

# Daily Assembly Scripts

## Day 1: Opening Assembly

**Welcome** (2 minutes)

**PROPS FOR DAY 1 WELCOME:** Stereotypical spy clothes (trench coats or leather jackets, hats, sunglasses). These can be put on easily over VBS T-shirts and pants/shorts. You'll also need one briefcase or backpack and one Spy U handbook (a plain book with a logo or a Spy U Director Guide), and a 10-second countdown.

For this day only, you will need four people for the welcome. (Two people are needed the other days.) You can use teens, team leaders, or other volunteers for this short skit. Person 1 acts as the director of Spy U, and the other three are special agents. If you have a two-person team, the person who will be leading the opening with Person 1 should play Agent 3 and will be referred to as Person 2 in the rest of the Daily Assemblies.

Begin with the three agents milling around the stage. PERSON 1 comes out and removes the handbook from the briefcase or backpack. While doing so, AGENT 1 approaches.

**AGENT 1:** Agent PS8610 reporting for duty at Spy U, Director.

As AGENT 1 is speaking, AGENT 2 comes over.

**AGENT 2:** I beg your pardon, but *I'm* Agent PS8610, and I'm reporting for duty.

As AGENT 2 is speaking, AGENT 3 comes over.

**AGENT 3:** Director, I don't know who these imposters are, but *I'm* Agent PS8610, and I'm reporting for duty.

**PERSON 1:** Hmm. It's obvious we have some counterfeits here. Only one of you can be the real agent. Looks like we're going to have to employ the Finding Fakes test, found in section 43, paragraph 1839 of the Spy U Handbook. PERSON 1 flips through the book and lands on a page, then says:

**PERSON 1:** Uncovering counterfeits and recognizing the real deal is of utmost importance here at Spy U. We're always on the lookout for fake gods versus the one true God. We're also on the lookout for real Truth Mission Force agents. So to figure out who the real Agent PS8610 is, let me give each of you a coded message and see which one answers correctly. Agent 1, finish this: If you can't say something nice, \_\_\_\_.

**AGENT 1:** Don't say anything at all.

**PERSON 1:** Hmm. Very interesting. All right, Agent 2: Why did the chicken cross the road?

**AGENT 2:** To get to the other side.

**PERSON 1:** Hmm. Agent 3, finish this: To infinity and \_\_\_\_.

**AGENT 3:** Back again through the red, paneled submarine with the barking dogs.

**PERSON 1:** Aha! As usual, the test revealed which are the counterfeits and which is the real agent. Agents 1 and 2, you answered the obvious. Too easy. Don't you think we're a little more sophisticated than that here at Spy U? Off with you to the Counterfeit Collection room! *They walk offstage.*

**PERSON 1:** Agent PS8610, welcome! You knew your handbook well. Now, are you ready to commence with this mission?

**AGENT 3:** Affirmative!

**PERSON 1:** Okay. Your job, should you choose to accept it, is to lead these daily briefings with me. First assignment: Figure out what PS8610 is code for. You can get back with me on that one. Second assignment: Act totally normal while welcoming the cadets and introducing this song. Ready?

**AGENT 3:** Ready!

Start the countdown from 10 to 1. While it is going, quickly run backstage and take off your trench coats. PERSON 1 and AGENT 3 now come back and welcome the kids to Spy U.

Explain to the kids that this week at Spy U, they are cadets who will be training to become Junior Agents who live around the world detecting false gods and proclaiming the one true God. Introduce the first song.

**Song** (3 minutes)

"Spy U"

**Song** (3 minutes)

Contemporary: "Uncovering Counterfeits" / Traditional: "One True God"

**Creature Feature: Camo the Mimic Octopus** (5 minutes)

Adjust the Creature Feature scripts each day to fit the time you have. If doing them live, include the fun active participation sections and use the **PRESENTATION SLIDES**. Or show the **CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO** from the Resource Download.

**SHOW: CREATURE FEATURE TITLE SLIDE**

Greetings, cadets! This is a transmission from the Spy University Animal Agent Headquarters. My name is \_\_\_\_ and I lead our animal research division. I'm thrilled to have you joining us today to analyze one of the most fascinating animals God has made: the mimic octopus!

**SHOW: MIMIC OCTOPUS**

To begin, let's do an exercise to test your flexibility. First, take your right hand and place it on the back of your neck. Then take your left hand, reach behind your back, and try to touch your right hand. Were you able to do it? If you were an octopus, that wouldn't have been a challenge at all. An octopus is an invertebrate, meaning it doesn't have a backbone . . . or any bones at all. Instead, it has a soft, squishy body that can squeeze through tiny spaces.

**SHOW: OCTOPUS BEAK**

However, there is one part of its body that is not soft and squishy: the beak! The beak is difficult to see because it's underneath all those arms, but it looks like this. An octopus beak is very useful for capturing its food because the beak delivers a venomous bite! Yes, every octopus is venomous, but don't be afraid!

**SHOW: BLUE-RINGED OCTOPUS**

Only the blue-ringed octopus from the reefs around Australia has strong enough venom to hurt a person.

Now, even a hunter has to watch out for something trying to hunt it, and God has given the octopus some amazing ways to protect itself in this fallen world.

SHOW: [OCTOPUS GROWING ARM / INK](#)

If a predator bites off one of an octopus's arms, the octopus can escape and regrow the arm later! It can also eject ink from its body to confuse predators and give itself a chance to escape.

SHOW: [OCTOPUS CAMOUFLAGE](#)

One of the best ways octopuses can defend themselves, however, is simply to stay hidden! God has given them the ability to change the color of their skin, sort of like a chameleon. The skin can also change texture, going from smooth to rough and spiky. This allows most types of octopuses to camouflage themselves by blending in with any background: rocks, sand, or coral.

The mimic octopus takes this disguise to a whole new level. It doesn't just change its looks to match the background. It can also change the way it moves and acts to pretend to be other animals! [Continue on, or, if you found a short video \(1 minute or so\), show it now and skip the next paragraph.](#)

SHOW: [MIMIC OCTOPUS CAMOUFLAGE](#)

One example is that it will sometimes flatten its body and swim close to the bottom like a flatfish. Or it might spread out its arms to look like the deadly spines of a lionfish. The mimic octopus has been seen mimicking at least 15 other species, including jellyfish, seagrass, and venomous stonefish. They're so smart that they can choose what to mimic based on the situation. If a damselfish tries to hunt a mimic octopus, the octopus will hide its body and spread out two arms to look like a sea snake, which eats damselfish.

As part of your training, let's practice these mimicking techniques. As I show you each of these animals, change your appearance and behavior to look and act as much like each of them as you can. Ready?

SHOW: [DOG](#)

First up, mimic a dog. Good!

SHOW: [ELEPHANT](#)

Now an elephant. Excellent!

SHOW: [SEAGULL](#)

How about a seagull? Exceptional!

SHOW: [MIMIC OCTOPUS](#)

Last one: a mimic octopus. You're well on your way to mastering camouflage.

The mimic octopus is such a master of disguise that it can fool other animals into thinking that it is not an octopus. If you pay close attention, however, you can tell that the octopus's disguise is a fake. Something that looks real but is actually fake is called a counterfeit.

There's another type of counterfeit to be on guard against—fake gods!

SHOW: [ELIJAH](#)

There are counterfeit gods that aren't real but can be a distraction from following the one true God. This is what happened to the people of Israel in the book of 1 Kings. When they began to worship Baal, a counterfeit god, they stopped following the one true God. To bring his people back to him, God sent Elijah to show them there is only one true God.

SHOW: [CAMO](#)

Today's animal agent, Camo the mimic octopus, is here to remind us that there are a lot of counterfeit views of God out there that are trying to mimic the one true God. We must get to know the one true God so well (as we study the Bible) that we are not fooled by the fakes!

That's all for now, cadets. Until next time!

### **Announcements** (time varies)

Announce info pertinent to your situation. Explain how the contests work so the kids can participate. This includes the God is the Treasure hunt, which takes place while they are moving from rotation to rotation. They will be on the lookout for two treasure hunt cards hidden somewhere in the building. When they find each one, they must stop, be completely quiet while the leader reads it, and then move to where they are going. More details on this and all the contests are on p. 8.

### **Prayer**

### **Dismissal**

### **Song** (play as children leave)

Day 1 Memory Verse Song—1 Kings 18:39

## Day 1: Closing Assembly

### Song (3 minutes)

C: "Uncovering Counterfeits" / T: "One True God"

### Song (3 minutes)

"Spy U" / Memory Verse Song: Theme Verse

### Mission Moment (5 minutes)

Use the Mission Moment **PRESENTATION SLIDES** from the Resource Download.

**SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE SLIDE**

This week, we are learning all about the one true God, which is very important. So important, in fact, that we want children around the world to know about God too. Sadly, many children don't have enough food to eat. What's even worse is that some of them have never heard about God!

We are partnering with Children's Hunger Fund to help provide meals for hungry children. Not only can you help provide them with nutritious food, but you can also help them learn about the one true God!

**SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE—EDISA SLIDE**

Are you ready to meet the first child? *Pause for participation.* Wonderful! Today, we'll meet a little girl named Edisa (*pronounced E-dee-sa*), who lives in Uganda.

**SHOW: VIDEO 1—EDISA**

Country: Uganda

Problem: Extreme Hunger

Edisa's mother has a hard time finding food for her children. Many people try to take advantage of those who are struggling, just like the first man who told Edisa's mother she had to give her money to the church in order for God to bless her. Thankfully, the local church stepped in, providing her family with food and telling them about the one true God who doesn't ask for offerings to earn his blessing.

Sadly, there are many hungry children around the world, just like Edisa. But the good news is that you can help! Want to learn how? *Pause for participation.* Great! This week at VBS, we'll be collecting coins to put in these Coin Paks. *Show Coin Pak.* Take this home today and tell your family and friends about Edisa and her family. Ask them to help you collect coins for meals. Just 25¢ can provide a healthy meal for a hungry child.

**SHOW: DAILY COUNT DAY 1 SLIDE**

Using the coins you collect, food can be packed into a Children's Hunger Fund Food Pak. A Food Pak is a box or bag of food that can feed a family for several days. Local pastors and church volunteers use these Food Paks to build relationships with families and share the message of Jesus Christ.

Bring back the coins you collect this week, and we can count how many meals you helped provide. You can help deliver hope to families in need around the world.

### Drama (15 minutes)

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

### Announcements (time varies)

### Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today's contest. Remind them to do the Go and Do sections on their Student Guides, learn their memory verses, and make up a sign or team cheer for tomorrow.

### Prayer

### Takeaway Time (3–4 minutes)

Each day, right before dismissal, share a big question and answer about God. You can just talk these through, or you can pull an envelope out of a mailbox, open it, and read the question.

Today's big question: How do I know God exists?

We've been talking today about how God is the only true God. But how do we know he exists? Well, the most important way is . . . the Bible says so! God tells us he exists in the book he wrote!

Let's quickly touch on a few more ways we can know God exists:

- Creation—it cries out that it was designed by God. There's no way it could have just happened.
- **SHOW: MOUNT RUSHMORE SLIDE.** Did this just carve itself? No! A sculpture must have been made by a sculptor.
- **SHOW: WOODEN CHAIR SLIDE.** Did this just make itself into a chair over time? No! A wooden chair must have been built by a carpenter.
- **SHOW: PAINTING SLIDE.** Did this just appear all of a sudden? No! A painting must have been painted by a painter.
- Besides creation, real science also confirms God's existence. For example, the universe operates according to certain laws such as gravity. *Drop something on the floor.* We know that the universe operates according to these laws all the time. When we wake up tomorrow, we don't need to be afraid that we'll float off into space because the universe suddenly stopped working the way it has in the past. This is because God designed the universe to operate in certain ways, and he holds it all together and keeps everything going (Colossians 1:17).
- And Jesus! God himself came to earth, and that's a historical fact.

God does exist, and he's the only true God. Nothing else makes logical sense. In fact, we can use logic to reason things out because God is a God of order and logic (1 Corinthians 14:33). We can't see him, but we know he exists. We can't see air, but we know it exists.

Demonstrate the effects of air even though we can't see the air itself using a toilet paper launcher. Make one using a leaf blower with a roll of toilet paper. Type "Toilet Paper Launcher" into a search engine for exact details.

Turn on the toilet paper launcher and explain that we cannot see air, but it is causing the toilet paper to unroll. And we can't see God, but we know he exists.

So beware of the fakes out there, and be on the lookout for the one true God!

### Dismissal

### Song (play as children leave)

"Spy U"

## Day 2: Opening Assembly

**Welcome** (2 minutes)

**PROPS FOR DAY 2 WELCOME:** 1 apple

**PERSON 1:** Welcome back to Spy U, cadets! I wonder where [PERSON 2] is?

**PERSON 2:** Come in with an apple. I decided to grab a bite from this apple I just found back there. Dramatically act as if you're going to take a big bite. PERSON 1 shouts and tries to stop PERSON 2. It's too late and you sink your teeth into the apple.

**PERSON 1:** Oh no!

**PERSON 2:** What? What? What's the problem?

**PERSON 1:** (*forlornly*) You just ate the evidence.

**PERSON 2:** What evidence? This apple? PERSON 1 sadly nods yes. (*incredulously*) It's evidence?

**PERSON 1:** It sure is.

**PERSON 2:** Explain, please.

**PERSON 1:** Did you know detectives can lift fingerprints off of certain foods, like apples, bananas, onions, and tomatoes? If they find them at a crime scene, they can be helpful evidence. We were hoping to find fingerprints on that apple.

**PERSON 2:** Well, all you're going to have now are *my* fingerprints.

**PERSON 1:** Yours are unique—everyone's are—but not the ones we were looking for.

**PERSON 2:** Well, how about this? Let's talk about someone else who has a unique identity—God!

**PERSON 1:** Yes, he's unique—one God but in three persons.

**PERSON 2:** It's a mystery we'll be talking more about today at Spy U, but first, let's get on our feet and sing!

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "There Is No One like You" / T: "Finding Fingerprints"

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" / T: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**Creature Feature: Loop the Sugar Glider** (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO.

SHOW: CREATURE FEATURE TITLE SLIDE

Welcome back, cadets! Today begins day 2 of your training at our Animal Agent Headquarters!

SHOW: SUGAR GLIDER MAP

Everybody, look up! For today's creature, we'll need to direct our attention high up in the trees of Australia and New Guinea.

Turn the lights down and then back up after the following sentence.

Oh, and you might want to bring your night vision goggles because this animal only comes out at night.

SHOW: SUGAR GLIDER

Meet our next animal agent—the sugar glider! It's pretty cute, isn't it? It might look like a flying squirrel, but it's actually a marsupial.

SHOW: SUGAR GLIDER WITH BABY

That means a mother sugar glider raises her babies in a pouch—sort of like a kangaroo.

Why do you think they are called sugar gliders? Not surprisingly, it is because they love to eat sugar! Now, I'm guessing you like sugar too. On the count of three, I want you to shout out your favorite sweet treat. Ready? 1 . . . 2 . . . 3. Pause for participation. Wow, you're making me hungry.

SHOW: CANDY, CAKE, ICE CREAM

Do you think sugar gliders like to eat candy, cake, and ice cream?

SHOW: NOT CANDY, CAKE, ICE CREAM

No, of course not. These wonderful little critters survive on other types of sugar, mainly tree sap, nectar from flowers, and the gum of the acacia tree.

SHOW: SUGAR GLIDER FOODS

Even though they eat a lot of sugar, it's not the only thing they eat. They also like small bugs and bird eggs. Though they are called sugar gliders because sugar is the main thing they eat. "Bug glider" just doesn't sound quite right, does it?

SHOW: SUGAR GLIDER GLIDING

Another reason they're called sugar gliders is because God has designed these animals with an amazing gliding ability! When they jump, they spread out their limbs to unfold loose skin that catches the breeze to take them from tree to tree. This gliding ability is so effective that some sugar gliders have been seen gliding up to 135 feet. That's even more impressive when you think about how small they are.

SHOW: FIVE FOOTBALL FIELDS

They can travel a distance almost 270 times their own length. That's like a human jumping over more than five football fields, or us jumping from here to \_\_\_\_\_. Calculate this distance ahead of time and tell them where.

SHOW: SUGAR GLIDER CLIMBING

Besides being great gliders, they're good climbers! One hard thing about climbing is trying to keep your balance. Stand up and try this out. Put your arms behind your back. Now lift one foot off the ground. Keep those arms down. Alright, now lift your arms up and stick them straight out to the sides. Is it easier to balance with your arms down or up? It's easier to control your balance if your body is spread out, like when you have your arms up. A sugar glider's tail is longer than the rest of its body, so it uses it to keep its balance.

SHOW: SUGAR GLIDER FINGERPRINTS

There's another feature besides the tail that helps sugar gliders climb. They have fingerprints! These fingerprints provide a rough surface that grips the tree and keeps them from sliding down! Sugar glider fingerprints are unique to each animal. That means no two sugar gliders have the same set of fingerprints, just like no two people have the same set

of fingerprints. Because of this, fingerprints can be used to determine someone's identity. As junior cadets, it's important that you recognize how God has made you unique. Take a moment to look at your own fingerprints.

[SHOW: TRINITY ILLUSTRATION](#)

Fingerprints are an amazing design that reveal God's handiwork, and they should remind us that God himself is unique. There is one God who exists in three persons—God the Father, God the Son (who is Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. This relationship between three persons in one God is called the Trinity.

[SHOW: LOOP THE SUGAR GLIDER](#)

Today's animal agent is Loop the sugar glider. Her unique fingerprints remind us that we can identify God by his uniquely unique traits, even ones we don't fully understand, like the

fact he is one God in three persons. This is a mystery, but we know it is true because the Bible tells us it is, and every word of the Bible is true.

This will conclude our day 2 training transmission. Please report here tomorrow for your next briefing.

**Announcements** (time varies)

[Announce pertinent info and remind them to look for two treasure hunt cards.](#)

**Prayer**

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

[Day 2 Memory Verse Song—2 Corinthians 13:14](#)

## Day 2: Closing Assembly

### Song (3 minutes)

"Spy U"

### Song (2 minutes)

C: "There Is No One like You" / T: "Finding Fingerprints"

### Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE SLIDE

Yesterday, we watched a video where we met someone named Seth at Children's Hunger Fund. Can anyone tell me what was wrong with the food in those Food Paks? [Pause for participation](#). That's right! It was replaced with counterfeit food! He's trying to figure out what's going on because that food is supposed to help feed children around the world who don't have enough to eat. And we're going to help, aren't we? Remember, just one quarter can provide a meal for a hungry child.

SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE—UMA SLIDE

Today, Seth is going to introduce us to a little girl named Uma, who lives in Nepal. Let's hear her story.

SHOW: VIDEO 2—UMA

Country: Nepal

Problem: Injustice

Has anyone ever offered you something, only for it to turn out not to be what you expected? That's what happened to Uma's parents. They hoped for a better life than they had in their small village. Instead, they ended up doing hard work and struggling to pay off overwhelming debts. And when Uma and her siblings grow older, they will inherit their parents' debts. Thankfully, the church was there to provide her family with food and share about God.

You can help children like Uma by collecting coins. Remember, every 25¢ you collect this week means one meal for a child like Uma.

To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four. Does anyone have a guess about how many meals we can provide so far? [Pause for participation](#).

SHOW: DAILY COUNT DAY 2 SLIDE with current meal count filled in.

Together, you've helped provide \_\_\_\_ meals! You guys are doing amazing!

We're off to a good start, but we still have a few days left. Keep bringing in your coins! There are many ways you can earn coins for your Coin Pak. Maybe ask your parents if there are extra chores you can do around the house to earn coins for children in need or consider setting up a lemonade stand or hosting an art show to sell some of your best creations. Just make sure to tell people what you are raising money for!

### Drama (15 minutes)

### Announcements (time varies)

### Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today's contest. Remind them to learn tomorrow's verses, complete Go and Do activities, and dress up tomorrow for Devise a Disguise Day. No weapons, please.

### Prayer

### Takeaway Time (2–3 minutes)

Today's big question: How big is God?

- SHOW: TALLEST ROLLER COASTER SLIDE. Do you think he's this big?
- SHOW: TALLEST BUILDING SLIDE. This big?
- SHOW: TALLEST MOUNTAIN SLIDE. How about this big?
- God is so big—no one could ever measure him. Nothing or no one is bigger than God. He made the universe, after all!
- Jeremiah 23:24 tells us he fills heaven and earth.
- God is a spirit, without a body, so it's impossible to measure how big he is. In fact, it's impossible to answer this question because it's impossible for us to even imagine how big he is! But it sure is fun to think about!

### Dismissal

### Song (play as children leave)

"Spy U"

## Day 3: Opening Assembly

### Welcome (2 minutes)

**Props for Day 3 Welcome:** An old cane, a pack of Mentos, and a wad of chewed-bubble gum stuck somewhere on stage. Change the mentioned locations of the three props to fit your situation.

**PERSON 1:** Hey, [PERSON 2], I think I'm on to something here! Look at these clues I found.

**PERSON 2:** Let me see.

**PERSON 1:** Pick up the cane and scrutinize it while saying: Well, here's a suspicious old cane that was leaning against that cafe table over there. I know it appears to be just a cane, but I bet there's a button on it somewhere that turns it into a spy scope. Pick up the Mentos from the floor. And how about this pack of Mentos?

**PERSON 2:** It looks innocent enough.

**PERSON 1:** Shake the pack of Mentos in front of PERSON 2's face while saying: Yes, but every good agent knows that Mentos mixed with soda make the perfect mini explosion devices.

**PERSON 2:** Sounds . . . messy.

**PERSON 1:** Peel off the gum while saying: And what about this chewed-up wad of gum? Don't *they* know that *we* know the old "hidden-microphone-in-the-chewed-bubble-gum" trick? There's just got to be a bug implanted in here somewhere to listen in on our conversations.

**PERSON 2:** Well, I hate to break it to you, but I can explain every one of those things. The cane—I know the guy it belongs to, and believe me, it's just a cane. The Mentos—I saw them fall out of a kid's backpack. And as far as the chewed-up bubble gum—well, that's my bad.

**PERSON 1:** (*incredulously*) You stuck chewed bubble gum on here? Gross! And that's littering!

**PERSON 2:** Guilty as charged! But hey, I give you credit for trying to collect some clues. We'll be collecting clues today at Spy U as we follow the most important case of all time known as "The Eden File."

**PERSON 1:** Sounds intriguing! But right now, we better get to singing!

### Song (3 minutes)

C: "Only One Way to Life" / T: "Admit, Believe, and Forever Receive"

### Song (3 minutes)

"Spy U"

### Creature Feature: Scout the California Sea Lion (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO.

SHOW: CREATURE FEATURE TITLE SLIDE

Welcome, cadets! Please listen to this important briefing. The agency's ocean survey team has lost some important equipment 800 feet underwater. Our department has been given the task of selecting an appropriate animal agent to retrieve it.

SHOW: BEAVER, PELICAN, SEA LION

We currently have three available agents for dispatch: a beaver, a pelican, and a sea lion. Please take a moment to determine which of these animals would best suit the mission. Have you made your selection? Excellent! Let's review these animal profiles and see if you made the right choice.

SHOW: BEAVER SWIMMING

The beaver is a great swimmer and can hold its breath for a long time, but beavers only swim in rivers and lakes, not in the ocean.

SHOW: PELICAN DIVING

Pelicans can dive underwater, but only as deep as 100 feet.

SHOW: SEA LION DIVING

Sea lions, however, can dive over 900 feet deep, which is the same length (height) as an 80-story skyscraper. If you chose the sea lion for this mission, then you made the right choice! Before we dispatch our agent on his mission, let's learn a little more about how God designed this incredible animal.

SHOW: SEA LION / SEAL EAR COMPARISON

The California sea lion lives, as you might guess, on the coast of California, as well as in other parts of the Pacific Ocean. While sea lions look similar to seals, you can tell them apart by two features. The first big difference is ears. Sea lions have an ear flap, kind of like a dog's ear. But a seal's ear is just a hole in the side of its head.

SHOW: SEA LION / SEAL WALKING COMPARISON

The second big difference is that sea lions can walk on land using their front flippers, whereas seals can't lift themselves and have to scooch around like giant inchworms.

SHOW: SEA LION FLIPPERS

While sea lions can move faster on land than seals can, they're fastest in the ocean. God designed them with a streamlined body that helps them glide through the water. Their front flippers give them power to move through the water, while their back flippers help them steer. This method of swimming is so effective that they can reach speeds of up to 25 miles per hour and can turn on a dime, meaning they can switch direction easily and quickly!

SHOW: SEA LION EYES, EARS, WHISKERS

God has also given sea lions impressive senses for hunting deep down in dark, murky water. They have large eyes, keen ears, and sensitive whiskers that help them see, hear, and feel their way around underwater. They can even hear the high-pitched calls of some predators, such as orcas.

SHOW: SEA LION UNDERWATER

Another important skill for hunting underwater is holding your breath. Like humans, sea lions have to breathe air, so they take a big breath before diving underwater. How long can you hold your breath? Well, let's try it out. Ready? All right, take a deep breath. Hold for 10 seconds and then exhale dramatically. How did you do? Hopefully, you could hold it longer than I did, but neither of us can hold our breath as long as a sea lion can. They can hold their breath for up to 20 minutes!

**SHOW: SEA LION ATTACHING RESCUE LINES**

As we learned earlier, sea lions can use these abilities for underwater rescue missions. They can be trained to rescue equipment that has been lost by attaching recovery lines to the equipment to help bring it back to the surface.

It's incredible how these animals can be used in rescue missions, and it reminds us that we need rescuing. There is only one person who can rescue us from our sin, and that is God himself!

**SHOW: SCOUT THE CALIFORNIA SEA LION**

Today's animal agent is Scout the California sea lion. He reminds us that Jesus came from heaven to earth on a rescue mission to save us from our sin. Jesus took the punishment

for sin when he died, and then he overcame death when he rose from the dead! We are saved when we repent of our sin and put our faith in him! Do you know him as your Savior? If not, I encourage you to talk to someone about him today.

**Announcements** (time varies)

Announce pertinent info and remind them to find today's treasure hunt cards.

**Prayer**

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

Day 3 Memory Verse Song—John 17:3

## Day 3: Closing Assembly

### Song (2 minutes)

C: "Uncovering Counterfeits" / T: "One True God"

### Song (3 minutes)

C: "Cracking Codes" / T: "Cracking Codes"

### Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE SLIDE

Who can tell me what you can buy for a quarter? *Pause for participation.* Usually, not much, but this week, we're collecting coins to provide what? *Pause for participation.* That's right! We're collecting coins to provide meals, and it only costs 25¢ to send a meal to a child in need. And what's even more important is that those quarters do more than provide meals because those meals mean a local church can visit hungry children and share the truth about the one true God with them.

SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE—SUREN SLIDE

Today, we are going to meet a boy named Suren (*pronounced Soo-ren*), who lives in Armenia.

SHOW: VIDEO 3—SUREN

Country: Armenia

Problem: Displaced People

Imagine living your whole life in one place and then one day someone comes along and tells you that you have one week to pack up everything and leave. That's what Suren experienced. His family didn't do anything wrong, but they were forced to leave anyway. Now they have to start over in a new area that they don't really know. Thankfully, there are pastors like the one who visited Suren's family who can provide them with food and share about Jesus with them.

Have you shared what you've learned this week with others? Have you asked if your parents could help you provide meals for kids like the ones you've met so far? What other ideas have you come up with to raise coins for your Coin Pak?

To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four. Okay, now for the exciting part. Do you want

to hear how many meals we can provide so far? *Pause for participation.*

SHOW: DAILY COUNT DAY 3 SLIDE with current meal count filled in.

You are doing an amazing job so far, and we're only halfway through the week! And remember, more meals mean more opportunities for children in need to learn about the one true God and how Jesus loves them. I think more children around the world need to hear this good news, don't you? I can't wait to see how many more meals we can provide tomorrow.

### Drama (15 minutes)

### Announcements (time varies)

### Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today's contest. Remind everyone to learn tomorrow's verses, complete their Go and Do activities, and complete the **CODE CRACKING BIBLE CHALLENGE**, which will be sent home today and brought back tomorrow. They will receive a mini Krackel bar if they complete it.

### Prayer

### Takeaway Time (2–3 minutes)

Today's big question: Who created God?

On the count of three, shout out who you think created God. 1–2–3!

The answer: *No one* created God!

Everything and everyone else has a beginning, but not God. Even though we think of him as existing in the past, like with Adam and Eve in the very beginning, he is outside of time and space. In fact, he created time and space. He set history in motion when he spoke the universe into existence 6,000 years ago. He has no beginning and no end (Psalm 90:2). Talk about mind-blowing! But he's God, so he should be mind-blowing! That's what makes him God!

### Dismissal

### Song (play as children leave)

"Spy U"

## Day 4: Opening Assembly

### Welcome (2 minutes)

**Props for Day 4 Welcome:** Stuffed or plastic bull or picture of a bull (check with Pre-Primary or Toddler teachers—they may have one they used on Day 1)

**PERSON 1:** Welcome back to Spy U, cadets! Today, we're going to be cracking some codes to learn more about the one true God.

**PERSON 2:** Oh! Oh! I have a code we can crack to learn something about God. Watch me and see if you can figure it out. Proceed to use your body to give three coded clues for the word "eternal." First: Make an *E* using your arms and one leg stretched out horizontally to the left. Your straight body is the long piece of the *E* and your arms and leg are the three short pieces. Second: Turn around. Third: Make an *L* to the left with your two arms. Make sure the *E* and the *L* are going in the correct direction for the kids to read, which means you make them backward since you are facing them.

**PERSON 1:** While PERSON 2 is making the *E*, the turn, and the *L*, you are prompting the cadets to shout out guesses. The answer is "eternal."

**PERSON 2:** God is eternal. That's true! He never had a beginning and he will never have an end. He has always been! Now, how about this one? Hold up a plastic or stuffed bull or picture of one. Say: "A" then point to the bull.

**PERSON 1:** While PERSON 2 is doing so, you are prompting the cadets to shout out guesses. The answer is "able."

**PERSON 2:** God is able! That doesn't mean this kind of bull, which was just a clue. Point to the one you've been using. It means God is able to do anything, like it says in Ephesians 3:20–21. Read the verses.

**PERSON 1:** Or Jude 24. Read the verse.

**PERSON 2:** You know, we could go on thinking about other words to describe God *forever* because God is amazing and eternal. He is beyond description!

**PERSON 1:** You've got that right! Let's sing about and to our amazing God.

Move to the first song.

### Song (3 minutes)

C: "Cracking Codes" / T: "Cracking Codes"

### Song (3 minutes)

Day 4 Memory Verse Song—Psalm 145:8–9

### Creature Feature: Gracie the Kunekune Pig (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO.

SHOW: CREATURE FEATURE TITLE SLIDE

Greetings, cadets! Welcome to the fourth day of your training.

SHOW: PIG CREATED KIND

Let's meet our next surprising animal agent—the kunekune pig! Say "kunekune" with me. It's a fun word! Pigs belong to a created kind with species all over the world, including warts, hogs, babirusas, warty pigs, and peccaries. The kunekune is

a breed of domestic pig, which means instead of living in the wild they were bred to live with people.

SHOW: MAP OF NEW ZEALAND

This breed originated on the islands of New Zealand. In fact, the name kunekune is from the Maori language of New Zealand. It means "fat and round."

Have 10 guys come onstage to do a comparison.

These pigs can weigh between 140 and 220 pounds, about as much as one (point to a guy) adult human, but they're actually one of the smallest breeds of pig.

SHOW: BIG BILL NEXT TO HUMAN

Some pig breeds can grow to over 2,000 pounds! That would be like one pig weighing the same as all 10 of these guys!

Have the guys wave then sit down.

SHOW: COOLING OFF

One of the important things these pigs need to do is stay cool. What's your favorite way to cool off on a hot summer day? Maybe by eating a Popsicle, sitting in front of a fan, or jumping into a pool? Pigs can't sweat to cool off, so you may have heard that they roll in water or mud instead.

SHOW: KUNEKUNE FUR

However, unlike other pigs, kunekunes don't use mud because they have a different form of sun protection—God gave them a thick coat of bristly fur. It protects their skin from the sun as well as the rain.

SHOW: KUNEKUNE PIRIPIRI and have them touch their chins.

Another trait that sets kunekunes apart are fleshy lobes under their chin called piripiri or wattles. Nobody besides God knows if these serve a purpose, but they definitely give kunekunes a unique look!

SHOW: PIG DOING TRICKS

One thing you may not know about pigs is that they're very intelligent. They can be taught how to sit, stay, and fetch like a dog. Some police forces have even considered training pigs to sniff out illegal items. Pigs don't have good eyesight, but they make up for it with powerful noses.

How good is your sense of smell? Try this: While I count to five, breathe out slowly through your mouth. Then I'll count to five again while you slowly breathe in through your nose. Ready? Breathe out . . . 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . . 5. All right, now breathe in . . . 1 . . . 2 . . . 3 . . . 4 . . . 5. Could you smell anything? If so, hopefully it wasn't the person next to you. A pig would be able to smell everything in the building. They can even smell things up to five miles away. Imagine being five miles from your house and being able to smell what's cooking for dinner!

SHOW: KUNEKUNE GRAZING

Speaking of dinner, what do you think pigs like to eat? Go ahead and shout out your guess. Pause for participation. Well, whatever you guessed, you're probably correct! Pigs will eat just about anything. Kunekune pigs have a wide mouth which makes them good at grazing on grass like a cow. But most pigs will also munch on fruit or leaves, dig down to

find grubs and vegetables, or even eat leftover human food. They're not picky!

**SHOW:** [PRODIGAL SON WITH PIGS](#)

These animals remind us about an important case you'll be reviewing today. Jesus told us about a young man who left his father's household and wasted all his money on sinful living in a distant country. He ended up working on a pig farm and became so desperate and hungry that he wanted to eat the seedpods the pigs were eating. Can you imagine being so hungry you'd be willing to eat out of a pig trough?

**SHOW:** [GRACIE THE KUNEKUNE PIG](#)

Eventually, the young man came to his senses, left the pigsty, and went home to his father. Instead of being angry, his father gave him grace. Our animal agent, Gracie the kunekune pig, reminds us of this parable of the prodigal son.

This parable, or story, teaches us how God acts toward us. Even though we have run away from God in our sin, he gives us what we don't deserve—love and forgiveness through Jesus. That's what grace is. How can you show your thankfulness for God's grace in your life? That's all for today, cadets! I'll see you tomorrow for your final briefing.

**Announcements** (time varies)

[Announce pertinent info and remind them to find today's treasure hunt cards.](#)

**Prayer**

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

["Spy U" / Memory Verse Song—Psalm 145:8-9](#)

## Day 4: Closing Assembly

### Song (3 minutes)

"Spy U"

### Song (3 minutes)

C: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" / T: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

### Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE SLIDE

Who can tell me what a Food Pak is? *Pause for participation.* Right! It's a box of healthy food. And who delivers a Food Pak? *Pause for participation.* The local church! Of course! And how much does it cost to provide a meal? *Pause for participation.* Yes! Just 25¢! And who is collecting these coins? *Pause for participation.* You! Of course! Okay, one more question. And it's the most important question. What is the important thing that the church shares with the families it visits? *Pause for participation.* Yes! They share with them all about the one true God!

SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE—MARINA SLIDE

Marina is from Peru, a country in South America.

SHOW: VIDEO 4—MARINA

Country: Peru

Problem: Generational Poverty

Have you ever tried to do something, but it just felt like there were too many obstacles in your way for you to be successful? *Pause for participation.* That's exactly how Marina felt when she thought about leaving the neighborhood where she grew up. Her family had lived there for so many years that it seemed impossible that things would change for her or her siblings. But the church had a solution! They brought them food and shared that they had a school where Marina and her siblings could get an education. Better yet, people from the church told them that God loved them and had a better plan for their lives.

Every day that we collect coins means more meals for children like Marina. Who wants to hear how many meals we can provide so far? *Pause for participation.* Are you sure you want me to tell you? *Pause.* It doesn't sound like you're very excited. Let's try this again. Who wants to hear how many meals we can provide so far? *Pause for participation.* To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four.

SHOW: DAILY COUNT DAY 4 SLIDE with current meal count filled in.

That's incredible! Keep up the great work! And don't forget: These coins don't just represent meals! Because who is delivering these meals? *Pause for participation.* That's right! The local church. And when the local church delivers food, they also share about the one true God with children and families in need.

Tomorrow is the last day to turn in your coins, so see if there is anyone else you can ask to help donate coins or if there are any chores you can do to earn extra money.

### Drama (15 minutes)

### Announcements (time varies)

### Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today's contest. Remind them to learn tomorrow's verses, complete their Go and Do activities, and bring in their final mission money.

### Prayer

### Takeaway Time (2–3 minutes)

Today's big question: How can I get to know God better?

Do you have a best friend? Do you like to spend time with him or her? The more time you spend together, the better you get to know 'em, right?

Spending time with God is how you get to know God better. You won't hear him talking to you out loud, but he's listening when you talk to him. And he is talking to you through the pages of the Bible. Did you know God used over 40 different men to write the books of Bible over 1,500 years? Yet each book tells the same truths from beginning to end because the men wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God is truth (John 14:6) so he gives us truth through his Word (John 17:17). We can trust what the Bible says. So spend time with God just like you would enjoy spending time with a best friend. Read the Bible and talk to him in prayer.

The prodigal son's father gives us a glimpse of what God is like—always ready and waiting for you with open arms. Picture that in your mind. He loves you and loves spending time with you!

### Dismissal

### Song (play as children leave)

C: "Only One Way to Life" / T: "Admit, Believe, and Forever Receive"

## Day 5: Opening Assembly

**Welcome** (2 minutes)

**No props needed for Day 5 Welcome**

**PERSON 1:** Welcome to our last day at Spy U! It's been an amazing week of learning about the one true God.

**PERSON 2:** (*enter stealthily and whisper*) Hey, don't look now, but I think that cadet over there has been following us!

**PERSON 1:** Which one? That one? [Point](#).

**PERSON 2:** Yes! That one. I'm going to go get him (her).

*Pick a child to bring up onstage (an outgoing child is best) or go out into the audience and question someone. Ask questions about where they were at a certain time and if they ever followed anyone. Conclude they're innocent and have them sit back down.*

**PERSON 1:** Whew! That was a close call. But you know, spies need to be good at following someone and staying hot on their trail.

**PERSON 2:** No kidding! That's kind of like what we're talking about today at Spy U—staying hot on the trail for God. We don't want to be uninterested or just sorta interested in God. We want to be all in for him!

**PERSON 1:** Yep! Can't wait to hear more about it, but for now, let's sing \_\_\_\_.

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Run to You" / T: "Stay Boilin' Hot!"

**Song** (3 minutes)

"Spy U"

**Creature Feature: Homer the Homing Pigeon** (5 minutes)

Use the [PRESENTATION SLIDES](#) or show the [CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO](#).

**SHOW:** [CREATURE FEATURE TITLE SLIDE](#)

Greetings, cadets! We're nearing the end of your training. You're almost ready to go out on your main mission of sharing the one true God with others.

**SHOW:** [HOMING PIGEON](#)

As part of your briefing, you're learning about one of the most successful animal agents in history—the homing pigeon! Pigeons may not look impressive, but there's more to them than meets the eye.

**SHOW:** [PIGEON CREATED KIND](#)

Pigeons and doves belong to the same created kind, and they come in many sizes, shapes, and colors—from the tiny turtledove to the brightly colored crowned pigeon to the extinct flightless dodo.

**SHOW:** [PIGEON MAP](#)

The common pigeon is naturally found in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. However, people have brought this unassuming bird almost everywhere in the world. What makes this little bird so important?

**SHOW:** [PIGEON FLYING](#)

God gave pigeons an amazing ability to fly straight back to their home nest. This is called homing. Nobody except God

knows exactly how they do this. The birds may look for landmarks, listen for low-level sounds, sniff for certain smells, or even sense the earth's magnetic field like a compass. Most likely, they use all these senses together to find their way.

As part of your training, let's test how good your sense of direction is. Be careful during this exercise so you don't hurt any of the cadets around you. First, close your eyes. No peeking! Make sure to keep them closed until I say, "Open!" Now spin in a circle. Now do it again. And one more time. Now try to point at me. All right, open your eyes. Were you pointing the right direction? If so, you might have a good sense of direction like a homing pigeon.

**SHOW:** [WILD PIGEON NEST](#)

For most of history, people have been using pigeons for their homing ability. Wild pigeons build their nests on cliffs and always know how to return home. Pigeons that live with people learn to fly back to wherever they're fed.

**SHOW:** [NOAH SENDING OUT DOVE](#)

We even read in the book of Genesis that Noah sent out a dove to see if the global flood was over. Once the dove found dry land, it flew all the way back to the ark and delivered an olive leaf to Noah.

Since the time of Noah, humans have kept pigeons and trained them for many different uses. Pigeons have even been war heroes, helping to save lives as recently as World War II.

Now, how do you think pigeons helped during a war? Do you think they (1) carried cameras to take overhead spy pictures, (2) learned to parachute behind enemy lines, or (3) carried important messages from the battle lines back to headquarters? Hold up 1, 2, or 3 fingers to show your answer. The answer is . . . all three!

**SHOW:** [EQUIPPED PIGEONS](#)

Pigeons were equipped with tiny cameras and special vests that allowed them to go into battle alongside paratroopers. But the most important thing they did was carry messages. A small piece of paper could be wrapped around the pigeon's leg and carried back to the home nest. Messenger pigeons were especially important in battles because they could carry urgent news to the people making decisions.

**SHOW:** [PIGEON WITH MEDAL](#)

Some pigeons were even awarded medals because their messages arrived just in time to save hundreds of lives.

**SHOW:** [PIGEON RACING](#)

These days, we use radios, phones, and email to send information, so there's not much need to keep pigeons as messengers. Instead, they're mainly used for racing. That's right, pigeon races! Racing pigeons have reached speeds of 110 miles per hour; breeders have sold them for up to \$1.8 million; and one pigeon flew over 7,000 miles from France to Vietnam. Even when it's up against unfamiliar landscapes, harsh weather, and fierce predators, the pigeon knows where its home is and will do everything it can to get back there.

**SHOW:** [HOMER THE HOMING PIGEON](#)

Today's animal agent is Homer the homing pigeon. He reminds us that God has a mission for us while we're here on earth—to carry his message about Jesus to the world until it's time to go home to heaven. As you complete your training today, think about how you can share what you've learned about God with people in your life who need to hear it. It's been an honor training with you, and I wish you godspeed on your mission. From the Spy University Animal Agent Headquarters, this is \_\_\_\_ signing off. Over and out.

### **Announcements** (time varies)

Announce pertinent info and remind them to find today's treasure hunt cards.

### **Prayer**

### **Dismissal**

### **Song** (play as children leave)

Day 5 Memory Verse Song—Mark 12:30

## Day 5: Closing Assembly

### Song (3 minutes)

C: "Run to You" / T: "Stay Boilin' Hot!"

### Song (3 minutes)

C: "Cracking Codes" / T: "Cracking Codes"

### Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE SLIDE

This week, while Seth has been trying to track down who has been taking food, he's also introduced us to children around the world who are facing poverty. But what's even better than learning about these kids is knowing that we can do something to help them! Who's excited to hear how many meals we've been able to provide this week? *Pause for participation.* Me too! But before we get to that, we have one more child to meet.

SHOW: AGENTS OF HOPE—SAMUEL SLIDE

Today, we're going to meet someone who lives in the United States.

SHOW: VIDEO 5—SAMUEL

Country: United States

Problem: Invisible Poor

If you saw Samuel on the street, you might not realize that he goes home and has no food to eat. His classmates might not even know his family is struggling. This is why the local church is so important; they are working hard to identify families like Samuel's who need help.

You've also been working hard this week collecting coins to provide meals for children like the ones you met: Edisa in Uganda, Uma in Nepal, Suren in Armenia, Marina in Peru, and Samuel in the United States. But the coins you collected this week aren't just going to help them.

The coins you're collecting will support Children's Hunger Fund, which partners with churches in over 30 countries worldwide! These churches provide food to families in need and share the hope of Jesus. Every box of food is a chance to share the gospel. Your quarters are making a big difference! Isn't that incredible?

Okay, it's finally time! Are you ready to see how many meals we can provide this week? *Pause for participation.* To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four. The total number of meals we can provide this week is \_\_\_\_ meals!

SHOW: DAILY COUNT DAY 5 SLIDE with current meal count filled in.

You did an amazing job collecting coins! This can help feed so many children in need. But do you know what's even better? Because of you, more children and their families will learn about the love of Jesus.

But it doesn't have to end here! Did you know you can keep sending meals to children in need even after this week? You can continue making a difference for children around the world with Children's Hunger Fund. Ask your parents how you can keep sharing meals and Christ's love with children in poverty.

### Drama (15 minutes)

### Announcements (time varies)

### Cool Contests (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today's challenges. Invite them to come back to the Closing Program.

### Prayer

### Takeaway Time (2–3 minutes)

Today's big question: How can I love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength?

Well, we can't *perfectly* love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength this side of heaven because we're not perfect. But . . . we *can* pray and ask God to help us grow to love him more . . . and more . . . and more over time.

So what does it mean to love him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength? It means to love him with everything you've got.

Let's think about that:

- How can you love God with all your heart? Treasure him (remember how special he is), give him your attention by spending time with him. Read the Bible, sing to him, come to church.
- How can you love him with all your soul? Your soul is the part of you that makes decisions and choices, so make choices that honor and please God. Ask yourself if God would agree with your choice. You can know what he thinks by reading his Word. Allow what you read in the Bible to guide your decisions.
- How can you love him with all your mind? Our mind is what we are thinking about. So spend time thinking about God! What we read in the Bible helps us to know how to think about God. The psalms are great for helping us learn who God is and what he's like.
- How can you love him with all your strength? This means to use your life to serve God. There are a kazillion ways you can serve him. Use your life for him!
- So your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to live for God and love him all the days of your life.

Go into the graduation ceremony—cadets graduate from Spy U as junior agents. You can make this short and simple or a little longer, depending on your situation.

Tell the cadets we are now at the end of our training and they have done a great job learning about the one true God and can now be awarded the title of Junior Agents. Have them stand and recite this after you, phrase by phrase:

"I want to follow the one true God, to love him more and more, to search for truth in the Bible, to reject counterfeit gods, to tell others about him, and to grow closer to God day by day."

If time allows, take a group photo and then pray over the new Junior Agents.

Hand out certificates (1240110 or make your own) as they leave.

A fun addition is to give each a Ho-Ho with a piece of red rope Twizzler around it to look like a diploma.

### Dismissal

### Song (play as children leave)

Your favorites