in Mind...

- ➔ Throughout the Bible, God sent prophets to foretell future events, especially in proclaiming the coming Messiah. These claims would be nothing unless they had actually come true. Imagine someone today trying to make a prediction that would come true over 700 years from now. How amazing that more than 700 years in advance, prophets like Isaiah foretold about Jesus as the light of the world! Jesus fulfilled all of these prophecies *exactly*. Only God can fulfill promises like that!
- ➔ Think of John the Baptist's role like a preview before the movie, announcing that Jesus was coming soon. John the Baptist knew that he himself was not the "feature film," but rather "he was simply a witness to tell about the light" (John 1:8). Jesus is the true light of the world—the main event!
- ➔ Hope is confident patience that God will carry out what he has promised. Although they struggled to have "confident patience," God's people definitely *hoped* that the promise of a Messiah would come true, and it did! We can have hope that God will fulfill his promises made in the Bible to us, just like he fulfilled his promises then.



Why It Matters...

Kids today can feel hopeless in the troubles they face and those they see around them in the news and other social media. They may not understand why a good friend has to move away, why pets get sick, or why loved ones die. Wars, pollution, and even natural disasters can make kids feel hopeless. No matter how dark life seems, Jesus is the source of light and hope for *our* world today! Jesus gives us hope that God loves us enough to give his greatest gift—and is still in control when the world seems to be in chaos. Shine God's light to the kids at your VBS today with a bright smile and encouraging words of hope!

➔ **Key Verse:** "O Lord, you alone are my hope." (Psalm 71:5)

Day 1

Bible Point: **Jesus gives us hope.**

God Sightings®

Every day at Cave Quest VBS, kids and leaders will share evidence they've seen of God. We call these *God Sightings*, and they're an easy, practical, and powerful way to help kids realize that God is still active in our everyday lives. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

Today help kids share about something God has provided that gives them hope. Here are a few examples:

- ➔ Talk about a beautiful rainbow after a storm.
- ➔ Suggest Bible verses and songs that tell about Jesus' love for us.
- ➔ Point out a finger, toe, elbow, or ankle where you've had an injury, and show that it healed. Thank God for making our bodies able to heal from our hurts.



Sit in knee-to-knee circles for discussions. Call on kids by their Crew role. For example, say, "I'd like our Guide and our Prayer Person to answer the next question."



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A God Sighting is *not* "I see God in that tree." A God Sighting *is* "I see God's creativity and power because only God can make a tree." God Sightings are seeing things that God has created, allowed, provided, done, or revealed to us.

Wrap-Up Questions: Pass the Splash

Ask:

- ❓ What did you think was going to happen to the squishy water-filled bag as we tossed it around the circle?
- ❓ What made tossing the bag exciting?

Say: We couldn't know for sure when the bag would break, but it was exciting waiting for the cool splash of water! That exciting feeling of waiting for something good is a lot like hope. Having hope means we know something good is coming—even if we don't know for sure when or how.

Wrap-Up Questions: Hopeful Hops

Ask:

- ❓ What made it hard to get to Salamander Pool with a full cup of water?
- ❓ What's something you had to do last week that didn't go the way you hoped it would? Maybe it rained on a day you were hoping to play outside or you lost a game you thought you'd win.

Say: There are a lot of good things we can hope for, kind of like what we were trying to do today to fill up Salamander Pool. Things don't always go exactly the way we hope they will, but that doesn't mean it's silly or wrong to have hope.

Bright Ideas From Your Director

DAY 2 Jesus gives us courage.

Jesus and Peter walk on water.

(Matthew 14:22-36)

As You Read, Keep in Mind...

- ➔ Jesus and Peter walked on the Sea of Galilee, which is actually a lake. Peter would have been familiar with this area...it was the same location where Jesus first called Peter and his brother Andrew to be his disciples (Matthew 4:18-20). The Sea of Galilee is also where Jesus forgave Peter after his denial (John 21:1-19). How significant that one lake could set the scene for Peter's journey of faith and discipleship!
- ➔ Peter often took the lead among the disciples, venturing out as their bold, ready-for-action spokesperson (Matthew 16:15-18, 17:4, John 6:67-69). His name means "rock," and even though he sank like a stone when he stopped looking at Jesus, he was the only disciple courageous enough to ask Jesus for the chance to walk on water.
- ➔ Because the Sea of Galilee is surrounded by steep hills, strong winds and storms commonly (and suddenly) emerge there. When fierce winds rush down from the nearby valleys to the center of the lake, a violent storm abruptly arises, like it did that night for Jesus and Peter. The only two men to ever walk on water in all of history weren't walking on calm waters. Instead, Jesus gave Peter the courage to follow him out into the storm!



Why It Matters...

Peter courageously stepped out of the boat to walk with Jesus but quickly sank when he stopped looking to his friend and focused on the storm instead. Kids, too, are familiar with the fear that accompanies life's "storms," whether they're the kind with thunder and lightning or more traumatic events such as divorce, death, and bullying. The children at your VBS need to know that in the midst of those hard times, Jesus is always right by their side to give them courage. And when children bravely step out in faith, Jesus will be there with open arms, ready to catch them. Today's activities will encourage children to rely on Jesus for his strength and courage whenever they're afraid.

➔ **Key Verse:** "Take courage. I am here!" (Matthew 14:27)

Bible Point: **Jesus gives us courage.**

God Sightings®

God Sightings are a great way to help kids see that God is active all around us. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

Today, help Crew members identify something God has provided that brings us courage. Here are a few examples:

- ➔ Be thankful for our families and friends who encourage us when we are sad or frightened.
- ➔ Thank God for favorite stuffed animals that make us feel better when we're scared.
- ➔ Thank God that we can talk to him at any time and that he is with us always.



As a Crew Leader, you are the chief God Sightings encourager! Have fun with your Crew members as you look for God in action each day.



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Wrap-Up Questions: Brave Bouncing

Ask:

- ❓ What was it like to bravely face the ball as it fell toward you?
- ❓ Tell about a time you were brave or you were really scared.
- ❓ What are some ways Jesus can help you be brave when you're scared? Share a simple example from your life first to help kids think of ways Jesus can help them be brave.

Say: Sometimes it's hard to be brave but it helps to know Jesus because **Jesus gives us courage. (Follow him!)** You can always ask Jesus for courage whenever you're afraid or not sure what to do.

Wrap-Up Questions: Tremble & Shake Tag

Ask:

- ❓ What did you like about the Encourager in our game?
- ❓ Who are people that encourage you?
- ❓ What about Jesus makes him an amazing Encourager for us?

Say: Jesus helps us get past our fears and be strong. And it's awesome how Jesus can help us not only be strong for ourselves but for others, too—we can be encouragers!

Bright Ideas From Your Director

DAY 3 Jesus gives us direction.

Jesus sheds light on how to live.
(Matthew 5-7)

As You Read, Keep in Mind...

- ➔ The Sermon on the Mount is one of Jesus' most well-known teachings. After seeing Jesus heal and hearing him teach, many people eagerly gathered to listen to Jesus! They were intrigued by the way Jesus "taught with real authority" (Matthew 7:29). He didn't need to cite references or other scholars. Jesus spoke with certainty and confidence, covering practical issues that many people faced.
- ➔ The Bible notes that Jesus sat down as he explained the meaning of the law. Sitting was actually the customary practice of preachers and teachers at the time. How cool would it be to sit down and learn at Jesus' feet?
- ➔ Jesus begins his sermon with a series of blessings we now call the Beatitudes. The promises he gave here may have seemed scandalous at the time. Jesus blessed the kind of people that society would have never expected—those who mourn, the poor, and the persecuted. Jesus' words would have gone against the popular beliefs of the time and may still seem counterintuitive to our idea of happiness today.



Why It Matters...

Children may receive mixed ideas about what is right or wrong. Friends, parents, teachers, and even social media sources don't always agree, and the resulting message can be confusing. Kids want to know which way to go in this dark, confusing world. In a post-modern culture that decides its own truth, Jesus provides us with the real truth and the most fulfilling way to live. He gives us direction so we can know what's right. In the Sermon on the Mount (and throughout the Bible), Jesus sheds light on which direction we can take to follow him. In preparing for today's activities, reflect on times that God has helped you make the right decision. Then remind the kids at your VBS of the many practical ways Jesus gives us direction—through reading the Bible, prayer, and talking with Christian adults they trust. You could be that person for a child today!

➔ **Key Verse:** "He will show you which path to take." (Proverbs 3:6)



Bible Point: **Jesus gives us direction.**

God Sightings®

Keep looking for evidence of God all around us. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

Today, help your Crew members look for evidence of God's directions for our lives. Here are a few examples:

- ➔ Thank God for the Bible, which tells us how to be kind and loving toward others.
- ➔ Thank God for family members and teachers who can give us good advice.
- ➔ Point out songs from Sing & Play Rock that remind us to follow Jesus and light up the world.



Wrap-Up Questions: Scipmylo (Backwards Olympics)

Say: **Wow! Doing everything backwards isn't easy!** Ask:

- ① **Which event was your favorite, and why?**
- ② **Which event do you really wish you could try again, moving forward instead of backward?**
- ③ **How do these backward Olympics remind you of times it was hard to do something or you were learning something new?**

Wrap-Up Questions: Dash in the Dark

Ask:

- ① **What was it like not knowing for sure if you were going to get soaked in the cave pass?**
- ② **In this game, you got extra wet if you didn't follow my directions. What can happen in real life if we don't follow God's directions?** Lead with a simple example such as we might say mean things.
- ③ **What good things can happen when we follow Jesus' lead of doing what God wants us to do?** Lead with a simple example such as making other people's lives better by showing them God's love.

Bright Ideas From Your Director

DAY 4 Jesus gives us love.

Jesus dies and comes back to life.
(Luke 23:1-24:12)

As You Read, Keep in Mind...

- ➔ In his final moments on the cross, Jesus cried out, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" (Luke 23:46), which is from Psalm 31:5. During Jesus' time, Jews used this verse as an evening prayer before they went to sleep. What beautiful words for Jesus as he voluntarily gave up his life, and what a beautiful prayer for us today to surrender each day to him!
- ➔ Jesus was buried in a "new tomb carved out of rock" (Luke 23:53). This could have very likely been a cave! Extra measures were taken by the religious leaders to ensure that Jesus' tomb was completely sealed shut. This darkest cave of death had no way out at all! They wanted to make sure nothing could get in...or out.
- ➔ You might say that Jesus' specialty is providing the way out when there is none! Besides Jesus, there are at least eight other individuals whose resurrections are recorded in the Bible—not including the many after Jesus' death (Matthew 27:52-53). God's power, not their own power, raised all eight of these people from the dead. These individuals were just temporarily restored to their earthly lives, and later they all died again. Jesus' resurrection is unique! His resurrection came from his own power as God, and he is the only one who never died again!



Why It Matters...

In a world so broken from sin and its consequences, children may sometimes think that love is tied to their behaviors. When kids do wrong things, they may even feel like they are loved less. Or they may feel like they have to earn more love by following the rules and being good. But Jesus' love is completely unconditional. He died and came back to life again to prove the full extent of his forgiving, healing love for us. We have his love simply because we exist, not because we deserve it. As you prepare for VBS today, say 1 John 3:16 with your name in place of "us." Consider Jesus' personal love for you and for the kids who come to your VBS. Look for ways to affirm God's unconditional, unchanging love to the kids you encounter.

➔ **Key Verse:** "We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us." (1 John 3:16)

Bible Point: **Jesus gives us love.**

Helping Children Follow Jesus

During the week, if you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to believe in Jesus, give this simple explanation:

God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. If we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. If we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s).

God Sightings®

God Sightings can help children discover that God is doing amazing things all around us every day!

Today, help your Crew members think of God Sightings that show God's love for us. Here are a few examples:

- ➔ Be thankful for the world—God gave us a big, beautiful home full of *amazing* creation!
- ➔ Praise God for sunny summer days full of fun and activity with our friends.
- ➔ It's the ultimate God Sighting—Jesus! God sent his only Son to take the punishment for *our* sins.



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Wrap-Up Questions: Kindness Sticks

Ask:

- ❓ What was your favorite part of the game?
- ❓ Why did imagining the cotton balls were supplies to help a family fix their home make the game more fun?
- ❓ Tell about a time you helped another person in real life and what you liked about it.

Say: The family we were helping in our game was a pretend family, but the families we're helping through Operation Kid-to-Kid this week are real! Any money we give will buy supplies families can't afford on their own to fix their homes so they have a safe place to live. Our kindness to these families can show them that **Jesus gives us love (Follow him!)** and cares about all of us.

Wrap-Up Questions: The Squeeze Shuffle

Ask:

- ❓ What happened if you didn't stay close to your partner during the game?

Say: Jesus is the best friend and partner we could ever ask for! Jesus is God's powerful Son, and **Jesus gives us love. (Follow him!)** Jesus wants to stay close to us and give us love, no matter what kind of tight squeeze or trouble we might get into. Ask:

- ❓ Why do you want to have Jesus close to you?

Bright Ideas From Your Director

DAY 5 Jesus gives us his power.

Jesus ascends and empowers his followers.
(Acts 1:1-11)

As You Read, Keep in Mind...

- ➔ There are two important reasons for Jesus' ascension. First, the event marked the end of Jesus' earthly ministry; second, it marked the beginning of the Holy Spirit's ministry through each one of us. In a sense, Jesus allows us—his followers—to continue what he started!
- ➔ As Jesus went up into heaven, "he was taken up into a cloud" (Acts 1:9). This cloud is meant to symbolize the shekinah, which is the Hebrew word for "the dwelling of God." Throughout the Bible, God revealed his invisible presence in a visible way—like the pillar of cloud that led the Israelites by day and the cloud around the mountain at Jesus' transfiguration. The cloud at Jesus' ascension is a reminder that God is always with us!
- ➔ After Jesus' ascension, one of the first tasks his disciples carried out was finding a replacement for Judas. The man chosen had to be an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry from the time of his baptism by John to his ascension. Matthias, whose name means "gift of God," was selected to serve alongside the other eleven. God provided this gift of another disciple to share his power in spreading his love!



Why It Matters...

Power is a big thing for kids—they emulate super heroes who have amazing power, read about fictional kids who receive supernatural powers, and even play games based on characters with special powers. While they may not have those superhero abilities, they do have God's power, and his is the strongest of all! As he promised in his last words before ascending to heaven, Jesus has given all of his followers—even kids—the awesome power to share his love! We have the same power that brought Jesus back to life right inside of us! At VBS today, draw on God's power to make sure every child knows about the life-changing love of Jesus!

➔ **Key Verse:** "Our great power is from God, not from ourselves." (2 Corinthians 4:7)

Bible Point: **Jesus gives us his power.**

God Sightings®

Today, help your Crew members think of ways we can use Jesus' power to be God Sightings to others and shine Jesus' light. Here are a few examples:

- ➔ We can encourage our family and friends to treat each other with thoughtfulness.
- ➔ We can invite friends to church or Sunday school.
- ➔ We can help out with chores around the house before being asked.

Thank You to You!

Thanks for all you've done to help children learn about the light Jesus brings to the world and to each one of them!



- Find out if the kids in your Crew have age-appropriate Bibles or Christian music at home. Talk with your VBS Director about providing these basic resources for kids.
- Continue building friendships long after VBS is over. Fill out the "All About My Crew" information on each Crew member. After VBS, you'll be able to send postcards and birthday cards and greet kids who attend your church.
- Give each child his or her Bible Memory Buddies and other fun goodies from Cave Quest VBS.
- Thank your VBS Director for all he or she has done to demonstrate God's awesome, loving power to the kids in your community!

Wrap-Up Questions: Use Your Noodle

Ask:

- ① Why did this game take some brain power?
- ② What are other times we use our brain power to find the best choices?

Say: God gave us some amazing brains to help us make good, wise choices! And Jesus, God's Son, always makes the best choices. **Jesus gives us his power (Follow him!)**, and that means whenever we're not sure what do, we can ask Jesus to share his wisdom and power with us to help us find the best choice. Thanks, Jesus!

Wrap-Up Questions: Operation Sponge Home

Ask:

- ① Tell what you liked most about building the sponge home.
- ② What about our game reminded you of our Operation Kid-to-Kid project?

Say: The money we've given to Operation Kid-to-Kid is kind of like adding bricks or boards to a family's home that needs repairs. **Jesus gives us his power (Follow him!)** so we can show amazing kindness to others, and that's exactly what we did this week through Operation Kid-to-Kid! Celebrate Jesus' power and Operation Kid-to-Kid with high fives in your Crew.

Bright Ideas From Your Director

All About My Crew

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

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