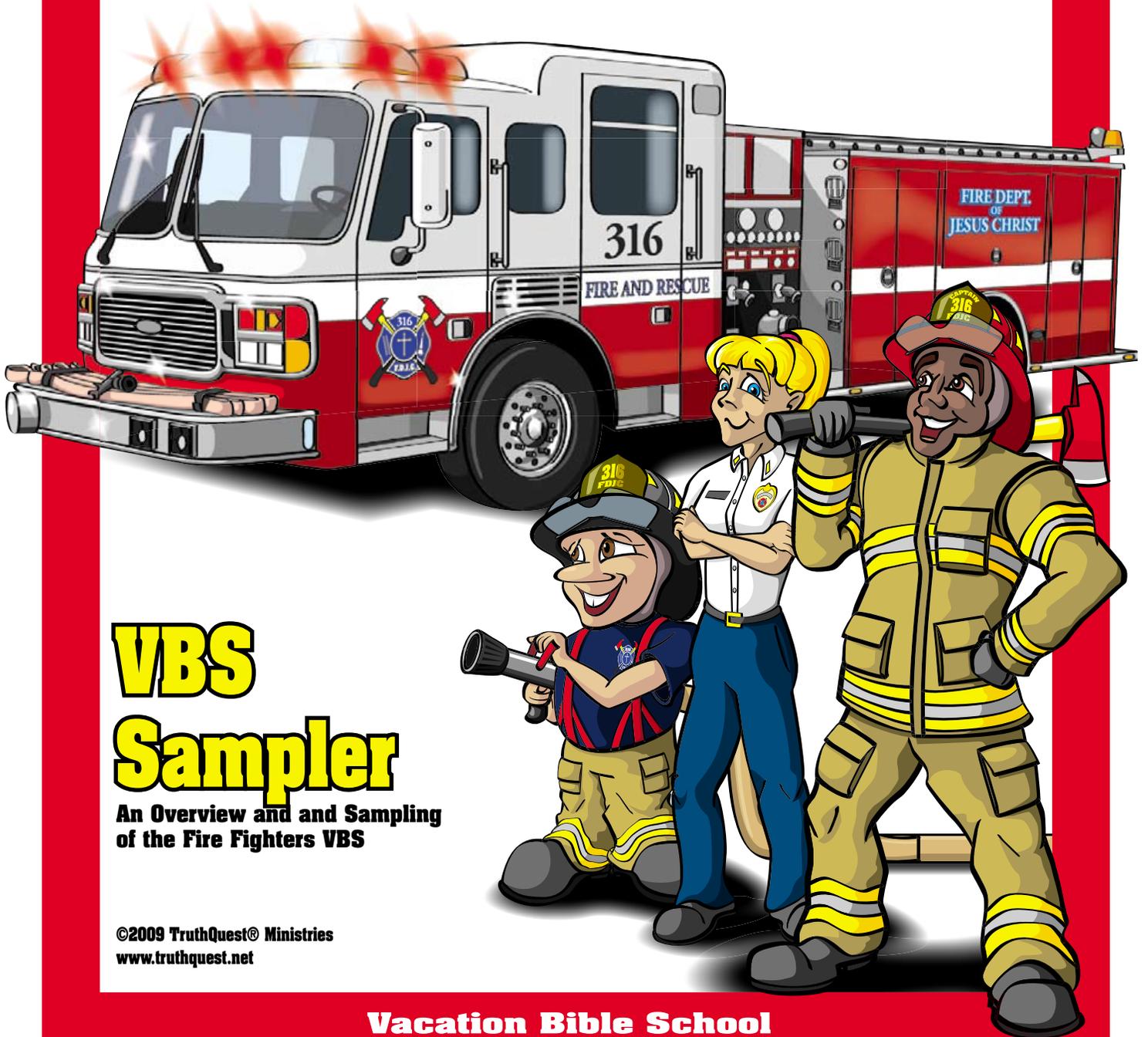




FIRE FIGHTERS



VBS Sampler

An Overview and Sampling
of the Fire Fighters VBS

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Vacation Bible School



FIRE FIGHTERS

VBS Sampler

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VBS Fast Facts

Theme:

A firehouse where kids, as probationary firefighters (probies), train to become full firefighters under the guidance of "Jake," the firehouse captain. Children will also meet Ember, a seasoned firefighter and Bernie, a clumsy probie.

Objective:

To show kids how to pass the qualification test by making Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior, and to build spiritual fitness and readiness so that children can perform search and rescue, sharing the gospel with those who need Christ.

Bible Versions Included:	NIV, KJV, NKJV, NLT, ESV, and HCSB. Materials are included in each of these Bible translations.
Length of the Program:	Five days, with a daily running time of 2½ hours.
For Ages:	Can accommodate age 3 thru 6th grade and teens. Also includes workshops for adults.
Scale of the Program:	Adjustable scale can fit the needs of very small churches, medium-sized churches, and large churches.
Age Group Divisions:	Small churches: Two (Preschool thru grade 1 / grade 2 thru grade 6) plus optional teen and adult levels Medium churches: Four (3s & 4s / K-1st / 2nd & 3rd / 4th thru 6th) plus optional teen and adult levels Large churches: Eight (3s / 4s / K5 / 1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th / 5th & 6th) plus optional teen and adult levels
Classrooms Needed:	Minimum of four. In large churches, up to eight rooms or more may be needed.
Volunteers Needed:	One adult for every ten children, plus five (minimum requirements). One adult for every eight children, plus ten (ideal number of staff).
Gospel Presented:	Every day, in drama skits at closing assemblies.
Format:	Print your own materials from WebLink instant access system or from mailed Disc
Reproducible?	Yes, in unlimited quantities for use in your ministry. Re-selling and re-distribution is prohibited.

Components Included in this VBS Kit (delivered digitally as printable PDF files via WebLink download or CD)	Description and Contents (reproducible in any quantity needed for use within your local ministry)
Director's Guidebook	Overview of VBS, tips and directions for planning and organizing VBS, and recruiting and supplies flyers
Drama Kit with Daily Gospel	Skits and gospel presentations for five days and directions and tips for planning and performing drama
Teaching Director's Guide	VBS lessons and directions for organizing all VBS teaching activities
Academy Lesson Kit	Bible application teaching featuring object lessons with Scripture and Bible character references at four teaching levels
Firefighter Drill Lesson Kit	Firefighter drill-style lessons to illustrate the practical exercise of each day's Biblical concept at four teaching levels
Send-Home Materials Kit	Take-home worksheets at four levels for kids, and take-home Bible studies for parents, covering the five days of VBS
Adult & Teen Lesson Kit	VBS lessons for adults and teens covering five days
Music Kit	Song lyrics, hand motions, and chord charts for each VBS song
Music Audio	Audio music delivered via download (through our WebLink system) or delivered via audio CD (additional cost)
Crafts Kit	Complete directions, supply lists and templates for five VBS craft projects
Snacks Kit	Complete directions, supply lists and recipes for five VBS snacks
Games Kit	Complete directions, supply lists and diagrams for five VBS games
Age Group Leader Guides	Directions for all VBS Age Group Leaders
Missions Kit	Suggestions for VBS missions projects, fund-raising ideas, and progress tracking poster
Registration & Scoring Kit	Complete directions, name tags, score sheets, information cards and flyers for VBS registration and scorekeeping
Decorations Kit	Ideas, suggestions and clip art to be used for decorating your facility for VBS
Advertising Kit	Directions, suggestions, flyers, posters, banner artwork, a promotional skit, and a radio script for promoting your VBS
Discipleship Booklet: "Growing Up In Christ"	Thirteen lessons and activities, along with extensive Scriptural references designed for parents and children to go through TOGETHER. Delivered in printable PDF format.
Gospel Tract: "All About Jesus"	A one-page explanation of the problem of sin and how Jesus' death and resurrection can save us
Gospel Tract: "Something's Wrong"	A one-page discussion of how sin curses our world and how Christ is the only solution
Gospel Tract: "The Bible in 30 Seconds"	A two-page rhyming summary of the Bible, showing how sin threatens us and how Jesus can save us
Clip Art Library	A large selection of decorating and advertising artwork, signs and large posters on Disc or WebLink
T-Shirt Artwork	Artwork for VBS T-Shirts which you can have printed at a t-shirt shop or iron on to your own shirts
Flyers	Recruiting, registration and advertising flyers on Disc or WebLink



FIRE FIGHTERS

VBS Overview

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Overall Focus 	Fire Danger! It takes three factors to start a fire: fuel, heat, and oxygen. Similarly, it takes three factors to get burned by sin; desire, temptation, and opportunity.	Got What It Takes? To be a firefighter, you've got to pass the test! But the standards in THIS test are so high that no one can pass it—unless our Fire Chief Jesus Christ passes it FOR US!	Fit For Duty! Firefighters must keep fit, physically and spiritually. We must constantly practice, review, drill, and improve in order to be effective!	Always Be Prepared! In season and out of season, firefighters must always be on call, with their equipment prepared, ready to respond to the call the instant it comes!	Search and Rescue! The world is full of victims who need to be rescued from the eternal fire. Seek them out and bring them the gospel, whatever it takes!
Memory Verse (NIV Shown here)	James 1:14-15 But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.	2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?	2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.	2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.	Jude 22-23a Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them.
Drama Skit 	"Fire Triangle" Jake introduces a new probie to his staff and explains what it takes to ignite a fire. Includes Gospel Presentation	"Bernie the Probie" Bernie, the new "probie" realizes what it takes to pass the test to become a firefighter. Includes Gospel Presentation	"Is the Fire Still Burning?" Jake wonders if "Ember," a longtime firefighter, has lost her zeal for God, but Bernie refuses to give up on her. Includes Gospel Presentation	"Ready for Duty!" As clumsy as he is, Bernie demonstrates readiness that begins to inspire Ember. Includes Gospel Presentation	"On Fire Again!" Inspired by Bernie, Ember regains her fire for Christ and is ready for duty. Includes Gospel Presentation
Character Focus	Achan (Joshua 6:16-19 & chapter 7) Achan sins and Israel pays the price.	Jesus The only person to ever meet God's standard also met the standard on our behalf!	David and King Saul Because of his spiritual fitness, David replaced Saul as king.	Nehemiah After devising a good plan, Nehemiah successfully rebuilds the wall despite challenges.	The Fantastic Four (Mark 2:1-12) Four friends do whatever it takes to get their friend to Jesus' healing hands.
Academy Training 	Don't Play with Fire! An object lesson about the fire triangle, showing how fires and sins get started, and how to extinguish those fires.	Passing the Test! Children are asked to pass an impossible challenge, then they are shown how Jesus passed the test for all of us.	Climb the Ladder! Similar to a firefighter drill of ascending a ladder, children are shown how to be spiritually fit, ascending a spiritual ladder in 2 Peter 1:5-7.	Wear Your Armor! Using firefighter gear as an example, children are taught the functions and importance of the Armor of God.	Whatever it Takes! An object lesson demonstrates how we must use the WORD of Life to cut through any barrier necessary to bring the gospel to those who need to be rescued.
Firefighter Drill 	Stop, Drop and Roll! An object lesson about what to do if you're engulfed in the flames of sin or temptation. Stop, drop to your knees in prayer, and roll through the Scriptures!	Fireproof Yourself! Children are shown how they can be burned unless they stand on the fireproof foundation of Christ and are cloaked in a life of Godliness.	Part of the Team! Children are asked to complete a task that can only be done as a team, with each one doing a specific job.	Always Prepared! An object lesson demonstrating the importance of always being equipped and ready to answer the call to share Christ.	Your First Real Call! Children are given the opportunity to practice what they've learned by sharing the gospel with VBS teachers and volunteers.
Songs 	Stop, Drop and Roll! This 60's surf tune reminds kids to stop, pray, and obey!	He's All That! This epic rock song answers the question, "Why worship God?"	Climb the Ladder This pop-country tune puts 2 Peter 1:5-7 to music in a fun way!	The Armor of the Lord This fun techno song puts Ephesians 6:13-17 to music!	Whatever it Takes This power-ballad encourages kids to do whatever it takes!
Snacks 	Stop-Drop Rolls Tasty round biscuits kids can roll in apple butter or other dips. 	Match Sticks Pretzel rods tipped with strawberries and cream cheese. 	Firefighter Ladder A ladder made of pretzel rods and sticks with cheese. 	Firefighter Axe Edible axes made of apples, cream cheese and graham sticks. 	Fire Hydrants Tasty smoothies made with citrus punch and fruit.
Scripture Games 	Stop, Drop and Roll! A variation of "Red Light, Green Light," where kids must run, stop, drop, and roll on command.	CPAT! A relay race simulating a firefighters physical fitness test, dragging simulated hoses and doing fireman's crawls.	Hose Hop! A team-building game where kids must move a hose as a team across the game area using a limited number of resources.	Get Up and Go! A relay game where kids must quickly put on simulated firefighter gear and race to the finish line.	Save the Citizen! A relay game where kids must bust through barriers to rescue a "victim."
Craft Projects 	Firefighter Field Manual A decorated book of tips for avoiding fire and temptation. 	Firefighter Helmet A fun Fireman's hat made of craft foam. 	Firefighter Ladder A ladder with rungs that remind kids of 2 Peter 1:5-7. 	Firefighter Axe A harmless axe made of craft foam. 	Firehouse Gospel Tracts Fun, three-dimensional gospel tracts.

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FIRE FIGHTERS

VBS Sampler

PAGE 5



Welcome to Fire Fighters!

Welcome to Fire Fighters! As the director of your church's VBS program, you have many responsibilities. This VBS kit is designed to make your job as easy as possible for you and your volunteers. But, before you dive into the logistics of planning your VBS, here's a quick look at the nuts and bolts of Fire Fighters.

Basic Information

The Theme

All firefighters, report for duty! In the Fire Fighters VBS theme, kids are rookie (probie) firefighters in Firehouse 316, where they will be trained to fight the eternal fires caused by sin and to help rescue those who are in danger of that eternal fire. Along the way, they'll meet Jake, the firehouse captain who will train the "probie" firefighters how fires get started, how to extinguish them, and how to do whatever it takes to rescue victims from the fire through evangelism. Kids will also meet Ember, a seasoned firefighter who has lost her spark of enthusiasm for Jesus, and Bernie, a clumsy probie who will help to re-ignite Ember's passion for Christ.

The Objective

Jude 23 tells us to "snatch from the fire" those people who are in danger of dying apart from Christ. This is the main objective of the Fire Fighters VBS. Early in the program, children will be presented with the gospel in clear and powerful terms, explaining that we cannot even pass the test to become firefighters for Jesus unless Jesus takes away our sin and then fulfills God's standard for us. Additionally, the gospel is presented on every day of the program in the closing drama skits.

Beyond that, children will be encouraged to keep fit spiritually, even as firefighters must keep fit physically. By practicing, drilling, and exercising spiritually, children are taught to be ready and on call at a moment's notice to spring into action with the gospel. And like firefighters, children will be taught to do whatever it takes to reach people for Christ, just as firefighters must break down doors, cut through walls, and scale ladders to reach fire victims. The overall goal of the Fire Fighters VBS program is to equip kids to fight the eternal fire by reaching its would-be victims with the gospel.

Teaching Perspectives

Each day of the Fire Fighters VBS features two different and complimentary teaching times to ensure that children understand both the Biblical truths we should live by and how those truths apply to them today. Both of these lesson times are powerful and effective, and both are provided at four teaching levels for each day of VBS. These lesson times are as follows:

Fire Academy Training Lessons

The Fire Academy Lesson Kit, included with this program, contains innovative object lessons with interwoven Bible character stories to show children the "book learning" of Fire Fighters. Most of these lessons take time to focus on a particular Bible character, showing how that character either passed or failed the test of an eternal firefighter. This approach will help children to see how the same principles that applied to characters in the Bible also apply to them today.

Firefighter Drill Lessons

Additionally, Fire Fighters includes a full set of hands on "field drill" lessons, wherein children will see the Biblical principles of this VBS put into action in an interactive way. These lessons will essentially allow children to practice what they have learned.

The Gospel

One of the prime objectives of Fire Fighters is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with children and their families. Through the use of Bible lessons, gospel tracts, and discipleship materials which can all be printed from the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink, you can share the gospel with all the children in your VBS program.

Additionally, the Fire Fighters drama skits share the gospel with children every day of VBS. During the five days of VBS, "Jake," our main drama character, will constantly share the gospel with a sense of urgency, and of course, with a great deal of fun. The Fire Fighters drama skits allow you to share the gospel on EVERY DAY OF VBS, making Fire Fighters a very evangelical program.

Six Bible Versions Included

Nearly every publication in this VBS kit that directly quotes Scripture is provided in six different versions. So, as you're printing your materials, just indicate which Bible version you want, and that's what you'll get! The Bible versions included in this kit, and their copyright notices, are:

New International Version (NIV)

Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NIV) are from THE HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV). Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

King James Version (KJV)

Written in 17th century English, this classic translation is viewed by many to be the best available. Quotations from the KJV are public domain.

New King James Version (NKJV)

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Holman Christian Standard Bible® (HCSB)

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WebLink

If you purchased this VBS kit through TruthQuest's WebLink system, your VBS staff can access and download their own materials online. VBS staff can access their lessons by visiting www.truthquest.net and clicking WebLink Login. Then, after logging in (using the username and password set up by your church), they can navigate to the specific items they need and print the materials themselves. This option is only available if your church purchased the WebLink version of Fire Fighters.



FIRE FIGHTERS

VBS Sampler

Five Days, Two and One-Half Hours per Day

Although you may alter the time frame in which this VBS program operates in your church, it is designed to run for five days, running for 2½ hours or more each day. This allows VBS to be done either in the daytime or in the evening. Extending the daily running time is possible, although we do not recommend reducing the running time to less than 2½ hours per day, as the children will not be able to participate in all the VBS activities in less than 2½ hours per day.

See the VBS Scheduling Tools provided later in this Guidebook to easily establish your daily VBS schedule.

How This VBS Program Operates Each Day

Session 1: Opening Assembly (20 minutes)

After children have arrived each day and checked in with their Age Group Leaders, all the children will assemble as one large group in a large room such as a church sanctuary. The opening assembly consists of the following:



Opening Song

The worship leader or drama leader will lead the children in singing the VBS Theme Song to start off on the right foot.

Opening Skit

A fun drama skit is performed for all the children which introduces the lesson focus for that day of VBS.

Sessions 2-5: VBS Lesson and Activities

After the opening assembly, the children are divided into their respective age groups (described later in this packet) and sent off to participate in five VBS activity sessions. During any given time session, each VBS age group will be involved in a different activity than the other groups. At the end of each time session, each group will ROTATE to a different activity until all of your age groups have participated in all of the activity sessions (meaning that each group will go to the VBS activities in a different order). You will need a room or area for each of these activity sessions, which are as follows:



Fire Academy Lesson Time (20 minutes)

During this important teaching time, Scripture-based object lessons and Bible character focuses may be used for teaching children the primary learning concepts of each day of VBS.



Firefighter Drill Lesson Time (20 minutes)

This equally important teaching time provides children with a Scripture-filled hands-on object lesson that shows how to put the day's learning into practical use on a daily basis. In other words, this is where the learning is put into practice.



Game Time (20 minutes)

For a break, the children get to run off some energy by participating in a fun game which either helps them to apply the day's lesson or just to have fun.



Crafts & Snack Time (20 minutes)

Here, the children get to create a simple but fun craft project to remind them of their day at VBS. As they do this, they are served a yummy and fun VBS snack.

Session 6: Closing Assembly (25 minutes)

At the end of each day, the children re-convene into one large group for the closing assembly, which takes place in the same room where your opening assembly took place. The closing assembly includes:



Praise & Worship Music

At the start of the closing assembly, the worship leader or drama leader leads all the children in singing worship songs such as those which have been provided on the VBS Music CD.



Closing Skit

Next, the second half of the drama skit for the day is performed for the children, reviewing what has been learned and concluding the story for that day of VBS.

Gospel Presentation & Prayer

Each day's VBS skit includes an option to present the gospel to the children during the closing VBS skit, along with a closing prayer.

How Large is Your VBS?

The scale of your VBS affects numerous things as you make plans. The number of children and staff you will have affects your staffing needs, the Age Groups you'll incorporate, the teaching levels you'll use, and the way you set up your daily VBS rotation schedule.

Scaling VBS to Your Needs

Fire Fighters can accommodate up to eight age groups and four teaching levels. However, depending on the scale of your VBS, you may not use them all. The charts in the right column show three different VBS models. Based on your anticipated VBS attendance, you need to determine which of these three models your VBS will follow.

Small VBS

50 or Fewer Children Expected

In this VBS model, you will OMIT six of the eight possible VBS age groups and two of the possible teaching levels. Teaching levels 1 and 3 will not be used in this model, and all materials in this VBS kit which are designed specifically for Level 1 or Level 3 should be disregarded.

Go to the "How to Set Up a Small VBS" Section Beginning on Page 9

This mini-section includes tools to help you adapt Fire Fighters to suit your needs, including:

- Small VBS Age Group and Teaching Level Chart
- Small VBS Rotation Schedule
- Small VBS Staffing Chart
- "Volunteers Needed" flyer for small VBS

Medium-Sized VBS

50-150 Children Expected

This VBS model omits four of the eight possible VBS age groups, but uses ALL of the VBS teaching levels.

Go to the "How to Set Up a Medium-Sized VBS" Section Beginning on Page 13

This mini-section includes tools to help you adapt Fire Fighters to suit your needs, including:

- Medium VBS Age Group and Teaching Level Chart
- Medium VBS Rotation Schedule
- Medium VBS Staffing Chart
- "Volunteers Needed" flyer for medium-sized VBS

Large VBS

Over 150 Children Expected

This VBS model uses all of the age groups and teaching levels created for this program.

Go to the "How to Set Up a Large VBS" Section Beginning on Page 18

This mini-section includes tools to help you adapt Fire Fighters to suit your needs, including:

- Large VBS Age Group and Teaching Level Chart
- Large VBS Rotation Schedule
- Large VBS Staffing Chart
- "Volunteers Needed" flyer for large VBS

SMALL VBS (50 or Fewer Children)		
Groups to Include	For Which Ages / Grades	Teaching Level
	Fire Station 22: Age 3 thru 1st Grade	 For Grades K-5 -1st Grade
	Fire Station 42: 2nd Grade thru 6th Grade	 For 4th Grade thru Pre-teen

MEDIUM VBS (50 - 150 Children)		
Groups to Include	For Which Ages / Grades	Teaching Level
	Fire Station 12: Age 3 Thru Age 4 (or Grade K-4)	 For Preschool Children
	Fire Station 22: Kindergarten Thru 1st Grade	 For Grades K-5 -1st Grade
	Fire Station 32: 2nd Grade Thru 3rd Grade	 For 2nd and 3rd Graders
	Fire Station 42: 4th Grade Thru 6th Grade	 For 4th Grade thru Pre-teen

LARGE VBS (150 or More Children)		
Groups to Include	For Which Ages / Grades	Teaching Level
 	Fire Station 11: Age 3 Fire Station 12: Age 4 / Grade K-4	 For Preschool Children
 	Fire Station 21: Kindergarten Fire Station 22: 1st Grade	 For Grades K-5 -1st Grade
 	Fire Station 31: 2nd Grade Fire Station 32: 3rd Grade	 For 2nd and 3rd Graders
 	Fire Station 41: 4th Grade Fire Station 42: 5th & 6th Grade	 For 4th Grade thru Pre-teen



Bringing the Firefighters Theme to Life

The firefighters theme of this VBS includes a few special details for you to consider. The information on this page is meant to help you to get the most out of VBS.

Staff Name Tags

All of your VBS staff who will be working directly with children should have name tags to identify them. These name tags are all included with the materials you will give to each volunteer. For example, the Crafts Kit includes a name tag for a Crafts Leader, and the Bible Lesson Kits include name tags for teachers. However, you can also print extra staff name tags (as well as name tags for children) from the "Helpful Aids" section of the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink.

Fire Station Flags

Each of the VBS Age Groups is identified as a "Fire Station," and each station has its own flag. These station flags can be printed from the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink. We suggest printing a flag for each age group and fastening it to a dowel rod. These station flags can be carried by children as they travel from one VBS activity to the next.

Check-In Locations

For faster VBS check-in, we suggest designating a specific area for each Age Group to meet and check in with their Age Group Leaders each day. Since the first VBS activity each day is an opening assembly, a good location for check-in areas is to rope off a seating area in your assembly room where each age group is to gather each day. For instance, the first couple of seating rows could be a check-in area for the Preschool group, and the two rows behind that would be for the Kindergartners, and so on. We suggest posting additional copies of the age group station flags in each check-in area so that children will recognize which area they should go to.

Boys vs. Girls Competition

To motivate children to listen closely and participate in VBS, the lesson times utilize a "boys vs. girls" competition. Certain questions during lesson time are worth points, and boys and girls race to correctly answer the most questions. When a question is asked, any child who thinks they know the answer is to STAND UP. The first child to stand is called on for their answer. If they are correct, they score a point for their team, which is recorded on a Scoreboard sheet (included in the Lesson kits). At the end of each day of VBS, all of the Scoreboard sheets from each group are turned in and tallied. If the boys answered the most questions, then Ember, the girl drama character, will be sprayed with a fire extinguisher (silly string) in the closing assembly. If the girls win, then Bernie, the boy character, will be sprayed. This simple competition will motivate children to listen closely, therefore helping them to learn more.

Basic Decorating Ideas

While more complete decorating ideas are found in the Fire Fighters Decorations Kit (from the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink), we've listed a few basic ideas here to give you an idea how to bring the firefighter theme to life.

Firefighter Gear

If you can get your hands on firefighter helmets, turnout gear, boots, scuba gear, hoses, axes, or other tools that you can temporarily display in your facility, it will add authenticity to your decorating. Sometimes items of this type can be found used online.

Fire Station Engine Bays

You can simulate the appearance of a fire engine bay, where fire engines would be parked. Ideas for this could include having firefighter gear hung on the wall as if ready to be used, displaying fire fighting tools like axes and hoses, and a brick wall background with a fire station logo hung on the wall. Lights, alarms, fire poles, and a cardboard fire engine would complete the look.

Fire Station Bunks or Locker Room

Other parts of your facility could be made to look like the bunks or locker rooms used by firefighters. You could display some simple beds or cots, place cardboard rectangles on your walls painted to look like locker doors, and display firefighter helmets or turnout gear.

Fire Engines and Rescue Vehicles

Consider building a large fire engine prop to display in a main traffic area in your facility. You could paint it red, white, yellow, or whatever color your local fire department uses. For fun, you could add flashing strobe lights to the top of your cardboard engine.

A Real Fire Engine!

Consider visiting your local fire station and introducing yourself. Let the crew there know what you're doing for VBS and ask about the possibility of having them park their fire engine in your parking lot for one day of VBS. You may find that the firefighters you talk with may be more than willing to do this as a public relations move, and you may be able to arrange for a brief fire safety demonstration at your church during VBS. Imagine the excitement your kids would have upon seeing a real fire engine and real firefighters!

Costuming

To add to the fun, your workers can dress in costumes, such as real or simulated turnout gear for firefighters on a fire scene. Workers can also dress in station uniforms, which are often comprised of navy blue pants and a navy blue t-shirt. For officer firefighters, the t-shirt can be replaced by a white button-up collared shirt with lieutenant or captain rank insignias.

Fire Fighters Signs

Official-looking signs like "Fire Station 316," "Engine Bay," "Captain's Office" and others can add further authenticity if posted strategically around your facility. A variety of signs and other decorative artwork is available on the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink. We suggest borrowing or printing a copy of the Decorations Kit from the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink for more ideas.



The VBS Departments

The Fire Fighters VBS kit is divided into what we call "Resource Kits." Each kit is designed for a particular area, or "department" of VBS. This allows the VBS Director to recruit heads for each VBS department, providing them with the appropriate kits and materials for their assigned departments from the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink. In this way, all of the VBS "Department Directors" will be equipped with all the VBS materials they need for operating their department of VBS.

Summary of VBS Departments

Now it's time to take a brief look at what the VBS Department Directors will be doing and how each department will work. Being aware of what your volunteers are doing will be very important for keeping everyone organized and enabling you to answer questions from your workers.

We recommend that you take a quick look at the VBS Resource Kits which pertain to each department for a full understanding of the needs and responsibilities of each department. However, for your reference, we've included an overview of what each department and director will be doing. This overview is as follows:

Drama Department

The Drama Staff for VBS will be overseeing the dramatic portions of the VBS program, including the opening and closing skits for each day of VBS. The drama skits feature three fun characters (shown in the next column). Jake is the firehouse captain for the VBS week. Jake's lieutenant, "Ember," is a veteran firefighter who believes in Jesus, but who has lost her spark of enthusiasm. Bernie, a clumsy rookie, does not initially believe in Christ.

Each day's skit sets the stage for the Bible lessons to be taught that day. On each day of VBS, the first part of the drama skits will be performed, and then paused at a crucial point. Then, the children will be sent off to their other VBS activities while thinking about the unresolved issues of the skit. At the end of each day in the closing assemblies, after a time of praise & worship, each day's skit will then be concluded, showing the children how each issue is resolved. The drama skits will be great fun for children to watch, all while teaching important concepts.

Needs of the Drama Department

The Drama Department will need a stage area on which to perform and where all of your VBS children can watch the drama skits. Depending on the size of your facility, they may also need a sound system and some minor technical equipment. You'll need an adult actor to play "Jake" and actors to play the parts of Ember and Bernie (teens with dramatic talent are good choices). The Drama Kit contains all of the VBS skits and includes many of the props and instructions needed. The Fire Fighters Disc and WebLink also contains teleprompter versions of each skit, along with instructions for setting up a simple teleprompter.

Volunteers Needed

- An adult to play "Jake." This should be a wise-looking man.
- A male actor to play the part of "Bernie." This can be an adult, but a teenager would be very suitable.
- A female actor to play the part of Ember. This can be an adult, but a teenager is very suitable.
- A technical crew for sound and lights if applicable
- People to help acquire props and prepare sets for your skits

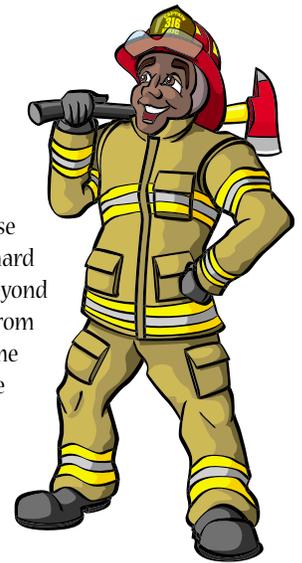
The Characters

Here's a quick summary of what each character is like:

Captain Jake

Jake is the captain of Fire Station 316 and a strong disciple of Jesus Christ. He serves God daily by doing his job for God's glory, but moreover, Jake is on a lifelong mission to find and rescue those who need to be saved by Jesus. He works hard to rescue accident and fire victims, but beyond that, Jake's desire is to rescue people from the eternal fire that threatens to consume anyone who doesn't trust in Jesus. Jake

respects Ember, his station lieutenant, but he is concerned by her lack of commitment to Christ.



Lieutenant Ember

Ember is a veteran firefighter who has worked very hard to get where she is. As a believer in Jesus, Ember once understood the importance of giving her all to Jesus, but in her career, Ember has become burned out. Her spark for Christ is gone, and although God has never left her, Ember has become cynical and tends to try doing everything by her own strength. Despite the fact that Ember is still mostly a nice person, she is so unenthusiastic about God that even Captain Jake has all but given up on her.

Bernie

Bernie is a rookie "probie" firefighter with lots to learn. Although he is good natured, Bernie is very clumsy, often starting accidental fires in the Fire Station, much to the embarrassment of Station 316. Ember has little patience for Bernie, who seems to clumsily follow her around. Bernie does not start out as a believer in Christ, but he is eager to learn. By the time VBS week is over, Bernie becomes an enthusiastic disciple of Christ and a model firefighter, even succeeding in re-igniting Lieutenant Ember's spark for Jesus.





Teaching Department

The Teaching Department is the backbone of your VBS, providing the most "face-to-face" in-depth teaching of the VBS program. The Teaching Department includes:

Fire Academy Lessons Kit

Innovative Scripture-based object lessons with (in most cases) interwoven Bible character focuses, demonstrating parallels between Biblical principles and fire fighting and how to apply those principles for a strong Christian walk. These lessons are provided at four teaching levels for five days.

Firefighter Drill Lesson Kit

Interactive object lessons with Scripture which show how each day's Bible lesson applies to our lives today by putting it into action. These lessons are provided at four teaching levels as well.

Send-Home Materials Kit

Age-targeted worksheets relating to each day's VBS lesson to be sent home with the children. Also includes a take-home Bible study sheet designed for parents so they can study the same topics their children learned and continue the teaching process.

Teen Lesson Kit

Five lessons that closely follow what the children are learning, but geared for teenagers.

Adult Lesson Kit

Five lessons that closely follow what the children are learning, but geared for adults.

Gospel Tracts & Discipleship Booklet (NIV or KJV only)

For use in evangelizing children and helping them to mature.

Teaching Director's Guide

Summarizes all of the above items and includes directions for setting up his or her department, as well as how the Fire Fighters lesson materials should be used.

Needs of the Teaching Department

Based upon the size of your VBS, you'll need either one or two rooms for your Fire Academy Lessons and an additional one or two rooms for your Firefighter Drill Lessons. If desired, you will also need classrooms for the Adult teaching and Teen teaching activities. Certain supplies which are needed for teaching the Bible Lessons are listed in the Lesson Kits, though many of these supplies are included with the Lesson Materials.

Bible Teaching Personnel Needed

Based upon the size of your VBS you'll need staff as follows:

Small VBS:

- One Fire Academy Lesson Teacher
- One Firefighter Drill Lesson Teacher

Medium VBS:

- One Fire Academy Lesson Teacher
 - One Fire Academy Lesson Assistant
 - One Firefighter Drill Lesson Teacher
 - One Firefighter Drill Lesson Assistant
- (recommend having a different teaching crew each day of VBS)

Large VBS:

- One Fire Academy Lesson Teacher and Assistant for Junior Program
 - One Fire Academy Lesson Teacher and Assistant for Senior Program
 - One Firefighter Drill Lesson Teacher and Assistant for Junior Program
 - One Firefighter Drill Lesson Teacher and Assistant for Senior Program
- (recommend having a different teaching crew each day of VBS)

Adult & Teen Lesson Teachers

Finally, if you choose to include adults or teenagers in your VBS, you'll need qualified people to teach them, such as pastors (for adults) or youth pastors (for teenagers) using the lessons in the Adult Lesson Kit and Teen Lesson Kit.



Age Group Leaders

Age Group Leaders are the adult helpers who will be with the kids throughout the VBS program, taking them from area to area, administering discipline, and most importantly, befriending the kids. At the start of each day's VBS session, Age Group Leaders will need to "check-in" the children for the age groups they're assigned to. Check-in involves greeting children, issuing them name tags, listening to them reciting memory verses, and keeping score for them on included score sheets.

Needs of Age Group Leaders

We suggest equipping each Age Group Leader with a name tag and a clipboard on which they can keep notes or score sheets.

Age Group Leader T-Shirt Artwork is Provided

The Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink includes t-shirt artwork for the leaders of each age group which you can print and iron on to white t-shirts. This will help children to quickly identify the leaders of their groups.

Volunteers Needed

We suggest one adult for every ten children.

Crafts Department

The Crafts Department will handle the Craft Time sessions of each day of your VBS program. Special craft projects are included in the Crafts Kit, including supply lists, templates, diagrams, directions and photos of finished crafts. All of the craft projects relate in some way to the theme of the lessons of VBS, and all of the projects are simple and easy. The Fire Fighters craft projects are shown on the VBS Overview chart earlier in this publication.

Special Note about Crafts Time

For scheduling reasons, the VBS operating schedule built into Fire Fighters calls for Crafts time and Snacks time to be combined into a single 20-minute session. This means that the Crafts and Snacks staff will share a single room, and children will eat their snacks as they assemble their crafts.

Needs of the Crafts Department

You will need an area in which to host Craft Time for each day of VBS. We suggest a non-carpeted area if one is available. Otherwise, we suggest protecting floors with painting tarps and protecting craft tables with newspapers. Supplies needed for craft projects are listed in the Crafts Kit and on the "Supplies Needed" flyer from this kit.

Volunteers Needed

- Craft Teachers who can demonstrate crafts and assist children
- Preparation workers who can prepare the supplies needed for each craft project, as well as preparing (mess-proofing) the area in your facility where the crafts will be taught.
- Clean-up personnel to assist in cleaning up after craft time.

Snacks Department

The Snacks Department will be responsible for preparing and handling the daily Snack Time of your VBS program. The Snacks Kit includes

recipes for five simple but fun VBS snacks, as well as suggestions for preparation, cleanliness, and more. The five Fire Fighters snacks are found on the VBS Overview chart earlier in this publication.

Special Note about Snacks Time

Snack time and Crafts time will take place together in a single 20-minute session. Crafts and Snacks staff will share a single room, and children will eat their snacks as they assemble their crafts.

Needs of the Snacks Department

You will need an area in which to serve the snacks to the children. In some cases, children are asked to assemble their snacks before eating them, meaning that you will need to have tables for the children to be served at. We also suggest a non-carpeted area for Snack Time. A list of the items needed for Snack Time is included in the Snacks Kit.

Volunteers Needed

- Preparation volunteers who will make necessary preparations
- Snack supervisors who will serve the children
- Clean-up volunteers

Games Department

The Games Department will prepare and administer each day's VBS games. The games are a good way for children to release extra energy and to let loose for a while at VBS. All of the VBS games are loosely related to the theme and the VBS lessons. The Games Kit includes detailed directions, diagrams and props for use with the VBS games. The Fire Fighters games are briefly described on the VBS Overview chart earlier in this publication.

Needs of the Games Department

We suggest an outdoor grassy area or an indoor area with soft flooring or carpeting. A first aid kit is always a good idea, and we suggest making water available for thirsty kids. Other supplies needed for games are listed or provided in the Games Kit.

Volunteers Needed

We suggest having a few adult helpers to play with the children, to keep order, and to keep the games safe.

Music Department

The Music Department will handle the Praise & Worship segment of your VBS program, learning, teaching and performing the songs for VBS. Your Music Director may perform the VBS songs from the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink, as well as other children's songs favored by the children in your church.

Needs of the Music Department

Your music leaders will need the Fire Fighters Audio Music (either from a music disc or from the WebLink) and printable Music Kit to work from. They may also need some sound equipment so they can lead the children in worship.

Volunteers Needed

We suggest having a few teens or children assist the worship leader in leading the VBS children in Praise & Worship.

Missions Department

This department will oversee the VBS Missions project, promoting the project each day at VBS and getting the VBS children involved in the process. This department will determine what the missions project will be and how high to set the fund raising goal.

Needs of the Missions Department

You will need an area where you can display the fund-raising progress for your missions project so that your VBS children can see it. Artwork for a "tracking board" is provided in the Missions Kit. One person should be adequate for this department.

Advertising Department

The Advertising Department is responsible for advertising and promoting your VBS program before VBS begins. Using flyers, posters and artwork provided in the Advertising Kit and on the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink, the department will create interest and excitement both within your church and around your community for your VBS program.

Needs of the Advertising Department

Your Advertising Director will need access to the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink so that all of the flyers, posters and artwork needed can be printed and used. Otherwise, it is up to your church to determine an advertising budget.

Registration & Scoring Dept.

The Registration and Scoring Department will oversee the registration process for your VBS, making sure that you have all of the important information needed for each child in your VBS program. This department will also be keeping score as the children accumulate points for their participation in VBS. They will also determine what kinds of awards or prizes to give to the kids. This department will promote early registration within your church and "day-of-event" registration during the five days of your VBS program. The Registration Department will make name tags for each child in your VBS program and ensure that Age Group Leaders have important information for each child. Additionally, this department will tally up scores for all children throughout VBS as directed in the Registration & Scoring Kit.

Needs of the Registration & Scoring Dept.

You will need a table where registration will take place. Your volunteers will need to use this table throughout VBS, both for registration and for scoring. Name Tags, Registration & Scorekeeping Cards, and other tools are provided in the Registration Kit. You will also need a calculator and a supply of 3" X 4" Avery Top-Loading Clip-Style Name Tags.

Volunteers Needed

We suggest recruiting 3-4 people to assist with the registration and scoring process. Workers from other VBS departments may be able to assist when they are not engaged with their own duties.

Decorations Department

This department will be transforming your facility to look like a fire station, fire engine, or fire or rescue scene. This can be accomplished through the use of used fire equipment, painted cardboard props, posters, and more. Some of these things can be found at your local thrift store or online. More decorating ideas are found in the Decorations Kit. Additionally, the Decorations Kit includes a directory of clip-art and signs which can be used for making your facility look like a fire station.

Needs of the Decorations Department

The Decorations Department will need a number of supplies for decorating your facility, many of which are included in the Decorations Kit and on the Fire Fighters Disc or WebLink. The Decorations Director will need access to the Disc / WebLink so that he or she can freely locate and print whatever is needed from the clip art library. You will also need to set a VBS decorating budget.

Volunteers Needed

- Carpenters may be needed to build any special props you might want for your VBS
- Artists to paint scenes or signs
- Thrift store or garage sale shoppers to acquire decorating items
- Craft hobbyists to assist in producing props and scenes



There You Have It!

In a nutshell, that's a brief summary of the Fire Fighters VBS program. If you have any questions about this VBS kit, please feel free to contact us as shown below.

We'd also like to tell you about our weekly Truthopolis Sunday School and Children's Church curriculum, designed for ages 3-11. Our Truthopolis program is very much like this VBS program, including drama skits, Bible/object lessons, take-home worksheets, family study sheets, gospel and discipleship materials, clip art, and much more. Truthopolis also involves many fun characters for drama skits, including puppets. Bring the fun and effective Bible teaching of VBS to your church EVERY WEEK through the TruthQuest® Truthopolis Program! Visit our web site and check it out!

TruthQuest® Ministries

web site: www.truthquest.net
email: info@truthquest.net
phone: 303-920-1463
address: 11500 Sheridan Boulevard
 Denver, CO 80020



TruthQuest® Doctrinal Statement

We Believe:

1. The Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and the Divine and final authority for Christian faith and life.
2. In one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. That Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. Further, He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He is now our High Priest and Advocate.
4. That the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and, during this age, to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, and indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
5. That man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is, therefore, lost, and only through regeneration by the Holy Spirit can salvation and spiritual life be obtained.
6. That the shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only grounds for justification and salvation for all who believe, and only such as receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and, thus become children of God.
7. That water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are, however, not to be regarded as means of salvation.
8. That the true Church is composed of all such persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are united together in the Body of Christ of which He is the Head.
9. That only those who are, thus, members of the true Church (above) shall be eligible for membership in the local church.
10. That Jesus Christ is the Lord and Head of the Church and that every local church has the right, under Christ, to decide and govern its own affairs.
11. In the personal premillennial and imminent coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer.
12. In the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord; of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.



FIRE FIGHTERS



Vacation Bible School
www.truthquest.net

Sample Materials

Samples on the Following Pages Include:

Day 1 Academy Lesson, Level 3

This lesson, which is also available in three other teaching levels, introduces the concept that fire and sin are very similar, not only in how easily they get started, but in how quickly they spread and destroy. A simple object lesson is part of this lesson.

Pages 15-18

Day 4 Firefighter Drill Lesson, Level 2

This lesson, which is also available in three other teaching levels, teaches the importance of readiness, fitness, and preparedness in the Spiritual walk with God. We must always be in practice, properly geared up and ready to answer God's call!

Pages 19-22

Day 4 Crafts Project: Firefighter Axe

This fun crafts project lets kids build a harmless firefighter axe out of craft foam!

Pages 23

Day 1 Drama Skit

Meet the Fire Fighters Characters and check out what a day at Station 316 is like with Captain Jake, Lieutenant Ember, and Bernie the clumsy rookie!

Pages 24-28



FIRE FIGHTERS



Day 1
Page 15
NIV



Day 1

Academy Training Lesson Pack

Welcome to Fire Fighters!

We want to sincerely thank you for serving as a teacher at VBS. Now's your chance to challenge kids to aim for higher standards of godliness while also growing yourself! Use this time to impact children with God's Truth, and may God bless you as you do so!

Your Responsibilities...

1. Read the "Information for Teachers" page (on the next page) to familiarize yourself with the following:
 - The structure of the Bible lessons
 - The four teaching levels
 - What ages each level of lesson is designed for
 - The purpose and use of the Scoreboard Sheet
 - Information about the Take-Home Worksheets
 - Tips for Teachers
2. Gather all of the materials needed for this lesson as shown in the "Lesson Materials" section in the next column.
3. Prepare the lesson materials as shown in the "Lesson Preparation" section in the next column.
4. Read through the lessons you'll be teaching, and familiarize yourself with the Scripture passages and object lessons involved.
5. Fill out your "Teacher" name tag to identify yourself.
6. Read through the "Tips for Teachers" section on the next page for helpful hints about teaching children.
7. Teach all Age Groups the appropriate level of lesson on Day 1 of VBS.

Your Name Tag

Write your name on the Name Tag to the right, cut it out, and insert it into a 4-inch X 3-inch top-loading, clip-style name tag from Avery, which your VBS Director should have a supply of. Wear this Name Tag to identify yourself during VBS.

Lesson Materials & Preparation

This Lesson Pack Includes:

- "Information for Teachers" sheet (next page)
- Scoreboard Sheet (optional; see note on Scoreboard Sheet)
- Lessons for Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 (2 pages each)
- Day 1 Lesson Diagram
- Fire Triangle sheet
- Sin Triangle sheet

Lesson Materials:

- Box of wooden matches with striker panel
- A small candle
- A piece of scrap paper (to set on fire)
- A casserole dish (to drop the burning paper into)
- A glass of water (to pour over the burning paper)
- A clear drinking glass large enough to fit over the candle

Lesson Preparation:

1. See the "Information and Advice for Teachers" page for information and teaching tips.
2. Make the preparations called for on the Day 1 Lesson Diagram page. We strongly recommend testing this lesson prior to teaching it for safety reasons.

Lesson Context:

In Other Areas Of VBS Today, Kids Are Learning:

"Stop, Drop & Roll!"

If you're ever on fire, firefighters tell us that we should stop, drop and roll in order to put out the fire. It's the same if we're caught in the fire of sin. When caught in the flames of sin, we should STOP what we're doing, then DROP to our knees and pray, and then ROLL through the Bible and obey it! So if you're being burned by sin, stop, drop and roll!



FIRE FIGHTERS



First Name

Last Name



Station Captain



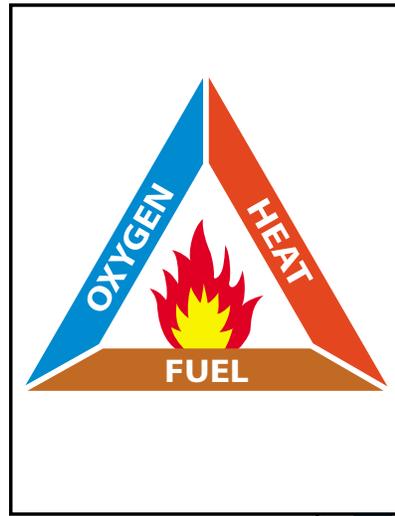
FIRE FIGHTERS

Lesson Diagram Sheet

Day 1
Academy Lesson

What You Need:

- Fire Triangle sheet (included)
- Sin Triangle sheet (included)
- Box of wooden matches with striker panel
- A small candle
- A piece of scrap paper (to set on fire)
- A casserole dish (to drop the burning paper into)
- A glass of water (to pour over the burning paper)
- A clear drinking glass large enough to fit over the candle



Special Notes:

Safety First!

This lesson involves lighting matches, candles and paper on fire. We strongly suggest that you practice the lessons in this packet so that you can ensure that you won't set off fire alarms. The casserole dish and the glass of water called for in this lesson are for putting out the fire of the paper you will set on fire. This object lesson is meant to show how quickly a small flame can grow into a large fire. However, you should then drop the burning paper into the casserole dish and pour the water over it to quickly get rid of the fire. Practice doing this before VBS teaching time! Then, when lesson time comes, you'll be able to teach an effective lesson without the need to call in the real fire department!



FIRE FIGHTERS

Academy Lesson

LEVEL 3
For 2nd and 3rd Graders
Day 1
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Lesson Focus:

“Don’t Play with Fire!”

Memory Verse:

James 1:14-15

But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Lesson Preparation:

Acquire and prepare the supplies listed on today’s Object Lesson Diagram as directed on that page.

Lesson Introduction:

Today, we’re going to learn how fires get started. We’re also going to learn how sin gets started. To begin, I’m going to show you something called a “Fire Triangle.”

Action:

Show the “Fire Triangle” Poster to the children as you explain:

! EXPLAIN:

A Fire Triangle is a tool that reminds firefighters of the three things it takes to start a fire. Those three things are fuel, oxygen, and heat. Fuel is stuff like hay and wood that can burn. Fires also need oxygen, which is in the air we breathe. Finally, heat can start a fire if there’s enough fuel and oxygen. If all three things from our fire triangle get together, it starts a fire!

? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points)

Q. Why is fire dangerous?

! EXPLAIN:

Fire is hot and can burn you. Fire also spreads very quickly. A small spark can grow into a huge fire that can burn down buildings and kill people!

WARNING:

Even though we’re going to use fire in our lesson, you must NEVER play with matches and fire. Once a fire gets started, it can spread and get out of control very quickly. Never EVER play with matches or fire! But, there is something else we should never play with either. Listen to this:

! READ: James 1:13-15 (below):

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

! EXPLAIN:

These verses talk about sin, which is disobedience to God. These verses show us that sin starts out with our own evil desires. Then, when temptation comes, we sin.

? QUESTION: (1 point):

What is sin?

ANSWER: Sin is when you disobey God.

Action:

Show the Sin Triangle to the class as you explain:

! EXPLAIN:

Sin is even more dangerous than fire. Just like fire, sin needs three things in order to burn, which we see on this “Sin Triangle.” Sin starts when we have evil desires, which are like fuel for a fire. Then, when we are tempted because of our desires, it gets dangerous. Finally, when we have a chance to sin (called an “OPPORTUNITY,”) we sin, like starting a deadly fire.

? DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points)

Q. Why shouldn’t we play with fire or with sin?

A. It can spread and kill you.

! EXPLAIN:

In Joshua chapter six, Israel conquers the wicked city of Jericho. When the people of Israel marched around the wall of the city and yelled, the walls came crashing down, and the Israelites destroyed the city as God had commanded. But there was one more command that God had given:

! READ: Joshua 6:18 (below):

But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it.

? CHARACTER FOCUS: Achan’s desire

One of the men who marched around Jericho was Achan. Achan liked having nice things, and he wondered what kinds of treasures he might find when Israel rushed into Jericho. “Wouldn’t it be nice if I could have some?,” thought Achan.

? QUESTION: (1 point):

Did Achan DESIRE to have what he shouldn’t have?

ANSWER: Yes.

! READ: 2 Timothy 2:22a (below):

Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness.

? QUESTION: (1 point):

What does this verse tell us to do with our evil desires?

ANSWER: Run away from them and get rid of them.

Action:

Point to the “Desire” on the Sin Triangle, and then show them a match as you explain the following.

! APPLICATION: Desire is like fuel for fire!

Achan did NOT flee from his evil desire. Achan DESIRED to do what God commanded him NOT to do. Achan had a sinful DESIRE, and like a match, that’s FUEL for a fire!



Continued on Next Page...



FIRE FIGHTERS

Academy Lesson



Continued from Previous Page

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points)

Q. Do you think Achan is in danger of getting burned by sin?

CHARACTER FOCUS: Achan is tempted

When the walls of Jericho fell, Achan rushed into the city to destroy it. But while he was there, he saw some of the devoted things that God told him to stay away from; things like silver and fine clothing, and Achan WANTED them.

READ: James 1:14 (below):

But each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.

Action:

Point to the "Temptation" part of the Sin Triangle and show the match to the class again as you explain the following:

APPLICATION: Temptation: Oxygen for fire!

Achan already had an evil desire for things he shouldn't have, but now he saw those things in front of him, and he was TEMPTED to take them. In our Sin Triangle, two of the three things needed to start a fire are in place. His evil desire was like fuel to burn, and his temptation was like oxygen. Danger!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points)

Q. Is there oxygen in this room that could help this match burn?

EXPLAIN:

This match is fuel for a fire, and the oxygen in this room can make it possible for a fire to burn. Two of the three things needed for starting a fire are here. It's the same with sin. If you have an evil desire, and then if you are tempted, you are in danger of starting the fire of sin, just like Achan. Let's see what happened next:

CHARACTER FOCUS: Achan's Opportunity

Then, Achan found himself alone. While no one was watching, Achan stole several things God said not to take.

Action:

Point to "Opportunity" on the Sin Triangle and show the match to the class as you explain:

APPLICATION: Sin ignites and burns!

Like a match that could be fuel for a fire, Achan had an evil DESIRE. Then, like oxygen for a fire to burn, Achan was TEMPTED. And finally, like heat to start a fire, Achan saw a chance—an OPPORTUNITY—to take what he wanted. All three parts of the fire triangle were together now, and guess what?

Action:

Strike the match and light a candle.

CHARACTER FOCUS: Achan's sin destroys

Now, Achan had sinned. His evil DESIRE, his TEMPTATION, and the OPPORTUNITY to sin all came together and caught fire. But then, like with fire, Achan's sin burned out of control. You see, soon after this, Israel went to war with the city of Ai, and they lost! In fact, about 36 Israelites died in the battle, because God was not with them—all because of Achan's sin.

Action:

Light a piece of paper on fire.

EXPLAIN:

See how quickly this paper caught fire? If I let it, this paper could catch this whole building on fire. Sin spreads just like fire, and other people can get hurt, just like in Achan's story.

Action:

Drop the burning paper into the casserole dish and pour water over it to extinguish it. Leave the candle burning.

APPLICATION: Sin can kill like fire

Because of Achan's sin, many other people died. And Achan himself got caught for his sin, and in Joshua 7:25, he was put to death for it, just like it says in James 1:15.

READ: James 1:15 (below):

Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

APPLICATION: Be a Firefighter!

Don't let fires of sin get started! Fight them!

Action:

Show a new match to the class.

APPLICATION: Get rid of fuel!

So, if you have evil desires, take away the fuel!

Action:

Throw the match away and show them the drinking glass.

APPLICATION: Get rid of temptation!

And don't give your sinful desires any air to burn. Take away those temptations, just like this glass will take away our candle's air, and watch the fire go out!

Action:

Put the drinking glass upside-down over the candle. Then, show them the striker panel from the matchbox.

APPLICATION: Get rid of opportunity!

And if you have a chance to sin, get away from it!

Action:

Throw away the matchbox.

Conclusion:

It takes three things to start a fire of sin. Don't let the fire get started. Evil desires lead to temptation, and then, if you have the opportunity, you'll sin. Get rid of those evil desires and temptations, and don't get burned by sin's fire!

END OF LESSON!



FIRE FIGHTERS



Day 4
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NIV



Day 4

Firefighter Drill Lesson Pack

Welcome to Fire Fighters!

We want to sincerely thank you for serving as a teacher at VBS. Now's your chance to challenge kids to aim for higher standards of godliness while also growing yourself! Use this time to impact children with God's Truth, and may God bless you as you do so!

Your Responsibilities...

1. Read the "Information for Teachers" page (on the next page) to familiarize yourself with the following:
 - The structure of the Bible lessons
 - The four teaching levels
 - What ages each level of lesson is designed for
 - The purpose and use of the Scoreboard Sheet
 - Information about the Take-Home Worksheets
 - Tips for Teachers
2. Gather all of the materials needed for this lesson as shown in the "Lesson Materials" section in the next column.
3. Prepare the lesson materials as shown in the "Lesson Preparation" section in the next column.
4. Read through the lessons you'll be teaching, and familiarize yourself with the Scripture passages and object lessons involved.
5. Fill out your "Teacher" name tag to identify yourself.
6. Read through the "Tips for Teachers" section on the next page for helpful hints about teaching children.
7. Teach all Age Groups the appropriate level of lesson on Day 4 of VBS.

Your Name Tag

Write your name on the Name Tag to the right, cut it out, and insert it into a 4-inch X 3-inch top-loading, clip-style name tag from Avery, which your VBS Director should have a supply of. Wear this Name Tag to identify yourself during VBS.

Lesson Materials & Preparation

This Lesson Pack Includes:

- "Information for Teachers" sheet (next page)
- Scoreboard Sheet (optional; see note on Scoreboard Sheet)
- Lessons for Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 (2 pages each)
- Day 4 Lesson Diagram

Lesson Materials:

- A coaches' whistle
- A Bible
- One or two sets of "firefighter gear" (real or simulated) comprised of:
 - A pair of adult boots
 - A pair of adult pants with suspenders attached
 - An adult coat
 - A fire helmet

Lesson Preparation:

1. See the "Information and Advice for Teachers" page for information and teaching tips.
2. Make the preparations called for on the Day 4 Lesson Diagram page, learning how to properly prepare firefighter gear so that it can be put on quickly. You will want to do this IN ADVANCE of your teaching time or you will not be prepared.

Lesson Context:

In Other Areas Of VBS Today, Kids Are Learning:

"Wear Your Armor!" (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Just like the protective equipment firefighters wear to protect them from harm and to help them battle the flames, God has given us the Armor of God to protect us and to help us do battle against evil!



FIRE FIGHTERS

First Name _____

Last Name _____



Station Captain



FIRE FIGHTERS

Lesson Diagram Sheet

Day 4
Firefighter Drill

This Diagram is for Levels 1 and 2 Only

LEVEL 1-2
For Preschool thru 1st Grade

What You Need:

- A coaches' whistle
- A Bible
- ONE set of "firefighter gear."
(All of the gear listed below should look as much as possible like real firefighter gear.) The gear you'll need is:
- A set of adult boots (winter rubber boots will work)
- An adult pair of pants with suspenders fastened to them
- An adult coat
- A fire helmet



How to Properly Prepare Firefighter Gear:

To make it fast and easy for firefighters to get into their gear, they prepare their boots, pants, and suspenders as shown at right. Their boots are left in their pants, and the top part of the pants are turned out with the suspenders already firmly fastened. The coat and helmet should be neatly laid out beside the boots.

When the alarm sounds, a firefighter can quickly step into his boots, grab his suspenders, and pull them up over his shoulders. Then, already mostly dressed, he can grab his coat and helmet, which are hung up or laid out nearby. Within one minute or less, a firefighter can be fully equipped and ready to go!

IMPROPER Preparation of Firefighter Gear:

To IMPROPERLY prepare a set of firefighter gear for this lesson, detach the suspenders from the pants, leave one sleeve and pant leg turned inside-out, and scatter the boots, pants, suspenders, coat and helmet around the room. It will take MUCH longer for a firefighter using THIS gear to get ready!



1

For the start of the Day 4 Firefighter Drill lesson, prepare the "firefighter gear" IMPROPERLY, with sleeves and legs inside-out and with the gear scattered throughout the room.

2

When directed to do so in the lesson, "Kelly" will attempt to put on the gear (with your help), but will have trouble because it is scattered. Then, when directed in the lesson, you will help "Kelly" to take off the gear, and you will prepare the gear PROPERLY as shown above. Then, Kelly will be able to put the gear on quickly!



FIRE FIGHTERS

Firefighter Drill Lesson

Lesson Focus:

“Always Prepared!”

Memory Verse:

2 Timothy 4:2A

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season.



Lesson Preparation:

Acquire and prepare the supplies listed on today's Object Lesson Diagram as directed on that page.

Lesson Introduction:

A firefighter must always be PREPARED to go put out fires or help people.

QUESTION: (1 point):

What does "prepared" mean?

ANSWER: It means making sure you're ready!

EXPLAIN:

A firefighter always has to be ready, even when he is doing other things. When a fire alarm sounds, he has to stop whatever he is doing and run out the door. Think about it. No matter what a firefighter is doing: eating, sleeping, or whatever, he has to stop, jump on his truck and run to a call. That's why a firefighter must think ahead and plan everything he does, knowing he might have to stop in the middle and respond to a call.

Action:

Pick a volunteer and bring him/her to the front. Introduce the volunteer as "Firefighter Kelly."

EXPLAIN:

Meet firefighter Kelly. Imagine that Kelly has had a long day fighting fires, rescuing people, and saving little cats that have been stuck in trees. Firefighter Kelly is tired and wants to sleep, so he/she isn't going to worry about being ready for the next call. He/she knows that a call may come when he/she will have to go fight a fire or maybe tell someone about Jesus, but he/she isn't worrying too much about being prepared. Kelly isn't reading the Bible, and isn't praying. He/she figures everything will come together by itself somehow.

Action:

Have "Kelly" pretend to yawn, then have him/her pretend to go to sleep on the floor. Then, draw the kids' attention to the mess that Kelly's gear is in.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points):

Q. Look at Kelly's firefighter gear. Do you think Kelly will be ready to go when the next call comes?

Q. Why not?

A. Kelly's stuff isn't ready, and Kelly isn't ready.

CHARACTER FOCUS: Nehemiah's Story

Let me tell you about a firefighter from the Bible. His name was Nehemiah. Several years before Nehemiah was born, the great city of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, and all the people of the city were taken away to live in Babylon. But some time later, the Jews were allowed to go home to Jerusalem.

Yet, by the time Nehemiah began working for a NEW king named Artaxerxes, Jerusalem had still not been rebuilt. When Nehemiah heard that his home city still had no walls to protect the Jews living there, he asked King Artaxerxes to let him go and help rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points):

Q. Do you think Nehemiah got ready before he left?

A. Yes!

CHARACTER FOCUS: Getting Ready to Build

Nehemiah brought soldiers for protection, and materials to help rebuild the gates and walls of Jerusalem. When he arrived, he told no one why he was there for three days. In secret, he went out at night to look over the walls to see what needed to be done. As he looked at the walls, he made a plan on how to rebuild the wall in the quickest time so the Jews would be safe from attack.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points):

Q. Did Nehemiah make a plan for how to rebuild the wall?

Q. How do you think that helped him to be ready?

A. He knew HOW to go about rebuilding the wall.

APPLICATION: Get Ready!

Nehemiah did his best to get ready for the job he had been sent to do. God has given each of us a job to do too. Let's see what God's Word says about being ready.

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Now, go over the Memory Verse several times with the class, using the motions below with each part of the verse:

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 2 Timothy 4:2A | (March in place.) |
| Preach the Word; | (Make a Bible shape with your hands.) |
| be prepared | (Pose like you're ready to run.) |
| in season | (Hold your arms out happily.) |
| and out of season. | (Hug yourself and act like you're cold.) |

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points):

Q. What are we supposed to be PREPARED to do?

A. Preach the Word.

EXPLAIN:

Preaching means that we tell other people about Jesus. When the Bible says we should be prepared to preach the Word, it means that we should always be ready to tell people about Jesus. In that way, we're like firefighters! Now let's see if Firefighter Kelly is prepared!

Action:

Blow a whistle and point out that a call has come to help rescue someone. Have the class make fire alarm noises as



Continued on Next Page...



FIRE FIGHTERS

Continued from Previous Page

you rush to help "Kelly" get his/her firefighter gear on. Be silly and fun with this!

SAY:

Oh-oh! Kelly is having some trouble getting ready! I don't think Kelly is going to be able to help rescue anyone this time! It looks like Kelly is in a mess of his/her own!

QUESTION: (1 point):

Q. If someone needed to hear about Jesus right now, would Kelly be ready to tell them?

ANSWER: No!

APPLICATION: Thinking Ahead

Well, Kelly has learned his/her lesson. Now, Kelly has a chance to be prepared for the next time. Watch this:

Action:

Help "Kelly" to take off his/her gear, and prepare it properly (as shown on the diagram sheet) so that it can be put on quickly. Place a Bible right beside the gear also.

EXPLAIN:

You see, Kelly has realized that a call may come again, and he/she doesn't want to be caught unprepared the next time a call comes to tell someone about Jesus. That's why Kelly has decided to have a Bible nearby at all times. It's why Kelly is remembering Bible verses. It's why Kelly's gear is ready, and why Kelly is thinking in advance of what he/she will say to people to tell them about Jesus. Kelly is determined to be prepared next time!

READ: 2 Timothy 4:2A (below):

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season.

QUESTION: (1 point):

What would happen to fire victims if firefighters weren't prepared at all times to rescue them?

ANSWER: They would get hurt or die.

QUESTION: (1 point):

What will happen if you're not prepared to tell someone about Jesus? Will you be able to help them escape hell?

ANSWER: No.

CHARACTER FOCUS: Nehemiah's Plan

Many of the Jews' enemies did not want to see the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt. When they found out that Nehemiah was in charge of rebuilding the walls, they tried to scare Nehemiah and said they would attack him and the people working on the wall. Nehemiah didn't let their threats stop him. Instead, he got everyone ready for an attack. Nehemiah divided up the workers by families and gave them each a part of the wall to work on. Then each man was given a weapon to wear while they worked on the wall. That way, if anyone did attack, they would be ready for battle, yet they could still work on the wall while waiting for the battle. Just like it says in Mark 13:33, Nehemiah planned

ahead, he put everyone on guard and told them to be alert, but he didn't stop doing the job God had given him to do. In a minute, we'll find out if Nehemiah's readiness paid off.

Action:

Blow the whistle again and have the class make fire alarm noises. Help Kelly to get dressed again, this time also putting a Bible in his/her hand. As you do this, have fun praising "Kelly" for how prepared he/she is.

READ: 2 Timothy 4:2A (below):

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season.

EXPLAIN:

We should be prepared to tell people about Jesus IN SEASON and OUT OF SEASON. That means that we should be ready to talk about Jesus, even when we don't expect to.

QUESTION: (1 point):

What does it mean to be ready IN SEASON?

ANSWER: Be ready when we expect to talk about Jesus.

QUESTION: (1 point):

What does it mean to be prepared OUT OF SEASON?

ANSWER: Be ready to talk about Jesus even when you don't EXPECT to.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points):

Q. Talk about some ways to be prepared to tell others about Jesus. Can you be prepared by:

1. Having Mom or Dad read you the Bible?
2. Praying?
3. Learning more and more about Jesus?
4. Being kind to others who need Jesus?

CHARACTER FOCUS: Only Fifty-Two Days!

Nehemiah made sure all the people working on the wall were ready for anything. Because of Nehemiah's preparedness, everyone was prepared, ready for battle, and able to work hard and fast. As a result, the huge job of rebuilding the wall took only fifty-two days! The Jews were now protected by a wall, and the enemies of the Jews called off their attacks. God had used Nehemiah's wise planning and readiness to protect His people.

EXPLAIN:

Unless people give their lives to Jesus, there is NO WAY for them to go to heaven. If WE tell people about Jesus, we can be like firefighters, because we're helping to rescue people from the fire of hell! That's why we have to always be ready to tell others about Jesus, even when we don't think we will have to.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (no points):

Q. Are you guys going to be ready?

Conclusion:

Firefighters need to be ready for a call at anytime. They never know when the alarm is going to go off. If they aren't prepared it could hurt someone. We are called to help save others from the fires of sin, but if we aren't prepared to answer the call it might mean someone doesn't ever come to know Christ as their Savior. Will you be prepared when the call comes?

END OF LESSON!



FIRE FIGHTERS

Craft Diagram Sheet

Day 4 Firefighter Axe

Preparation Directions

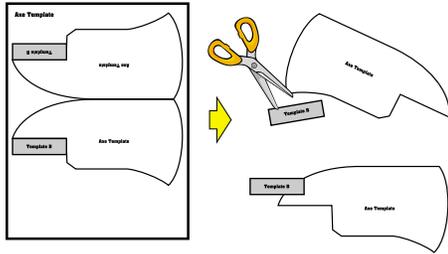
These steps will need to be completed IN ADVANCE by the Crafts Teacher and Staff.

LEVEL 1-2
For Preschool thru 1st Grade

LEVEL 3-4
For 2nd Grade thru Pre-teen

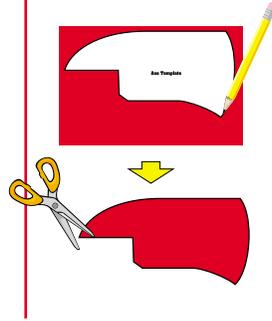
A

Print copies of the "Axe Template" sheet on regular paper (one copy for every three kids). Cut out the six template pieces from each template sheet.



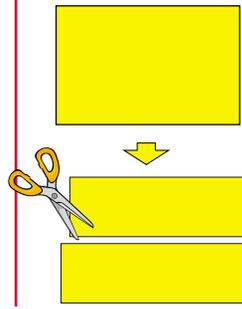
B

On 8 1/2" X 5 1/2" sheets of sticky-back craft foam, trace the template pieces as shown and cut them out.



C

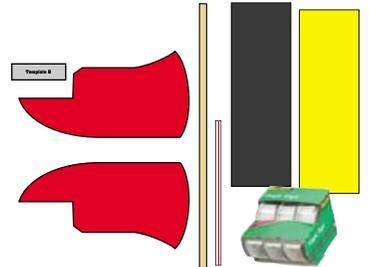
Take additional sheets of 8 1/2" X 5 1/2" sticky-back craft foam and cut them in HALF lengthwise. Each child will need two of these.



D

Supply each child with:

- Two sticky-back axe heads (these should be mirror images of each other)
- Two trimmed 2 3/4" X 8 1/2" pieces of sticky-back foam (any colors)
- One 12" dowel rod (5/16" diameter)
- One drinking straw
- Access to tape, stapler, and template pieces

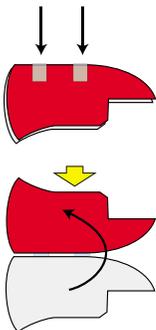


Children's Directions

These steps will need to be completed by the kids DURING Crafts Time.

1

Take your two axe heads and, without removing the adhesive backing, lay them exactly on top of each other with the sticky sides facing each other. Tape them together at the top as shown, then open it up like a door hinge.



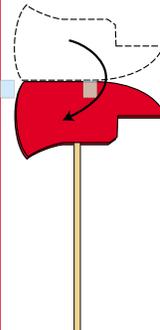
2

Remove the adhesive backing from both axe heads. Position your dowel on the sticky axe head as shown. The dowel should be centered, and the top of it should be about even with the bottom of the pick axe.



3

Fold the top axe head down and carefully stick it to the lower axe head. This will hold the dowel firmly in place. Once stuck together, remove the tape.

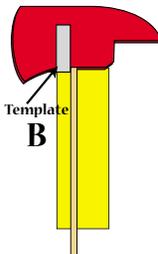


4

Remove the backing from a 2 3/4" X 8 1/2" piece of sticky-back foam and lay it down with the sticky side facing up.

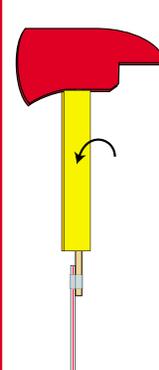
Position your axe handle on the foam as shown. You can use "Template B" to measure the distance.

The dowel should be 3/4" from the front side of the foam.



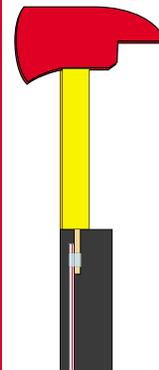
5

Fold the craft foam over as shown, matching the front edges together. Tape a drinking straw to the bottom of the dowel as shown.



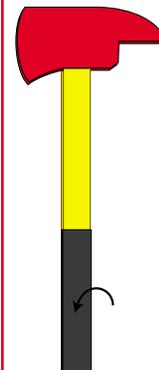
6

Remove the backing from your other 2 3/4" X 8 1/2" piece of sticky-back foam and lay it down with the sticky side facing up. Position your axe handle on the foam as shown. Match the front edges together.



7

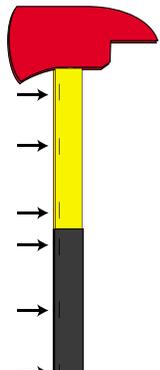
Fold the craft foam over as shown, matching the front edges together as you did with the top part of the handle.



8

Staple the front edges of the handle together so the foam won't pull apart. The axe is finished!

NOTE: Hold the axe by the TOP part of the handle or it will break!





FIRE FIGHTERS

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BEGINNING [Day 1 NIV Version]

(With the stage set up to look like a fire station [see "Staging Elements" on page 5 of this kit], the opening assembly begins with the singing of the Fire Fighters theme song by everyone. After an opening prayer, begin the skit with Jake on the stage)

Jake

Attention all rookies! Listen up! Are you ready to begin your firefighter training?

(Waits for kids to respond)

Good! Welcome to Station 316! I'm Captain Jake, and over the next few days, my crew and I will teach all of you boys and girls how to be firefighters! But I have to warn you, we like to have fun here at Station 316! Is that okay with you?

(Waits for kids to respond)

Good! But I don't want you to get the wrong idea. Fighting fires is a serious business! That's even MORE true here at Station 316, because in THIS fire department, we fight the most dangerous fire of all! We fight the fire of sin! Do you rookies want to fight that fire with me?

(Waits for kids to respond)

Good, because the Bible tells us in Revelation 20:15 that there is an everlasting fire that everyone on earth is in danger of, and THAT'S the fire we're going to learn how to fight!

(Ember enters with a clipboard)

Ember

You wanted to see me, Cap?

Jake

Yes, Ember, I want you to meet our rookies. They'll be training with us for a few days!

(To the kids)

Rookies, say hello to Ember!

(Waits for kids to respond)

Jake

Ember is a Lieutenant at Station 316. That means she's second in command. I kind of think of Ember as my right-hand man!

Ember

(Slightly offended)

Right hand MAN?

Jake

Sorry... Just an expression.

Ember

(Showing Jake the clipboard)

Never mind. I wanted to ask you about this assignment you've given me.

Jake

(Looking at the clipboard, knowing Ember is unhappy)

Oh... that. Yes, well, we have a special new rookie joining us from now on. He'll be assigned here permanently, and I'd like YOU to oversee his training.

(Jake fakes a laugh, trying to lighten the mood)

Ember

(Faking her own laugh, not amused)

Yeah, well I'd like to know why I'M personally getting stuck training this guy.

Jake

Come on, Lieutenant, it's a special favor for the Chief. Besides, I've kind of got my hands full training all these young rookies.

Ember

(Looking at her clipboard)

Yeah? Well it looks like you've stuck me with a real piece of work! "Bernard Errson?" What kind of name is that?

Jake

Come on, Ember, give the guy a break. He can't be that bad!

(A loud crash is heard offstage, and a couple of pots and pans come rolling in to the scene)

Ember

What was that?

(Bernie, carrying a large bag, clumsily stumbles into the scene, dropping things, bumping into things, and finally falling down right in front of Ember)

Bernie

(Saluting from the floor)

Probationary firefighter Bernard Errson reporting for duty SIR!

Ember

(Staring coldly at Jake)

Can't be that bad, huh?

Jake

(Trying to ignore Ember's comment, helping Bernie up)

Hello Bernard. Good to meet you. My name's Jake. I'm the captain here. This is Lieutenant Ember.



FIRE FIGHTERS

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Bernie

Wow! A firefighter lady! I didn't know girls could be firefighters!

Ember

(Urging Jake to get rid of Bernie)

Captain...

Jake

(Trying to make peace)

Uh, you can just call her "Ember," okay Bernard?

Bernie

Sure thing, Cap! And ya'll can just call me "Bernie!"

Jake

Great, Bernie. Uh, may I ask what that big crash was in the kitchen?

Bernie

Oh, that? Well, I figure I must have knocked a pot or two off the stove when I tripped over my shoelace. Made an awful ruckus! By the way, something sure smelled good in there!

Ember

That would be my chili that was simmering for dinner.

Bernie

(Laughing awkwardly)

Oops! I guess I kind of spilled it all over the floor!

Ember

(Faking a laugh, not amused)

I guess so. So your first order of business is to get this gigantic ridiculous bag out of here and clean up the mess in the kitchen!

Bernie

(Standing up and saluting Ember in the most formal, but funny way he knows how)

Yes sir, Fire Lady sir!

Ember

(Coldly, over-pronouncing her name)

Lieu-ten-ant Em-ber! Now Go!

(Bernie clumsily rushes offstage, dropping things, running into things, and being as funny as possible. Offstage, another loud crash is heard)

Jake

Don't you think you were a little hard on him, Ember?

Ember

Seriously, Cap, did I do something wrong? Why are you sticking me with this country bumpkin?

Jake

Come on, Ember, he's a nice guy!

Ember

He's a fool! He couldn't tell a pick axe from a closet hook. He's definitely not the sharpest axe in the tool compartment!

Jake

(Warning Ember)

Careful, Ember. Remember how fires get started!

Ember

Sorry, kids. I don't mean to be a grump. I was just really hoping to train YOU guys instead of that "Bernie" guy. Basically, you need three things to start a fire.

(Showing the kids the Fire Triangle on her clipboard, pointing to each side as she mentions it)

First, you need fuel. That's anything that can burn like wood or paper. Then, you need oxygen. That's pretty much in the air we breathe. And when you've got those things, the only thing missing is heat. If fuel gets hot enough and has oxygen around it, look out! A fire can start!

Jake

That's right! And as firefighters, we can tell you that a tiny little spark can quickly become a huge building fire or forest fire, destroying everything in its path!

Ember

That's why you kids should NEVER play with matches or lighters. You don't want to start a fire like that!

Jake

But there's ANOTHER kind of fire that's just as easy to start, and even MORE dangerous! THAT fire is the fire of SIN! And Ember, I'm afraid you're awfully close to starting one of those fires!

Ember

Me?

Jake

(Showing the "Sin Triangle" from Ember's clipboard to the kids)



FIRE FIGHTERS

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Yes. You know, just like a real fire, it takes three things to start a sin fire. It takes an evil desire, which is a desire to do or say something you shouldn't. Then, it takes a temptation, like having the bad thing you want right in front of you. Finally, it takes an opportunity--a chance to do the wrong thing that you want to do. When those three things get together, look out!

Ember

Whoa, Cap, are you saying that I'm sinning?

Jake

Well, you have been saying some awfully unkind things about poor Bernie.

Ember

Yeah, come to think of it, I guess you're right. But really, Cap, can you blame me?

Jake

Nobody ever forces us to sin, kids. Sin is VERY dangerous, and it all begins in our hearts. In the Bible, James chapter one at verses 13, 14 and 15 say this:

"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

Ember

Oops. I kind of forgot about that one. I guess I haven't read that part of my Bible in a while.

Jake

There are all kinds of ways that we can sin, guys. But whether it's by stealing, lying, cheating, or hurting others, the fire of sin always gets started in our hearts.

Ember

Yeah, I guess I'd better watch my thoughts and my words more carefully. I said some pretty mean things about Bernie.

(Bernie runs back into the scene, panicked and panting)

Bernie

Fire!!

Ember

(Ignoring Bernie's warning)

Fire? Yes, Bernie, I guess I DID start a fire of sin.

Bernie

No, I dropped some papers on the stovetop when I...

Ember

(Not paying attention to Bernie)

...anyway, I wanted to apologize for being so hard on you. I...

(Smelling something)

Does anyone smell smoke?

Bernie

(Yelling, pointing to the kitchen)

FIRE!

Jake

You set fire to our kitchen?

Bernie

I didn't mean to...

Ember

(Yelling, running offstage as Bernie rushes after her)

BERNIE!!

Jake

Uh, don't panic, rookies. I think now would be a good time to send you all to your training sessions. And during those sessions, we're going to see who can answer more questions; the boys or the girls!

So when you think you know the answer to a QUESTION, stand up, because the first person to stand up and answer a question correctly will earn one point for their team. And at the end of the day, we'll see who answered more questions--the boys, or the girls.

Bernie

(Yelling from offstage)

Call 911!

Ember

(Yelling)

We ARE 911!

Jake

Uh, I think you'd all better evacuate now and go to your sessions!

Have fun, and I'll see you all back here a little later! Bye!

(Jake grabs a fire extinguisher and rushes offstage)

Fire Fighters GROUP ACTIVITY SESSIONS



FIRE FIGHTERS

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During this time, all of the VBS Age Groups will go through their rotation schedule to the various VBS activities. When these activities are completed, re-assemble all the kids for praise & worship and for the conclusion of the skit.

PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC TIME

Assemble all the kids together once again to participate in Praise & Worship Music Time.

SKIT RESUMES

(Stage area is cleared except for "Jake." When ready, resume the skit as follows.)

Jake

Welcome back rookies! Did you have a good time?

(Waits for kids to respond)

Good! And did you learn anything?

(Get a few responses from the kids)

Good! Well I'm pleased to tell you that we got our little fire under control.

(Ember enters with her clipboard)

Ember

I just got off the phone with John and Roy from Station 51. They heard about our little "mishap."

Jake

Station 51 found out?

Ember

They heard about it over the radio. They asked if we wanted them to send their engine to put out our fire. Imagine sending a fire engine to put out a fire at a FIRE STATION! They couldn't stop laughing! It's so embarrassing!

Jake

Well, the important thing is that the fire is out and nobody got hurt.

(Bernie enters with a burned, melted plastic spatula)

Bernie

(Handing Ember the spatula)

Where do you want me to put this spatula, Fire Lady?

Ember

(Staring at the spatula in disgust)

EM-BER. And this was my favorite spatula!

Jake

You know, I think this would be a good opportunity to teach our rookies what to do if they ever catch on fire!

Bernie

Oh, I know THAT one! You stop, drop and roll!

Jake

That's right! You stop running, drop to the floor, and roll around to smother the flames.

Bernie

I know that one because I had to do it a lot as a child!

Ember

I hope your parents had good fire insurance!

Jake

Well anyway, what I wanted to tell you all is that it's the same when you're caught in the fire of sin! All you have to do is to stop, drop, and roll!

Ember

That's right. If you realize you're sinning, the first thing you need to do is to STOP right away!

Jake

Good! And then, you should DROP to your knees and pray to God. Ask for His forgiveness, and ask Him to help you not to sin. And then, you ROLL through the Bible. Read from God's Word and find out how to obey God better.

Ember

Yeah, thanks for reminding me, Cap. I almost forgot that I have to apologize to Bernie for the things I said.

Bernie

Aw, that's okay, Fire Lady. And I'm sorry I burned down your kitchen... and spilled your chili... and ruined your spatula... and

Ember

(interrupting)

That's enough!

(Gritting her teeth)

I forgive you.



FIRE FIGHTERS

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Jake

There! All is well! Just remember, everyone, the fire of sin is very dangerous, and it's important to know how to put those fires out, but it's even BETTER to learn how to keep them from starting!

First Corinthians 10:13 says, "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

That verse means that there is never a time when we have to sin. God always gives us a way out of sinning.

Bernie

You use that word a lot, Cap. What is "SIN," anyway?

Jake

Sin is the most dangerous fire there is, guys! You see, sin kills everyone it touches. It doesn't happen right away, but Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages of sin is death. That means that everyone who has sinned will die someday, and not just die, but be burned in the everlasting fire of hell. But God has made a way to save us from that fire! Listen to this:

UNSCRIPTED GOSPEL PRESENTATION

(Make the following points as you present the gospel)

-We are all sinners--unworthy of heaven. [Romans 3:23]

-Jesus is the Son of God, and He can save us from our sin and give us everlasting life! [John 3:16]

-Your body will still die someday, but you will be raised back to life and live forever if Jesus saves you! [1 Cor. 15:51-57]

-We need to confess our sins to God so that we may be forgiven. [1 John 1:9]

-Jesus will send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts to help us! [John 15:26]

-Your life will belong to God if you pray to receive Christ. [1 Corinthians 6:19-20]

-We should live to obey God because we love Him. [1 John 2:6]

Jake

If any of you want to give your lives to Jesus, you can silently pray this prayer with me right now. Let's all bow our heads and close our eyes. Let's pray.

(Jake prays a simple prayer of salvation with the kids)

Jake

If you prayed that prayer, please let me or one of your station captains know so we can pray with you and welcome you to God's Kingdom! And if you're ALREADY a believer, let me challenge you to fireproof yourselves by living lives of Godliness!

Bernie

Wow, Cap, I didn't know that the fire we were fighting was so bad!

Jake

It is, Bernie, but Jesus can put out that fire for us, and for YOU, if you're ready.

Bernie

Gee, Cap, it all makes sense and all, but I just don't know if I'm ready for that stuff yet.

Ember

Don't look at me, Cap, I became a Christian when I was a little girl.

Jake

Well don't wait too long, guys. If you don't know Jesus, He's the ONLY way you can be saved from the fire. And next time here at the station, we'll learn that we have to live our WHOLE LIVES for Jesus.

Fighting this fire is serious business, and Jesus is the only way for any of us or our work to survive the fire!

Bernie

I'll be here, Cap! I can't wait to learn more!

Jake

Well there's lots more to come here at Station 316, and I hope you'll all join us, but right now, maybe we'd better find out who won today!

(Now, announce who won today's boys vs. girls contest based upon who scored the most points on the Bible Lesson Scoreboards. If the boys won, Bernie should spray Ember with Silly String. If the girls won, Ember should spray Bernie. Congratulate the winning team and encourage all of the children to come back and do their best on the next day.)

Jake

Well, I hope you've had fun at Station 316, and I hope you'll all come back next time. Until then, be ready to answer the call! Bye!

END OF SCRIPT