

# Daily Assembly Scripts

## Day 1: Opening Assembly

### Welcome (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 1 WELCOME: weights and exercise equipment of your choice

**Person 1:** Huzzah! That means “hooray!” Let’s try that together. When I say, “Huzzah!” you answer with “Huzzah!” *Do so.* Welcome to *Keepers of the Kingdom*! Are you ready to enter a world of castles and kings and queens and dragons and epic battles?

**Person 2:** Enter flexing your muscles, lifting weights, and working out. Did someone say epic battles? If I’m going to be in a battle, I want to be ready. I want to be strong!

**Person 1:** Well, I’m glad you want to be physically strong, but this week, we’re going to talk about being strong in a different, more important way—being strong in the Lord.

**Person 2:** Ooo, I bet that involves lifting even more weights if I want to be strong in the Lord. *Grab more stuff and try to lift it, grunting and groaning.*

**Person 1:** Um, you know what? Being strong in the Lord has nothing to do with lifting weights.

**Person 2:** Nothing to do with lifting weights?

**Person 1:** Nothing.

**Person 2:** Then what does it mean to be strong in the Lord?

**Person 1:** We can’t just muster up our own strength. Listen as I read this verse from the Bible. *Read Ephesians 6:10.* Notice this says to be strong “in the Lord.” To be “in the Lord,” we need to be part of God’s good kingdom and rely on God to help us be spiritually strong. He gives his children special spiritual armor to wear in the spiritual battles.

**Person 2:** This sounds like big stuff!

**Person 1:** It is! We can’t wait to share more with everyone this week, so let’s get started! Everyone up, and let’s sing about being a keeper of the kingdom!

### Song (3 minutes)

“Keepers of the Kingdom”

### Song (3 minutes)

Contemporary: “Way, Truth, Life” / Traditional: “The Kingdom on the Right”

### Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: “Forged in Hope” slide

As we spend this week learning about standing strong in God’s truth, we’re also going to get the chance to meet a boy or girl living in a different part of the world. We are partnering with Children’s Hunger Fund to help children who are living in poor conditions and don’t have enough to eat.

But the best part is you can help them! And along with sending food, you can help them hear about Jesus, too!

SHOW: “Forged in Hope—Ehani” slide

Are you ready to meet the first child? *Pause for participation.* Great! Today, we’re going to meet a very little girl named Ehani (eh-hanee), who lives in the country of Nepal.

SHOW: Video 1—Ehani

Country: Nepal

Problem: Generational Poverty

Ehani doesn’t have the same opportunities that you have here. If her mom can’t afford school supplies, Ehani doesn’t get to go to school. Without an education, Ehani’s children could live in poverty someday, too. Thankfully, a pastor from a local church came to break the cycle of poverty for Ehani and her family!

Do you want to help kids like Ehani? *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 Ehani. Ask them to help you collect coins for meals. It only costs 25 cents 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 of nutritious food. This will be enough to feed a family for several days.

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 contests work so the kids can participate. Check with your director if you aren’t sure.

### Prayer

### Dismissal

### Song (play as children leave)

C: “Hold on to the Truth” / T: “My Armor” / Contemporary Memory Verse Song: “Be Strong” / Traditional MV: Ephesians 6:10–18

## Day 1: Closing Assembly

### Song (3 minutes)

C: “Way, Truth, Life” / T: “The Kingdom on the Right”

### Song (3 minutes)

"Keepers of the Kingdom" / C Memory Verse Song: "Armor of God"  
/ T MV: Ephesians 6:10-18

## **Creature Feature: Winifred "Winnie" the Warhorse** (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

Shorten the Creature Feature scripts each day (if needed) depending on the time you have.

Every day, we'll be hearing about one of God's awesome critters. Help me get ready for today's. Have everyone triple tap with hands to make a sound like a horse galloping. You got it!

SHOW: Knight and horse

Today we'll be talking about the warhorse.

Can you imagine being a knight in the Middle Ages riding a great charger into battle? I certainly can. These mighty animals are a great mix of strength and endurance.

Raise your hand if you get tired after playing tag. Pause. I sure do! But warhorses often run for long periods of time without stopping. And they can run fast! Depending on the kind, they can run up to 40 miles per hour. That's twice as fast as people.

Let's pretend we're driving a car. Do so. Now look out the window. Do so. There goes a warhorse running past!

SHOW: Jousting

Apart from fighting in wars, warhorses also carried knights in jousts. A joust is where two knights on horseback would charge at each other and try to knock each other off with a weapon called a lance.

Let's see how we do charging at each other with our pretend horses and our pool noodle lances! If there are two presenters, have fun with charging at each other and have one of you tap the other with the pool noodle.

Now, on the count of three, I want you all to shout out your favorite animal—1, 2, 3! Pause. What was that? I didn't quite hear you! Pause again.

SHOW: Horse ears

Did you know God designed horses to have good hearing? And they can turn each ear 180 degrees. Everybody, hold your hand up. Do so. Now turn it around. Pause to try. That's 180 degrees. Now try to turn your ears 180 degrees. Pause to try. Can you do it? People can't, but horses can!

SHOW: Horse ear muscles

Not only that, but they can turn each ear in a different direction to help them pinpoint where a sound is coming from. In war, this would help warn a horse and their rider of potential danger.

Demonstrate the following. Now, bend down and place the side of your hand on the floor, with your thumb on top. Then place the side of your other hand on top of the hand on the floor. Do this about eight hands high. You got it? Great!

SHOW: Miniature horse

You just measured the height of a miniature horse. The way we measure the height of horses is in hands. The standard hand is about four inches wide.

SHOW: Shire warhorse

Some warhorses were 15 or more hands high at the top of their backs or withers.

SHOW: Horses in cavalry

Warhorses have accompanied soldiers into battle for thousands of years in fighting forces known as cavalry.

SHOW: Horse in armor

Sometimes, the horses themselves would be given special armor to keep them safe in battle. And the bond between a rider and his steed was usually unbreakable. They often fought and died together.

SHOW: Adam and Eve

But why did they have to fight at all? Well, war is a result of sin. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, this world has been broken, and people and kingdoms have been fighting. Wars typically happen between two kingdoms.

SHOW: Winifred the warhorse

Our trusty pal, Winifred the warhorse, is galloping in to remind us that we have two kingdoms in our world today, too.

SHOW: Two kingdoms

The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of the world. One is ruled by our Creator God, and the other is ruled by the prince of darkness, the enemy. The Bible tells us in Psalm 20:7 that some may trust in chariots or horses but our trust needs to be in the name of the Lord our God.

SHOW: Winifred the warhorse

This week, with the help of Winnie and her friends, we'll learn about these two kingdoms, and how of the two, only one is true! Thanks for trotting by, guys!

## **Drama** (12 minutes)

See the Drama Production section starting on page 29 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**

## **Takeaway Time** (2-3 minutes)

Each day, right before dismissal, share a thought to leave everyone with. Make sure to allow time for this final thought of the day.

Before we leave, let's play a super fast game called Lightning Round. I'll ask a question and you shout out the answer. It's

gonna go really fast, so get ready. **Pause.** Here we go! **Fire these off in rapid succession.**

The ruler of the bad kingdom is\_\_\_? **The enemy**

The ruler of the good kingdom is\_\_\_? **God**

The ruler who lies is\_\_\_? **The enemy**

The ruler who is kind is\_\_\_? **God**

The ruler who is all things good is\_\_\_? **God**

The ruler who is against us is\_\_\_? **The enemy**

The ruler who has limited power is\_\_\_? **The enemy**

The ruler who wins is\_\_\_? **God**

Yes! God wins! Let's sit down, and every time I point to you, I want you to shout, "God wins!"

If I'm a child of God, I can be at peace and not anxious because—(point)—**God wins!**

I can have hope because—(point)—**God wins!**

No matter what's going on in this broken world, I need to remember—(point)—**God wins!**

## Dismissal

**Song** (play as children leave)

"Keepers of the Kingdom"

## Day 2: Opening Assembly

### Welcome (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 2 WELCOME: Brown delivery box with an assortment of belts in it (tool belt, silly belts, kids' belts, etc.)

**Person 1:** Huzzah! They answer back "Huzzah!" Welcome back to *Keepers of the Kingdom*! We have a great day planned for you!

**Person 2:** Come in excitedly with the box of belts. Look what I've got! This box of belts. I'm trying to decide which one to wear. What do you all think? **Take audience input.**

**Person 1:** I know which belt to wear, and it's not any of those.

**Person 2:** It's not?

**Person 1:** Nope. You need to wear the belt of truth.

**Person 2:** What's that?

**Person 1:** It's the most important belt of all. It's not a belt you can see, like these, but it's a belt God gives us when we're part of his kingdom. We'll be hearing how to become part of his kingdom today and how to wear the belt of truth, but before we do, let's sing "Hold on to the Truth."

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Hold on to the Truth" / T: "My Armor"

**Song** (3 minutes)

"Faith Is the Victory" / Memory Verse Song: "Stand Firm"

### Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: "Forged in Hope" slide

Do you guys remember Agnes, who we met yesterday? She's going to be introducing us to children around the world who need to hear about God's truth. Each one of these children lives in poverty, and you will have a chance to help them!

Do you remember how we're able to help them? **Pause for participation.** Yes! By collecting coins in your Coin Pak. Remember, each quarter you put in your Coin Pak means one meal for a hungry child.

SHOW: "Forged in Hope—Chiumbo" slide

Today, Agnes is going to introduce us to a little boy named Chiumbo, who lives in the country of Kenya. Let's hear his story.

SHOW: Video 2—Chiumbo

Country: Kenya

Problem: Orphan

Chiumbo's story is very different from the story we heard yesterday, isn't it? In the story we heard yesterday, Ehani has a mother to care for her and her sister. Chiumbo doesn't know where his parents are.

But despite his circumstances, Chiumbo is pretty blessed, right? The woman who found him took him in and continues to care for him. A local pastor comes to visit, bringing food to eat. He even takes the kids to learn about God's Word!

Did everyone take home their Coin Paks? **Pause for participation.** Did you tell anyone what we are collecting coins for? **Pause for participation.** Remember, every 25 cents you collect this week means one meal for a child like Chiumbo.

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 can provide \_\_\_ meals! Remember, one dollar can provide 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.

That's a great start to our week, but we've still got a few more days to go. So keep bringing in your coins all week long! If you haven't already shared with your families what we're collecting coins for, be sure to do that today! Ask your parents if you can earn money for your Coin Pak by doing some special chores around the house. Get creative!

### Announcements (time varies)

### Prayer

### Dismissal

**Song** (play as children leave)

"Keepers of the Kingdom"

## Day 2: Closing Assembly

### Song (3 minutes)

C Memory Verse Song: “Armor of God” / T MV: Ephesians 6:10–18

### Song (2 minutes)

C: “Way, Truth, Life” / T: “The Kingdom on the Right”

### Creature Feature: Wily the Fox (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

I’ve got a few clues for you about today’s animal.

- It’s a mammal.
- It’s found in more places around the world than any other land mammal.
- It barks.
- It wags its tail when it’s happy.

What do you think it is? Pause for answers. Did you say dog? Pause. Raise your hand if you have a dog. Do so. Tell your neighbor your dog’s name. Do so. Well, guess what? It’s a type of dog called a fox!

Did you know foxes are a member of the dog kind? Dogs are also known as canines.

SHOW: Gray fox, Arctic fox, and fennec fox

They can be found all around the world—in forests like the gray fox, in the cold tundra like the Arctic fox, and even in deserts like a fennec fox.

SHOW: Medieval artwork of fox

Throughout history, people have thought of foxes as mischievous, sly, and crafty animals. There are even old stories of foxes playing dead to attract birds to come close enough to eat. If there are two of you presenting, act this out with one pretending to play dead and the other pretending to be a bird that gets too close.

SHOW: Fox hunt

They were often hunted for sport by noblemen, and farmers would often kill them to protect their livestock. However, crafty foxes often outsmarted the hunters and escaped.

All right knights, on the count of three, I want everyone to shout out their favorite color—1, 2, 3! Pause. Did I hear someone say “red”?

SHOW: Red fox

Perfect, because today we’re going to focus on the red fox. They were the most commonly seen foxes in medieval Europe. They can be found on every continent except two. Can you guess which two? Pause.

SHOW: Red fox distribution

They can be found on every continent except Antarctica and South America.

SHOW: Red fox features

This small animal is characterized by having pointy ears, a long and narrow snout, long thin legs, and a reeeally bushy tail. This extra fluffy tail is helpful to the fox, for multiple reasons.

SHOW: Fox with tail

How many of you like to play in the snow and then come in and get some hot chocolate and snuggle up with a nice warm blanket? Show of hands. Well, if it’s in a cold place, the red fox can use its tail as a blanket. Its bushy tail is also harder for predators and hunting dogs to grab onto, allowing foxes to more easily escape.

Okay, knights, I need you to take a big sniff. Sniff with them. Do you guys smell anything? Me neither. Did you know that the red fox has a better sense of smell than we do? It can smell as far as six miles. That’s like from here to \_\_\_. Choose a recognizable place about six miles away.

SHOW: Fox ears

They also have incredible hearing. They can hear a mouse squeak from over 100 feet away! That’s like me standing here and being able to hear a mouse squeak from way over there. Show distance.

They use their great sense of smell and hearing to help them hunt their prey. In fact, one of the most amazing abilities of this animal is their ability to hunt for mice and other rodents under three feet of ice and snow. Once the fox has heard or smelled a rodent under the snow, they freeze, so as to not alert the animal to their presence. Then, with their highly sensitive ears, they listen for the slightest sound from the rodent—a squeak or even their footsteps. Then they turn their ears in different directions to pinpoint exactly where the animal is . . . until . . . target acquired.

SHOW: Fox pouncing

Then comes the cool part. After they’ve located their prey, they leap into the air and dive onto the spot where the rodent is with their nose down and their tail up. They then crash into the snow, piercing up to three feet deep. And if they’re successful, then out they come with a tasty snack!

SHOW: Fox and cat eyes

Take a second to look at your neighbors’ eyes. What shape is their pupil, that black part in the middle? Pause. Unlike humans and the other members of the dog kind, foxes have a vertically slit pupil, like cats.

This oddly shaped pupil allows the foxes’ eyes to see really well in dim lighting, which is perfect because red foxes are mostly nocturnal. This means they’re usually awake at night and asleep during the day.

SHOW: Wily the fox

Foxes, like our animal pal Wily, sure are interesting creatures. Wily reminds us that just like he’s tricky, there’s a trickster out there who is the ultimate trickster. He’s the leader of the bad



kingdom, and he tricked the first people, Adam and Eve. He wants to trick us, too. We need to trust in God and put on the whole armor of God!

**Drama** (12 minutes)

**Announcements** (time varies)

**Cool Contests** (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today's contests. Remind them to learn tomorrow's verses, complete Go and Do activities, and dress up tomorrow for the Dress-Up Day. Any medieval attire works. No weapons, please.

**Prayer**

**Takeaway Time** (2–3 minutes)

Let's say today's memory verse together.

Recite Ephesians 6:14 together. Or you may want to say Ephesians 6:10–11, 14 together.

Now, how many of you have ever ridden an amusement park ride where you had to get fastened in with a seatbelt? Take a show of

hands. You may want to show pictures or talk about particular amusement park rides kids in your area may know. A seatbelt's purpose is to keep you secure, isn't it? Well, every child of God needs to fasten on the belt of truth. So, let's remind ourselves to trust the truth before we leave. I'll say a phrase, and you shout it back.

God's Word is truth! God's Word is truth!

Trust the truth! Trust the truth!

Tell the truth! Tell the truth!

Learn the truth! Learn the truth!

Guard the truth! Guard the truth!

Follow the truth! Follow the truth!

Truth wins! Truth wins!

God wins! God wins!

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

Song: C: "Hold on to the Truth" / T: "The Kingdom on the Right"

## Day 3: Opening Assembly

**Welcome** (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 3 WELCOME: Plate of cooked rice with a large rubber or cardboard fish on top of it (or substitute a bed of white paper shred for the rice), covered with a large napkin

**Person 1:** Huzzah! They answer, "Huzzah!" Are you ready for another epic day at *Keepers of the Kingdom*?

Person 2 comes out carrying a plate with the fish and rice covered by the large napkin.

**Person 1:** What's under that napkin there?

**Person 2:** It's what we're learning about today, so I thought I'd make some for snack time.

He lifts the napkin off with a flourish and announces, "The Best Plate of Rice and Fish!" (Say this fast so it sounds somewhat like "breastplate of righteousness.")

**Person 1:** What? Act confused.

**Person 2:** The best plate of rice and fish! Won't that be great for snack time, kids?

**Person 1:** Chuckle. No, no, no! We've already got a great snack today. But . . . I get it! You think we're talking about something called the best plate of rice and fish, but really, it's the breastplate of righteousness. Say that slowly and carefully.

**Person 2:** Act disappointed. But I was all excited about this rice and fish!

**Person 1:** Well, the breastplate of righteousness is waaay better. It has nothing to do with food, but everything to do with God equipping us to live right for him. We'll be hearing lots more

about it today, along with some special shoes called the shoes of peace, but for now, let's sing our first song, "Go, Go, Go."

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Go, Go, Go" / T: "Be My King"

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Take up Your Sword" / T: "The Army of the Lord" / C Memory Verse Song: "Shoes" / T MV: Ephesians 6:10–18

**Mission Moment** (5 minutes)

SHOW: "Forged in Hope" slide

It's time to check in on our friend, Agnes, and meet another child from around the world!

But first, who can tell me what we're collecting coins for this week? Pause for participation. And who can tell me how much it costs to provide one meal? Pause for participation. That's right! It only costs 25 cents to send a nutritious meal to a child in need. Isn't that awesome?

SHOW: "Forged in Hope—Orik" slide

Who knows where the country of Albania is? Pause for participation. If you don't know, picture the country of Italy, which looks like a long boot. Well, if that boot swung backward, it would kick right into Albania. Today, we're going to meet a little boy named Orik, who lives in Albania.

SHOW: Video 3—Orik

Country: Albania

Problem: Extreme Hunger

Did you notice the place where Orík and his family live? Do you think it would be cold there in winter? Do you think they have a good way of keeping warm in an abandoned building? They don't have any electricity or heating; they just have blankets and jackets to keep them warm. And they often don't have enough money to buy food.

Can you imagine how Orík must feel whenever he sees the pastor coming with another box of food? That box means he gets to eat that day! And the pastor who visits doesn't just bring food; he brings the truth that Jesus came to bring eternal life!

What have you been doing this week to earn coins for your Coin Pak? Are you asking your parents if you can do an extra chore to earn money? Are you sharing with people the stories of the boys and girls you're meeting this week? Talk to your parents about different ways you might be able to raise money for meals.

Now, do you want to hear how many meals we can provide so far? In only two days, you can provide \_\_\_ 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.

Remember, just like Orík, every one of the children receiving these meals will get to hear God's truth of the gospel. I think more children around the world need to hear this good news, don't you? Who's excited to see how many more meals we can provide tomorrow? Pause for participation.

**Announcements** (time varies)

**Prayer**

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

C: "Shield of Faith" / T: "Flaming Arrows and Fiery Darts" / C MV  
Song: "Armor of God" / T MV: Ephesians 6:10-18

## Day 3: Closing Assembly

**Song** (2 minutes)

C: "Way, Truth, Life" / T: "The Kingdom on the Right"

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Shield of Faith" / T: "Flaming Arrows and Fiery Darts"

**Creature Feature: Grimwald the Dragon** (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

Today we're talking about dragons. How many of you think dragons are fairy tale creatures?

SHOW: Wyvern

We typically think of them as mythical creatures. But historically the word *dragon* was used to refer to real animals. Yes, dragons were real. Essentially, many reptiles could be considered dragons.

SHOW: Dragon reptiles

The word *dragon* could be used for lizards, crocodilians, flying and swimming reptiles, and dinosaurs! Yes, even dinosaurs would qualify as dragons.

SHOW: *Triceratops*

Think about it, if you saw a *Triceratops* in medieval times, you probably would call it a dragon. So why don't we hear accounts of encounters with dinosaurs from medieval times? That's because the word *dinosaur* hadn't been invented yet.

SHOW: Richard Owens

That word was invented in 1841 by Sir Richard Owen.

SHOW: Dinosaurs on ark

Did you know that dinosaurs were on Noah's ark? The Bible tells us two of every kind of land animal would have been on the ark built by Noah. Dinosaurs are land animals, so they would have been included.

That means that some dinosaurs survived the flood and lived alongside people for centuries afterward. Eventually most of the dinosaurs became extinct.

SHOW: Dragon legends

But for centuries people recorded encounters with amazing reptiles they called dragons.

SHOW: Kachina Bridge petroglyph

We also see carvings and paintings from throughout history that show these animals. And many of these descriptions and pictures resemble what we call dinosaurs today.

SHOW: *Baryonyx* at Ark Encounter

One cool dinosaur is the *Baryonyx*. Don't you think it definitely looks like a dragon?

SHOW: *Baryonyx*; crocodiles and gharials

This dinosaur had a long and thin snout like crocodiles and gharials.

SHOW: *Baryonyx* arms

Its arms were long for its size, and it had three fingers on each hand. Now take a good look at your fingernails. Pause. Do you know what they're made of? That's right, keratin! Each of this dinosaur's fingers had a curved claw on the end that was made of bone. The inner finger of this dinosaur had a much larger claw on it than the other two.

SHOW: *Baryonyx* claw

That's where it gets its name, *Baryonyx*, which means "heavy claw." The large third claw could be up to one foot long on the top edge and it was covered in a sheath of keratin. This made

the claw even longer. These large claws would have helped the animal catch and hold onto its prey more easily and defend itself from larger predators.

SHOW: *Baryonyx* and ostrich

*Baryonyx* was a big animal. It could reach lengths of up to thirty feet. That's from here to here. **Demonstrate.** And it stood about eight to nine feet tall. That's about as tall as an adult male ostrich.

Now run your tongue along your teeth. **Do so.** They're pretty flat, right? **Pause.** *Baryonyx's* teeth were round and perfectly shaped for grasping and holding on to slippery fish. Because of their teeth and the shape of the animal's snout, it's thought that *Baryonyx* was primarily a piscivore. Try saying that with me, pi-sci-vore. You got it, piscivore!

SHOW: *Baryonyx* holding fish

*Piscivore* simply means "fish-eater," though some *Baryonyx* have been found with the bones of other dinosaurs in their stomachs.

SHOW: Spinosaurus

The *Baryonyx* is a member of the Spinosaur kind. God created these animals with tough, scaly skin. From the tips of their noses to the ends of their tails, these dragons were protected—which they needed in this fallen, sin-cursed world. You know, their scaly skin is kind of like armor.

SHOW: Full armor

Can you imagine being covered in armor from head to toe all the time?

SHOW: Grimwald

Grimwald, our scaly dragon, is here to remind us that when we repent of our sins and believe that Jesus is our savior, God gives us a suit of armor, too.

SHOW: Knight in armor

In Ephesians 6:11, the Apostle Paul tells us to put on the whole armor of God so we can stand against the schemes of the devil.

SHOW: Breastplate and shoes

Today we're learning about the breastplate of righteousness and the shoes of peace. A breastplate covers you from your neck to your waist and protects your heart, your lungs, and other important organs. In a similar way, righteousness protects us from a life of sin.

SHOW: RIGHTeousness

What word do you see in RIGHTeousness? **Pause.** That's right! When we become part of his kingdom, Jesus gives us his righteousness and helps us to do what's right.

SHOW: Cross

And just like shoes protect our feet, being in God's kingdom protects us from being separated from God. Now let's go out and do what's right in God's sight!

**Drama** (12 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 Do activities, and design their helmets.

**Prayer**

**Takeaway Time** (2–3 minutes)

Before we go, let's say Ephesians 6:14–15 together. **Do so,** or you may want to do Ephesians 6:10–11 and 14–15.

When prompted below, put on, hold up, or have a child volunteer put on the muddy white t-shirt used earlier today in the Junior teaching lessons, and then put the clean, bright white t-shirt on over it. **Let's** remember, we all sin, represented by this muddy t-shirt. **Show it.** But Jesus doesn't, and when we're God's children, we put on Jesus' righteousness. **Put clean shirt over muddy one.** When God looks at his children, he doesn't see our sin, but instead, he sees Jesus' perfect right life. God's children are forgiven not because *we* live perfect lives, but because *Jesus* did. Isn't that cool to know that God looks down on his children and sees us as forgiven and clean?

That wonderful gift of forgiveness should cause us to love God and want to obey him and do right in his sight. It should also inspire us to put on the shoes of peace and tell others! Let's live right for our kind and wonderful God!

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

"Keepers of the Kingdom"

## Day 4: Opening Assembly

**Welcome** (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 4 WELCOME: Trash stuck on a trash can lid (domed with a swing door opening works well) that Person 2 will wear on his head (clean it first)

**Person 1:** Huzzah! It's great to see you today at *Keepers of the Kingdom*!

**Person 2:** Enter with a trash can lid covered with garbage that you're wearing on your head.

**Person 1:** What in the world happened to you? Have you been filling your mind with garbage?

**Person 2:** No, this is my crazy helmet for today's design a helmet contest.

**Person 1:** Oh, I'm glad it's just your crazy helmet because it's really important what you allow into your mind, and I wouldn't want anyone to be filling their mind with garbage. You don't want to let in stuff like bad TV shows, bad words, or bad pictures.

You must be careful! Let's try something. Kids, raise one of your hands and wave at me. Do so.

**Person 1:** Okay, now put that hand over your ear. Do so. Now let's do the same thing with your other hand. Do so.

**Person 1:** Did you know the battle between the two kingdoms is really going on between your two ears?

**Person 2:** What's that supposed to mean?

**Person 1:** What you're thinking about, and watching, and listening to is a big deal in the battle between the two kingdoms! You've got to guard your mind by taking up the shield of faith and putting on the helmet of salvation.

**Person 2:** Is the helmet kind of like a hat—like this trash can lid?

**Person 1:** Yes, except the helmet helps you stay strong in your trust in God and guards you from wrong thinking. We'll be talking about the shield and helmet a lot today, and we're going to sing about the shield right now.

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Shield of Faith" / T: "Flaming Arrows and Fiery Darts"

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Take up Your Sword" / T: "The Army of the Lord" / C MV Song: "Shield" / T MV: Ephesians 6:10–18

**Mission Moment** (5 minutes)

SHOW: "Forged in Hope" slide

Well, today is our fourth day raising money to provide meals for hungry kids! Can anyone tell me how much it costs to provide one meal? Pause for participation. Right! Just 25 cents can provide a meal! Can anyone tell me what else the family receives with those meals? Pause for participation. Yes! They can hear the message of the gospel.

It's time for Agnes to introduce us to another child.

SHOW: "Forged in Hope—Diego" slide

Honduras is a country in Central America. Today, our travels will take us to Honduras to meet a boy named Diego.

SHOW: Video 4—Diego

Country: Honduras

Problem: Disaster

In Honduras—where Diego lives—they sometimes get storms that are strong enough to destroy buildings. In 2020, Honduras was hit not just by ONE big storm, but TWO! It takes a long time to rebuild after a natural disaster, but it often takes far longer in developing countries, like Honduras.

For someone like Diego, whose entire community was flooded and buried under mudslides, do you think he might have a lot of fears and questions? Pause for participation. Do you think that knowing about a loving God who sent his son to save him would bring him comfort? Pause for participation. Well, the pastor who brought Diego's family food was able to share that same message of hope!

Well, we have had a few days to raise money to provide meals for kids just like Diego. Are you ready to be blown away by how many meals we can provide so far? Pause for participation. I don't think you sound excited enough. Are you ready to find out how many meals we can provide? Pause for participation. That's better! In just three days, you can provide \_\_\_ meals! Remember, one dollar can provide 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.

And the best news is that these meals will do so much more than fill empty stomachs! These meals will allow pastors around the world to share the hope of the gospel with children and families in need. But the week isn't over yet! We have one more day to collect coins, so see if there's anyone else you can ask to help donate coins or if there are any chores you can do to earn extra money.

**Announcements** (time varies)

**Prayer**

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

"Keepers of the Kingdom" / C Memory Verse Song: "Helmets and Swords" / T MV: Ephesians 6:10–18

## Day 4: Closing Assembly

**Song** (3 minutes)

"Keepers of the Kingdom"

**Song** (3 minutes)

"Faith Is the Victory"

**Creature Feature: Byron the Ironclad Beetle** (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

Hey everyone, squeeze your arm. Do so. Do you feel something hard? Pause. Now feel along your back right here. Do so, demonstrating where the backbone is. The hard things you feel are your bones, which are part of your skeleton. People have bones, including a backbone.

SHOW: Vertebrates

Some animals have a backbone, too. Animals with a backbone, like mammals, reptiles, fish, amphibians, and birds, are called vertebrates.

But some animals don't have a skeleton inside their body. Like bugs! Give me a thumbs up or a thumbs down if you like bugs.



Do so. Bugs are actually amazing creatures God made, each with its own purpose.

SHOW: Beetle types

Today we're going to talk about a bug called a beetle. There are lots of different types of beetles, including rhinoceros beetles, stag beetles, dung beetles, and even lady bugs! These are all animals with *no* backbones (invertebrates).

SHOW: Ironclad beetle

Within the beetle family is an amazing creature that looks like it has on its own armor. It's the ironclad beetle!

SHOW: Diabolical ironclad beetle

There are several different types of ironclad beetles, but we're going to talk about the diabolical ironclad beetle. *Diabolical* means "evil." Pretty scary name, huh? Well, despite its name and its burnt black appearance, this beetle is actually harmless. And amazingly sturdy!

Have you ever been tackled by a group of friends, or maybe your dog? Sometimes you can feel kind of squished. Did you know the ironclad beetle can survive getting run over by a car? Amazing!

SHOW: Beetle elytra

Let's dig a little deeper. All beetles have a protective covering on their back called an elytra. This covering is made from a hard material called chitin, and in beetles it typically covers and protects their wings. However, ironclad beetles don't have wings, because they're ground beetles. Since they can't fly, they have no way to escape from predators. But God, who's the ultimate artist, has given them nearly impenetrable armor.

SHOW: Ironclad beetle back

Since the ironclad beetles don't have wings, their elytra don't need to be able to move. Instead, the two halves of the elytra are fused together, though not like you'd think. Have any of you ever put together a jigsaw puzzle? I have and they're pretty fun! That's what the ironclad's armor is like. Instead of simply being pressed up against each other, which would be easy for a predator to pry apart, the two parts interlock with a series of protrusions called blades, just like a jigsaw puzzle. This design makes it nearly impossible for the two parts to be pulled apart.

SHOW: Beetle versus ironclad

And whereas most beetles have a rounded body, the ironclads have a flat body. This allows the pressure to be spread out across its entire back, rather than being concentrated on a single point.

Because of this design, the diabolical ironclad beetle has one of the strongest exoskeletons in the entire animal kingdom. In fact, studies have shown this beetle can withstand pressures of up to 39,000 times its own weight!

SHOW: Blue whales over person

That would be like me being able to have 25 blue whales, the largest animals to ever live, piled on top of me! You may want to demonstrate this by having one presenter lie down on the stage

and the kids all pretend to put one whale after another on top of him while counting. Start at ten and count up to 25.

SHOW: Ironclad beetle

This beetle could rightly be called a living tank! Their tough armor not only protects the ironclad beetles from predators, but also from being squashed by a rock or a foot. And because they're not getting squished, they're able to live a long time. Raise your hand if you're eight years old. *Pause.* That's how long an ironclad beetle can live, which is a long time in beetle world. Other types of beetles usually only live for one or two years.

SHOW: Building and plane

Because of its incredible strength, some scientists are studying this insect to see if we can replicate the structure of its exoskeleton in order to make stronger buildings, airplanes, and other man-made objects. We certainly can learn a lot from God's creation!

SHOW: Byron

Byron here is crawling by to remind us that just like he's been given incredibly strong armor to protect him from his enemies, God gives us protection from our enemy.

SHOW: Shield and helmet

In Ephesians, we find that we're to take up the shield of faith which we can use to extinguish the devil's flaming darts and to put on the helmet of salvation. God gives his children special protection. Aren't you glad?

**Drama** (8–15 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 Do activities, and bring in their final mission money.

**Prayer**

**Takeaway Time** (2–3 minutes)

Let's say today's verse together. Recite Ephesians 6:16, or try saying all the memory verses learned thus far—Ephesians 6:10–11, 14–15, 16.

Can you think of a movie where the character uses a shield? Take answers or have them tell their neighbor an example. How about a helmet? Again, take responses. God gives every child of God a shield and helmet to fight off the enemy's D-darts. Show slide of the D-darts poster used today during the Junior teaching time. Tell them to pretend to take up their shield and put on their helmet every time you say the words "shield" and "helmet."

- When *discouraging* thoughts come your way, use your *shield* and *helmet* to think right thoughts from God's Word.
- When you have *doubts*, take up that *shield* and put on that *helmet*! Remember—you don't have to listen to the enemy! You can fight back with true thoughts from God's Word!

- If the enemy tempts you to *do wrong*, take up that *shield* of faith and *helmet* of salvation.
- If tempted to fight with others (causing *division* and *destruction*), you've got the *shield* and *helmet*!
- If *deceptive*, or wrong, thoughts come your way, God's given his children the *shield* and *helmet* to protect your heart and mind, so don't just let your thoughts fall for the enemy's tricks.
- Your protection from the enemy is grounded not in how you *feel* but in what you *know* is truth from God's Word. Use the *shield* and *helmet*!

## Dismissal

**Song** (play as children leave)

C: "Go, Go, Go" / T: "Be My King"

## Day 5: Opening Assembly

**Welcome** (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 5 WELCOME: Large stack of books

**Person 1:** Welcome back to our final day at *Keepers of the Kingdom*! We're looking forward to a great last day talking about using God's Word to help us be strong in the Lord.

**Person 2:** Enter balancing a big stack of books.

**Person 1:** Whoa, what do you have there?

**Person 2:** Well, I'm trying to train my brain to learn about a lot of different things I'm interested in. I want to learn how to cook, so I need a cookbook. And I'm interested in football, so here's a book on that. Continue with other books.

**Person 1:** Hey, that's great to train your brain and learn about God's amazing world. Fantastic! But I've got a question for you. How much time are you putting in to training your brain in God's Word?

**Person 2:** Good question.

**Person 1:** You know, sometimes we get so busy and distracted with other things in life, we don't make learning God's Word a priority. But today's armor piece, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, reminds us we need to train our brains to learn and love and obey God's Word.

**Person 2:** Yeah, it's so important to train my brain to know what's written in the Bible, and to obey it.

**Person 1:** It sure is. It's going to be awesome to talk more today about training our brains, but first, let's sing!

**Song** (3 minutes)

C MV Song: "Helmets and Swords" / T MV: Ephesians 6:10-18

**Song** (3 minutes)

"Keepers of the Kingdom"

**Mission Moment** (5 minutes)

SHOW: "Forged in Hope" slide

Every day this week, Agnes has introduced us to a different boy or girl facing poverty in a different part of the world. We've also learned this week that we have the ability to make a difference!

SHOW: "Forged in Hope—Olivia" slide

The little girl we're going to meet today doesn't live in a remote village in Rwanda or a tiny apartment in Thailand. She's not an

orphan, and her home wasn't destroyed in a natural disaster. Her name is Olivia, and she lives here in the United States.

SHOW: Video 5—Olivia

Country: United States

Problem: Invisible Poor

Did you know that there are children in the United States who don't have food to eat? Olivia's family didn't always struggle. Her family lives in a house. Her parents both used to work. When the pandemic hit, a lot of people lost their jobs, just like Olivia's parents.

The coins that you've been collecting all week can be used to provide meals for children like the ones you met this week. Children like Ehani in Nepal, Chiumbo in Kenya, Orik in Albania, Diego in Honduras, Olivia in California, and so many more children.

Children's Hunger Fund partners with churches around the world who search for families in need of food and the saving knowledge of Jesus. Every box of food means a chance to share the gospel. Your quarters are making a huge difference! Isn't that incredible?

Are you ready to see how many meals we can provide this week?

Pause for participation.

The grand total number of meals we've provided this week during Forged in Hope is \_\_\_\_ meals! Remember, one dollar can provide four meals. To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four.

You guys have done an amazing job collecting coins to feed children in need. Because of you, more children and their families will learn about the love of Jesus.

Did you know that you can keep sending meals to children in need even after this week is over? You can keep making a difference for children around the world with Children's Hunger Fund. Ask your parents how you can continue to share meals and the love of Christ with children in poverty.

**Announcements** (time varies)

**Prayer**

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

C MV Song: "Be Strong" / T MV: Ephesians 6:10-18

## Day 5: Closing Assembly

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Take up Your Sword" / T: "The Army of the Lord"

**Song** (3 minutes)

C: "Shield of Faith" / T: "Flaming Arrows and Fiery Darts"

### **Creature Feature: Skye the Peregrine Falcon** (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

Today we're going to learn about the fastest animal on the planet! Can you guess what it is?

SHOW: Cheetah

No, it's not the cheetah, though they can run up to 70 mph! But today's animal makes the cheetah look like a slowpoke!

SHOW: Peregrine falcon

It's the peregrine falcon! This beautiful bird is a member of the falcon kind.

SHOW: Falcon distribution

Peregrine falcons are found on every continent except Antarctica and are also known as the duck hawk because they hunt ducks.

SHOW: Falcon kind

Falcons, along with hawks, owls, kestrels, and eagles are what we call "birds of prey" or raptors.

SHOW: Utahraptor

These bird raptors are not the same as the dinosaurs known as raptors, such as the *Utahraptor*. These dinosaurs are reptiles, not birds.

SHOW: Falcon hood

Falcons are very trainable, so they were used a lot for hunting and for sport during the Middle Ages.

Can you cry like a baby for me for a second? **Do so.** Young falcons were taken from the nest when they were really young and were raised by people. It was very important for the chicks to get used to humans at an early age.

Can you wave and say hi to your adult leaders right now? **Do so.** When falcons were full grown, they still needed to be around adults so they wouldn't become too wild. The grown-ups would even put special hoods on them to shield their eyes, which helped keep them calm.

SHOW: Falcon size comparison

Now, the peregrine falcon stands around 1.5 feet tall and weighs up to 3.5 pounds. That's pretty light! This is because, like most birds, God gave them something called pneumatic bones.

SHOW: Bird bones

These bones are filled with air pockets that help make the bone lighter. This makes it easier for birds to take flight.

SHOW: Falcon with wings spread

Everybody, take your arms and spread them out. **Demonstrate.** The distance from the tip of one arm to the tip of the other is what's called your armspan. My armspan is about five feet and eight inches. Birds have a wingspan. The wingspan of the peregrine falcon is around 40 inches. **Demonstrate how wide 40 inches is.** That's over three feet!

On average, they can fly 40 to 60 miles per hour. But did you know that the peregrine falcon can dive at speeds of over 230 miles per hour? That's almost as fast as a racecar! This incredibly fast dive is called a stoop. And how they accomplish it is pretty cool!

SHOW: Falcon eyes

For starters, they have amazing vision. They can spot prey in clear detail from over a mile away. That would be like me being able to see a piece of pizza a mile away (**demonstrate how far that would be from your building**) and be able to tell you if it was thin crust, or deep dish, or even how many pieces of pepperoni it has on it. Now I'm hungry!

SHOW: Diving falcon

I need everybody to stand up. **Do so.** We're going to act like the falcon. As soon as the falcon spots a prey animal, either on the ground or in the air, the hunt is on. Starting from a high height, they flap their wings multiple times to gain momentum as they begin their dive. Let's flap our wings. **Do so.** Then they tuck in their wings, as well as their feet, and position their tail straight out behind them, resembling the shape of a bullet. Let's do that. **Do so.** This shape reduces wind resistance and allows them to pierce through the air, like a knife cutting through butter.

Now I want you guys to do this with me. Blink your eyes slowly and focus on your eyelids. **Pause.** We have two eyelids on each eye—one above and one below. But peregrine falcons are different.

SHOW: Nictitating membrane

God gave them a third eyelid called a nictitating membrane. This extra eyelid is clear, allowing the bird to keep its eyes open while diving but stay protected from debris at the same time. This eyelid also helps to keep their eyes from drying out from the extreme rush of wind that they experience in a fast dive. It's almost like they have built-in swim goggles!

SHOW: Falcon nose bone

And God gave them a special bone in their nostrils, called a tubercle, that slows the speed of air coming into their lungs, allowing the animal to breathe. This bone is very similar to the cones on the engines of a jet.

When the falcon does reach its target, it hits it with so much force that the animal is often killed on impact. When hunting other birds, the target is often knocked out of the air as a result of this powerful stoop attack.

SHOW: Skye

God sure has made some amazing animals like Skye, who's swooping in to remind us that just like falcons are highly trainable and eager to learn and obey, we need to be trainable and eager to learn and obey when it comes to the Word of God!

SHOW: Bible

We need to train our brain to be deeply familiar with the Bible! So let's use that sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God!

**Drama** (12 minutes)

**Announcements** (time varies)

**Cool Contests** (3 minutes)

Announce winners of today's challenges. Invite them to come back to the Closing Program to hear how much money was raised for the mission project.

**Prayer**

**Takeaway Time** (2–3 minutes)

Let's say today's verse together. Recite Ephesians 6:17–18a, or try all of the week's verses together: Ephesians 6:10–11, 14, 15, 16, 17–18a.

Tell your neighbor another name for the sword of the Spirit. Pause. Yes, it's God's Word, or the Bible. Just like knights used swords to fight off enemies, we can use the sword—the Bible—to fight off the enemy's temptations. Let's try using the sword of the Spirit now. I'm going to say something that isn't true. You

need to respond with truth. When I point to you, take out your pretend sword and say, "It is written!" Ready? Pause. Here we go!

- When someone says you evolved from animals, you could say: Point to them to take out their "swords" and say, "No! It is written!" Then finish by reading Genesis 1:27.
- When someone says to look out for number 1 (to look out for yourself), you could say: Point to them to take out their "swords" and say, "No! It is written!" Then finish by reading Philippians 2:3–4.
- When someone says that there are many gods, you could say: Point to them to take out their "swords" and say, "No! It is written!" Then finish by reading 1 Chronicles 17:20.
- When someone says there are different races of people, you could say: Point to them to take out their "swords" and say, "No! It is written!" Then finish by reading Acts 17:26a.
- When someone says you're a loser, you could say: Point to them to take out their "swords" and say, "No! It is written!" Then finish by reading Psalm 139:14 and John 3:16.

We want to be strong in the Lord. We can do this by reading and obeying God's Word, praying, memorizing Scripture, singing to God, and going to church. These are some of the ways to stay strong in the Lord. Stand firm!

**Dismissal**

**Song** (play as children leave)

Your favorites