

Day 1: Islander Opening Assembly

Welcome (5 minutes with video)

This year, we've developed beautiful Scripture videos for each day. These can be used at any point in your opening or closing assemblies but are written in at the beginning of each day and are found in the Assembly folder in the Digital Resources.

SHOW: Day 1 Scripture video

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 1 WELCOME: Modest pirate costume to be used all week

Person 1: Ahoy, kids! Welcome to *Mystery Island*, where we'll be tracking down the one true God!

Person 2: Sneak out in a pirate costume and try to scare Person 1. It doesn't work.

Person 1: Yo ho ho, good try, Captain Crispy. But you're not scary.

Person 2: Aarr! (said with disappointment)

Person 1: Now if you want a scary pirate, then we need to talk about the scariest of all.

Person 2: Long John Silver?

Person 1: No. *Blackbeard*.

Person 2: Blackbeard? I'd have to be called *No Beard*. But was Blackbeard really someone's name?

Person 1: Well, we're not sure of his real name, but it was probably Edward Thatch. This guy grew up in England in a wealthy family, but he veered off course in his life and became a pirate—the scariest pirate *ever*. He'd put slow-burning fuses in his hair when he went into battle that would give off smoke and sparks. It made him look terrifying! And he'd tie ribbons into his huge beard that was said to go almost up to his eyes.

Person 2: Shiver me timbers, he must have scared a lot of people!

Person 1: Yeah, he did, but he was only a pirate for two years, and then he was captured. You know, Blackbeard thought he needed silver and gold, but you know what he really needed, Captain Crispy?

Person 2: Some Jolly Pirate donuts?

Person 1: No—he really needed God. Pirates come in all shapes and sizes, but they all need the same thing, just like each of us—the one, true God. This week at *Mystery Island*, we'll be discovering who the one true God is and what he's like. Today, we'll be blown away to find out how great he is! Now, let's sing our theme song!

Song (3 minutes)

"Mystery Island"

Song (3 minutes)

Contemporary: "Great Is the Lord" / Traditional: "Great Are You, Lord"

Mission Moment (4 minutes)

SHOW: "The Great Treasure Hunt" slide

As we spend this week at *Mystery Island* seeking out more about who God is, we're also going to be learning about some of the greatest treasures he created—people!

Each day of VBS, we're going to meet a girl or boy in a different part of the world who is one of God's treasures.

We're teaming up with Children's Hunger Fund to help children like the ones you're going to meet, whose families don't have enough food to eat, and who don't know Jesus.

The best part? You get a chance to help them!

SHOW: "The Great Treasure Hunt—Hennrick" slide

Are you ready to get started? Great! Today, we're going to meet a little boy in the country of Haiti. His name is Hennrick.

SHOW: Video 1—Hennrick

Country: Haiti

Problem: Natural Disaster

Hennrick's family wasn't always poor. Before the earthquake, his life didn't look a whole lot different than yours. Now he's living in a tent, and he doesn't always know when he will get his next meal. But as you just saw, there is hope for Hennrick and his family! A pastor brought Hennrick's family a Food Pak from Children's Hunger Fund. He told them about Jesus and how much he loves them. Hennrick learned that he is very special to God.

Do you want to help kids like Hennrick? Pause for participation. Great! This week at VBS, we'll be going on a treasure hunt to collect coins in these Coin Paks [show Coin Pak]. Take this home today and tell your family and friends about Hennrick. Ask them to help you collect coins for meals. It only costs 25¢ to provide a nutritious meal for a hungry child.

These meals will be packed into a Children's Hunger Fund Food Pak, which is a box with about 20 pounds of nutritious food inside. That's enough to feed a family of four for about a week.

Each day this week, bring back any coins you've collected, and we'll count how many meals you've given so far. With your help, we can deliver hope to suffering families all over the world.

Announcements (time varies)

Announce any info pertinent to your situation. Today, you need to explain how the treasure hunts work so the kids can be looking for the treasure chests as they are rotating around the building. Check with your director for specific details about how your VBS's treasure hunts are structured so you know what to say.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

C: “King of Kings” / T: “Holy, Holy, Holy” / Memory Verse Song: “Psalm 145:1–3”

Day 1: Islander Closing Assembly

Song (3 minutes)

C: “Mighty Mighty” / T: “He Is Almighty”

Song (3 minutes)

“Mystery Island” / Memory Verse Song: “Psalm 145:1–3”

Creature Feature: Camo the Chameleon (5 minutes)

PRESENTATION SLIDES

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

It’s Creature Feature time! Every day we’ll be exploring a different animal that God has created. Let’s get started!

SHOW: Camo the chameleon slide

Today’s animal is Camo the chameleon. Have you ever seen a chameleon? Pause for responses.

SHOW: Chameleon eyes slide

Look this way. Point to the right. **Now look this way.** Point to the left. **Okay, now have one eye look to the right and the other look to the left.** Pause for a second. **Did you try it? It’s impossible, right? Humans can’t do that but chameleons can! God gave chameleons special eyes that can move in different directions at the same time. A chameleon can basically see 360 degrees around itself at any given moment. This trait helps the chameleon be able to hunt for tasty flies and alerts it if a hungry bird is near that might want the chameleon to be its next meal!**

SHOW: Chameleon tongue slide

Stick out your tongue as long as it goes. Do so. **God gave the chameleon a long, sticky tongue. Chameleons’ tongues are longer than the entire length of their bodies and are stored accordion-style inside their mouth. Imagine if your tongue was longer than your body!**

Now, let’s see how fast you can stick your tongue out and get it back in your mouth. On the count of three, let’s do it. 1–2–3! Do so. A chameleon’s tongue is so quick that it’s able to accelerate from being still to moving five times faster than a fighter jet can take off. This speed allows the chameleon to catch its food. The end of the tongue also has a sticky suction cup on it. God thought of everything when he gave the chameleon a special tongue to catch food.

SHOW: Small chameleon slide

Hold up your pinky finger. Demonstrate, and have them do so. **The smallest chameleon is smaller than your pinky finger.**

SHOW: Large chameleon slide

On the other hand, the largest is over two feet long! Demonstrate approximately how long two feet is.

That’s a big difference, isn’t it?

Have you ever wished you could be camouflaged and just blend in to your surroundings? God created chameleons with the amazing ability to change colors, which helps them blend in to their environment. Sometimes they switch colors to show their mood. For example, if they’re a darker color, it lets other chameleons know they’re angry. They also change color as a way of camouflaging themselves so that other animals don’t eat them! God gave them a way to protect themselves in a most unusual way, didn’t he?

SHOW: Chameleon toes slide

Wiggle your toes! Do so. God gave a chameleon five toes on each leg, but its toes aren’t evenly spaced like ours are. Two toes are on one side of each foot and three are on the other side to form a V shape. This allows the chameleon to expertly grip tree branches and other plants without falling off! God thought of everything!

SHOW: Camo the chameleon slide

Camo our animal pal sure changes a lot, but God never changes. People change a lot, too, but God never changes. The Bible says God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Camo reminds us that even though animals and people may change in many ways, we have a God who is unchanging and whose character is the same day after day. God is always great, and God is always good!

Drama (13 minutes)

See the Drama Production section starting on page 27 for details.

Announcements (time varies)

Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today’s contests. Remind them to do their Go and Do on their student guides, learn their memory verses, and make up a sign or team cheer for tomorrow.

Prayer

WOW! Thought (1 minute)

Each day, right before everyone leaves, share an inspiring thought about God. Here is today’s:

We’ve been talking about God’s greatness today, so before we leave, I want everyone to think about God’s greatness. God is great because . . . Pause. **Do you have your thought?** Pause. **Okay, well, that’s not big enough. Think something greater about God.** Pause again. **Not big enough!**

Did you know you have NEVER had a thought about God that's big enough, and you NEVER will? Listen to how this verse describes him. Read Deuteronomy 10:17.

God is greater than you can *ever* imagine! Wow!

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

"Mystery Island"

Day 2: Islander Opening Assembly

Welcome (5 minutes with video)

SHOW: Day 2 Scripture video

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 2 WELCOME: Pirate costume

Person 1: Welcome back to *Mystery Island*, friends! We have a great day planned for you!

Person 2: Hide somewhere on the set, but where the kids will still notice you.

Person 1: I see you, Captain Crispy. Come on out, matey.

Person 2: Come out. I was trying to hide so you wouldn't find me.

Person 1: Well, if you want to talk about a pirate who was good at eluding capture, then we need to talk about a French pirate named *Jean Barte*.

Person 2: Did he like French fries?

Person 1: No, I don't think so, but this pirate captured more than 200 ships in his pirating career, yet he himself was hard to capture. Once, he was captured by the English, but he managed to escape in a rowboat.

Person 2: Did he row, row, row the boat gently down the stream?

Person 1: No, but another time he was cruising the North Sea, and he got blocked in by a strong Dutch fleet of warships. Again, he managed to escape and get back out to the main sea.

Person 2: This sounds like a movie script. Hiding, eluding capture, escape. Wow.

Person 1: It reminds me of something we'll be talking about today. Jean Barte tried to hide, but you can't hide from God. No matter where you are, God knows everything and is everywhere. He's always with you, and he's almighty. So with that thought in mind, let's sing a song about our almighty God.

Song (3 minutes)

C: "Mighty Mighty" / T: "He Is Almighty"

Song (3 minutes)

"Holy, Holy, Holy" / Memory Verse Song: "Jeremiah 32:27"

Mission Moment (4 minutes)

SHOW: "The Great Treasure Hunt" slide

This week for our mission project, we're going on *The Great Treasure Hunt*. Together, we're hunting for coins to provide meals for suffering children all over the world.

Have you started your treasure hunt yet? Pause for participation. **Fantastic! Remember, one meal costs just 25¢. The coins you put in your Coin Pak mean meals for a hungry child.**

Walter has been all over the world searching for treasure, and he has more stories to tell about the places he's been, the treasures hidden around the world, and the people he's met.

SHOW: "The Great Treasure Hunt—Nimah" slide

Today, we're going to meet a little girl from Guatemala named Nimah. Do you remember Hennrick from yesterday's story? He wasn't always poor, but Nimah has always lived in poverty.

SHOW: Video 2—Nimah

Country: Guatemala

Problem: Generational Poverty

Nimah has never known a life outside of the garbage dump. Her family has lived there for generations. Unless things change for Nimah, someday her kids will live there, too. This is called generational poverty. When a local pastor delivered a Food Pak from Children's Hunger Fund, Nimah learned about Jesus and how God has a plan for her.

The coins we're collecting this week will be used to provide food for families like Nimah's. For the first time, Nimah has hope that she will be able to go to school someday and break the cycle of poverty.

Now, do you want to hear how many meals we've raised so far? Pause for participation. **Well, we've counted the coins you brought in and we've raised ____ meals!** Remember, one dollar provides four meals. To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four.

SHOW: Daily Count Day 2 slide with current meal count filled in.

But *The Great Treasure Hunt* isn't over yet! You can keep bringing in coins all week long! Tell someone about Nimah's story and how you're working to help children like her all around the world. Ask your parents if you can do a special chore to earn money for your Coin Pak.

Announcements (time varies)

Make pertinent announcements, and remind them to be looking for the treasure chests today.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

"Mystery Island"

Day 2: Islander Closing Assembly

Song (3 minutes)

Memory Verse Song: “Jeremiah 32:27”

Song (2 minutes)

C: “Great Is the Lord” / T: “Great Are You, Lord”

Creature Feature: Flip the Flapjack Octopus (5 minutes)

PRESENTATION SLIDES

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

We had a great day today learning about our almighty God.

SHOW: Flip the flapjack octopus slide

And our animal pal will help us remember how almighty God is. Today’s animal pal is Flip the flapjack octopus.

SHOW: Octopus slide

When you think of an octopus, you might think of a big octopus that looks like Hank in *Finding Dory*. Not all octopuses are big, though! Our creature for today is actually quite tiny. It is part of a group of octopuses called umbrella octopuses.

SHOW: Umbrella octopus slide (this is a “Dumbo” octopus, which is similar to the flapjack octopus; we weren’t able to license any flapjack octopus photos)

One of the most unusual things about the flapjack octopus is its size! Hold up your fist. Do so. The flapjack octopus is about the size of a small adult fist. It’s one of the smallest octopuses on the planet.

SHOW: Umbrella octopus surrounded by dark water slide

Think of the deepest water you’ve ever gone swimming in. Pause. I bet it was nowhere near as deep as the waters the flapjack octopus swims in! The flapjack octopus lives in such deep water off the coasts of California and Japan that it’s pitch black and humans aren’t even able to swim there. By using underwater cameras they’ve found the flapjack octopus a half a mile down!

SHOW: Umbrella octopus slide

On the count of three, shout out what color our blood is. 1-2-3! Pause for kids to respond. That’s right, red! Well, guess what? The flapjack octopus has *blue* blood. Isn’t that crazy?! God put a lot of an extra element called copper in the octopus’ blood which makes the blood look blue. Copper helps transfer oxygen to all the parts of the octopus’ body more quickly! Without this ability to efficiently get oxygen, the

octopus would die. God really did think of everything the octopus would need to survive in the ocean!

Feel the bones in your right arm. Do so. Now your other arm. Do so. Another amazing thing about the flapjack octopus is it doesn’t have any bones. Instead, its body is jelly-like and has the ability to flatten itself into the shape of a pancake—which is why it’s called the *flapjack* octopus in the first place! When hunting for food, the flapjack octopus will flatten itself out so it doesn’t look scary to its prey. God gave it this ability so it could find food more easily.

SHOW: Flip the flapjack octopus slide

Even though Flip lives in the deep, dark waters of the ocean, God sees him and is with him! Flip reminds us that we can’t hide from God because God sees everything and is everywhere. There is absolutely nowhere we can go to get away from God. He’s with each of us all the time, everywhere we are! God is almighty!

Drama (13 minutes)

Announcements (time varies)

Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today’s contests. Remind them to learn tomorrow’s verses, do their Go and Dos, and dress up tomorrow for the Dress-Up Day. Any modest island attire works, as long as it’s not a swimsuit.

Prayer

WOW! Thought (1 minute)

Here’s a final WOW thought for the day. Tell someone what you’re going to eat for lunch exactly ten years from today. Pause. God already knows exactly what you will eat for every meal for every day for the rest of your life. God knows everything about you—past, present, and future.

Now, think about something. Pause. God already knew you were going to think that thought. And guess what? He knows every other thought you’re going to think the rest of your life! Listen to this verse. Read Psalm 139:4.

It’s mind-blowing thinking about how God is all knowing, all powerful, and all present, isn’t it? Wow!

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

Memory Verse Song: “Psalm 145:1–3”

Day 3: Islander Opening Assembly

Welcome (5 minutes with video)

SHOW: Day 3 Scripture video

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 3 WELCOME: Pirate costume

Person 1: Welcome back to *Mystery Island*! Today, we have—
Person 1 strides out and interrupts.

Person 2: Ahoy, matey! (said authoritatively) **Stand aside, stand aside.** I am here to claim my right to this island, as the pirate known as the Ruler of the Seas.

Person 1: Who says?

Person 2: Well, I say, of course. So ye have been warned, you hearties! Point out dramatically to the audience.

Person 1: Well, I don't care if you're *Bartholomew Roberts*, you're not the Ruler of the Seas.

Person 2: Who's Bartholomew Roberts?

Person 1: Only the most successful pirate of all time. He captured around 400 ships in his lifetime. He was known for his boldness, and he'd fight any ship he encountered, no matter how big it was. And a crazy thing about it was, he loved to be well dressed. He'd wear fancy clothes even into battle, including a hat with a red feather.

Person 2: Oh, well, I guess if we're talking about the Ruler of the Seas, we'd have to give it to Bartholomew Roberts, then.

Person 1: Yeah, I'd have to say so, Bucko. But he really wasn't a *ruler*. He just thought he was. There's only one true Ruler of the Seas . . . and of the land . . . and of the sky . . . and of the universe.

Person 2: God?

Person 1: Yep. He's the King over everything. He's the King of kings. In fact, today at *Mystery Island*, we'll be learning that God is the ruler of all. Let's sing about him now!

Song (3 minutes)

C: "King over Everything" / T: "Bow the Knee"

Song (3 minutes)

C: "King of Kings" / T: "Holy, Holy, Holy" / Memory Verse Song: "Isaiah 6:3"

Mission Moment (4 minutes)

SHOW: "The Great Treasure Hunt" slide

All right, treasure hunters! Are you ready to meet up with Walter to continue searching for treasure? He's got another of his adventures to share with us and another child for us to meet.

Remember, we're raising coins to provide meals for children through Children's Hunger Fund. They'll send Food

Paks to churches all over the world, where they'll be delivered right to the door of someone in need. But they don't stop at delivering food; they'll also tell the families about Jesus!

SHOW: "The Great Treasure Hunt—Binsa" slide

Who knows where the country of Nepal is located? Pause for participation. **Well, today Walter will introduce us to a little girl named Binsa, who lives in the country of Nepal.**

SHOW: Video 3—Binsa

Country: Nepal

Problem: Injustice

Binsa's life doesn't seem very fair, does it? She works so hard to help her family, but it never seems to be enough. After working all day long, they still don't even make enough money to buy food. Most days, they feel powerless and hopeless. When a pastor brought Binsa and her family a Food Pak, he also shared with them about Jesus, who offers hope.

The coins you place in your Coin Paks will help children like Binsa. Can't you just imagine how she must feel, learning that there are people who want to help her and a God who loves her? That's pretty amazing, right? Well, the coins you're collecting can have a part in all of that.

Did anyone ask your parents if you could do a chore to earn money for your Coin Pak? That's great! There are so many ways to raise money for your Coin Paks! Maybe you can set up a lemonade stand or sell some of your old toys at a garage sale. Talk to your parents about other ways you might be able to raise money for meals.

Now, do you want to hear how many meals we've raised so far? In only two days, you have raised ___ meals! Remember, one dollar provides four meals. To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four. That's pretty fantastic!

SHOW: Daily Count Day 3 slide with current meal count filled in.

That's a lot of meals and a lot of kids who are learning about a God who loves them! But you know what? I know we can raise even more meals, so keep up the good work!

Announcements (time varies)

Make pertinent announcements, and remind them to be looking for the treasure chests today.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

C: "God with Us" / T: "A Promise Kept" / Memory Verse Song: "1 John 4:11"

Day 3: Islander Closing Assembly

Song (2 minutes)

C: "Great Is the Lord" / T: "Great Are You, Lord"

Song (3 minutes)

C: "God with Us" / T: "A Promise Kept"

Creature Feature: Clark the Great White Shark

(5 minutes)

PRESENTATION SLIDES

SUPPLIES NEEDED TODAY: Measuring tape

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

We hope you had a great day at *Mystery Island* today learning about how God is the ruler of all. Our animal pal is here to remind us of that. His name is Clark the great white shark.

SHOW: Clark the great white shark slide

Great white sharks are some of the most impressive animals in the ocean. They're truly an amazing creation of God's!

SHOW: Shark size comparison to bus slide

Think about a school bus for a second. Pause. The great white shark can grow up to 20 feet long. Demonstrate how long 20 feet is using a measuring tape. That's over half the length of a school bus!

The great white shark is a fast swimmer. At its greatest speeds, it can swim up to 35 miles per hour, about the speed of a car on a city road!

SHOW: Shark nose slide

Take a big sniff of our fresh, VBS air! Demonstrate in an exaggerated manner. You may think you have a good sense of smell, but the great white shark has an even better nose than you. They can smell a colony of seals up to two miles away. That's like being able to smell something at the McDonalds (or other location two miles from your church) down the road from right where you're sitting!

SHOW: Shark tooth slide

Make a big toothy, grin. Do so. Our teeth are fairly small, not even a half an inch long. In comparison, the great white shark's teeth are huge. They can be up to three inches long! Show how long that would be using your fingers. And listen to how cool this is. If a shark's tooth becomes old and dull, a new tooth moves in to replace the old tooth within one day. God gave the great white shark a continual mouthful of sharp teeth so it would always be able to easily catch and eat its food. God thought of everything!

SHOW: Large shark slide

Now, think of the heaviest thing you've ever lifted. Pause, and take responses. Well, you may be strong, but you definitely couldn't lift a great white shark. The great white shark can weigh up to 7,000 pounds. That's about as heavy as a limo!

SHOW: Oil and water bottles slide

The great white shark is a gigantic animal, so how is it able to float? Doesn't it seem like it should just sink to the bottom of the ocean? Well, God put something inside the shark called a liver which has oil inside it. Humans don't have this kind of liver, but sharks do. When oil hits water, it floats instead of sinks, so the shark's oily liver helps it stay afloat.

SHOW: Clark the great white shark slide

The great white shark is known as the king of the sea because of its powerful and impressive body. Even though Clark is pretty awesome, he reminds us that God is king not just of the sea, but of the entire universe. God, the king of the universe, made the king of the sea after all! Our God is ruler of all!

Drama (13 minutes)

Announcements (time varies)

Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today's contests. Remind everyone to learn tomorrow's verses, complete their Go and Dos, and do their God of Wonder Challenge Sheet, found on the Digital Resources. Print ahead of time and give each child a copy as they leave today.

Prayer

WOW! Thought (1 minute)

Here's our final WOW thought for the day. Think of an animal or plant God has made. Pause, then take a few of their ideas. God created those things, but God's not IN those things. He's not IN the trees, animals, wind, and creation, but he is IN CHARGE and IN CONTROL of it all. Listen to this verse! Read 1 Chronicles 29:11.

God is the ruler. He's in charge. He's the king over everything. Wow!

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

"Mystery Island"

Day 4: Islander Opening Assembly

Welcome (5 minutes with video)

SHOW: Day 4 Scripture video

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 4 WELCOME: Pirate costume, pirate flag with skull and crossbones, box of Cap'n Crunch® cereal

Person 1: Welcome the kids and tell them you're just finishing your breakfast (or your snack), which is a box of Cap'n Crunch® cereal. Pretend to pull a handful out and eat it.

Person 2: Come out waving a pirate flag, whooping and hollering. Come over to Person 1 and say: **Ye landlubber, I command you to surrender your breakfast.**

Person 1: Seriously?

Person 2: Aye, aye. Hand it over.

Person 1: Why? (taunting) **Does Captain Crispy like Cap'n Crunch®?** Person 2 grabs for it and Person 1 holds it away from Person 2.

Person 2: Hey, look over there!

Person 1: Act like you are looking and distracted. Captain Crispy grabs the cereal. **Hey, you tricked me!**

Person 2: Where there's a will, there's a way.

Person 1: Well, that reminds me of the trickiest pirate ever, *Howell Davis*. He wasn't so big on using weapons. He liked to use trickery and disguises instead. Once, he and his crew captured a French merchant ship. Another ship was close by that was heavily armed, but Davis forced everyone on the first ship to act like they were pirates, waving their weapons and a pirate flag. Wave the flag. The second ship fell for the trick and surrendered without a fight.

Person 2: Wish I'd thought of that.

Person 1: No, you don't, matey. The skull and crossbones on this flag shows what a pirate's life was about—violence and death. They died a lot from gun battles, sickness, and injuries. Few of them made it to old age, and when they did die, the crew just threw their bodies overboard. No, you don't want to be all about death, but all about life. God is all about life—joyful life, peace-filled life, and eternal life. Today, at *Mystery Island*, we'll be learning that God is Emmanuel, who offers us eternal life. So let's think on that as we sing "God with Us."

Song (3 minutes)

C: "God with Us" / T: "A Promise Kept"

Song (3 minutes)

C: "Jump" / T: "My God Is a Righteous God" / Memory Verse Song: "Romans 5:8"

Mission Moment (4 minutes)

SHOW: "The Great Treasure hunt" slide

We've been raising meals for kids all week with our Coin Paks, and you're doing great! Who remembers how much it costs to provide one meal for a hungry child? Pause for participation. **That's right! Just 25¢! So how many meals can one dollar provide?** Pause for participation. **You got it! Four meals! What about 10 dollars?** Pause for participation. **That's right! Forty meals!**

In a few minutes, we'll find out how many meals you've raised so far. But first, we're going to travel deeper into the cave with Walter!

SHOW: "The Great Treasure Hunt—Tavi" slide

One of Walter's treasure hunts took him to a country called Romania. That's where he met a little boy named Tavi.

SHOW: Video 4—Tavi

Country: Romania

Problem: Orphan

Tavi and his friends look out for each other because there were no adults to take care of them. That must feel scary and lonely, right? For someone who felt like no one cared about him, how do you think Tavi felt when he learned that God loves him and cares for him? Pause for participation. Right! That probably felt amazing!

Kind of like Walter's headlamp helps him see in dark places, we know that Jesus is the light in the darkness, too. Thanks to the pastor that spoke to him, Tavi now knows that he is a precious child of God!

Well, we have had a few days to raise meals for kids just like Tavi. Are you ready to be blown away by how many meals we've raised so far? Pause for participation. I don't think you sound excited enough. Are you ready to find out how many meals we've raised? Pause for participation. **That's better! In just three days, you have raised ___ meals!** Remember, one dollar provides four meals. To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four. **That's incredible!**

SHOW: Daily Count Day 4 slide with current meal count filled in.

Remember, that number doesn't just mean meals. That number means another chance for a child to learn about Jesus, and that is the greatest gift that we can give. The coins you're collecting can help make that possible!

Announcements (time varies)

Make pertinent announcements, and remind them to be looking for the treasure chests today.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

"Mystery Island" / Memory Verse Song: "Psalm 145:1–3"

Day 4: Islander Closing Assembly

Song (3 minutes)

“Mystery Island”

Song (3 minutes)

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Creature Feature: Jam the Immortal Jellyfish

(5 minutes)

PRESENTATION SLIDES

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

Today we learned that God is Emmanuel, which means “God with us.” He’s the one who offers us eternal life through repenting of our sin and trusting in Jesus. And our animal pal, Jam the immortal jellyfish, reminds us of that.

SHOW: Jam the immortal jellyfish slide

Jellyfish are fascinating creatures. Despite their name, jellyfish actually aren’t fish at all. Feel your spine, which is here. Demonstrate where your spine is and have them feel their spine. Well, jellyfish don’t have spines. In fact, they have no bones at all, and 95% of their body is made of water.

SHOW: Tiny immortal jellyfish comparison slide

Our animal pal Jam is a different looking jellyfish because of his size. Hold up your pinky finger. Do so. Now take a look at the fingernail on your pinky finger. Do so. A full grown adult immortal jellyfish is about the size of an adult’s pinky fingernail!

More than size, though, there’s something even more incredible about the immortal jellyfish. Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be able to live on this earth forever? Well, the immortal jellyfish has a unique ability—it never naturally dies! When the immortal jellyfish gets old, it just turns itself back into a baby! Can you imagine if humans could do that? The only way for an immortal jellyfish to die is for it to be eaten by a predator or for it to waste away due to starvation or disease. It doesn’t from old age, and we have no idea how old the oldest immortal jellyfish is. God truly used his amazing creativity when he created the immortal jellyfish!

SHOW: Jellyfish tentacles slide (this is not a photo of immortal jellyfish)

This is a photo of jellyfish tentacles. God made the immortal jellyfish with tiny tentacles. Some adult immortal jellyfish have up to 90 tentacles. God gave the jellyfish its tentacles to help it capture its food. When tiny ocean creatures like fish eggs or plankton touch the jellyfish’s tentacles, they get stung and the jellyfish sucks the creature into its mouth. Guess where its mouth is? Tap where you think the

center of your body is. Do so, and tell them the immortal jellyfish’s mouth is in the center of its body. Without the tentacles, the jellyfish would have a hard time capturing its food. God thought of everything to help this jellyfish be able to get its food and stay alive!

Can you make a hitchhiker’s signal with your thumb? Do so. Some people will use that hitchhiking signal if they’re walking and need someone to give them a ride (although that’s not a good idea). Well, the immortal jellyfish is known to be an excellent hitchhiker and world traveler. It will attach itself to the bottom of boats and hitch rides to waters all over the world.

SHOW: Jam the immortal jellyfish slide

Jam the immortal jellyfish reminds us that people who are God’s children can live forever with God in heaven one day by trusting in Jesus Christ to save them from their sins. In heaven, there will be no more death! Now that’s good news!

Drama (13 minutes)

Announcements (time varies)

Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today’s contests. Remind them to learn tomorrow’s verses, complete their Go and Dos, and bring in their final mission money.

Prayer

WOW! Thought (1 minute)

Here’s our final WOW thought for the day. Think of your favorite food. Pause. Think of someone you love to be with. Pause. Think of a beautiful place you’ve seen. Pause. Do you realize every good thing you’ve ever experienced is from God?

Every mouthful of food.

Every cool breeze.

Every sunset.

Every puppy and kitten.

And especially the good gift of Jesus. God sent his Son, Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us. Listen to this verse! Read James 1:17.

So the next time you experience *anything* good, remember it’s from our good God. Wow!

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

C: “King over Everything” / T: “A Promise Kept”

Day 5: Islander Opening Assembly

Welcome (5 minutes with video)

SHOW: Day 5 Scripture video

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 5 WELCOME: Pirate costume, treasure chest with real or pretend boxes of Cap'n Crunch® cereal in it

Person 1: Welcome back to our final day at *Mystery Island*, everyone! We're looking forward to sharing with you how trustworthy our great God is!

Person 2: Come out lugging a treasure chest.

Person 1: Well, well, well, it looks like your swashbuckling ways may have found you some swag, Captain Crispy.

Person 2: Aye, aye, matey, I can't wait to see this loot. Let's open 'er up. Have trouble getting it open and say, "Heave ho!" as you attempt it. Finally get it open to find boxes of Cap'n Crunch®.

Person 1: Well, it's better than nothin'.

Person 2: I'm going to go try to find more buried treasure.

Person 1: Buried treasure reminds me of a pirate named William Kidd, better known as *Captain Kidd*.

Person 2: Did he find buried treasure?

Person 1: He found lots of treasure, and it's believed that he buried what he found somewhere. But nobody knows where. Lots of people have hunted for it, but it's yet to be found. It's believed to be buried somewhere between the Caribbean Seas and New York. They did find one of his ships in the Caribbean in 2007 and they took one of the cannons from it and put it on display at the Indianapolis Children's Museum.

Person 2: Well, ships and cannons are cool, but I'm looking for buried treasure, so back to the search for me! Good day, mateys! Leave.

Person 1: Good day, Captain Crispy! Enjoy your Cap'n Crunch®! And, kids, today we're going to learn that God is the greatest treasure and worthy of our complete trust. Let's sing our first song of the day.

Song (3 minutes)

Memory Verse Song: "Proverbs 3:5–6"

Song (3 minutes)

"Mystery Island"

Mission Moment (4 minutes)

SHOW: "The Great Treasure Hunt" slide

Well, today is the last day of *The Great Treasure Hunt* adventure! We've learned a lot about treasure hunting and

where treasures can be found all over the world, but we've also met some amazing people, right? Are you as excited as I am to find out how many meals we've raised? Pause for participation.

Walter has one more very important tip for us about treasure hunting; he also has one more child for us to meet. Today, we're going to meet a boy named Max.

SHOW: "The Great Treasure Hunt—Max" slide

At first glance, you might not think Max looks like he's living in poverty. He lives in a house right here in the United States.

SHOW: Video 5—Max

Country: United States

Problem: Invisible Poor

Did you know that you are a treasure to God? Pause for participation. Well, you are! And so is Max!

Max and his family are known as the invisible poor because it's not easy to see that they are living in poverty. Max's closest friends may not even know.

Isn't it great to know there's a way you can help kids like Max? Don't you think they should know that they are a treasure to God?

When a church learns about a family in need of food, they deliver Food Paks from Children's Hunger Fund —Food Paks like the ones your coins will help to fill! Each time the church visits a home with a box of food, they have a chance to tell the family about the hope of Jesus, and invite them to church. Remember, the coins you raised this week mean meals for someone in need!

Okay! Are you ready to see how many meals we've raised this week? Pause for participation.

The grand total number of meals we have provided this week during *The Great Treasure Hunt* is ____ meals! Remember, one dollar provides four meals. To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four.

Announcements (time varies)

Make pertinent announcements, and remind them to be looking for the treasure chests today.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

Memory Verse Song: "Psalm 145:8–10"

Day 5: Islander Closing Assembly

Song (3 minutes)

C: "Jump" / T: "My God Is a Righteous God"

Song (3 minutes)

C: "God with Us" / T: "He Is Almighty"

Creature Feature: Trusty the Macaw (5 minutes)

PRESENTATION SLIDES

SUPPLIES NEEDED TODAY: Raincoat, and (optional) spray bottle of water or other water source

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

We had a great week at *Mystery Island*, didn't we, kids? We learned so much about God and how great he is. We can trust his character at all times and know he's always with us. Our final animal pal, Trusty the macaw, reminds us of that.

SHOW: Trusty the macaw slide

The stage leader puts on a raincoat. **Macaws are part of the parrot family and are known for their bright, colorful feathers. God gave the macaw feathers to keep the macaw dry and warm—kind of like this raincoat that I'm wearing keeps me from getting wet!** Spin around, or, if you're daring, have someone toss or spray some water on you. Be careful if you are wearing or holding a microphone. **Its feathers also provide sun protection, help with flight, and aid with camouflage.**

SHOW: Large macaw slide

Macaws are large birds. Spread out your arms as wide as they can go. Do so. Macaws can grow to over three feet tall from head to tail and can have a wingspan up to four feet wide. That's as wide as some of your arms from one hand to the other hand! They only weigh two to four pounds, though, because of their hollow bones. If they didn't have hollow bones, they would be too heavy to be able to fly. God really did think of everything when he created them!

SHOW: Macaws slide

Have you ever played copy cat? Pair up, and have one person say something and the other copy what they say, then switch places. Do so. Macaws are known for their intelligence. One way they prove their smarts is through their ability to copy human speech and learn tricks. Pretty amazing, huh?!

SHOW: Macaw in captivity slide

Macaws typically live to be about 50 years old, though some have lived up to 90 years in captivity. How great would it be to have a pet that could be with you for your whole life? What a trusty friend.

SHOW: Macaw beak slide

For just this once, stick out your tongue like this. Demonstrate, and have them do so. **The macaw has a powerful beak**

and a strong tongue that has a bone inside it. They need a strong beak and tongue because their primary foods are seeds and nuts. Their beak helps them break these hard foods down into digestible chunks. Keep your fingers away, though! A macaw can easily break a person's finger with its beak.

SHOW: Macaw and pirate slide

Back in the day, macaws were a favorite pet of pirates and would be with them through all of their adventures on the high seas. Pirates had a deep bond with their trusted pets.

SHOW: Trusty the macaw slide

In the same way, Trusty the macaw reminds us that God can be trusted more than any other friend and that, if you are his, God will never leave you when the going gets tough! He is a faithful friend.

Drama (13 minutes)

Announcements (time varies)

Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today's challenges. Invite them to come back to the Fin-tastic Finale to hear how much money was raised for the mission project.

Prayer

WOW! Thought (1 minute)

Here's our final WOW thought for the day. Would you agree that sad or hard things sometimes happen to people in this world? Have you ever wondered why God let it happen?

Pause.

Well, here's the comforting thing. Whether you *understand* why something is happening or not . . . you can forever have confidence in the *character* of God. Why? Because he's perfect and cannot make a mistake. Let me repeat that. God is *perfect* and *cannot* make a mistake!

That means he is *perfect* love.

He's *perfect* goodness.

He's *perfect* kindness.

He's *perfect* in wisdom.

So even though *we* may not understand why something happens, *God* does. Listen to this verse! Read Romans 8:28.

All things work together for good if you have put your trust in God. He is trustworthy! Wow!

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

Your favorites