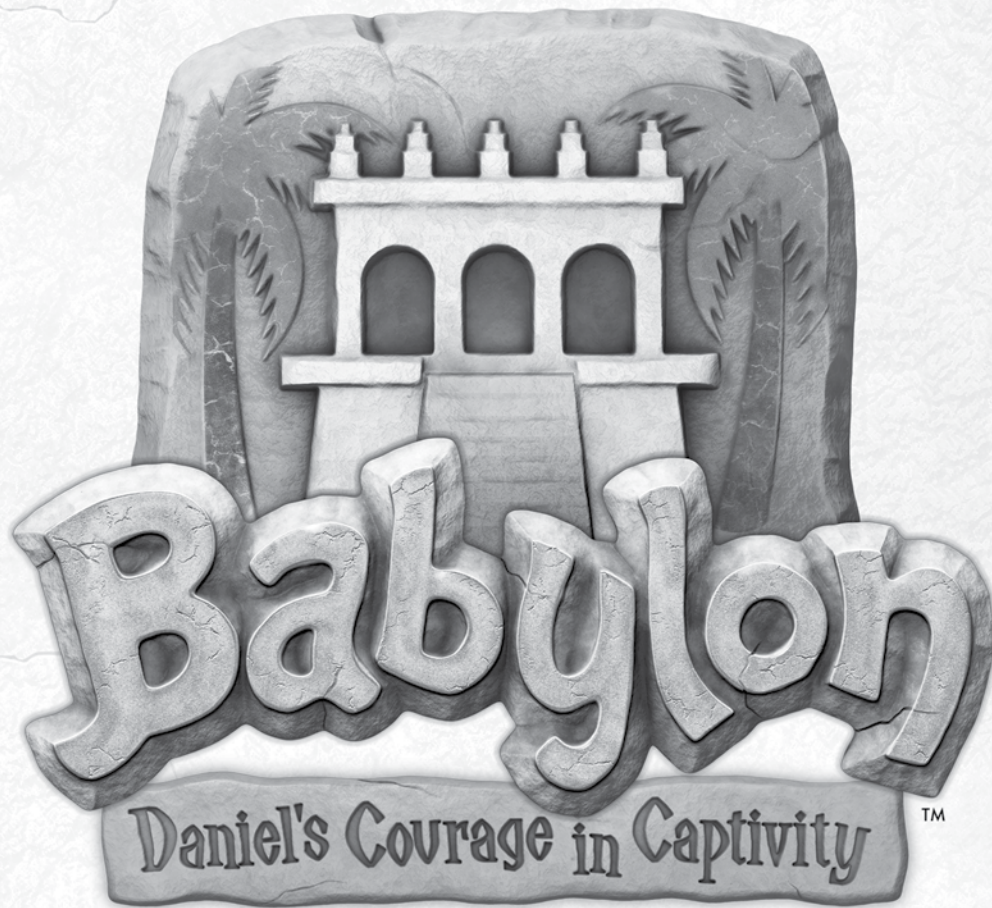


Celebration

LEADER MANUAL

Babylon
Daniel's Courage in Captivity





Celebration

LEADER MANUAL



LOVELAND, COLORADO
GROUP.COM/VBS

Group



2023 HOLY LAND ADVENTURE VBS

Babylon

Daniel's Courage in Captivity™

CELEBRATION LEADER MANUAL

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Visit our websites ➔ group.com | group.com/vbs

Credits

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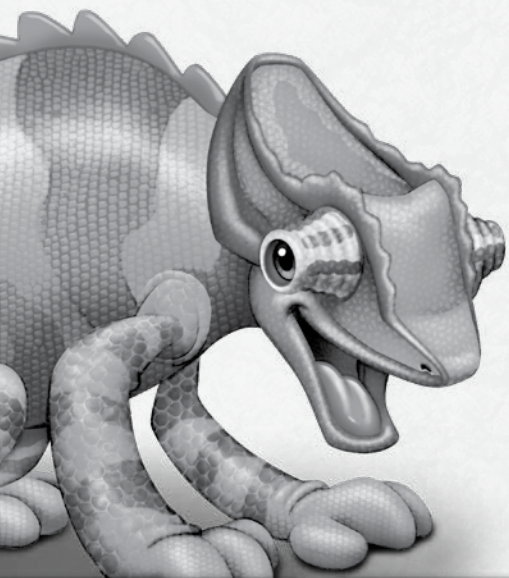


Babylon

Daniel's Courage in Captivity™

You'll reinforce Bible learning in a big way because the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each activity. That's why each center is so important to the overall learning experience.

Explore the entire program at a glance. Refer to the chart to see how each center's activities supplement other activities to make the Bible come to life at your church!



Bible Content

Celebration

Tribe Time

Daniel's Adventures

Palace Playground

Marketplace Shops



Day 1

Bible Point:

When things change, God is with you.

Key Verse:

"For God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.' "
(Hebrews 13:5)

Bible Story:

Enemies capture Daniel and his friends and take them to Babylon. (Daniel 1)

- Learn the Day 1 Bible verse and motions.
- Meet all the Tribes at Babylon.
- Sing "Through It All," "Watching Over You," and "Stand Firm."



Draw pictures on Color-Changing Paper, and discover that God is always with them.



Meet Daniel, and hear how he and his friends are faring as captives in Babylon.



Day 2

Bible Point:

When you need help, God is with you.

Key Verse:

"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble."
(Psalm 46:1)

Bible Story:

Daniel interprets Nebuchadnezzar's dream. (Daniel 2)

- Hear a few God Sightings from the whole group.
- Learn the Day 2 Bible verse and motions.
- Sing "God Is for Me," "Only a Prayer Away," and "Where Do I Go?"



Explore a Dark-to-Dazzling Board, and discover that God is with them in life's darkest times.



Discover how Daniel is able to interpret the king's mysterious dream.



Race and stack sugar cubes, wooden blocks, and grocery sack "bricks"—buildings fit for a king!



Play Birthday Tag and other games that have to do with things on a calendar.

Choose a few shops to visit each day:



Royal Animal Courtyard



Astronomy School



Cylinder Seal Shop



Food Court





Day 3

Bible Point:

When you're afraid, God is with you.

Key Verse:

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be discouraged, for I am your
God." (Isaiah 41:10)

Bible Story:

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
survive a fiery furnace. (Daniel 3)

- Talk about their daily mission in the Marketplace.
- Learn the Day 3 Bible verse and motions.
- Sing "Thankful," and "Come, Thou Almighty King."



Day 4

Bible Point:

When you're lonely, God is with you.

Key Verse:

"I am with you always, even to the
end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Bible Story:

Daniel prays, even though it means he
might get into trouble. (Daniel 6:1-16)

- Learn the Day 4 Bible verse and motions.
- Sing "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)."
- Review Days 1-3.



Day 5

Bible Point:

When you're thankful, God is with you.

Key Verse:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!
His faithful love endures forever."
(1 Chronicles 16:34)

Bible Story:

God saves Daniel from the lions.
(Daniel 6:16-28)

- Learn the Day 5 Bible verse and motions.
- Hear Tribe cheers.
- Celebrate all the Bibles they're sending to kids around the world through Operation Kid-to-Kid.



Use Trembling Teeth
and a Yikes Poster
to share times
they're afraid.



Hold Sticky Sin Slime,
and realize that Jesus
took our sins upon
himself at the cross.



Celebrate all they
have to be thankful
for as they use
Praise Poppers.



Find out what
happens to Daniel's
friends when they
won't worship the
king's statue.



Watch as Daniel is
arrested because he
won't stop praying.



Discover what
happens when Daniel
is thrown to the lions.



Launch and catch
crazy stuff with big,
bigger, and biggest
catapults.



Sneak up on a
sleeping lion,
pretend to be
a long-necked
ostrich, and pull
like a strong team
of oxen.



Catch a shooting
star, hop along a
constellation, and
race around a
starry sky.



Hanging Gardens
Nursery



Jewelry
Bazaar



Metalworking
Shop



Mosaic Studio



Music Shop



Operation
Kid-to-Kid™






Day 1

DAILY SCHEDULE

BIBLE POINT: When things change, God is with you.

BIBLE STORY: Enemies capture Daniel and his friends and take them to Babylon. (Daniel 1)

 TIME	GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
	Tribes <u>Issachar</u> <u>Naphtali</u>	Tribes <u>Gad</u> <u>Simeon</u>	Tribes <u>Joseph</u> <u>Zebulun</u>	Tribes <u>Levi</u> <u>Reuben</u>
6:00–6:15	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
6:20-6:35	Tribe Time	Tribe Time	Tribe Time	Tribe Time
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
6:40-6:55	Daniel's Adventures	Palace Playground	Visit Marketplace	
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
7:00-7:15	Palace Playground	Daniel's Adventures		
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
7:20-7:35	Visit Marketplace		Daniel's Adventures	Palace Playground
			Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.	
7:40-7:55			Palace Playground	Daniel's Adventures
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
8:00-8:15	Tribe Time	Tribe Time	Tribe Time	Tribe Time
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
8:20-8:30	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Celebration Leader

Welcome to Babylon

We're glad you're a part of this exciting Holy Land Adventure. During this event, families will explore the culture of ancient Babylon when Daniel and his friends were in captivity! The people in ancient Babylon believed in many fake gods, but Daniel and his friends had the courage to stand firm and believe in the one true God. You'll help participants understand that our one true God is always with us, just as God was with Daniel so long ago. Kids and adults will walk away with the comfort of knowing that God will be with them when things change, when they need help, when they're afraid, when they're lonely, *and* when they're thankful.

As the Celebration Leader, you get the awesome job of leading participants in singing praises to our one true God. At the beginning and end of each day, participants will join you for 15 minutes of singing, worship, and announcements. You will

- teach the Celebration songs and motions.
- introduce each day's Bible stories and Bible Points.
- talk with participants about what they've been discovering in Babylon.

Celebration Tips

Follow these tips to make opening and closing Celebrations something kids and adults look forward to every day.

- **Select a Celebration space.** Work with the VBS Director to determine where your Celebration will take place. Ideally you'll want to meet in a sanctuary or other large room. Even if you're meeting outside, plan to use a sound system and microphone.
- **Work with the Director and other volunteers to decorate the Celebration area.** If the Celebration happens outside, you won't need to spend much time decorating. If you're meeting in a sanctuary or large room, consider removing hymnals or other items that might distract everyone. Set baskets, pots, and imitation palms near your "stage." Tape Tribe name posters on the walls, and then place large blankets on the floor beneath the posters for Tribes to gather on. Be sure to allow *plenty* of room between Tribes. (A Tribe is a group of up to 10 people led by a Tribe Leader and an Assistant Tribe Leader.)
- **Choose a wall to display God Sightings Animal Tiles.** (See page 11 for more details.) God Sightings are an incredible way you'll encourage kids and adults to look for evidence of God in their lives.

Palace Pointer

Your Babylon Director will provide the Tribe name posters. Each Tribe will have a unique poster identifying its Tribe name and color. Your Director will also supply God Sightings Animal Tiles. These items are available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier.



Here's all you'll need...

- Bible
- *Celebration Music Leader Version* CD
- CD player
- microphone/sound system
- attention-getter
- God Sightings Animal Tiles* (1 set)
- crepe paper streamers, variety of colors, approx. 2' strips (2 per participant)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

Palace Pointer

Consider using a noisemaker with a grand Babylonian sound, such as a gong or cymbal, to get everyone's attention during Celebration. It's more fun than a lot of shouting—and easier on your voice! Borrow the instrument from your church's worship team or a local high school band.

- **Know the music and motions.** Use the *Celebration Music* DVD, along with pages 50-64 in this manual where the motions are described next to the lyrics. You'll be able to convey your enthusiasm and excitement if you're familiar with the songs and motions.
- **Create a welcoming environment.** Play the Celebration songs when participants enter the room...and don't be afraid to turn up the volume! Music and excitement will draw everyone in, sending the message that this is *the* place to be. The *Celebration Music Leader Version* CD is included in the Babylon Starter Kit.
- **Smile!** Be a friendly face that Tribe members look forward to seeing. Make all participants feel welcomed and loved at your church setting.
- **Learn (and use) people's names.** While you won't have the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with participants as the Tribe Leaders do, kids and adults *will* be wearing name tags. If you call on them, try to call them by name. What an easy way to make someone feel special!

Costuming and Supplies

A fun way to set the stage for this Babylon VBS is to dress in a Babylon-style costume! Check with the VBS Director to see if he or she will be providing a costume for you. Since ancient Babylon was a cultural center, you might consider wearing a Bible-times tunic or robe with a little extra pizzazz, such as shiny gold fringe and an embroidered hem.



Build the Drama!

Add a little “extra” to help kids and adults imagine they are visiting Bible-times Babylon, where Daniel showed his courage even in captivity. Check with your Babylon Director to see if he or she will be adding the optional Daily Dramas (from the booklet in the Starter Kit).

- The Day 3 opening Celebration is interrupted by a chase scene—between Rihat, the king’s personal portrait artist, and Sargon, a palace guard. See why Sargon wants Rihat’s head!
- In the Day 5 closing Celebration, Rihat returns to thank his friend Kuri, a fellow artisan, for standing up for him.
- Arrange ahead of time for Ashpenaz, the king’s chief of staff, to meander through the Celebration area at various times throughout the week. Tribes get to know Ashpenaz when they visit Daniel each day. (Ashpenaz is a real Bible character—just look at Daniel 1:3.) Ashpenaz doesn’t believe in the one true God...and he can’t understand why Daniel remains true to his faith. Ashpenaz could have a skeptical look, as if thinking “What are you all doing, singing praise to the one true God Daniel keeps talking about?” Ashpenaz’s disbelief gives kids and adults a chance to verbalize their faith and practice sharing the truth of who God really is.





"Knowing the Word of God prevents my son from getting involved with harmful friendships."

— A mother in El Salvador

"I come to study God more every day, learning with the Bible. I enjoy reading about God and singing."

— 9-year-old in Colombia

"I am thankful to my God for this gift. I will read it every day and share the stories with my two younger brothers."

— 14-year-old in Kenya

Palace Pointer

Participants visit the Operation Kid-to-Kid Tent in the Marketplace. There, they'll learn more about Operation Kid-to-Kid, drop off donations, and even make a night light of their own.

Take God's Word To the World!

Kids Helping Kids

"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Most of us in North America have access to a Bible at home or on our phones. The comfort, hope, and truth of Scripture is within reach...whenever we want. Yet, for millions of people around the world, owning a Bible in their own language feels like an impossible luxury.

Bible stories or passages must be shared through word of mouth.

Sunday school teachers struggle to help children grow in faith, without access to Scripture.

In some communities, even pastors don't have a Bible in their own language.

But we can change that!

Group Publishing is partnering with World Vision and churches like yours to provide 400,000 Bibles to children and families around the world. That's a *huge* goal...so we're excited for *your* kids to tackle it!

And once the Bibles are purchased, they're not simply handed out. Funding for the Bibles *also* allows local discipleship ministries to provide parenting classes, Bible clubs, VBS programs, and Sunday school classes (both in churches *and* schools). Kids learn to read Scripture in their own language, and apply it through community service. Youth explore what it means to be made in God's image. God's Word brings light and unity to families. Children grow in faith and friendship with Jesus.

With Operation Kid-to-Kid, a \$12 donation provides a Bible in a language that's accessible for kids in African nations, Latin America, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe.

We're excited to join your VBS kids in this huge, world-changing goal! Through your kids' generosity and care, we'll shine Jesus' light to families around the globe—maybe for the first time.

Because Operation Kid-to-Kid is part of every Group VBS, we have the opportunity to bless countless families around the globe!



God Sightings®

God hasn't retired, you know. He's as busy now as he's ever been. But until you see that with your own eyes, it's tough to have a vibrant faith. God can seem distant or impersonal.

God *is* active in our everyday lives—we just have to learn to look. We have to make it a habit to keep an eye out for the daily overwhelming evidence that God is doing great things all around us.

At Babylon, you'll encourage kids and adults to look for God Sightings—everyday clues that God is present, passionate, and powerful. A God Sighting is simply an acknowledgment that God has done something. It's giving God credit where credit is due. It's developing a God-focused view and a grateful heart. Kids and adults will discover that they can see God in things like Scripture, people, circumstances, and nature.

As participants—even preschoolers—make God Sightings part of everyday life, their faith will grow. Why? Because they'll actually see God at work. Not because he's suddenly shown up but because they finally have eyes to see... and at last, they're looking.

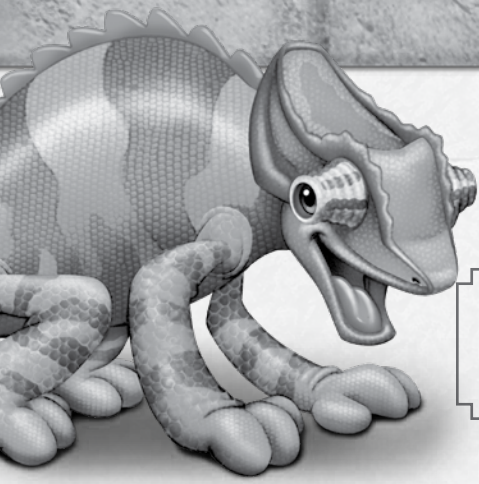
In ancient Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar had an enormous wall built around the city. Much of that wall shone with blue and gold mosaic designs, picturing lions, dragons, and oxen. At your Babylon VBS, adults and kids will create their own dazzling wall that shines with tributes to God!

1. Work with the Babylon Director to choose a location for your God Sightings Wall. Hang this special backdrop (available at group.com) along one wall in the Celebration area. The backdrop is large enough to accommodate five God Sightings Animal Tiles per Tribe.

2. Watch for God. At the end of Day 1, you (the most awesome Celebration Leader!) will explain God Sightings and challenge kids and adults to start looking for things that God has done or made. Encourage everyone to even practice *being* a God Sighting by sharing God's love.

3. Fill the God Sightings Wall. Beginning on Day 2, when you dismiss Tribes to their Tribe Time, they will spend about five minutes each day sharing God Sightings. Tribe Leaders will write on the God Sightings Animal Tiles, using single words or short phrases to capture the God Sightings shared within the Tribe. One Tribe member will take the God Sightings Animal Tile and attach it to the wall you prepared earlier. This is such a cool tribute to God's power and grace in our lives that you'll likely want to leave it up for a few weeks after VBS ends.





Day 1

**Key Verse: "For God has said, 'I will never fail you.
I will never abandon you.'" (Hebrews 13:5)**

Bible Point: When things change, God is with you.

Why It Matters

Wow, talk about change! Daniel and his friends faced a new home (without their families), a new language, a new culture—a new everything! Yet they remained true to God. How easy it would have been to compromise, so far from home and faced with such difficult circumstances. The kids and adults in your VBS face similar challenges—new schools, new job situations, new family dynamics. Use today's activities to help kids and adults realize that, like Daniel and his friends, they can be *in* this world but not of it. Their identity can come from God—for God. No matter what changes they encounter, God will be with them!

Bible Story: Enemies capture Daniel and his friends and take them to Babylon. (Daniel 1)

Read the Passage With This in Mind...

- By taking young men from royal families as hostages, Nebuchadnezzar not only gained promising recruits for his own service but also reminded the people back in Jerusalem that they should not revolt against recently imposed Babylonian rule.
- The meat offered to the captives was probably taken from animals sacrificed to the patron gods of Babylon (Marduk, Nebo, and Ishtar, as examples). The wine, too, was most likely tainted by cultic usage.
- The menu for the captives came from the king's own kitchens. Refusing the food could have branded Daniel and his friends as being uncooperative and might easily have spoiled their chances for advancement.
- Rejecting the menu could also be seen as rejecting the king and could result in the very real threat of severe punishment. (Ancient kings, including Nebuchadnezzar, were capable of extreme cruelty!)
- God moved the Babylonian authorities to regard Daniel with respect and affection. He also graced Daniel and his friends with superior intellect. God showed he was with them all the way!



Day 1 Opening Celebration



1. Welcome everyone to Babylon.

Play the *Celebration Music* CD as participants register. When you're ready to begin, gather the Tribes.

Say: **Welcome to Babylon! All week, we'll pretend to go on a trip back to Bible times. We'll get to know Daniel, whose story is in God's Word—the Bible. Hold up a Bible. The Babylonian army had beaten God's people and took some of them far away from their home to live in Babylon. Most people in Babylon believed in lots and lots of fake gods, like dragons! Can you imagine?**

Daniel and his friends believed in the one true God. Even when they were far away from their families, they showed courage—courage in captivity! Being "in captivity" means someone is keeping you someplace you don't want to be! Look excited as you say the following. We believe in the one true God, too! Every day this week, we'll begin and end our time in Celebration, praising and worshipping God!

Palace Pointer

After participants register or sign in each day, they'll join their Tribe Leader on their home base blanket. Each of the Tribes will have their own identifying color of Tribe name poster and Banduras (headbands). When you're ready to begin, all the Tribes will join you for the opening Celebration.



Field Test Finding

Tribes gathered in a circle for all opening and closing Celebrations. A large circle made it easy for everyone to mix and mingle as well as learn the songs. Plus it was fun for everyone to see all the people who would share their adventures in Babylon!

2. Teach the theme song, "Through It All."

Say: **Just imagine! We are in Babylon, just like Daniel and his friends. Motion toward various parts of the set. This is the palace where King Nebuchadnezzar lives. He sure knows how to build! Look at this amazing place...the green plants...the colorful walls. It's all new and different to us, and it was all new and different to Daniel and his friends. Daniel knew that no matter what happens, God is with us through it all. Let's learn our theme song that tells what Daniel must have felt like.**

In the song, we'll sing "stand firm and strong." "Stand firm" means to do the right thing, no matter what. Just like Daniel stood firm, did the right thing, and worshipped our one true God.



Gather the Tribes in a large circle. Briefly teach the words and motions to the theme song, "Through It All." (Words and motions are on page 50.) Show the motion for "changing": Have everyone hold their fists in front of them in one position, then rotate their fists to the opposite position. During the verses, everyone faces the center of the circle. During the chorus, everyone walks in one direction in the circle.



"changing"

3. Introduce the Tribes.

Say: **We're going to have such a good time this week in Babylon. In Bible times, God's people—the Israelites—belonged to special tribes. Motion toward someone who's wearing a Bandura and standing close to their Tribe name poster. A Tribe name is like someone's last name, telling who that person is. Your Banduras match the color of your Tribe name poster. Every time you see a Bandura that's the same color as yours, you'll see one of your Tribe members. I see most of you have met each other in your Tribes. If you haven't already, do so now! Greet each Tribe member by giving a high-five and saying "Welcome to Babylon!"**

After the greetings, quickly call out each Tribe name, and have the Tribe members cheer!

Tribe Names



Asher
אשר



Benjamin
בנימין



Dan
דן



Gad
גד



Issachar
יששכר



Joseph
יוסף



Judah
יהודה



Levi
לוי



Naphtali
נפתלי



Reuben
ראובן



Simeon
שמעון



Zebulun
זבולון



4. Sing "Watching Over You."

Say: All week long we get to visit with Daniel and hear about his amazing adventures in Babylon! Motion in the direction of Daniel's place. In fact, that's where you'll go to visit Daniel—just through the king's palace, down the hall, and around the corner! Lean in toward the Tribes as you tell them this very important information. No matter where we are, God is watching over us. Whether we're in our homes in [insert name of your town] or we're here in Babylon, God is with us! Let's sing a song called "Watching Over You."



CD Track 2

Briefly teach the words and motions to "Watching Over You." (Words and motions are on page 52.) It's a fun and easy song to learn.

5. Introduce the Bible Point and key Bible verse.

Say: Today we'll learn that the Babylonian army took Daniel and his friends away from their homes and families and brought them here. Talk about change! Daniel and his friends had to get used to living in a new country, a new home, eating different food, and learning a new language. Daniel knew what we know too—When things change, God is with you.

Open the Bible to today's verse. In the Bible book of Hebrews, chapter 13, verse 5, it says, "For God has said, 'I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.'" *Abandon* means "to leave alone."

Teach Tribe members the following actions to help them remember the key Bible verse. Have everyone point both pointer fingers up for "For God has said." Have them hug themselves and shake their head for "I will never fail you." Have them hug themselves and shake their head again for "I will never abandon you."



"For God has said,..."



"... 'I will never fail you.
I will never abandon you.' "



Field Test Finding

Everyone had a blast singing "Watching Over You." Kids loved jumping, spinning, shouting, and waving their hands in the air. Singing this contemporary-sounding song in the midst of Babylonian surroundings truly emphasized that no matter where we are or what time it is, God watches over us. God loves us so much—he can't get enough of us!





Field Test Finding

"Stand Firm" was a field test favorite! We sang it together once in the opening and then divided into two groups during the closing Celebration. Fun!

6. Have Tribe Leaders leave for a huddle and prayer.

Say: **Every Tribe has leaders who will help you learn how much our one true God loves you. Each day, our Tribe Leaders will meet just outside the Celebration area for a quick huddle and a prayer. Tribe Leaders, while we sing a song, head on out to meet with our Babylon Director for a brief huddle and a prayer. Then come join us again for more fun.**

As the Tribe Leaders exit, tell the Tribes: **Through all kinds of change—a different home, strange food, and a new language—Daniel stood firm and did the right thing. Daniel believed in our one true God, even though everyone in Babylon believed in fake gods. Let's learn a song called "Stand Firm."**



CD Track 3

Briefly teach the words and motions to "Stand Firm." (Words and motions are on page 54.) Show the motion for "in control": Move your hands back and forth as if you're holding reins.



"in control"

Have Tribes welcome back their leaders by patting their backs and saying, "Thanks for being my fun, fearless Tribe Leader in Babylon!"



7. Head to Tribe Time.

Say: In a minute, you'll gather with your Tribe and talk about the great things you get to do today in ancient Babylon. Just imagine...

...you'll hear about Daniel's adventures in his new home away from home!

...you'll play games and learn about life in Babylon!

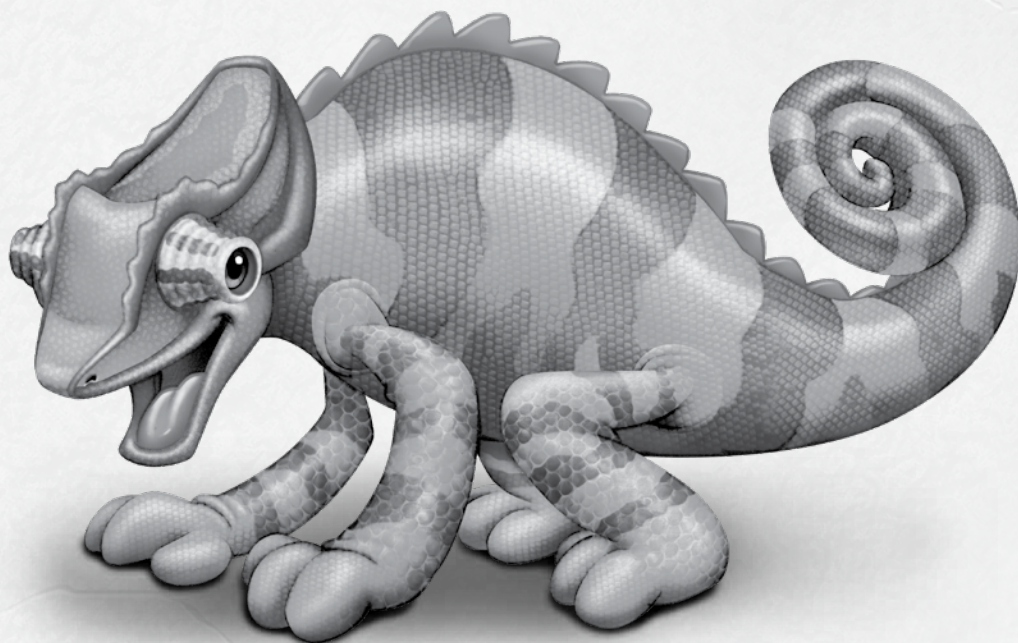
...you'll eat Bible-times food and visit Marketplace shops!

Remember, the people you meet in Babylon believe in many fake gods. You'll be able to tell them about our one true God. Be kind to everyone. Maybe you can invite someone to the closing Celebration. Keep your eyes and ears open for ways to lovingly share your faith!

After 15 minutes in your opening Tribe Time, you'll hear this (sound the attention-getter) and know it's time for your trip to ancient Babylon.

Before everyone leaves:

- Ask a child to pray.
- Give any announcements.
- Play the *Celebration Music* CD in the background during Tribe Time.



Palace Pointer

Make sure everyone can hear the reports! Take a microphone around the room, and let people speak into it as they share. Select people from various spots in the room—front, back, and sides.



Field Test Finding

Everyone loved singing “Stand Firm” in two parts. After the closing Celebration, a small group of kids came up to the leader and asked to sing this song again. It was only the first day of the field test, and we were already hearing song requests!

Day 1 Closing Celebration

1. Welcome everyone back.



CD Track 1

Encourage everyone to join in singing “Through It All.” (Words and motions are on page 50.) Tribes can easily join in the circle dance as they enter the Celebration area.

Say: **Welcome back to our Celebration, where we begin and end each day praising and worshipping our one true God! Throughout the day, you met other people who weren’t in your Tribe. Find a person who isn’t in your Tribe. Shake hands, say your name and your Tribe name, and tell each other one thing you enjoyed about your day. For example, “I’m Luke from the Tribe of Levi, and I loved eating locusts in the Food Court!”**

Allow time for everyone to greet others, and then sound the attention-getter to get everyone’s attention. Ask:

? What did you enjoy about the day? Was it the music? the games? the shops? the food? Let several people share.

2. Review the day.

Say: **What a wonderful first day in ancient Babylon! We met Daniel and heard how much his life had changed since the Babylon army took him from Jerusalem. He had to live in the king’s palace, eat different food, get a new name, and learn a new language. Even in a strange country, God didn’t leave Daniel. And when things change, God is with you, too. Let’s sing “Stand Firm” to help us remember that God is with us always.**



CD Track 3

Form two groups, and assign them Part 1 or Part 2. Briefly review the words and motions to “Stand Firm.” (Words and motions are on page 54.)



3. Tell about Tribe cheers.

Say: I've enjoyed meeting all of you Tribes today! Here's something we can do to celebrate each other! Sometime this week, each Tribe will make up your own Tribe cheer. A cheer can be as simple as this: "2, 4, 6, 8, who do we appreciate?" Then shout the name of your Tribe three times. Let's shout this cheer to show our appreciation for Daniel, who's from the Tribe of Judah. Lead everyone in shouting the cheer: "2, 4, 6, 8, who do we appreciate? Judah! Judah! Judah!" Then say to the Tribe of Judah: **That's a freebie for you and your Tribe, if you choose to use it! We'll share all the cheers at the end of the week. I can't wait to hear them!**



4. Remind everyone about God Sightings.

Say: We have such an awesome God, who's with us every single day. Look at all the wonderful things God has created: our families, you, me, stars, animals, everything! All week long we're going to look for ways we see God in our lives. Those things are called God Sightings. You talked about God Sightings in your closing Tribe Time.

Hold up a God Sightings Animal Tile. When you meet with your Tribe tomorrow, you'll share your God Sightings. Your Tribe Leader will write them on a God Sightings Animal Tile, and you'll tape it to this blue tile wall! Motion toward the God Sightings Wall.

In ancient Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had a huge wall built around the city, with an amazing gate that shone with blue and gold pictures of lions, dragons, and oxen. At our Babylon VBS, we'll create our own dazzling wall that shines with tributes to our one true God! All week long, we'll see our God Sightings grow and grow! We'll see evidence that God is alive and real in our lives today.



5. Sing “Watching Over You.”

Say: I can’t wait to hear how—and where—you see God. God is so good! Let’s praise our one true God, who is always with us. Let’s sing “Watching Over You.”



Quickly review the words and motions to “Watching Over You.” (Words and motions are on page 52.) Then sing the song.

6. Head for home.

Say: **You’ve been God Sightings to me with your awesome singing! I can’t wait to see you tomorrow in ancient Babylon!**

Before everyone leaves:

- Ask a child to pray.
- Encourage everyone to watch for God Sightings and be God Sightings to others.
- Give announcements, and then dismiss the Tribes. Be sure they take home their craft projects.
- Play the *Celebration Music* CD in the background while participants leave.

