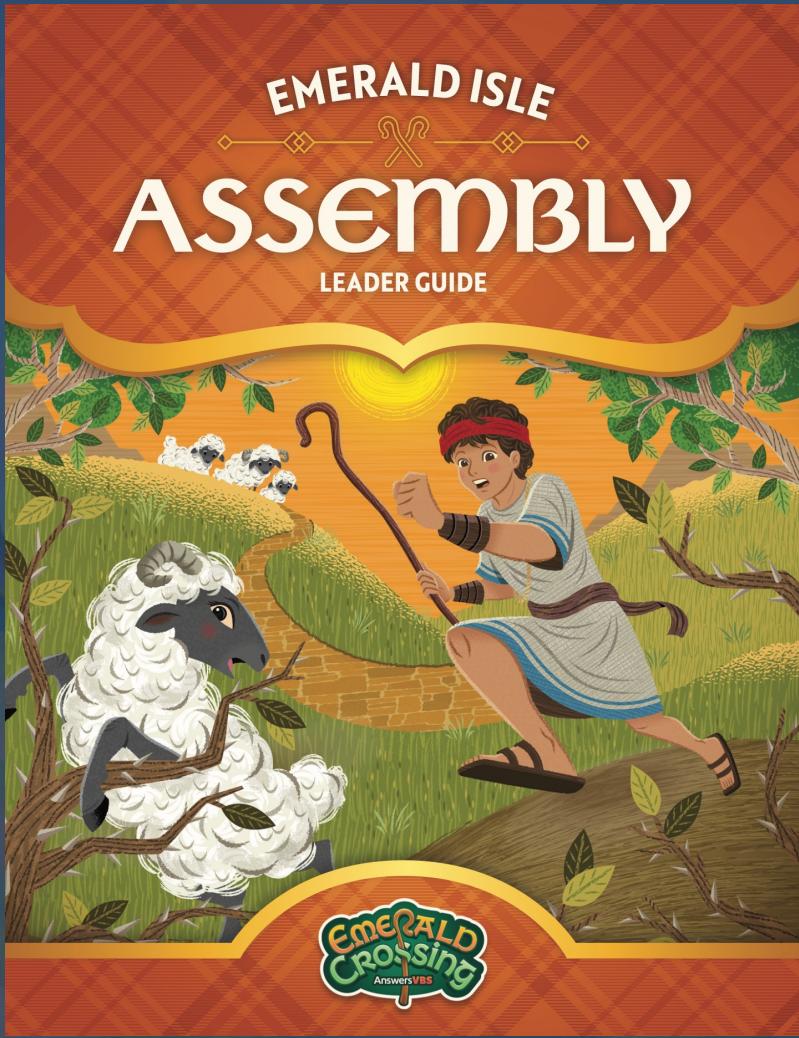
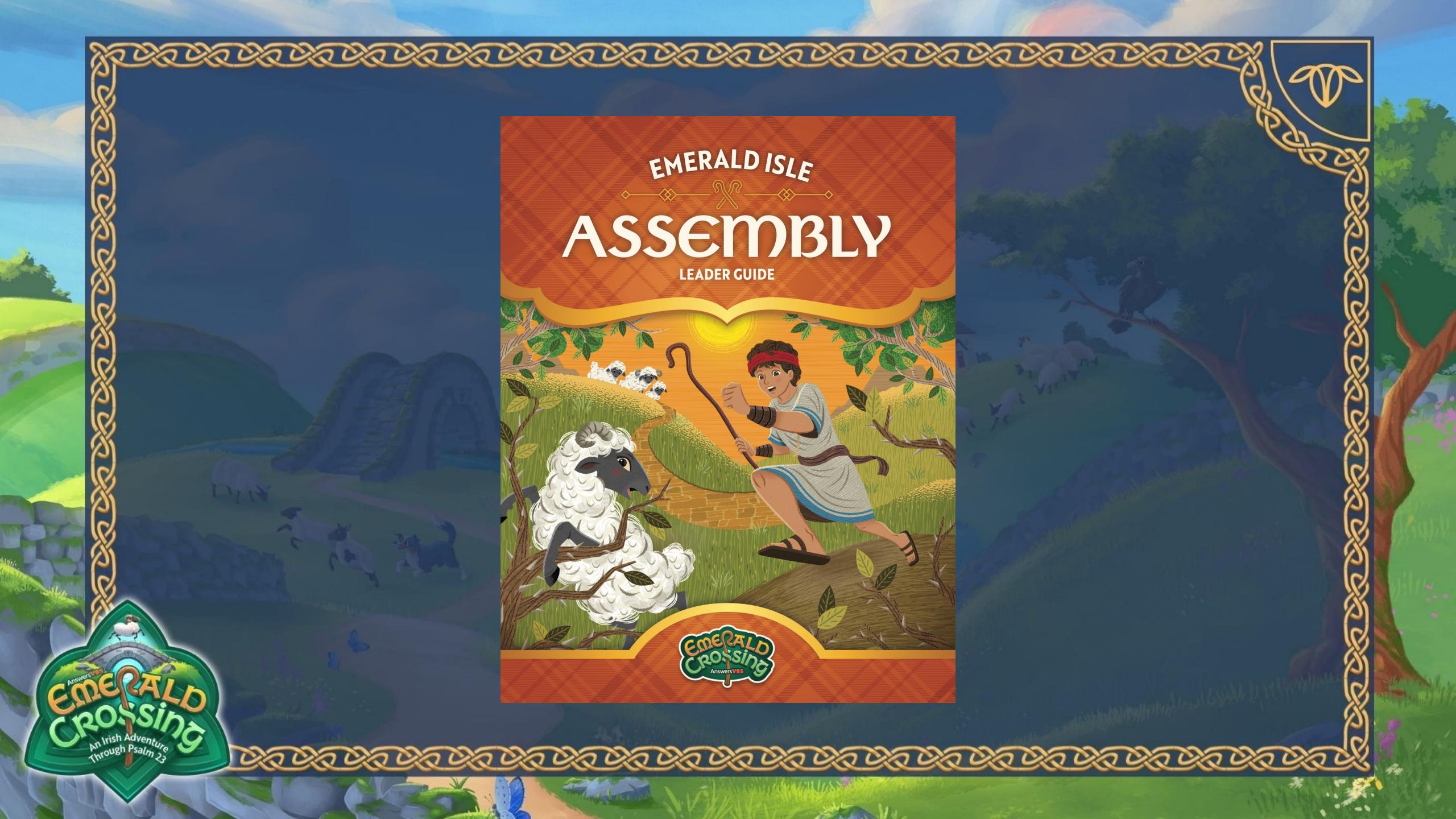


Welcome!

Design Your Assembly Time

Linda Roberts

AnswersVBS
EMERALD
Crossing



Drama

Day 2



DAY 1 DRAMA

Characters: GRANDPA FITZ, MOLLY, PATTY, SHANE, ERIN, VILLAIN

THEME MUSIC

Scene opens at an Irish sheep farm, consisting of a whitewashed farmhouse, an old stone barn with a "Stillwater Farm 1925" sign hung over the door, a bench, and a mailbox. There's a "For Sale" sign in the front yard. Then MOLLY, with a grocery bag in each hand, approaches the stage. GRANDPA FITZ, with a shepherd's staff in one hand and a grocery bag in the other, is lagging a good bit behind.

MOLLY: What a view! Even after all these years, it still thrills me!

GRANDPA FITZ approaches the stage. He appears winded.

MOLLY: Why, Aidan Fitzpatrick, are you out of breath? You know, I'm five years older than you and not a bit winded by that climb!

GRANDPA FITZ: (glares) Congratulations! I don't know how you have so much energy at your age . . . it's unnatural.

MOLLY: (shrugs) Ah, well . . . it's fitness, my friend, which I achieve through healthy food and exercise. (does a few deep squats and stretches) C'mon, you try!

GRANDPA FITZ: Nah, I'll just watch.

MOLLY: Oh, no, you won't! C'mon . . . you can do it! I know you can!

MOLLY begins some exercises for GRANDPA FITZ to follow. GRANDPA FITZ tries a couple, but quickly fails, eventually lowering himself to the ground in exhaustion.

MOLLY: Oh, Aidan! What am I going to do with you?

GRANDPA FITZ: Sorry, I can only exercise early in the morning before my body knows what's happening.

MOLLY: Here . . . let me help you up.

MOLLY helps GRANDPA FITZ get up from the ground. Then PATTY enters wearing a dirty white apron and

a white chef's hat. She's carrying a small plate of assorted cheeses.

PATTY: (with great enthusiasm) Hey, friends! Guess what? It's time to stop and savor the cheese!

MOLLY: (as if she's said it a million times before) Sorry, Patty—I'm allergic to dairy, remember?

PATTY: Oh yeah.

GRANDPA FITZ: I'm still not sold on your experiments. Your last batch of cheese tasted like dirt.

PATTY: Yeah . . . sorry about that. Some dirt fell off the sheep and into the milk. And I'm convinced that filthy fluff ball did it on purpose!

MOLLY: Now hold on, Patty—don't you go talking about dear Keely like that. She's a good momma sheep—with the softest wool!

PATTY: Yeah—that's full of dirt! (to GRANDPA FITZ) Anyway, I didn't feel like starting over and was kinda hoping nobody would notice.

GRANDPA FITZ: Well, I did notice, and now I've lost my appetite.

PATTY: Oh, but this batch is clean. I made sure of it this time!

GRANDPA FITZ: (reluctantly) Well, all right. (mutter) It probably won't kill me . . . I hope.

GRANDPA FITZ takes a piece of cheese and bites off a tiny corner only.

MOLLY: (to GRANDPA FITZ) Bet you're wishing you had a dairy allergy like me right now!

PATTY: So, what do you think?

GRANDPA FITZ: I think you shouldn't give up your day job. (takes his handkerchief and spits it out)

PATTY: That bad, huh?





Daily Assembly Scripts

Day 1: Opening Assembly

Welcome (2 minutes)

Props: A suitcase loaded with a few clothes but mostly snacks—big bags of chips, granola bars, etc. It can be a normal suitcase, a little wacky, beat up, or it can have lots of travel stickers on it.

Person 1: Welcome to *Emerald Crossing*, everyone! Are you ready to take an Irish adventure through Psalm 23? We're going to learn about King David, who was a shepherd when he was young, and we'll hear how the Lord can be our Good Shepherd. **To Person 2**, as he is entering, Oh, top o' the morning (evening) to ya! Are you ready for our tour around Ireland?

Person 2: Enter rolling or carrying a suitcase, looking a little frazzled. *Whew!* I guess I'm ready. They lost my luggage at the airport, but it's been found.

Person 1: That's good. It would be hard to go on a trip without any luggage.

Person 2: Open the suitcase so the kids can see what's inside. Tell me about it! I can't make it a week here in Ireland without some good eats!

Person 1: I think we're gonna enjoy lots of good eats in Ireland, but it looks like you've at least got snacks covered! I'm so glad your lost bag was found.

Person 2: Me too!

Person 1: You know, it's not just luggage that can be lost. People can be lost too. Either of you can share a quick story of a time you were lost. Today, we're talking about a different way we can be lost—being spiritually lost, which means living apart from God. There's a way to be found by God, our Good Shepherd, and I can't wait for you to hear more about it. But for now, let's get started by singing our theme song.

Song (3 minutes)

Theme Song: "Emerald Crossing"

Song (3 minutes)

Contemporary: "His Name Is Jesus" / Traditional: "He Searched High and Low"

Mission Moment (5 minutes)

Note: You may want to do the Creature Feature in the opening and the Mission Moment in the closing.

SHOW: *Guided by Grace* slide

This week, we are learning all about how the Lord is our shepherd, but we aren't the only ones who need to know this. There are boys and girls around the world who need to know about God too. This week, we're going to meet some of them. Sadly, many of them don't have enough food, so we're partnering with Children's Hunger Fund to help provide meals for children who don't have enough to eat.

You can not only help provide them with meals but also help them learn about Jesus!

SHOW: *Guided by Grace*—Hani slide

Are you ready to meet the first child? Pause for participation. Great! Today, we're going to meet a little girl named Hani, who lives in Ethiopia.

SHOW: *Video 1—Hani*

Country: Ethiopia

Problem: Extreme Hunger

Hani's mother wanted nothing more than to care for her children, but without any education or skills, it was very difficult for her to find work so she could buy food. The local church not only provided her family with food but also taught them how to grow vegetables and raise chickens and goats. This meant that she would always have fresh food for her children.

Sadly, many other children around the world are in need, just like Hani. But there's good news! You can help! Do you want to learn how? Pause for participation. This week at VBS, we will be collecting coins to provide meals just like the ones that Hani received from the local church. You will get one of these Coin Paks that you can use to collect your coins. **SHOW: Coin Pak**. Take this home today and tell your family and friends about Hani. Ask them to help you collect coins for meals. Just 25 cents can provide a nutritious meal for a hungry child.

SHOW: *Daily Count Day 1* slide

With the coins you collect, nutritious food can be packed into a Children's Hunger Fund Food Pak. These Food Paks can feed a family for several days. And because these Food Paks are delivered to families by local pastors and church volunteers, it provides local churches the opportunity to grow relationships with these families and share with them about Jesus Christ.

Bring back the coins you've collected each day this week so we can count how many meals you can provide. You can help deliver hope to suffering families around the world.

Announcements (time varies)

Announce any info pertinent to your situation. Today, you need to explain how the contests work so the kids can participate. Check with your director for details.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

Contemporary Memory Verse Song: "I Shall Dwell in the House of the Lord" (Psalm 23) / Traditional MV Song: "Psalm 23" C: "The Lord Himself Will Lead Me" / T: "Through Every Up and Down"



Scene Setters

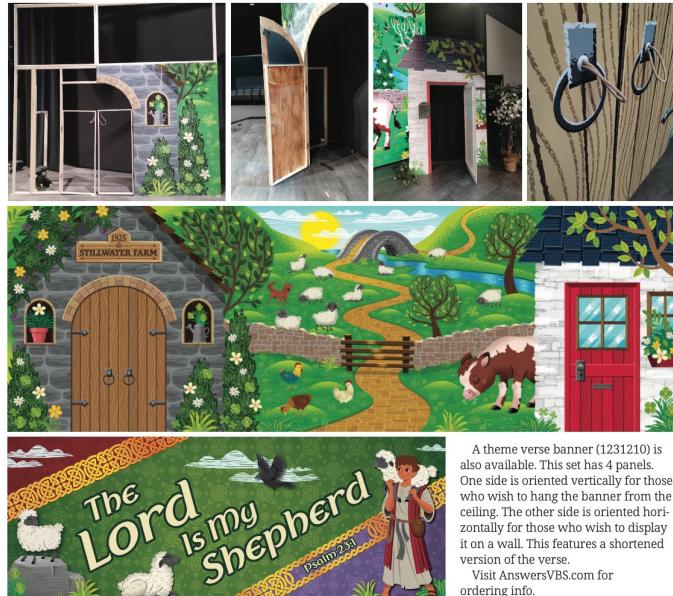
For those who would like help with their set, we have provided scene setters.

The stage portion of the Main Set Scene Setter (1231220) features 18 panels. Display this large scene setter at the front of your assembly area to set the mood for *Emerald Crossing* and to use with the daily drama. Each panel is approximately 62.6 x 42.3 inches (1590 x 1074 mm). The stage assembles to 375.6 inches across by 126.9 inches high.

Attach the panels to pieces of foam board, corrugated cardboard, or plywood using clear packing tape, staples, or spray glue along the edges. Then brace the panels from

behind with wooden jacks weighed down with bags of sand or rock salt.

For those with lower ceilings, the top row can be removed. For those with smaller stages, the barn can be removed and used elsewhere if you are not doing the drama live. Or bump out the barn from the field and move it slightly in front of the field. Enter and exit from the sides of the barn, rather than through the doors. If you decide to use the doors, you will want to build frames with hinges and carefully cut around the doors. Enter and exit the house around the side by the window.



A theme verse banner (1231210) is also available. This set has 4 panels. One side is oriented vertically for those who wish to hang the banner from the ceiling. The other side is oriented horizontally for those who wish to display it on a wall. This features a shortened version of the verse.

Visit AnswersVBS.com for ordering info.



Set Components

Your set pieces should be constructed using rigid materials, such as corrugated cardboard, polystyrene insulation, luan plywood, or a combination of these materials. For best results, consider making “flats” (panels attached to lightweight wooden frames) and “jacks” (wooden supports) to prop them up. For basic instructional videos on how to build stage flats and jacks, visit [YouTube.com/answersvbs](https://www.youtube.com/answersvbs) and scroll down to the “Building a VBS Set” videos.

Farmhouse

Traditional Irish farmhouses were often modest, one-story structures with whitewashed exteriors. Thatched roofs were common, but slate or clay tiles were also used. So your farmhouse should be plain white, but you can dress it up with a red door and window boxes (painted on) with colorful flowers.

Stone Barn

Irish barns were generally made of stone because of its abundance, weather resistance, and low maintenance. So unlike the whitewashed farmhouse, your barn will need to have a weathered stone look. Also, include large double doors, a small window or two, and a “1925 Stillwater Farm” sign above the doors.

Windows & Doors

The farmhouse windows can be painted on. But for purposes of the drama, the barn windows need one to operate as a puppet window.

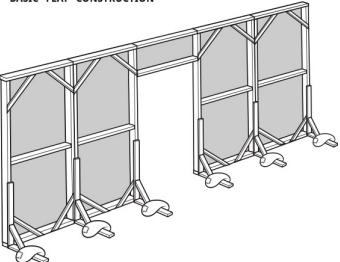
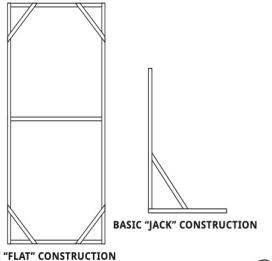
Construct the doorways with wood framing and inexpensive, unfinished hollow core doors. The barn doors’ curved design can be achieved with painted cardboard faces attached directly to the working doors. If you’re not doing the daily drama, however, you can simply drape the openings with black fabric.

Plants & Animals

On the left and right sides and places in between, add some trees, shrubs, and flowers. You can also add some climbing Irish ivy to the barn, the farmhouse, or both. And don’t forget that kids love animals, so be sure to include a bunch on your set. [Clip art images](#) of sheep, cows, chickens, a border collie and other animals are available.

Backdrop

A backdrop is an important part of the set. Besides covering the back wall of your platform, it can also enhance the look of your set pieces. Construct a series of rolling green hills against a blue sky background. Add a winding pathway and a flock of sheep to one of the hills between the farmhouse and barn and some puffy white clouds to the sky.



Clip Art Images

Use a projector to enlarge and transfer [clip art images](#) onto paper, poster board, or rigid materials, such as corrugated cardboard or wood. Some images can be painted directly onto the set panels.

HOW TO ENLARGE AND TRANSFER CLIP ART

1. If you aren’t using a laptop/projector setup, photocopy the clip art onto transparencies.
2. Place rigid material against a wall.
3. Using an overhead projector to enlarge the clip art, stir the image onto the material, adjusting for the desired size.
4. Trace the image outlines onto the material.
5. Paint the image and cut out.



Props List

Set Props

- "Stillwater Farm 1925" sign
- "FOR SALE" sign
- Bench
- Mailbox (freestanding)

Day 1

- Molly's grocery bags (2)
- Grandpa Fitz's shepherd's staff
- Grandpa Fitz's grocery bag (1)
- Patty's dirty white apron and chef's hat (see NOTES)
- Patty's small plate of cheeses
- Grandpa Fitz's handkerchief
- Shane and Erin's luggage with cleaning supplies

Day 2

- Villain's clipboard
- Villain's letter in sealed envelope
- Villain's cell phone
- Patty's dirty white apron and chef's hat
- Patty's small plate of cheeses
- Villain's ID badge
- Erin's broom, feather duster, bucket, cleaning supplies
- Shane's disguise (disguise glasses, hat, trench coat)
- Molly's picnic basket

Day 3

- Erin's cleaning supplies (including feather duster)
- Shane's ball cap
- White toothpaste
- Patty's sheep shears and wad of wool (see NOTES)
- Optional: smoke effect
- Grandpa Fitz's shepherd's staff
- Shane's umbrella
- Villain's envelope with food fine letter

Day 4

- Molly's "moving" knitting basket (see NOTES)
- Grandpa Fitz's journal
- Patty's open box with pet turtle (see NOTES)
- Patty's large bag of wool
- Molly's knitting project for Patty
- Erin's vacuum/sweeper (preferably cordless)

Day 5

- Geese the goose puppet
- White toothpaste
- Grandpa Fitz's towel

NOTES

PATTY'S DIRTY WHITE APRON

A quick and easy way to make a white apron "dirty" is with sidewalk chalk. Choose two or three darker colors and don't be shy—layer it on thick so it's visible from a distance. And don't worry, it should come out in the wash just fine.

PATTY'S SHEEP SHEARS AND WAD OF WOOL

If you can't find authentic sheep shears, you can substitute with grass shears or some other small handheld clippers. Just be careful with them, especially when running out of the auditorium. For wool, use Poly-fil.

MOLLY'S "MOVING" KNITTING BASKET

Don't tell the kids, but Molly's knitting basket moves with the help of clear fishing line, no George the turtle! Simply attach the fishing line to the side of the basket and have it already in place when the lights come up. Then have someone backstage follow the script and pull on cue.

PATTY'S PET TURTLE

Use a toy turtle that's not too small, so it can be seen from the audience. If you can't find a toy that works, a coconut shell cut in half will look pretty authentic from a distance.



Support Crew

You, as the drama director, will need assistance in the following areas:

Set Design and Construction

The set may require a team of people to design (using the *Emerald Crossing* set concept), purchase materials for, paint, and assemble it.

Sound and Lighting

In addition to your normal sound technician, you'll need someone to play the [drama theme music](#) and [sound effects](#) at the designated times. Someone will also be needed to handle the lighting cues.

Costumes and Props

For the most part, the actors can be responsible for their own costumes and props. However, it is helpful to have someone oversee and manage the collecting (or making), use, and return of costumes and props.

Rehearsal Assistant

Another set of eyes and ears during each rehearsal can be very helpful. This person can take notes, offer suggestions, and feed lines to the actors when the time comes to limit the use of scripts.

Costume Suggestions

Grandpa Fitz

Brown corduroy pants, collared shirt, cardigan sweater, Irish cap, scuffed leather shoes, glasses, shepherd's staff, gray beard (optional)

Molly

Plain jeans, blouse with sweater, scarf, leather boots, gray wig

Shane

Days 1 and 5: Business casual—slacks, shirt and tie, jacket (optional)

Days 2, 3, and 4: Blue jeans, golf shirt, ball cap, leather shoes

Erin

Loving high fashion and having never ventured out of the big city, she's always overdressed for farm life. Day 1 especially so. Days 2-5, maybe a bit more relaxed.

Patty

Plaid flannel shirt with dungarees (overalls) or faded sweatshirt over cargo pants, mismatched socks, scuffed leather shoes or boots

Villain

Professional attire—dark business suit, dress shoes, ID badge

Tip Corner

- Thrift shops are a good source for inexpensive clothing and accessories.
- Check the internet for a myriad of costume ideas.

Ball Cap



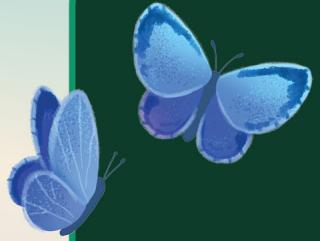
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Ball Cap



MID 1231170 • 2/2



Flat Cap



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Flat Cap



MID 1231130 • 2/2



Shepherd's Hook



MID 12300580 • 1/2



Shepherd's Hook



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Music, Media & Sound Effects List

Day 1

- Theme Music
- Sheep Sounds

Day 2

- Theme Music
- Rooster Crows
- Sheep Sounds
- Goose Honks
- Aggressive Goose Honks
- Taunting Goose Flying Away

Day 3

- Theme Music
- Goose Honks
- Fly-By Goose Splat
- Goose Splat Fly Away
- Sheep Sounds

Day 4

- Theme Music
- Sheep Sounds
- Goose Laugh 1
- Goose Laugh 2
- Big Crash
- Goose Splat Fly Away

Day 5

- Theme Music
- Patty Crash
- Loud Crunch
- Sheep Sounds
- Psalm 23 Slides (for screens)
- Baby Goose Squeak
- Baby Goose Laugh



Download sound effects and printables from
AnswersVBS.com/emeraldrесources

Character names





Creature Features

During the assemblies each day, we'll share a Creature Feature to highlight the incredible design features of five amazing animals the Creator has made. These are written into the closing assembly but can also be done during the opening assembly—your choice! Do these live using the provided scripts and [Presentation Slides](#), or show the [Creature Feature videos](#) instead. Check the Resource Download for the slides and videos.

Day 1: Mia (My-a) the Connemara Sheep

Today, we'll meet Mia the sheep. As we learn some of the amazing design features of this animal, we'll also be reminded that we can cross from being lost to being found by having the Lord as our shepherd.

Mia represents a breed of sheep called the Mayo blackface sheep. However, in light of cultural sensitivities to the term "blackface" in the US and out of a desire to prevent stumbling blocks to the message of the Good Shepherd, we have chosen to refer to her as a Connemara sheep—this is a region where these mountain sheep are found in Ireland.



Day 2: Guide the Border Collie

Guide the border collie is a beautiful creature with a glossy coat and sleek body. She will teach us that the Lord guides us on the right path through his Word.



Day 3: Shadow the Raven

Today's animal pal is Shadow the raven. This stunning bird is mentioned throughout the Bible and will point us to the truth that God is the best comforter who helps us handle anxiety and fear.



Day 4: Pesky the Woolly Aphid

Did you know there's an insect out there that looks like a flying fluff ball? Meet today's animal pal, Pesky the woolly aphid. These creatures cause infestations on plants that can wreak havoc. Pesky teaches us that when we are surrounded by tough times, we can still give thanks to God.



Day 5: Shirley the Highland Cow

Time to meet Shirley the Highland cow. As we check into some of the Highland cow's design features, we'll also see that *surely* we can trust God to keep us secure all the way to the "higher lands"—heaven.



Creature Feature













Day 1: Closing Assembly

Song (3 minutes)

C: "His Name Is Jesus" / T: "He Searched High and Low"

Song (3 minutes)

Theme Song / C Memory Verse Song: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" / T MV Song: "Psalm 23"

Creature Feature: Mia the Connemara Sheep (5 minutes)

Use the [PRESENTATION SLIDES](#) or show the [CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO](#). The live version can be shortened more as needed each day.

SHOW: 01 Creature Feature title slide

This week, we're going to take a look at a few of the animals found in Ireland. Here are a couple of clues to guess the first one.

- It's a really ewe-nique animal.
- In fact, it's wooly fabulous.
- It can have a special relation-sheep with a shepherd.
- Did you guess it? Okay, no more *bleating* around the bush.

SHOW: 02 Connemara sheep

Today, we're talking about sheep. You may not think about sheep very much, but God designed these amazing creatures to glorify their creator!

Finding sheep in Ireland is pretty easy because there are over three and a half million of them! Some sheep, like the Connemara sheep, have a thick coat of wool that keeps them warm, even on the windy hills of Ireland. And wool is the main reason people raise these sheep.

SHOW: 03 Sheep shearing

Sheep are usually sheared about once a year for their wool. Shearing is like giving the sheep a big ol' haircut.

Do you know what wool is used for? Tell the person you're sitting next to something you think might be made of wool. Do so.

SHOW: 04 Wool items

Wool can be used to make blankets, hats, and lots of clothing items. But the Connemara sheep has more brittle wool, better suited to making carpets or rugs.

SHOW: 05 Sheep eating

Sheep spend a lot of time eating—sometimes up to 12 hours a day! Tell your neighbor one of your favorite foods. Do so. Sheep eat mostly grass. There's a problem, though. Have you ever tried to chew on grass?

Chew on a piece of grass. It's very tough and hard to digest. So how can sheep eat it and survive? They have to chew it twice! When a sheep takes a bite of grass, it chews it up, swallows it, and sends it down to its four-chambered stomach.

Now get ready, because this next part may seem a little gross. After a while, the sheep coughs the chewed-up grass, called the "cud," back up into its mouth to chew

it all over again. What do you think about that? It may seem yucky, but it's really an amazing design from God that allows sheep to break down the tough grass more to get the most nutrients from it.

SHOW: 06 Sheep eye

Of course, grazing sheep have to stay alert for enemies (predators) that might be lurking nearby, so God designed their eyes in a special way to help with that. Take a look at your neighbor's eyes—at the pupils. They're the round black part in the center. Do so.

Did you know sheep have rectangular pupils instead of round ones like ours? That might seem strange, but God is an incredible designer. When a sheep wants to graze, it bends its head down. When its head moves, its pupils also move to stay level with the ground so they can still look around and keep an eye out for danger.

But that's not the only amazing thing sheep can do with their eyes. I want you to try something. Look straight forward and hold your head completely still. Now, without moving your head at all, try to look at the person on either side of you. Demonstrate and let kids try.

Were you able to see them? You probably had to move your eyes to do so. But if you were a sheep, you wouldn't have to move your eyes at all! That's because those rectangular pupils allow sheep to see in almost every direction at once. God gave them the ability to see things in front of them, next to them, and behind them at the same time. Now that's super cool!

SHOW: 07 Sheep headbutting

Another design that keeps sheep safe is that they live together in groups called "herds" or "flocks," often led and protected by a male sheep called a "ram."

Guess why they're called rams. Pause as they guess. Right! Rams use their heads to ram into each other! Rams butt heads to find out which one is in charge—and they can headbutt really hard! In fact, some wild sheep can ram with a force of around 800 pounds!

SHOW: 08 Monster truck tire

If a person could headbutt that hard, he could knock over a monster truck tire or a piano with just his head! Don't try it, though, because you would injure your brain. God gave sheep thick skulls with shock-absorbing spaces in them that protect their brains from the force of their ramming. Sheep will also headbutt to protect themselves from predators. However, the safest place for sheep to be is close to their shepherd.

SHOW: 09 Sheep with shepherd

People have been keeping sheep since the beginning. Throughout the Bible, we read that godly people like Abel, Rachel, and Moses were all shepherds! A shepherd's job is to lead the sheep to find food, water, and shelter and to rescue them from danger.

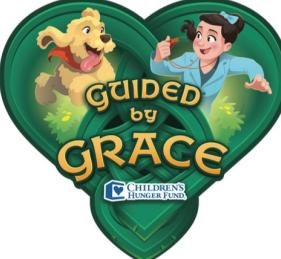
SHOW: 10 David fighting the bear



Mission Moment

The mission emphasis to your VBS program provides an amazing opportunity for children to participate in giving to ministries that share the gospel. **Check with your director to see when the Mission Moment is featured—either during the assembly time or during one of the rotations.** The *Missions, Music & Memory Verses Guide* contains additional activity ideas.

Guided by Grace



Your kids will explore five different countries and learn about children living in poverty and ways to make a difference.

As your students explore Ethiopia, Romania, the Philippines, El Salvador, and the US, they'll hear the stories of boys and girls whose lives have been impacted by poverty. These children have no guarantee of meals, shelter, or education. They need help. And they need the hope that only comes from salvation in Jesus Christ.

The good news is you and your kids have the power to make a difference!

The Bible says that giving generously to the poor is really giving generously to God himself (Proverbs 19:17). Teach your VBS class the great joy that comes from sacrificing for the sake of Jesus and his gospel.

During the Mission Moment, your group will meet Quinn, an enthusiastic shepherdess-in-training. Quinn is preparing to join her cousins on their sheep farm in Ireland and has been busy learning everything there is to know about raising sheep. Join her as she attempts to train her dog, Penny, to be a sheepdog. Throughout the week, she'll also be sharing stories about children around the world.

Your mission is to collect coins and help provide meals for children in need, just like the ones Quinn will introduce to you throughout the week.

Coin Paks Available to Order

Included in your Starter Kit is a sample of the sturdy pop-up Coin Pak bank for your kids to use as they collect quarters for meals. Check with your director for this sample. After VBS, these will be fun souvenirs that can be kept as reminders to always care for the needs of others. Coin Paks are available from Children's Hunger Fund.

Please visit ChildrensHungerFund.org/answersvbs or call 1 (800) 708-7589 to order. Orders must be received 14 days prior to your VBS date. Available while supplies last.

For questions regarding your Mission Moment resources, please email info@childrenshungerfund.org or call 1 (800) 708-7589.

Photo Frame (Pack of 10)



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Photo Frame (Pack of 10)



MID 1230840 • 2/2



Water Bottle (Pack of 10)



MID 1230810 • 1/2



Water Bottle (Pack of 10)



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Thank you For coming!

Have an awesome VBS!

