



Supplies:

Bible

glow-in-the-dark stars (1 for each volunteer, plus 2 extras)



Charged Up

Bible Point: When life feels dark... (*shine Jesus' light!*)

Bible Story: Jesus comes as a baby to be king.
(Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-2:12)

Bible Verse: "Jesus...said, 'I am the light of the world.'" (John 8:12)

Ahead of time, conceal one glow-in-the-dark star in your pocket or another dark place, and charge another one in bright light.

SPACESHIP TIP

You can find inexpensive glow-in-the-dark stars at discount stores like Walmart.

SAY

Welcome to Stellar VBS! When a rocket launches into space, that's the result of a long time of planning and preparing for that mission. Similarly, as we launch into this week of VBS, it's been months in the making. Countless volunteers—including many of you—have been helping prepare supplies, decorate, keep track of registrations, and so much more.

Today I want to ensure that you are charged up and ready to shine Jesus' light to kids this week!

Pull out the uncharged star. Hold it up, and dim the lights.

Maybe you're coming into this week really feeling today's point: Life feels dark. Maybe you even thought about backing out. Like you don't have much to give.

Or maybe you're excited for VBS...but you haven't spent much time with Jesus, asking him to charge you up to shine his light this week. You might be like this star: full of potential, but running on no energy.

Pull out the fully charged star.

I want to help you be like *this* star—shining bright with Jesus' light! Neither of these stars can generate light on their own. But this one can shine because it's spent time soaking in the light of the sun, charging up with its energy.

So let's spend a couple of minutes charging right now.

Give each volunteer a glow-in-the-dark star. Turn the lights back on.

SAY

Find a sunny or bright spot and hold your star up, letting it soak in the sun's rays or the lightbulb's energy. As you do, talk with Jesus about how you need his help this week. Ask him to give you the strength and energy to shine his light in ways you could never do on your own.

Allow a few minutes for silent prayer while everyone charges their stars. Then gather everyone back together, and dim the lights once again. Everyone's stars should be glowing, at least a little bit.

I want this group to be a safe place to share when things feel dark, when good things happen, and when we need help. So if you'd like to answer this question, feel free.

ASK

What are some things you talked with Jesus about?

Pray for the situations people share about.

SAY

When life feels dark... (*shine Jesus' light!*) **It's okay if you don't feel like you have it all together. You're not generating your own light this week.**

Read aloud John 8:12.

Take your star with you and leave it in a bright place where it can keep charging all week long. Let it remind you to find your energy to shine from Jesus!

Lead staff in prayer, asking Jesus to charge them up with his light so they can shine his light in all the dark situations kids may be facing.



Supplies:

Bible

Shoe Constellations

Bible Point: When people don't get along... (*shine Jesus' light!*)

Bible Story: Jesus accepts Zacchaeus. (Luke 19:1-9)

Bible Verse: "Live in harmony with each other." (Romans 12:16)

SAY Welcome back to another exciting day at Stellar VBS! Today we're going to learn that **when people don't get along...** (*shine Jesus' light!*)

Constellations are a great reminder of getting along. When you look at the stars in a constellation, they might look like they're all side by side and about the same size. But some are smaller and closer to us, and others are giant and really far away! Those stars really have nothing to do with one another, but sometimes we look at them to form one picture.

Let's make our very own shoe constellations.

Have everyone take off one shoe. Designate an empty area to be your sky, and have everyone toss their shoes at random into that area.

Gather around the shoes so everyone has a good view of them.

ASK What pictures or constellations can you form by connecting different shoes in our "sky"?

Welcome responses and encourage creative thinking!

SAY It's fun to think about how stars—or shoes—can work together to form pictures.

If stars that are so far away from each other can work together to form a picture, we can work well with others—even if they're different from us.

Read aloud Romans 12:16.

ASK How have you seen our team of volunteers exemplify this verse already this week?

ASK What signs have you seen among kids that getting along all week might be a challenge?

SAY

Social dynamics can be rough for kids. Some feel confident in their popularity, while others struggle to fit in. Some may be more naturally kind, while others might respond with sarcasm. And sometimes people just rub each other the wrong way. But as Christians, we know that **when people don't get along...** (*shine Jesus' light!*) Your example of working well with other volunteers this week can help kids see what healthy teamwork looks like.

Let's pray for our kids.

PRAY

Jesus, we ask for your peace amid our team of volunteers and for every Crew here at VBS. If anyone got off on the wrong foot yesterday, help them come today ready for a clean start. May the friendships built this week shine your light into the world. In your name, amen.

Have everyone put their shoes back on.



Supplies:

Bible

Palms of Praise

Bible Point: When good things happen... (*shine Jesus' light!*)

Bible Story: Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king. (Luke 19:28-40)

Bible Verse: "Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!" (Psalm 100:1)

SAY

Today we'll be exploring how **when good things happen...**

(*shine Jesus' light!*) In the Bible story, Jesus' light shined as he rode a donkey into Jerusalem with people shouting praises to him. People treated Jesus like a king, waving palm branches and spreading coats on the road before him.

We don't have palm branches, but we do have palms!

Hold up your hand and point to your palms.

And we also have our voices!

Read Psalm 100:1.

Let's wave our palms and shout for joy as we celebrate the good things Jesus has been doing here at Stellar VBS this week.

Here's how it will work. One person will share what Jesus has done. Then we'll all cheer and wave our palms! We'll keep going until no one has anything more to add. Then I'll close in prayer.

Allow time for people to share good things Jesus has done, cheering and waving your palms after each thing is named. Allow for long times of silence; people may be thinking or working up the nerve to share.

When you think no one else has anything to share, pray: **Jesus, we're so thankful for all the good things you've already done in just two days of VBS. We're excited to see what good things you'll do today and through the rest of the week. In your name, amen.**



Supplies:

Bible

- highlighter



- needle-nose pliers

- empty clear plastic bottle with a lid



- hydrogen peroxide

- water

- smartphone or flashlight

A Vessel of Light

Bible Point: When people are sad... *(shine Jesus' light!)*

Bible Story: Jesus cares for his mother during his crucifixion. (John 19–20)

Bible Verse: “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God.” (John 14:1)

Ahead of time, fill the bottle halfway with water. Add hydrogen peroxide so the bottle is about three-fourths full. Darken the room as much as possible.

SAY

Today at Stellar VBS, we get to explore the most important part of the Bible: Jesus’ death and resurrection. We’ll look at how **when people are sad...** *(shine Jesus’ light!)*

People in today’s story were sad because they didn’t know the ending. They didn’t know Jesus would come back to life—they just knew he died.

Life can be like that, too. Sometimes we feel sad about things that happen, but maybe we wouldn’t be quite so sad if we knew God’s plan for the end of that story!

Let’s do a little experiment that will help us see how we can be vessels of Jesus’ hope and light when kids are sad.

Show the bottle, and then darken the room. Use the needle-nose pliers to pull the highlighter pad from inside the highlighter. (Avoid touching the highlighter with your hands because it could stain.) Place it inside the bottle and replace the bottle lid.

Have volunteers take turns shaking the bottle. As they do, they’ll name something sad a child has shared this week (or simply say “pass” if they don’t feel comfortable sharing). After everyone has shaken the bottle, turn on the light on your smartphone or flashlight, and place the bottle on it. The bottle will begin to glow as the highlighter ink mixes into the liquid.

ASK

Who has helped you see Jesus at work, even in sad times?

SAY

We all face sad times. But sometimes that's when we have the opportunity to see Jesus shine the most! If Jesus hadn't died, he couldn't have come back to life. He couldn't have made us right with God. His death was sad, but it led to an amazing result.

Imagine you're like the bottle. This week, you've helped kids process a lot of emotions. Maybe you've taken on some of their sadness. Today might bring up even more sad stories. But you can be the one to shine Jesus' light through those hard times and see how he's at work, even when things are sad.

Read John 14:1.

ASK

What's one thing you've found effective to say when someone shares something sad?

SAY

One thing we don't want to do today is make kids feel like it's wrong to feel sad. Sadness is part of being human! But we do want to help kids turn to Jesus with trust and look for his light when things are sad.

PRAY

Jesus, thank you that your light is always shining, even when we're too sad to see it. Today help us shine your light so kids may trust in you no matter what they're feeling. In your name, amen.



Supplies:

Bible

Decipher the Ditty

Bible Point: When people need help... (*shine Jesus' light!*)

Bible Story: Philip helps the Ethiopian. (Acts 8:26-39)

Bible Verse: "Let your good deeds shine...so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." (Matthew 5:16)

SAY

All week I've watched as this amazing team has shined Jesus' light to kids. You're stellar! Today we'll wrap things up by helping kids look for ways to keep shining Jesus' light. We'll explore how **when people need help...** (*shine Jesus' light!*)

Our Bible story focuses on Philip's encounter with a man from Ethiopia. Although the man had come to Jerusalem to worship God and was reading the words of the prophet Isaiah, he didn't understand what he was reading. As he was someone unfamiliar with the oral Jewish tradition, who hadn't met Jesus for himself, the words were confusing.

Kids can sometimes have the same struggles with reading the Bible. Even the simplest Bible versions are written at a 5th grade reading level—and many translations are much harder than that.

That's why we need you, the "Philips" of today! You take complex biblical truths and help kids understand them in simpler ways. In fact, let's practice that with a little game.

I'm going to read the title of a nursery rhyme. But instead of the actual title, it's been translated into big, complicated words. You'll have to simplify the words back down and guess the original title. Got it?

Read each complicated title and see who can guess the real name of the nursery rhyme.

- A Trinity of Amaurotic Vermin (Three Blind Mice)
- Scintillate, Scintillate, Diminutive Former Nebula (Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)
- The Treaded Rubber Rings on Public Transportation (The Wheels on the Bus)
- Cranium, Scapula, Patella and Phalanges (Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes)
- Meager, Inconsequential Arachnid (Itsy Bitsy Spider)
- I Mimic the Features of an Infinitesimal Herbal Kettle (I'm a Little Teapot)
- Recently, My Endeavors Have Been Invested in Installing Trestles (I've Been Working on the Railroad)

- Propel, Propel, Propel Thy Watercraft
(Row, Row, Row Your Boat)
- Explosion of a Small Mammal from the Genus Mustela
(Pop Goes the Weasel)
- The Patisserie of Delectable Breakfast Rations
(The Muffin Man)

SAY Great job! You took complicated words and concepts, and simplified them. That's what we've done every day here at Stellar VBS, and what you'll do today as we help kids learn another truth about shining Jesus' light.

Tell about a word or phrase you misunderstood as a child—or even as an adult!

ASK What's a word or phrase you misunderstood as a child?

SAY All kids misunderstand things! But when they do, we can be mentors who help them understand and grow in faith.

ASK Call out the names of people who helped you learn and grow in faith.

Read Matthew 5:16.

SAY The activities we used in VBS this week have helped kids understand faith, but there's another way you've helped kids grow this week: your actions. As you've treated them with kindness, you've been shining Jesus' light. For every shoe you've tied or torn nametag you've repaired, for every dirty tissue you've pocketed or gizmo you've helped assemble, you showed kids what Jesus is like.

You've given up your time to be here this week, and by that alone, you've shined Jesus' light.

So thank you! Thank you for living out today's point all week: **When people need help...** (*shine Jesus' light!*)

But I know that simplifying biblical truths for kids can impact us, too. The Bible applauds the faith of children (see Matthew 18:2-4), and sometimes working with kids can help us rekindle our childlike faith. So I'd like to know:

ASK What's one faith "aha" you had at VBS this week?

Allow a bit of time for this sharing with the whole group. Consider this a time of inspiration about what Jesus has done through your VBS program!

PRAY Jesus, we're so grateful for all the ways you've revealed your light to us and through us this week at VBS. We thank you for the work you've begun in kids' lives this week, and we pray that you'll continue to show them your light and love for the rest of their lives. In your name, amen.