

Child Safety

As a VBS volunteer, I will:

- Always provide appropriate supervision for the children at VBS.
- Have at least one other VBS volunteer to help with the supervision of children. If I find myself in a situation where I am the only VBS volunteer present, under no circumstances will I allow myself to be alone with one child (the “two-person rule”).
- Ask a child’s permission before physically touching him/her anywhere, even when responding to an injury or problem. This is especially true for any areas that would normally be covered by a t-shirt and/or shorts. If an injury is within this area, I will make sure another adult works with me as care is provided.
- Affirm children with appropriate such as a fist bump or high-five.
- For small children who like to sit on laps, I will encourage them to sit next to me.
- Refrain from physical and verbal attacks and corporal punishment. “Time outs” or “sit-in-that-chair” may be helpful discipline methods to use with children.
- Provide extra care when taking small children to the restroom. I will take another adult along or leave the door open.
- Be aware of conducting activities in rooms that do not have an interior viewing area, or I will leave the door open during the activity to allow easy observation by others.
- Complete and be approved by the volunteer screening process.
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of child abuse and aware of the legal requirements for reporting suspected cases of abuse. In addition to any legally required reporting, I agree that if I become aware of any behavior by another individual which seems abusive or inappropriate toward children I am supervising, I will report that behavior to the VBS director.
- Uphold the standards of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Crew Leader’s Guide

Crew Name: _____

Crew Leader Name: _____

Kids in this Crew:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Introduction

Mountain of Miracles is the place where God’s love is rock solid. Your crew of hikers will learn that God is real, He provides, He is powerful, He knows each of us, and that He is preparing a place for us. Your task as a crew leader is to help guide your crew members through each activity. Remember when you went camping, swimming, or stayed overnight with friends – wasn’t that fun? This is how we want the kids to feel at Mountain of Miracles VBS - like they are part of a big family! You will have one of the most important jobs during VBS! Because of your enthusiasm, friendliness, and passion, the kids will want to come back to VBS every day. And when they come back, they will get to hear stories from the Bible. You will have an opportunity to develop a relationship with each member as you journey from station to station. Hiking and having fun is your job! Remember that you are not in charge of the stations. Rather, your role is to help the kids as they participate in the activities.

Tips for Crew Leaders

- Participate! Sing the songs and do the motions. Play the games. Be enthusiastic about the crafts. Be attentive during the Bible story and encourage praying together in the prayer station. This is very important!
- Support and encourage the station leaders by asking them how you can help.
- Enjoy your time with your crew! Be enthusiastic. Give shoulder bumps or high-fives throughout the day. Show them that they are the best crew ever! Watch for opportunities to encourage your crew members. Silence your phone and give your total attention to the kids.
- Arrive early so you are there when your crew members arrive. This also gives you the opportunity to see if your VBS director needs any help preparing for the program. Also plan to stay 15-30 minutes after VBS to help clean and set up for the next day. You are important to the kids and to the success of the program.
- Get to know your kids' names and use their names often. Say, "Hi Austin, glad you are with us today!" and "Welcome, Elizabeth! I'm glad you're in our crew!"

Tips for Connecting with Your Crew

- If your crew members arrive before the program starts, play a fun little game with them such as Duck, Duck, Goose or Simon Says.
- Ask crew members to tell you about their favorite game or food and share your own preferences also.
- When passing another crew while going from station to station, exchange high-fives with as many of the other kids as you can. Encourage your crew to do the same.
- Give yourself a hug and encourage all your kids to give themselves a hug too.
- Always make sure your crew members are following you. Count, count, and count again.
- Have fun with the kids! Laugh and smile. Make direct eye contact with each child and address them by their name. "Hey (kid's name), good to see you again! High-five!"

Crew Names

Each crew is given a name as they travel through the VBS program. Remember to call your crew by name as you move from station to station. You can

also introduce your crew to the station leaders using your crew's name. This year the crew names are:

1. Whirlwinds
2. Firestorms
3. Flood Waters
4. Earthquakes
5. Lightning Bolts

Stations

Each station you visit has a name. When you talk to your crew, call each station by its name. For, say, "Let's go to Prophet's Peak now" when you are hiking to the Bible story station. Below is the list of the station names:

- Jezreel Valley – Opening & Closing Program
- Prophet's Peak – Bible Story Station
- Altar Alcove – Prayer Station
- Mt Carmel Crafts – Craft Station
- Manna Munchies – Snack Station
- Raven Roost Games – Game Station

How to Handle Challenges

While we hope that VBS goes smoothly you may occasionally run into a challenge. Here's some advice on how to handle different challenges:

Question: What if my crew won't stay together?

Try this: Come up with creative ways to travel, such as creating an echo cheer or chant: "In this crew we stand as one. With Jesus by our side the victory is won!"

Question: What if I have an active child?

Try this: You be this child's partner during activities and suggest that he or she sits with you during quiettimes. You can also make a game of sitting still by saying, "Let's see how long you can sit still without interrupting. I'm timing you. Ready? Go!"

Question: What if some of my kids don't get along?

Try this: Quietly take the children aside. Let them know that you've noticed that they are not getting along very well. Be kind but firm. Share that it's not okay to fight and argue, and that VBS will be a lot more fun if they choose to get along and be kind to one another.

**Let your director know if you have any other challenges that may require intervention.*

Crew Leader's Daily Sheet – Day 1

Bible Story: God's Ravens

Bible Story Summary and Take-home message: This lesson will help the kids understand how in different circumstances, God is still with them. Kids would go through different emotions in a very short period and God is still with them, no matter what. Elijah obeyed and trusted in God, and He took care of his hunger by using crows to bring him food in a cave.

Power Point: My God is real. That's rock solid!

Motions: Place pointer finger up against lips and move it forward. Fist bump others.

Key Verse: "I am with you, so do not be afraid." Isaiah 41:10

Here are some ideas for your group today in Mountain of Miracles:

- Compliment a station leader. They are doing a great job! Station Leaders will value your appreciation, and it will be a good example to your crew.
- When you pass another crew on your way to the next station, give high-fives to as many of the other kids as you can. Encourage your crew to do the same.
- Practice the Power Point with your crew.
- Thank another crew leader for doing an awesome job. You can even say, "You are an awesome crew leader!"
- Give yourself a good stretch by reaching your arms as high as you can. Say, "Jesus is always with me! Stretch with me!"
- Participate in the music and encourage your crew to participate with you.
- Comment on something that is really cool at each station. Your enthusiasm will be catching!
- Have fun with your crew! Laugh and smile. Get eye to eye with each of your kids and call them by their name.

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Crew Leader's Daily Sheet – Day 2

Bible Story Title: Bread and Water in Zarephath

Bible Story Summary and Take-Home Message: This lesson will guide and teach children to trust in God when things seem to go different as we expected and how God uses diverse methods to fulfill His promises in us. He used a widow to provide for Elijah in difficult times.

Power Point: My God provides. That's rock solid!

Motions: Put both hands up palms facing you and bring them down forward to lap/waist level. Fist bump others.

Key Verse: "I am with you, so do not be afraid. I am your God, so do not be upset." Isaiah 41:10

Here are some ideas for your crew today in Mountain of Miracles:

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- Thank another crew leader for doing an awesome job. You can even say, "You are an awesome crew leader!"
- Do some jumping jacks and encourage your crew to do the same. Say, "Jesus is always with me! Now let's do as many jumping jacks as we can!"
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Crew Leader's Daily Sheet – Day 3

Bible Story: The Battles of the Gods

Bible Story Summary and Take-Home Message: This section of the story will show the kids how powerful and impressive God is. He shows His greatness to His people and through them. He wants salvation for everyone, and he uses miracles to call us and to demonstrate He is the Only God. Elijah challenged the King of Israel to call to his gods, but God manifested there in a miraculous way.

Power Point: My God is powerful. That's rock solid!

Actions: Put both arms up and flex muscles. Fist bump others.

Key Verse: "I am with you, so do not be afraid. I am your God, so do not be upset. I will make you strong..."

Here are some ideas for your crew today in Mountain of Miracles:

- Take the opportunity to affirm your kids by name. "Nancy, I'm so glad to see you at VBS!"
- Find moments to pray a simple prayer with your crew members. Ask for prayer requests and be respectful and attentive to their requests.
- Compliment a station leader. They are doing a great job! Station Leaders will value your appreciation, and it will be a good example to your crew.
- Thank another crew leader for doing an awesome job. You can even say, "You are an awesome crew leader!"
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Crew Leader's Daily Sheet – Day 4

Bible Story: Elijah Runs Away from Everyone

Bible Story Summary and Take-Home Message: This lesson will help the kids understand one of the main emotions in human life: Fear. Identify how it manifests and under what conditions kids and adults fear from different circumstances. As Elijah, a prophet of God was scared and flew to try to escape for his life, kids manifest fear in multiple reactions. Lead the kids to God will be the primary reason in this study.

Power Point: My God knows me. That's rock solid!

Motions: Touch both pointer fingers to temples, either side of forehead. Fist bump others.

Key Verse: "I am with you, so do not be afraid. I am your God, so do not be upset. I will make you strong and I will help you."

Here are some ideas for your crew today in Mountain of Miracles:

- Take the opportunity to affirm the kids by name!
- Repeat the Power Point.
- Find moments to pray a simple prayer with your kids. Ask for prayer requests and be respectful and attentive to their requests.
- The station leaders are all doing a fantastic job! Let them know that you enjoy the craft, the snack is tasty, the Bible story is exceptional, the game is invigorating, and the prayer station is inspirational.
- Give yourself a good stretch by reaching your arms as high as you can. Say, "Jesus is always with me! Stretch your arms out wide because the victory is won!"
- Participate in the music and encourage your crew to participate with you.
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Crew Leader's Daily Sheet – Day 5

Bible Story: Elijah and Elisha cross the Jordan River together

Power Point: My God is preparing a place for me. That's rock solid!

Bible Story Summary and Take-Home Message: This lesson will lead the kids to follow God's instructions. God will have the best decisions for them and if they are able to listen to Him, He will make great things for them. He has a better purpose for them and having God as their best friend will lead them to heaven

Motions: Shape hands in the shape of a roof of a house. Fist bump others.

Key Verse: "I am with you, so do not be afraid. I am your God, so do not be upset. I will make you strong and I will help you. My powerful right hand will keep you safe." Isaiah 41:10 (*EasyEnglish Bible*)

Here are some ideas for your crew today in Mountain of Miracles:

- Find moments to pray a simple prayer with your crew members. Ask for prayer requests and be respectful and attentive to their requests.
- When you pass another crew on your way to the next station, give high-fives to as many of the other kids as you can. Encourage your crew to do the same.
- Give the kids a high-five. Say, "Jesus is always with me! Give me a high-five!"
- Participate in the music and encourage your crew to participate with you.
- This is your last day with your crew. Have fun, laugh, smile, and tell them you are going to miss seeing them at VBS.

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