

# Incorporating Music, Memory Verses, and Missions Into Your VBS





Is there a  
God who cares?

Answers VBS

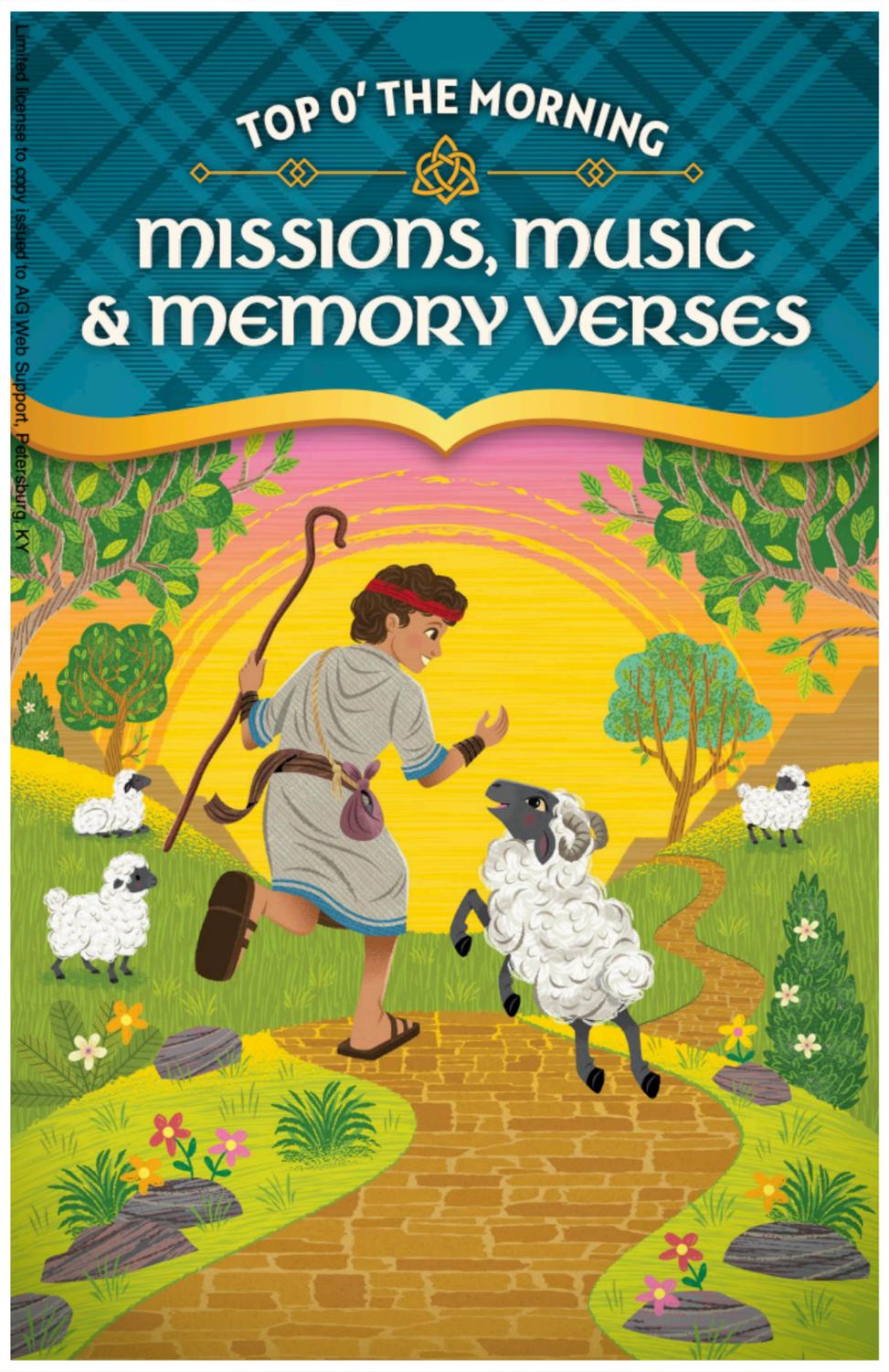
# EMERALD CROSSING

An Irish Adventure  
Through Psalm 23



- **Pervasive Sadness:** Nearly 1 in 3 high school students (30%) reported feeling "so sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row" that they stopped their usual activities. For teen girls, this number is a staggering 43% (more than 2 in 5). [Source: *CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 2023*]
- **Anxiety & Depression Surge:** Diagnoses of anxiety and depression among U.S. children aged 6-17 have increased by nearly 30% in recent years, an acceleration that has continued since 2020. [Source: *JAMA Pediatrics*]





## Materials

- Music Leader Download
- Music Station Poster (1230340)
- Device to play songs

## Day 1

Today, we are here at *Emerald Crossing* to learn how to cross from lost to found. We will sing our theme song and then two songs about our Good Shepherd who helps us cross from being lost in sin to being part of God's flock, the sheep of his pasture. When we repent of our sin and believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave, we can have eternal life with him forever and abundant life with him now. [Read Psalm 23:1.](#)

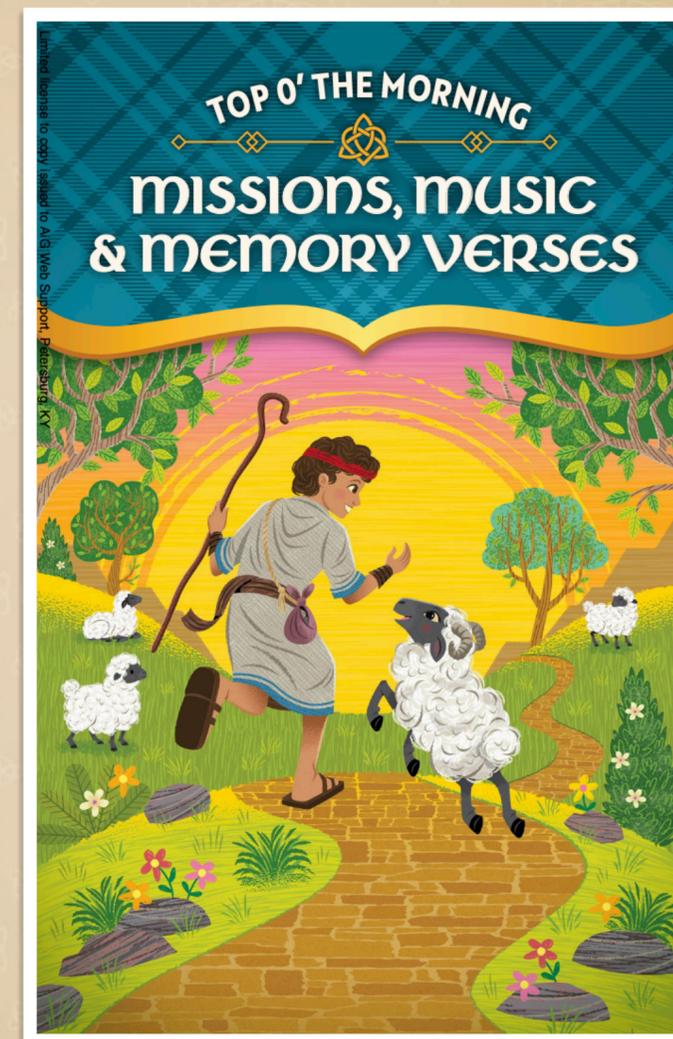
Theme Song: "Emerald Crossing"  
Contemporary: "His Name Is Jesus"  
C: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"  
Traditional: "He Searched High and Low"  
T: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"

## Day 2

Today at *Emerald Crossing*, we are learning to cross from the wrong path of doing our own thing to the right path of following the Good Shepherd by reading his Word. When David faced Goliath, he already knew who God was and had already developed a trust in the one true God. By studying the Bible, we can learn who the Good Shepherd is and that he will lead us on the right path. Let's sing some songs to remind us that the Lord is our leader and guide. [Read Psalm 23:2-3.](#)

### Theme Song

- C: "The Lord Himself Will Lead Me"  
C: "His Name Is Jesus"  
C: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"  
T: "Through Every Up and Down"  
T: "He Searched High and Low"  
T: "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"



A large red plaid background with a white Celtic knot border on the left and top. A musical note icon is centered above the text. A blue and white bird is flying in the bottom right corner of the plaid area.

Top o' the Morning  
**TUNES**





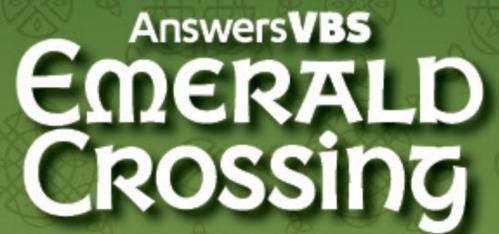
Good as Gold  
**MEMORY  
VERSES**



AnswersVBS  
EMERALD  
CROSSING

# Psalm 1:2

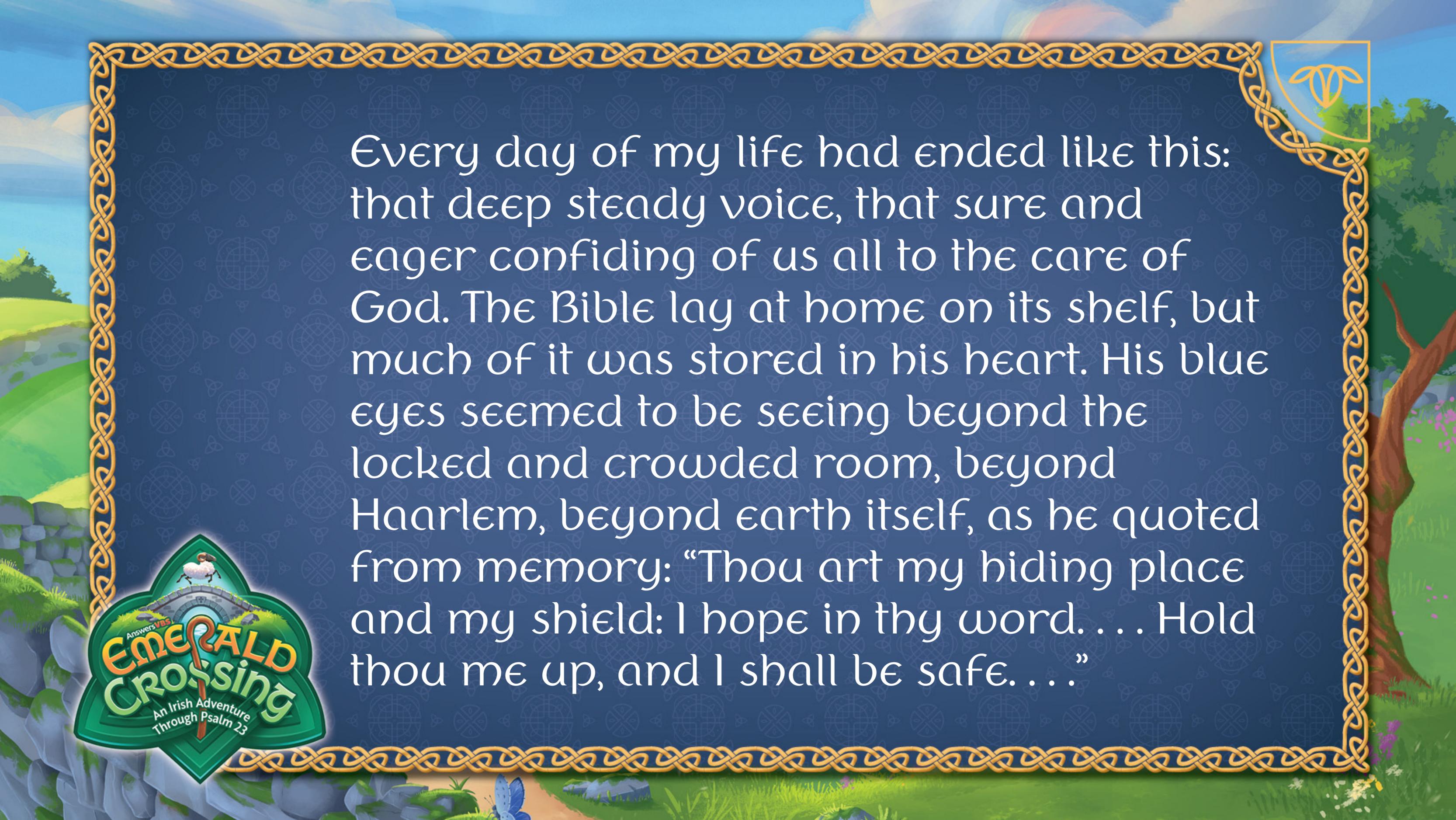
But his delight is in the law  
of the Lord,  
And in his law he meditates  
day and night.



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EMERALD  
CROSSING

# Joshua 1:8

The Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good SUCCESS.



Every day of my life had ended like this: that deep steady voice, that sure and eager confiding of us all to the care of God. The Bible lay at home on its shelf, but much of it was stored in his heart. His blue eyes seemed to be seeing beyond the locked and crowded room, beyond Harlem, beyond earth itself, as he quoted from memory: “Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. . . . Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe. . . .”



The blacker the night grew, the  
brighter and truer and more  
beautiful burned the Word of God.



## Day 3

### Juniors and Primaries

Read the verse together from the poster. Choose a student to stand behind a seated student on one side of the room. You will read the verse aloud, randomly stopping before saying any chosen word. The standing/seated students must race to say the missing word. If the standing student wins, he moves to the next seated student to race again. If the seated student wins, the two trade places, and the now-standing student moves behind the next seated student as play continues. See who can go the farthest around the room before he has to take a seat.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 (ESV)

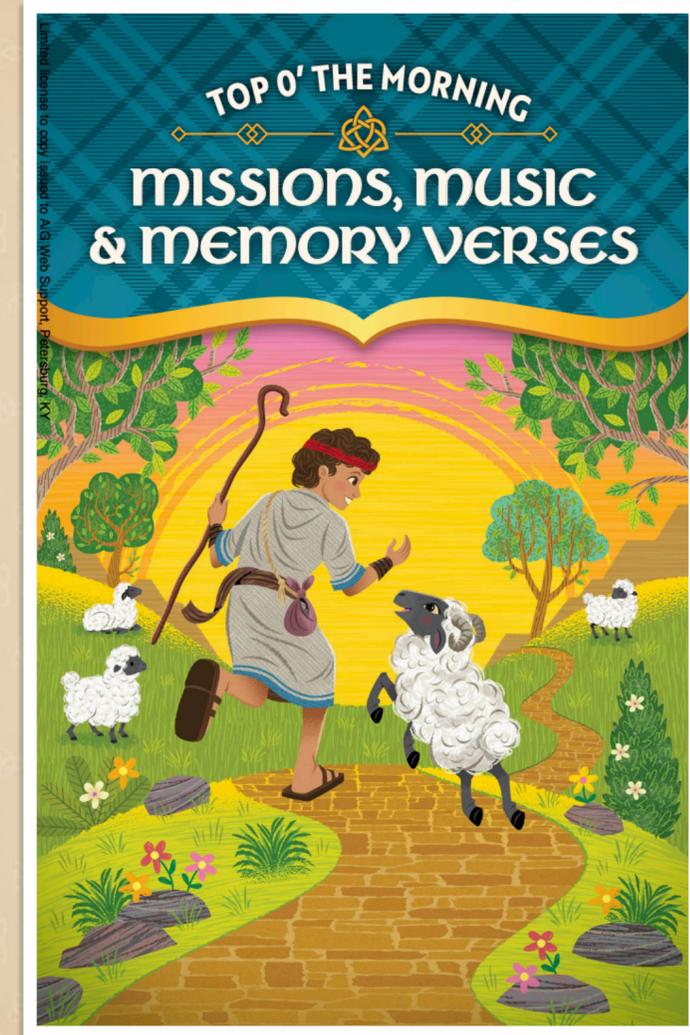
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Psalm 23:4 (KJV)

### Pre-Primaries and Toddlers

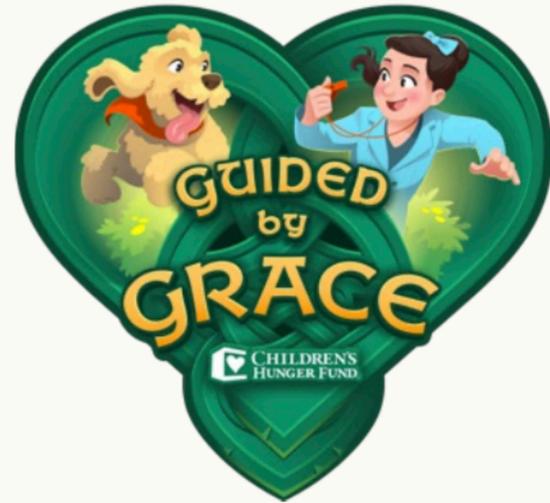
To review today's verse, slowly read the verse from the poster as the children slowly walk in place. Repeat the verse several times, speeding up each time. Students must speed up their pace until they're running in place.

I will fear no evil, for you are with me. Psalm 23:4 (ESV)

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me. Psalm 23:4 (KJV)

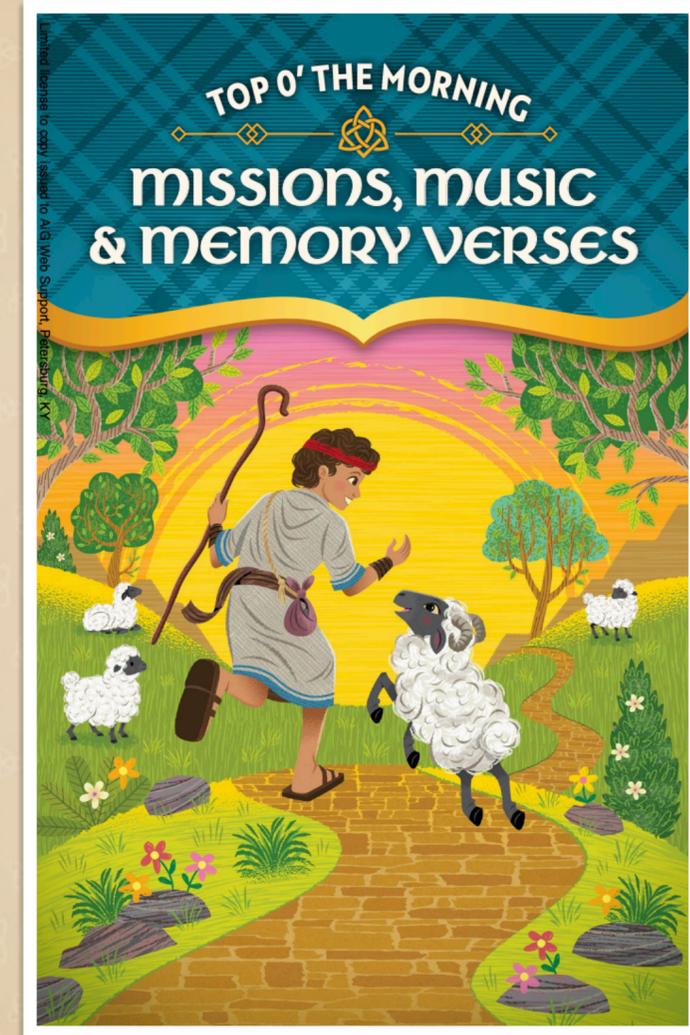


## Guided by Grace



Guided by Grace is a powerful addition to your VBS program. Your kids will explore five different countries and learn how they can make a difference for children living in poverty around the world.

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.



AnswersVBS

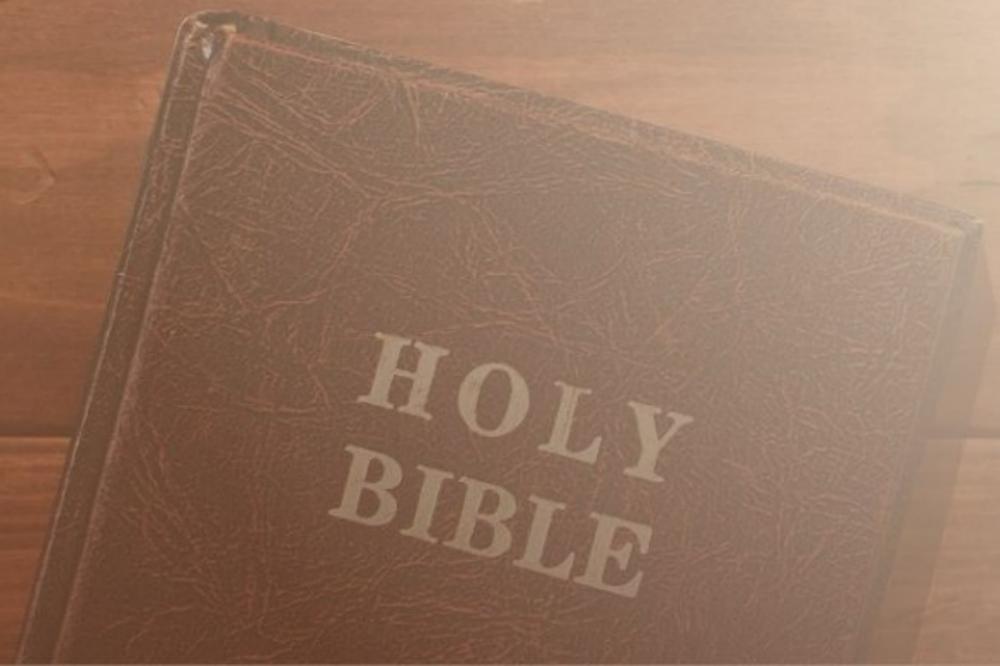


**Make a Difference with Guided by Grace!**

This summer, your VBS kids can help deliver nutritious food and the hope of the gospel to children living in poverty in 33 countries, including the US!



Learn more at [ChildrensHungerFund.org/emeraldcrossing](https://ChildrensHungerFund.org/emeraldcrossing)



## Materials Needed

### EVERY DAY

- Glue
- Child safety scissors
- Extra **Coin Paks** (printed or ordered ahead) for new students each day
- Extra **Map of the World** activity sheets for new students each day

### DOWNLOADS

- Slides** for Children's Hunger Fund for each day
- Videos** for Children's Hunger Fund for each day
- Map of the World** activity sheet, 1 per student
- Child Prayer Journals** for each day, 1 per student

### DAY 1

- Food printouts** (only post food items)
- Tape
- Whiteboard or a wall to tape food printouts

### DAY 2

- Tables, chairs, couches, and other "obstacles" that can be moved around the room.
- 2 blindfolds

### DAY 3

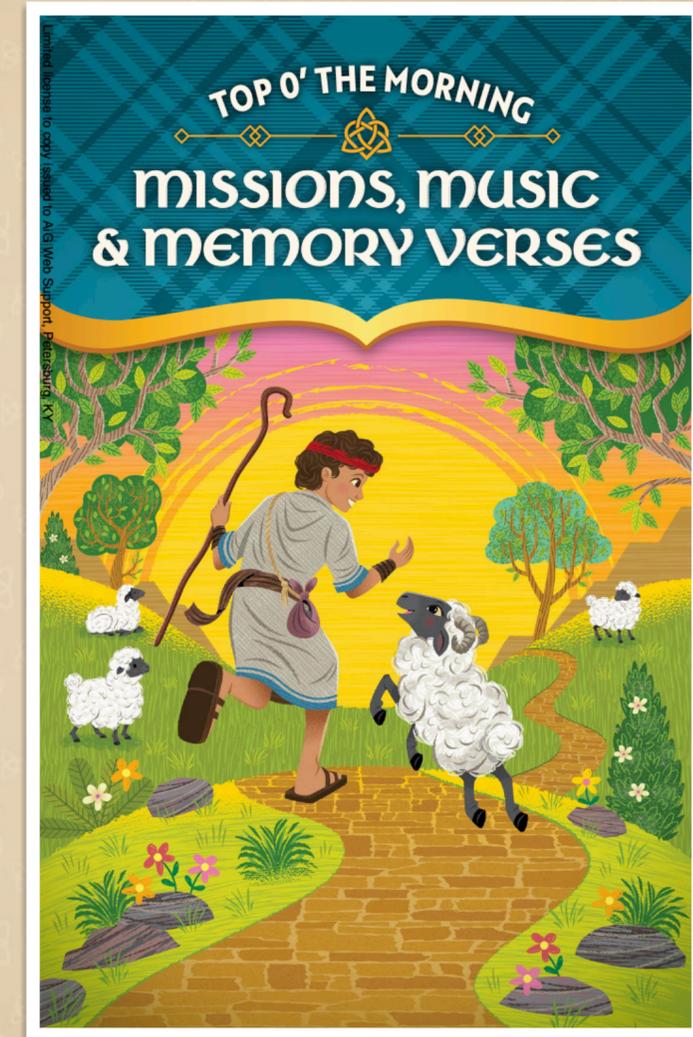
- Craft sticks
- Play dough
- 1 sheet of paper for each group of 4–5 students
- 1 ruler per group

### DAY 4

- Paper, pencil, and eraser, 1 each per student

### DAY 5

- Something small like a slip of paper, crayon, or LEGO, that can easily be hidden in a pocket or somewhere on a student's person (not just held in their hand where it would be obvious). You should NOT be able to see the object.





**ROMANIA**



**IVANNA**



**DISPLACED PEOPLE**

HOLY  
BIBLE

CHILDREN'S  
HUNGER FUND

DAY 2

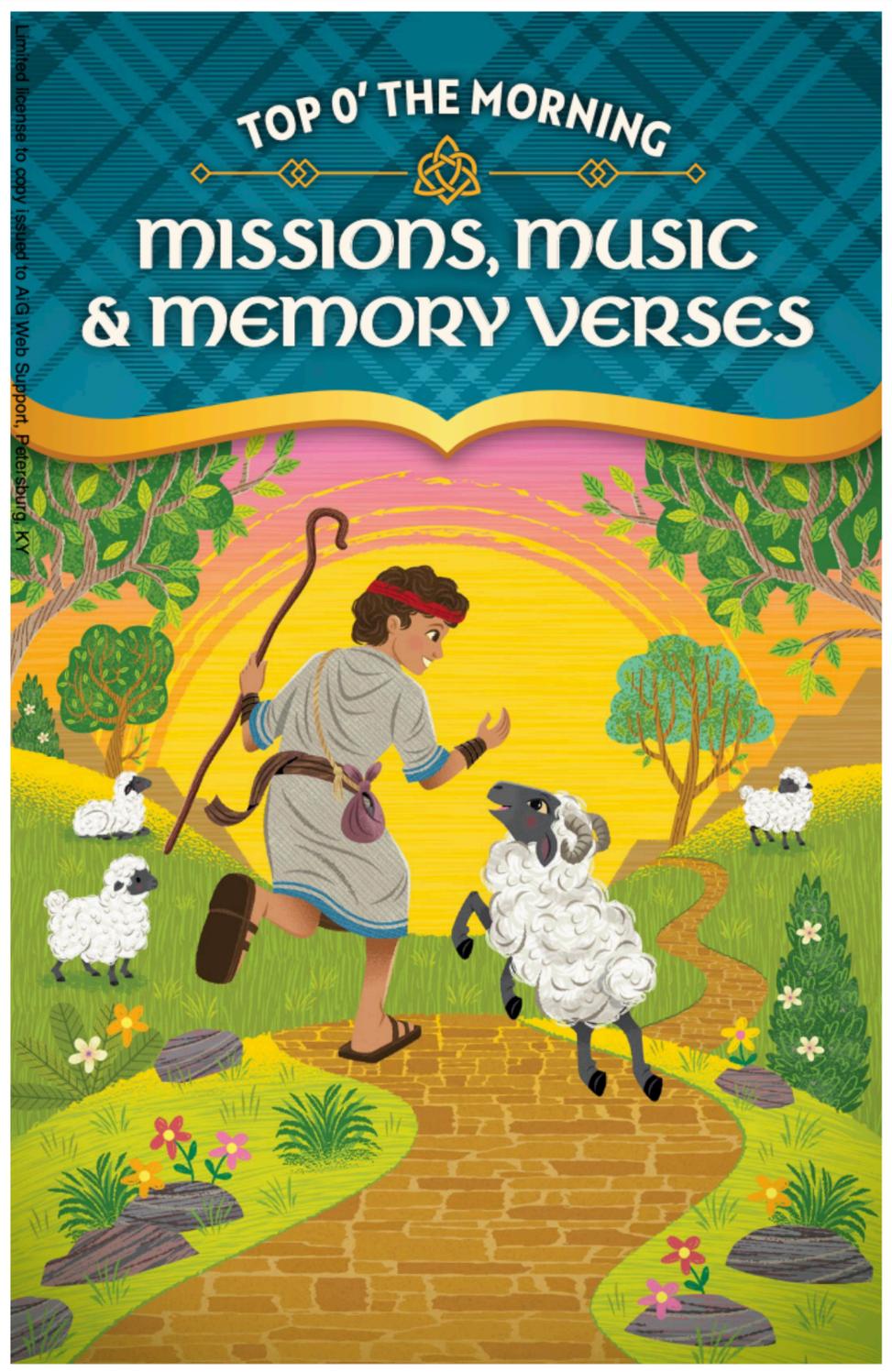


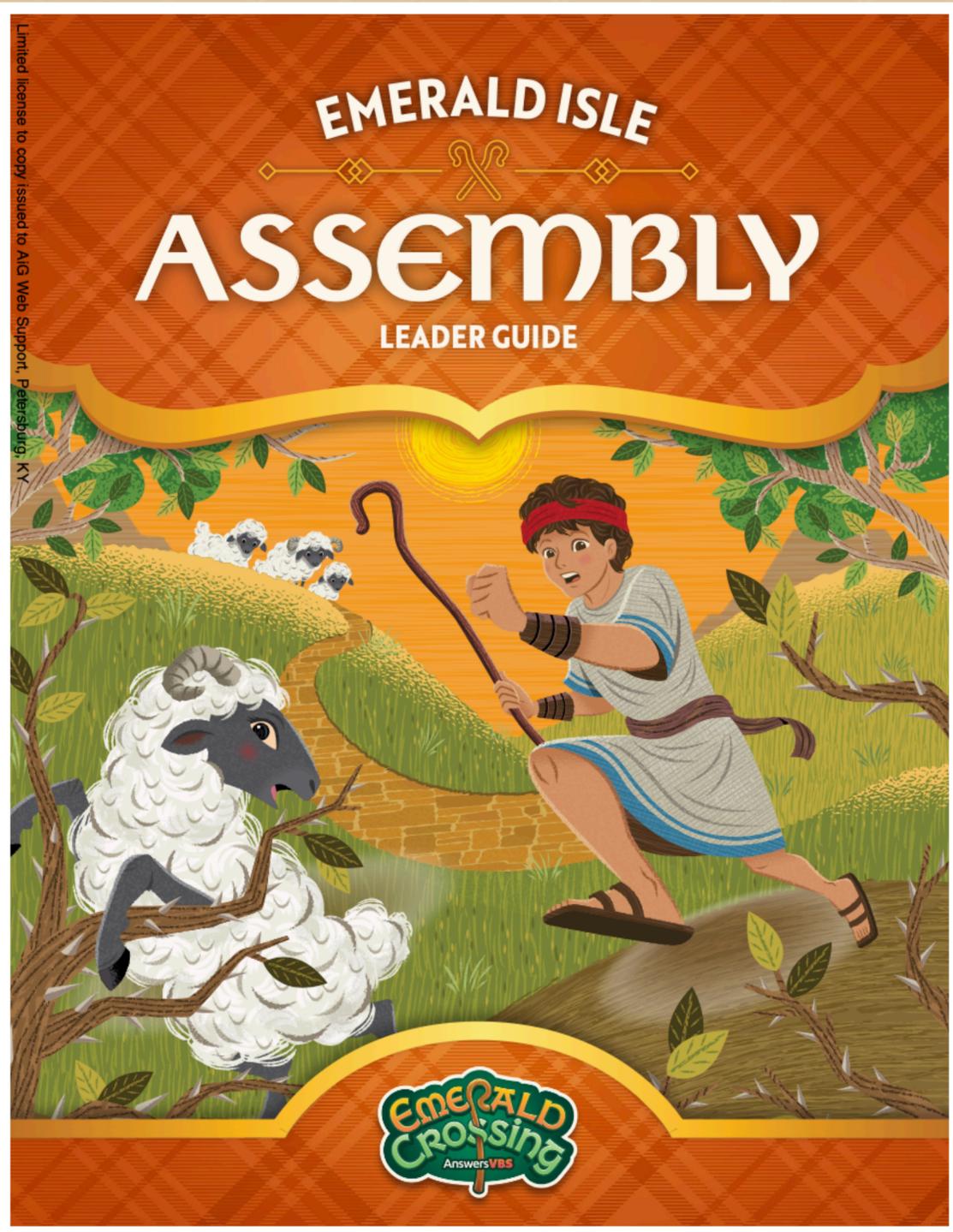
?? ? MEALS

DAY 5



??? MEALS





## 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"



# Tips, Ideas, Memorable Stories?





Never feel sorry for  
raising dragon slayers...

in a time when there  
are actual dragons!

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