

Day 1 Discovery Center: Mystery Box

DIRECTIONS

The islanders take turns putting their hand in the box and picking one object. While it's still in the box, they feel the item and try to guess what it is and then pull it out and see if they guessed right.

TEACHING TIE-IN

We've been pulling items out of our mystery box. All these things are found on tropical islands. God is the one who made the ocean, the plants, the birds, the lizards, and the ocean animals we find on tropical islands. God is so great!

Day 1 Touch Table Water: Ocean Animals

DIRECTIONS

The islanders play with the animals in the water.

TEACHING TIE-IN

God is great! He's the only one who can create animals, like these animals that live in the ocean. I'm going to pick up one animal from the water at a time, and we'll say, "God made **this** ___ (turtle, fish, or whatever it is)," and **God is great!**" Do so.

Day 1 Dramatic Play: Beach Fun

DIRECTIONS

Pretend to be enjoying a day at the beach.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Have you ever been to the beach before? Can you think of something God made at the beach? Take responses. **He's so great!**

Day 1 Touch Table Sand: One and Only God

DIRECTIONS

The islanders look at each flash-card, and then, using the craft sticks as a writing utensil, they try to write in the sand what it says on the card.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Let's see if you know what each card says. Go through each one. Explain that all the words have to do with the number one. Ask how many gods there are. **Yes, there is only one true God. Some people try to make up other gods, but there's only one, and we can learn about him in the Bible. God wrote the Bible, and it's all about him!**

Day 2 Discovery Center: Mystery of the Missing Objects

DIRECTIONS

Take the dish towel away, and give the islanders a little time to look at the tray, then hide them again with the towel. Take one item away. Uncover the tray, and see if they can figure out which item disappeared. Continue to do so.

TEACHING TIE-IN

There are some island items hiding under this tray. But even though you can't see them, God can! Nothing and nobody can hide from God. He knows where everyone is at all times, and he's actually with everyone and everything at the same time. He loves you! Only God can know where everyone is and be everywhere at the same time, because God is almighty!

Day 2 Touch Table Water: Play Boats and Jonah

DIRECTIONS

The islanders play with the crew of the boat, including Jonah.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Did you know the Bible tells about a man named Jonah who tried to run away from God? He got on a boat where he thought he could hide. But can anyone hide from God? Pause for answers. **No! God knows everything,**

including where everyone is. So God sent a big storm, and Jonah was thrown off the boat and into the sea where he was swallowed by a big fish. Do you think God knew Jonah was inside the big fish? Pause for answers. **Yes! In fact, God sent that fish to Jonah! God knows everything and is with everyone. He is almighty. We can be thankful that God is always with us and cares about what's going on with us!**

Day 2 Dramatic Play: Beach Fun

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to be playing at the beach.

TEACHING TIE-IN

We're going to the beach again today. Isn't it incredible to think God knows how many drops of water are in the whole ocean? And not only in one ocean but in all the oceans and rivers in the whole world. God knows everything and is very great!

Day 2 Touch Table Sand: Hidden Shells

DIRECTIONS

The islanders see if they can find the seashells in the sand. They can just randomly try to find them, or pairs can take turns having one of them hide a shell in the sand, then the other tries to find it.

TEACHING TIE-IN

There are seashells hidden in our sand today. We can't see them, but **who do you think can?** Pause for answers. **Yes, God! He knows exactly where each seashell is. He knows how many there are. He even knows how many grains of sand are in this sand table. God knows everything and sees everything. God is almighty!**

Day 3 Discovery Center: I Spy a Crown

DIRECTIONS

First, the islanders find the hidden crown cards. Then they look at the yellow set of crowns and try to decide which one is different. Then they look at the gray or white set and try to figure out which one of those is different.

TEACHING TIE-IN

We're trying to figure out which crown is different today. Who wears a crown? Yes, a king or queen! Did

you know God is the greatest king ever? He's called the King of kings in the Bible. The Bible also tells us a man named Isaiah saw a vision of God sitting on a great throne, wearing an amazing robe. God is a loving, kind, good, great ruler and king, and we can trust him with our lives.

God is the King of kings. He has a throne and the most special robe of all. Every person who has turned from their sin and trusted Jesus will get to see God someday in heaven.

Day 3 Touch Table Water: Fish in the Sea

DIRECTIONS

The islanders play with the animals and fish nets in the water.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Does anyone remember who our animal pal is today? Take responses. Yes, Clark the shark! Great white sharks are nicknamed the king of the sea or the ruler of the sea

because they are the most mighty animal in the ocean. But who do you think is the king of the whole universe, including the sea? Take responses. Yes, God! He made the sharks, ocean animals, ocean water, sun, islands, and everything else! God is the one who is truly the ruler of everyone and everything! We can trust him with our lives. Sharks can't help us, but God can!

Day 3 Dramatic Play: Beach Fun

DIRECTIONS

Islanders play with the beach items.

TEACHING TIE-IN

When we get in the ocean, we swim around on the top part of the water. But the water in the ocean goes down very, very deep in places. At the bottom of the ocean, it's

completely dark. Even though we can't see in total darkness, God can! He knows where every animal big and small is that's hiding or swimming or crawling along the ocean floor, and he is with all of them at the same time. But that's not all! He's with all of us wherever we are, too! God is great! He's the king of everything!

Day 3 Touch Table Sand: Sand Castles

DIRECTIONS

The islanders make sand castles.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Look at our sand castles! Do you know anybody who lives in a real castle? Take responses, and show pictures of real castles. **Kings and queens live in castles, don't they? They're**

in charge of their kingdoms, aren't they? Pause for response. **But kings and queens on earth are just people, and they have limited power. Only God, the King of all kings, knows everything and has all power to do anything. There's nothing impossible for God to do! Do you remember our Bible verse for today? Let's say it together.** Do so.

Day 4 Discovery Center: Play Creche

DIRECTIONS

The islanders play with the creche set.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Do you know who the baby is in this set? Take responses. **Yes, this is baby Jesus. Do you know who Jesus is?** Take responses. **Yes, he is God the Son! He left heaven and became a baby so he could be with us. God didn't just stay in heaven not caring about us. Jesus came here to rescue us! That's because God loves us so very much.**

Day 4 Touch Table Water: Fishing Fun

DIRECTIONS

The islanders "fish" for the hearts, trying to catch one by getting the paper clip through the hole in the heart.

TEACHING TIE-IN

What shape are we "fishing" for today? **Yes, these are hearts! What do hearts remind you of? Yes, love. People can love each other and care for each other on earth, but nobody loves you like God does. He loves us. He cares so much about us and wants us to be his child.** Explain the gospel. You can tell them your testimony.

Day 4 Dramatic Play: Beach Fun

DIRECTIONS

Dress up, and pretend to be playing on the beach.

TEACHING TIE-IN

When we go to the beach during the day, the sun may be shining brightly. When we go at night, it's beautiful to look up at the moon and stars. Did you know God made the sun, the moon, and the stars? Pause for responses. **The Bible tells us he even**

named each star! But did you know there's another word that sounds like sun, but means something else? Can you think of a *person* who is a son? Take responses. Now here's the really amazing part. God the Father has a Son! Does anybody know the Son's name? Take responses. **Yes, Jesus! Jesus is God's Son, and he is God himself. Jesus lived and died, but he didn't stay dead. Only God could make himself come back to life! Wow!**

Day 4 Touch Table Sand: Crosses Memory Match

DIRECTIONS

The islanders reach into the sand and pull out a card. They pull out another and decide if the color matches. If it doesn't, they can put the card back in the sand and pull out another one. They can keep pulling out cards until they find one that matches.

TEACHING TIE-IN

What shape did you find? Take responses. **Yes, a cross! Do you know why the cross is so important to us?** Take responses, and explain that Jesus died on the cross because he loves each one of us so much. And then he rose from the dead! Jesus is God's one and only Son, and he is God himself!

Day 5 Discovery Center: Sling It

DIRECTIONS

Take turns standing at the tape line. Everyone else should stand behind the line. The person who is up tries to “sling” a cotton ball, pom pom, or foam ball to see how far it goes, or to get it through one of the inner tubes. To do so, they should put the safe object in the spoon, pull back on the top of the spoon, and let go. Continue taking turns.

TEACHING TIE-IN

We’re trying to “sling” some safe items today like cotton balls, pom poms, and foam balls. The Bible records a time when a teenager named David used a sling when he was fighting a giant named Goliath. David aimed and hit Goliath right between his eyes, and Goliath fell down dead. Goliath didn’t believe in God, but David surely did. He trusted God, just like we should! You can read many of David’s words in the Bible in the book of Psalms.

Day 5 Touch Table Water: Sink or Float

DIRECTIONS

As a group, decide if they think an item will sink or float. Then put it in the water and see what happens. End with the rock and jewels, and then share the teaching tie-in.

TEACHING TIE-IN

We tested some things to see if they would sink or float. The last ones were the rock and jewels. Did they sink or float? Rocks and jewels are

known for being sturdy and long lasting. There’s one rock in particular that’s a jewel called a diamond. It’s the strongest and most valuable rock in the world.

Like a diamond, God is much stronger and more valuable than anything else in the world. No amount of money is greater than God. No treasure chest of jewels is greater than God. No other person is greater than God. He is our rock, and we can trust him!

Day 5 Dramatic Play: Beach Fun

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to have fun at the beach.

TEACHING TIE-IN

We've had fun at *Mystery Island* this week, haven't we? Can you remember anything you learned about God **this week?** Take responses.

Day 5 Touch Table Sand: Cookie Cutters

DIRECTIONS

Islanders make impressions in the sand with the heart and cross cookie cutters.

TEACHING TIE-IN

When we see a heart it can remind us that God loves us so much and wants to have a special relationship with us. And when we see a cross it reminds us that God loves us so much he came to earth and died on a cross to take the punishment for our sin.