

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 she wants to feature the Mission Moment—either during the assembly time or during one of the rotations.** The craft guide contains additional activity ideas.

The Great Treasure Hunt

Your kids will explore five different countries on *The Great Treasure Hunt*, discovering that everyone is a treasure to God. They'll also learn about children living in poverty around the world and ways to make a difference.

As your students explore Haiti, Guatemala, Nepal, Romania, and the US, they'll hear the stories of boys and girls whose lives have been touched by poverty. These children have no guarantee of meals, shelter, or an 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.

The Great Treasure Hunt

During the Mission Moment, a long-time treasure hunter, Walter, will take your group on a treasure hunt. He'll show them tools used in searching for treasure and explain how those tools relate to our own spiritual journey. Walter has traveled the world and met people who are a treasure to God, and each day he'll introduce your kids to one of them.

Rally your kids to help with *The Great Treasure Hunt*. Your mission is to collect coins to fill Children's Hunger Fund Coin Paks and help provide meals for children in need—children like those that Walter introduces.

When your VBS children earn coins for their Coin Paks, they make it possible for Children's Hunger Fund to fill Food Paks. A Children's Hunger Fund Food Pak is a box of up to 20 pounds of nutritious food that can feed a family for up to a week. In a Food Pak, a meal costs just 25¢! A dollar can provide four meals for hungry children.

The Food Paks are provided to partner churches in the US and around the world who deliver them to homes of families in need. Along with food delivery, relationships are built and the gospel is shared.

The following items are available on the Digital Resources.

- Daily videos
- Daily scripts and activities
- Printable Prayer Journals, featuring true stories about hungry children living in poverty and prayer prompts that will help your kids connect with the needs of suffering children

This year, we've partnered with Children's Hunger Fund to provide food and the hope of the gospel to hungry children in the US and across the globe. *The Great Treasure Hunt* is a fun and meaningful addition to your VBS program, teaching kids about poverty around the world, and empowering them to make a difference.

- Printable "Map of the World" activity sheet, featuring locations of the children from the daily videos
- Printable and digital banner artwork
- PowerPoint® images to help your kids track their fundraising progress
- Printable fold-up Coin Pak bank for collecting coins
- Donation Submission Form to accompany your donation to CHF at the end of your VBS program

Purchasing Items

Included in your starter kit is a sample of the sturdy **pop-up Coin Pak bank** made 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 for purchase from Children's Hunger Fund. (See below.)

Also available for purchase are beautiful handmade bracelets from Uganda. The beads on these bracelets are rolled by hand out of magazine paper by Ugandan men and women who have been trained and given fair-wage employment through one of our trusted ministry partners in Africa. A limited number of these bracelets are available for purchase to give as prizes and souvenirs for your kids or thank-you gifts for your volunteers.

To order Coin Paks or bracelets, please visit ChildrensHungerFund.org/AnswersVBS. To place an order over the phone, call Children's Hunger Fund at 800-708-7589.

For questions regarding your Mission Moment resources, please call 800-708-7589 or email VBS@ChildrensHungerFund.org.

Orders must be received 14 days prior to your VBS date. Available while supplies last.

Collecting Donations

Give children their own Coin Pak bank for collecting donations. Work with your director to set up a fun area (e.g., treasure boxes) for kids to deposit their money each day as they begin VBS. Encourage your kids in the weeks leading up to VBS to save their money and then begin collecting the first day. Or, plan on passing out the Coin Paks on Day 1 and begin collecting on Day 2.

Once you've totaled your donations, please make out a check to Children's Hunger Fund and indicate "The Great Treasure

Hunt” in the memo area, and fill out the Donation Submission Form. Send your check with the form to:

Children’s Hunger Fund
Attn: The Great Treasure Hunt
DEPT LA 24373
Pasadena, CA 91185-4373

Learn more about the gospel-centered mercy ministry of Children’s Hunger Fund at ChildrensHungerFund.org.

Tracking Your Progress

To help your kids maintain their excitement, announce how many meals they provided each day. Check with your director to find out when to do this: either during a special mission rotation or during the opening or closing assembly.

Here are fun ways to help your kids see their progress as they fundraise.

1. Show your progress with *The Great Treasure Hunt* Daily Count PowerPoint slides. Update the slides with the total number of meals raised each day.
2. Make your own goal tracker and update it throughout the week. Create or print an empty thermometer and put five equally spaced marks on it. Each day, fill in the thermometer up to the next mark and write the total number of meals raised so far on the corresponding line.
3. Consider having a contest between boys and girls, or between teams, to see which group can bring in the most money. (Printable “teams” and “daily count” artwork are on the Digital Resources.)

NOTE ON COUNTING COINS: It may be helpful to recruit two or three adult volunteers to count and/or roll the coins at the end of each day. Some banks provide coin counting services, but they may require several days to do so. Check ahead with your local bank.

Daily Scripts

Day 1: Hennrick (Haiti)

SHOW: "THE GREAT TREASURE HUNT" SLIDE

As we spend this week at Mystery Island seeking out more about who God is, we are also going to be learning about some of the greatest treasures he created. People!

Each day of VBS, we are 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 are 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 will 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.

DO MISSION ACTIVITY: MY LITTLE HOUSE

1. Before class, cut three of the sponges in half. Cut one of the halves in half again.
2. Using the whole sponge as your base, use the toothpicks and remaining sponges to build a house. The two smallest

pieces will be the front and back with two of the larger pieces making up the side walls. Use toothpicks to secure the pieces to the base as well as to each other. Insert a toothpick into the top of the two side walls, leaving a ½ inch of the toothpick exposed. Use the remaining two sponge halves to create the roof, angling them inward.

3. Place the completed house into the shallow dish.
4. Ask about various kinds of natural disasters. Could a house be harmed? What does a house need to be made of to survive a natural disaster?
5. Ask about the house you just built. For example, say, "This isn't a real house, but would this survive if it fell on the ground? Would the inside stay dry if the house got wet?"
6. Pour a little water into the dish around the base sponge. Pour more water over the top. Have the kids watch what happens to the roof, floor, and walls.

TALKING POINTS

- People live in houses and buildings all around the world, but many of them are not very strong or sturdy. What things might be used to build walls and roofs in other places?
- In a big rain storm, what would happen to a house made out of mud? In a strong wind, what would happen to a house made of cardboard or pieces of metal?
- If you had to leave your home without any warning and you could only take what you could carry in your hands, what would you take? What would you miss most? Is there anything else you would miss that you can't carry with you?
- In what ways do people need help after a disaster?
- In what ways can you help people who are suffering after a natural disaster?

Send each child home with a "HENNRICK" PRAYER JOURNAL and a pop-up Coin Pak. Sturdy pop-up Coin Paks are available for purchase from Children's Hunger Fund. Printable sheets and Paks are included on the Digital Resources.

DO the "MAP OF THE WORLD" ACTIVITY SHEETS. Pass out the maps and have kids cut and paste the item for today on the map. Then collect the maps when you're finished with the activity.

Day 2: Nimah (Guatemala)

SHOW: "THE GREAT TREASURE HUNT" SLIDE

This week for our mission project, we are going on *The Great Treasure Hunt*. Together, we are 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 into 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 are 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.

DO MISSION ACTIVITY: TOOLS OF THE TRADE

1. Have each child select one prop or image.
2. Go around the group and have each child share his prop/image. Have them identify what jobs might use that object, and write it on the board. Some props/images may be used for more than one job.
3. Ask, "Do you think you have the skills and knowledge *right now* to do any of these jobs?"
4. Ask, "How would you *get* the skills and knowledge you need to do these jobs?"
5. Have the kids identify which jobs require education or special training, and circle them on the board (it should be almost everything).

TALKING POINTS

- Nimah, the little girl from Guatemala, lives in poverty. Her parents also live in poverty, and so did her grandparents. This is called generational poverty.
- Generational poverty is a cycle, and it's very hard to break.
- Kids start thinking at a young age about what they want to be when they grow up. Nimah makes plans like this, too. Do you already know what you want to be? How will you learn everything you need to know to do that job?
- What does Nimah need to do in order to be what she wants when she grows up?
- Do you think it's important for kids to go to school, even if they live in poverty? What might keep a child living in poverty from going to school?
- What can you do to help someone like Nimah?

Send each child home with a "NIMAH" PRAYER JOURNAL.

DO the "MAP OF THE WORLD" ACTIVITY SHEETS. Pass out the maps from yesterday, and have them cut and paste the item for today on the map. Then collect the maps when you're finished with the activity.

Day 3: Binsa (Nepal)

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

SHOW: "THE GREAT TREASURE HUNT—BINSÄ" 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—BINSÄ

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 are 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!

DO MISSION ACTIVITY: BUILD IT UP

1. Separate the kids into groups of about five.
2. Give each group an assortment of building materials with the simple instruction to build something as a team.
3. Tell them they will receive payment when they're done, and let them know what it is.
4. After a few minutes, have everyone stop building and step away from their creations.
5. Place the payment on the table in front of each group, but don't let them take it yet.
6. As you look over each of the creations, introduce requirements that were not explained earlier. (Examples: The building was supposed to be taller; you used blue gumdrops, and it was supposed to be green; I think you tasted some of the building materials, and that's not allowed; you were supposed to wash your hands before you started building.)
7. Wait for someone to say, "We didn't know" or "That's not fair!" If they don't protest, ask them, "Do you think I'm being fair?"
8. When the activity is over and you're ready to discuss the talking points, give the reward back to them.

TALKING POINTS

- In the brickyards of Nepal, many people were promised a job and a better life, but they were tricked into a difficult way of life and a debt they can never pay back. When people are treated unfairly, this is called injustice.
- How did it feel to work hard on something and have someone change the rules without telling you?
- How did you feel when you were penalized for doing something you didn't know about?

- This is what it is like for Binsa's family in the brickyards. The workers are promised money and a place to stay, but the people running the brickyards keep finding reasons to take back their pay for things they didn't know about. Now the workers don't have enough money to buy the things they need.
- People living in poverty because of injustice often feel hopeless. What can you do to help people like Binsa and her family have hope?

Send each child home with a "Binsa" prayer journal.

DO the "Map of the World" activity sheets. Pass out the maps from yesterday, and have them cut and paste the item for today on the map. Then collect the maps when you're finished with the activity.

Day 4: Tavi (Romania)

SHOW: **"THE GREAT TREASURE HUNT" SLIDE**

We've been raising meals for kids all week with our Coin Paks, and you are 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 is 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 are collecting can help make that possible!

DO MISSIONS ACTIVITY: WHOSE JOB IS IT?

1. On the left side of the board, write "Adult Jobs." On the right side, write "Kid Jobs." You may want to tape a picture or draw an image of an adult on one side and a kid on the other.
2. Ask the kids what jobs adults typically do for the family.
3. Write them under "Adult Jobs."
4. Once they have listed the obvious (go to work, cook, pay the bills, etc.), remind them of the other jobs adults have (bandage your scrapes, go to your sporting/school events, comfort you when you're feeling sad or scared, etc.). Let them add more like this to the list.
5. Now ask what jobs kids do (clean their room, take out the trash, set the table, feed the family pets, etc.).
6. Write them under "Kid Jobs."
7. Ask, "If you really had to, which of the adult jobs could you do if you had to do them?" Circle those items on the adult list.
8. Using a different colored marker, circle the remaining items on your list.
9. Ask, "Now, what about the remaining things on this list? Who would do those if your parents couldn't?"

TALKING POINTS

- Tavi is an orphan, so he doesn't have a parent to take care of him. Some orphans live in orphanages, but there is often not enough room for everyone. Tavi is only nine, but he is in charge of earning enough money to buy food and finding his own place to sleep at night.
- Let's look at the "Adult Jobs" on the board again. Tavi is in charge of everything on here because there is no adult to do these jobs. Some things just won't happen.
- How do you think Tavi feels without someone to take care of him? Do you think he feels scared? Sad? Lonely?
- What things are you thankful that your parents do for you?
- What do orphans around the world need in order to know they are loved and cared for?
- How can *you* offer hope to orphans like Tavi?

Send each child home with a **"TAVI" PRAYER JOURNAL**.

DO the **"MAP OF THE WORLD" ACTIVITY SHEETS**. Pass out the maps from yesterday, and have them cut and paste the item

for today on the map. Then collect the maps when you're finished with the activity.

Day 5: Max (United States)

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 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 that there is 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.

DO MISSION ACTIVITY: WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

1. Place all of the **PROBLEM SLIPS** into a hat/bag.
2. One at a time have a child come up and pull out a slip.
3. Have the child read the slip aloud or hand it to the leader to read aloud.
4. Decide, either individually or as a group, whether the situation is faced by someone living in poverty or not.

5. Have them drop the paper into the appropriate box/bowl. (HINT: there are 10 of each kind.)
6. Continue until each child has pulled out a slip or the slips are all gone.

TALKING POINTS

- There are many people right here in America who live in poverty. They may live in your neighborhood or go to your school.
- Poverty in America doesn't necessarily look the same as it does in other countries. This is why they are called "invisible poor."
- Just because your parents say you can't have something because it's "too expensive," doesn't mean you are living in

poverty. What is the difference between making choices about how you spend money and living in poverty?

- Let's take another look at the "Living in Poverty" situations. Do you think that people in the United States face any of this? Would it surprise you that many kids in America face these things?
- In what ways do suffering families in America need help? What can you do?

Send each child home with a **"MAX" PRAYER JOURNAL**.

DO the **"MAP OF THE WORLD" ACTIVITY SHEETS**. Pass out the maps from yesterday, and have them cut and paste the item for today on the map. Kids can take the maps home today.