

Daily Assembly Scripts

Day 1: Aussie Opening Assembly

Welcome (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 1 WELCOME: Big suitcase stuffed with clothes for all seasons (winter coat and hat, summer clothes, swim stuff, etc.) and other items such as a snorkel mask, outback hat, water bottle, and first aid kit

Note: If you use other items, adjust the text below to mention whatever you've put in there. Or, another way to do this is to actually put on and carry a ton of stuff as you come walking on stage all decked out. Again, adjust the text below as necessary.

Person 1: G'day, mates! Welcome to Zoomerang! We are exploring Australia this week and like the boomerang that Australia is famous for, we'll be returning to the value of life! Did you know you're of great value to us because you're of great value to God? He made you in his image!

Person 2: Come out huffing and puffing and carrying the suitcase as if it's very heavy. Have it unzipped so everything will fall out at the right time, but hold it under your arm to keep it closed for now.

Person 1: Ahh, g'day there, mate! What's going on?

Person 2: G'day! I just landed here in Australia and I'm so excited to start exploring! It's gonna be a beaut.

Person 1: A . . . a . . . what?

Person 2: You know, a beaut. Great! Bonzer! Fantastic!

Person 1: Oh, right, right! A beaut.

Just then the suitcase opens up and everything falls out all over the place, in a big mess.

Person 1: Whoa, mate, what's all this stuff? Begin to hold up stuff and toss it across the way as you say the following. Snorkel mask? Outback hat? Winter coat? Hat? Water bottle? First aid kit? Why do you have all this for Australia? I mean, a winter coat and hat? Really?

Person 2: Well, Australia's a land of extremes. Sure, it has areas that are blistering hot, but it also has the ocean, rainforests, and even arctic cold temperatures with penguins! I just want to be prepared.

Person 1: Wow, who knew? Well, in the midst of all these unique spots in Australia, the Land Down Under, we're going to a special one. I wonder where it might be.

Person 2: I don't know, but before we head there, I want to sing a song to get in the mood!

Person 1: Okay, let's wait and let the mates know our first destination when they get to their Land Down Under Lessons. But now, everybody up on those feet and let's sing our theme song, "Zoomerang"!

Song (3 minutes)

"Zoomerang"

Song (3 minutes)

Contemporary: "Do You Not Know?" / Traditional: "You Can't Make a Monkey out of Me"

Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: "Life's Amazing Adventure" slide

As we spend this week learning about the people God created in his image, we're going to meet a boy or girl living in a different part of the world. We're partnering with Children's Hunger Fund to help children just like these, 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: "Life's Amazing Adventure—Mimi" slide

Are you ready to meet the first child? Pause for participation. Great! Today, we're going to meet a very little girl named Mimi, who lives in the country of Rwanda.

SHOW: Video 1—Mimi

Country: Rwanda

Problem: Extreme Hunger

Did you notice where Mimi and her family live? Their house is made out of mud, and they live very far away from other people. There aren't a lot of options for her mother to find work, and she has a lot of growing children to feed. Five children. And she has to provide food for them all by herself! But even where Mimi and her family lives, a local pastor came to deliver Food Paks from Children's Hunger Fund and share with her family about Jesus!

Do you want to help kids like Mimi? 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 Mimi. Ask them to help you collect coins for meals. It only costs 25¢ to provide a nutritious meal for a hungry child.

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

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

Announcements (time varies)

Announce any info pertinent to your situation. Today, you need to explain how the contests work so the kids can be participating. Check with your director if you aren't sure.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

C: “Wonderfully Made” / T: “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made” /
Memory Verse Song: “Genesis 1:27”

Day 1: Aussie Closing Assembly

Song (3 minutes)

C: “Wonderfully Made” / T: “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”

Song (3 minutes)

“Zoomerang” / Memory Verse Song: “Genesis 1:27”

Creature Feature: Jumpin’ Jack the Kangaroo (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

G’day, mates! It’s time to check out one of the amazing animals our amazing creator God has made! We’re learning about Australia so today we’ll look at one of Australia’s most well-known animals. Here’s a clue. Hop around for a bit. Do you have a guess? Pause while they answer. Yes, we’ll be checking out the kangaroo!

SHOW: Kangaroo slide

Tell your neighbor a nickname you have (if you have one). Have them do so, then share a nickname you have. Kangaroos are nicknamed roos for short. They have other nicknames, too. Males are called jacks, and females are jills. Males are also called bucks, and females are does. And, males are boomers, and females are flyers.

SHOW: Marsupial pronunciation slide

Kangaroos belong to a special group of animals. Can you figure out what the group is called by looking at this slide? Give them a moment, then say: They are marsupials. Can you say that with me? MARS - SOUP - EELS.

SHOW: Map slide

Most marsupials live in Australia and New Guinea.

SHOW: Kids with backpack slide

Marsupials are known for the special pack they have. Have you ever worn a backpack? Pause. Well, marsupials wear their pack, or pouch, in the front or belly area rather than on their back, and—here’s something cool—it’s built-in!

SHOW: Kangaroo with pouch slide

How many of you would like a built-in pouch? Pause. Tell your neighbor something you’d always carry with you if you had a built-in pouch. Pause. Of course, kangaroos don’t carry the kind of supplies you do, but what they do carry are their babies.

SHOW: Joey slide

Hold up your hands to show me how long you think a newborn baby kangaroo is. Do so. When a baby kangaroo, or joey, is born, it’s about the size of a jellybean!

SHOW: Baby kangaroo slide

Once born, it climbs through its mom’s fur into the pouch on her belly. It stays there until it’s ready to survive on its own outside the pouch. It’s pretty amazing that God created the joey to know it needs to climb to the pouch for safety even when it’s so tiny!

SHOW: Kangaroo jumping slide

Everybody give a big hop. Do so, and have them hop back to where they were. When the young joeys get old enough, out they hop! Kangaroos are the only large animals that use hopping as their main way of getting around. Would you like to hop to get around? Pause for a moment.

God gave the kangaroo strong, long, hind legs and feet, and a long, thick tail to help with balance. Strong muscles in their legs help the kangaroo jump long distances.

Let’s see how we match up to a kangaroo’s jumping abilities. Call a child volunteer from the audience and have her jump as far as she can. Measure it with the tape measure and praise her for her jump.

Now let’s see how far a kangaroo can jump. Have Person 1 stand on one side of the stage with the measuring tape. Person 2 starts pulling the tape and keeps dramatically pulling and pulling until 25 feet away. The red kangaroo can leap 25 feet in a single bound! That would be like jumping from here to there in one hop! Whoa! This jumping ability helps the kangaroo catch its prey, travel long distances to find water, and get away from predators.

SHOW: Kangaroo comparison slide

How tall are you? Pause. I’m _____ (however tall you are). Kangaroos and their relatives can be anywhere from 7 feet tall, like the red kangaroo (demonstrate how tall 7 feet is) to 18 inches (46 centimeters) like the dwarf wallaby! Demonstrate how tall 18 inches is.

Have everyone jog in place briefly and then pause, breathing hard. How do kangaroos not get completely out of breath when they’re jumping? Well, crazy as it sounds, it takes more energy for a kangaroo to stand still than to hop.

God made the kangaroo’s lungs to flop around inside of them as they hop, so air is pushed out of the lungs when the lungs hit other organs. This means the kangaroo doesn’t have to use energy to breath out—it just happens automatically. God thinks of everything!

SHOW: Jumpin’ Jack slide

Kangaroos are such a cool creation of God’s! And our kangaroo animal pal, Jumpin’ Jack, is hopping by today to remind us that God is the Author of all life—kangaroos, crocodiles, koalas, and people. Animals are created by God and are super cool. But, God’s most special creation is . . . you . . . and me . . . and all of us! God makes every person in his own image. We didn’t evolve from animals. From the beginning, God made animals

animals and people people—and only *we* are made in God's image! Thanks for *hopping* by!

Drama (8–15 minutes)

See the Drama Production section starting on page 29 for details. Allow about 15 minutes for the complete drama or about 8 minutes for just the game show portion.

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 (1 minute)

Each day right before dismissal, share a thought to leave everyone with.

In Australia, they call TO GO orders “takeaway.” We’re going to leave you with a takeaway thought each day before you leave. Here’s today’s.

Think of the kindest person you know. *Pause.* Did you think of someone? *Pause.*

Any time you experience anything good from someone—a kindness, a loving act, truthful words, joyful times—remember this: that person, who is made in God's image, is reflecting a good, kind, loving, truthful, joyful God. We are only kind and loving to *any* degree because God is kind and loving *perfectly*. Let's say today's verse together. Recite Genesis 1:27.

When you experience anything good from anyone, let it remind you of our good God!

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

“Zoomerang”

Day 2: Aussie Opening Assembly

Welcome (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 2 WELCOME: Snorkel mask, flippers, and a wet letter

Person 1: Welcome back to *Zoomerang*, mates! We have a great day planned for you!

Person 2: Come sloshing out with a dripping wet letter.

Person 1: Well, look at you! Where have you been?

Person 2: I was snorkeling, and guess what? I got a letter!

Person 1: From the . . . ocean?

Person 2: Yeah, there's a post office right there in the ocean!

Person 1: No way! That's impossible.

Person 2: Wave it back and forth in front of Person 1, getting him wet. Here it is to prove it.

Person 1: Well, what's it say?

Person 2: Open it up. Hmmm . . . it seems to be filled with some Aussie tongue twisters.

Person 1: That's random! Like what?

Person 2: Well, this one's about sheep. Australia *does* have the highest number of sheep in the world, so I guess that makes sense. Here's the twister: “Sheep should sleep in a shed.”

Person 1: Let me try that. Can you guys try it with me? Do so, having all the kids try it, too.

Person 2: How about this one for sunny Australia? “We surely shall see the sunshine soon.”

Person 1: Let's give it a whirl, mates. Do so.

Person 2: Well, I'm going to go and get dry while you're practicing. I'll see you in a minute.

Try these, as well: “Swim, swan, swim” or “She sells seashells by the seashore.”

Person 1: Okay, that was fun, and maybe it contained a clue to where we're going today. But before we find out our destination, let's get this party going with a song that's about what we'll be *talking* about all day—that we're fearfully and wonderfully designed by God! Here we go!

Song (3 minutes)

C: “Wonderfully Made” / T: “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”

Song (3 minutes)

C: “Take My Life” / T: “Building the Kingdom” / Memory Verse
Song: “Psalm 139:14”

Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: “Life's Amazing Adventure” slide

All week long, we'll be joining Harper as she travels all over the world to meet people and share with them that they're precious to God. We're also learning how we can help by providing them with the food they need.

Have you started collecting coins for your Coin Pak yet? *Pause* for participation. Great! Remember, each quarter you put into your Coin Pak means one meal for a hungry child.

SHOW: “Life's Amazing Adventure—Isaac” slide

Today, we're going to be traveling with Harper to the country of Haiti, where we'll meet a boy named Isaac. Let's hear his story.

SHOW: Video 2—Isaac

Country: Haiti

Problem: Generational Poverty

Isaac doesn't have the same options that people do in other areas of the world. He doesn't dream about being a doctor or an astronaut or a famous soccer player because his family can't afford to send Isaac to school. His plans have always included becoming a farmer like everyone else in his family. This is called generational poverty. For Isaac, using a wheelchair to get around has made this difficult life that much harder. When a pastor visited with a Food Pak and shared with Isaac's family about Jesus, he was able to see that God's plan was bigger than his own.

Every 25 cents you collect this week means one meal for a child like Isaac—a child who doesn't know when they'll get their next meal. You are helping to deliver hope to suffering children around the world.

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

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

That's not bad for just one day. But we've still got the rest of the week, so keep bringing in coins all week long! Share what you've learned about Isaac and Mimi with someone else and see if they want to help provide meals, too. 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)

Make pertinent announcements.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

"Zoomerang"

Day 2: Aussie Closing Assembly

Song (3 minutes)

Memory Verse Song: "Psalm 139:14"

Song (2 minutes)

C: "Do You Not Know?" / T: "You Can't Make a Monkey out of Me"

Creature Feature: Shimmer the Coral (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

Today we're learning about a type of animal called a coral.

SHOW: Coral reef slide

Wait! Rewind. We're supposed to be talking about animals, aren't we? Corals don't seem like animals! They kind of look like plants, don't they?

SHOW: Coral polyps slide

Well, it's true that corals (also called coral polyps) can look like colorful underwater plants, but they're actually animals—teeny, tiny animals—teeny, tiny animals that end up turning into rock skeletons.

SHOW: Limestone base slide

Coral reefs are made up of rock skeletons. It works like this. The tiny, living coral polyps attach themselves to a surface. When they die, many corals leave a hard skeleton behind which becomes a heavy rock called limestone. Now here's where it gets crazy! New coral polyps come along and attach themselves to the rock skeletons left by the first coral polyps. Then they die and turn into rock skeletons, and the next coral polyps come and live on them. This goes on and on until it grows bigger and bigger into a colony. Then the colonies connect to other colonies to form a coral reef, like the Great Barrier Reef in Australia.

The Great Barrier Reef is the largest reef in the world. It can even be seen from outer space! This doesn't take long periods of time—in fact, the Great Barrier Reef has formed within the past few thousand years since Noah's flood!

SHOW: Great Barrier Reef from space slide

Coral colonies come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Let's check some out!

SHOW: Brain coral slide

First, which part of your body is like a computer? Pause. Yes, your brain! Did you know God made a type of coral called brain coral? It kind of looks like a human brain, doesn't it?

SHOW: Cabbage coral slide

Have you ever eaten cabbage? Pause. Do you like it? Pause. There's a coral called cabbage coral. Can you guess why?

SHOW: Mushroom coral slide

Give a thumbs up or a thumbs down if you like mushrooms. Do so. Look at this coral called a mushroom coral.

SHOW: Sea fan coral slide

Fan yourself for a second. Do so. This is a sea fan coral.

SHOW: Flower pot coral slide

Tell your neighbor your favorite kind of flower. Do so. Look at this flower pot coral.

SHOW: Pillar coral slide

Stand straight and tall like a pillar. Do so. Check out this fabulous pillar coral!

SHOW: Elk horn coral slide

Make some antlers on your head. Do so. Here's an elk horn coral. It looks like antlers, doesn't it?

SHOW: Fish with coral slide

Our God is an amazingly creative creator! He's made so many different types of coral! All these corals look so different, yet they all have the same things in common—they need to eat, and they need to defend themselves. Remember Adam and Eve and how they disobeyed God? Their sin affected the whole world! Including coral. In this fallen world, coral need to be able to defend themselves against predators. God gave the coral a stinger that helps it catch its food and defend itself against its enemies. When a small sea creature passes by a coral polyp, a stinging cell is triggered and a tiny harpoon shoots out of the polyp, tears a hole in the creature, and fills it with poison so it can't get away. The sea creature is then ready to be eaten by the coral polyp. Weird, but amazing!

God also gave the coral the ability to defend itself against things that would try to harm it. For example, if the water is getting too warm, God designed the coral to cover itself with mucus to protect it from the sun's powerful rays. When sand covers the coral, it isn't able to get to its food. So God designed it with a way to clean itself with its tentacles. Isn't God an amazing designer?

Of course, God makes everything for a reason—to bring himself glory! And he uses his creation to help us! That's true for coral reefs, too!

The reefs provide a home for many ocean animals. They help keep our shores from washing away. And scientists are even discovering that they can make some medicines from parts of the coral reefs. These medicines may be able to help treat diseases like cancer. I'm thankful God made coral reefs, aren't you?

SHOW: Shimmer the coral slide

God made each animal living in the coral reefs a wonder, like our animal pal today, Shimmer. But do you remember what his greatest creation of all is? Yes, it's people! You and me!

The Bible tells us in Psalm 139 that God made us with great care and purpose. We are fearfully and wonderfully made. That means that YOU are an amazing creation of God! Think about all the things we can do that animals can't do. We can write amazing poetry. One person can recite the "Roses Are Red" poem and the other then says that isn't amazing poetry. We can invent

amazing contraptions. One person mentions a contraption they've made. We can take care of this earth God gave us . . . enjoy beautiful music . . . draw beautiful pictures . . . and have a personal relationship with the Creator of the universe through his son, Jesus.

Now get out there and be your amazing self for God's glory!

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 Go and Do activities, and dress up tomorrow for the Dress-Up Day. Any Aussie attire works.

Prayer

Takeaway Time (1 minute)

Here's a takeaway thought for the day.

God has never made another you. He doesn't reuse voices, or fingerprints, or teeth prints, or iris patterns, or tongue prints, or the rims of ears (feel yours now—only you have that shape!), or people's gaits (how you walk), or DNA codes. It had to give God great joy when he designed you just the way you are.

We shouldn't take credit for what we can do or how we look, and, on the other hand, we shouldn't put ourselves down for how we look or what we can or can't do.

God is perfect, and you are *you* for a reason. Before we go, let's say our memory verse and really think about each word and what it's saying. Let it be a reminder to praise God for how he made you.

Recite Psalm 139:14 together.

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

Song: "Wonderfully Made"

Day 3: Aussie Opening Assembly

Welcome (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 3 WELCOME: Sand pail

Person 1: G'day, mates! Are you ready for another bonzer day at Zoomerang? Person 2 strides out swinging a sand pail and dramatically takes an "opera" stance, starting to sing opera at the top of his lungs, moving around dramatically, hamming it up with the sand pail. Person 1 watches incredulously.

Person 1: Ahh, excuse me, but can't you see we've started VBS here?

Person 2 stops abruptly, looks out at the audience, and then begins again, louder than ever.

Person 1: Hey, hey, hey! A little respect, please. Could you do that elsewhere? Person 2 thinks for a second, and begins to leave. As Person 1 begins to welcome the mates again, Person 2 comes back and starts singing again. Every time Person 1 tries to say something, Person 2 starts to sing again. This goes on for a few times.

Person 1: Are you trying to give us a clue about where in Australia we are going today? Since you seem to be very fond of singing, why don't we sing our first song? We'll be singing and talking today about how each person is of infinite value to God, and should be to us, too. Nobody is *better* or *worse* than someone else. Each of us is God's masterpiece. Let's sing about that!

Song (3 minutes)

C: "Masterpiece" / T: "Made by the Father"

Song (3 minutes)

C: "Everything" / T: "Servant's Heart" / Memory Verse Song: "Luke 6:31"

Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: "Life's Amazing Adventure" slide

All right, adventurers! Are you ready to hop on a plane with Harper and travel to a faraway country to meet another wonderfully created child?

Who remembers how much it costs to provide one meal for a hungry child? Pause for participation. That's right! It only costs 25 cents to provide a nutritious meal to a child in need. So that means one dollar can provide 4 meals, ten dollars can provide 40 meals, and twenty five dollars can provide 100 meals! Isn't that incredible?

SHOW: "Life's Amazing Adventure—Roan" 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 Roan, who lives in Albania.

SHOW: Video 3—Roan

Country: Albania

Problem: Injustice

Roan lives a very lonely life. No matter what his family does, the community around them treats them poorly for no reason other than where they're from or how they look. This is called injustice. Because Roan and his family are treated unfairly, they're often unable to afford to buy food. Every time Roan's stomach rumbles in hunger, he's reminded that there are people that don't like him and want him to leave.

The meals that you're providing with your coins will help show children like Roan that he's precious and valuable. For Roan and his family, a visit from a church volunteer brought the message of hope and belonging that they needed. Instead of feeling unwanted, Roan learned that he is loved by God. Isn't that great news?

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've raised so far? In only two days, you've raised ___ meals! Remember, one dollar provides four meals. To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four. That's pretty fantastic!

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

You're doing an amazing job! All the coins you bring in this week represent children who'll receive a nutritious meal and have a chance to learn about the loving God who created them! Who's excited to see how many more meals we can raise tomorrow? Pause for participation.

Announcements (time varies)

Make pertinent announcements.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

C: "One Way" / T: "The Greatest Story Ever Told" / Memory Verse Song: "Psalm 139:14"

Day 3: Aussie Closing Assembly

Song (2 minutes)

C: "Do You Not Know?" / T: "You Can't Make a Monkey out of Me"

Song (3 minutes)

C: "One Way" / T: "The Greatest Story Ever Told"

Creature Feature: Bill the Platypus (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

G'day mates! Welcome back to our Creature Feature time! We've been talking about some pretty amazing animals this week, haven't we? Today, I'm going to share an animal that I think God had fun making.

SHOW: Platypus slide

It's the platypus, and it's a creature that's stunned scientists for centuries! In the 1700s, explorers sent a platypus back to England, and the scientists who examined the specimen

thought it was a fake! They couldn't believe what they saw. It made milk for its babies and had hair like a mammal, but it had webbed feet, laid eggs, and had a bill like a bird. It walked on legs on the side of its body like a reptile, while sensing electric fields like a fish.

SHOW: Platypus feet slide

Have everyone hold up their hands and stretch their fingers as wide as they can go. We don't have webs on our hands or feet, but God gave the platypus special webbed feet to help them swim. The webs on their feet help them glide through the water quickly to catch their prey.

Have everyone wiggle their toes. God also put claws on their feet for when they walk on land and need to dig in the dirt. They're able to fold back the webs on their front feet to use their claws so they have a better grip. Wow!

SHOW: Platypus bill slide

Shout out your favorite food. Pause while they do so. God gave the platypus a bill, kind of like a bird's. This bill is wide and long

enough to help the platypus catch his prey more easily. The platypus doesn't have teeth, but once he catches some food, God designed him to ingest gravel from the riverbed so he can grind up his food with the stones. Amazing, huh?

SHOW: Platypus swimming slide

How many of you like to swim underwater? *Pause.* Do you think you'd like it if you had to swim with your eyes and ears closed? *Pause.* When platypuses swim underwater to find food, they close their ears and eyes. So how do they find their food if they're not able to see or hear anything? God gave them a special radar in their bill that uses electroreception. Their bill sends out signals into the water that help the platypus know where to find food. God sure is an amazing creator, isn't he?!

SHOW: Platypus fur slide

Have them rub their arms with their hands while saying, "Brrrr!" Imagine living outside in the cold while also being soaking wet all the time. Sounds miserable, right? Well, God designed the platypus with waterproof fur! This allows them to swim in cold waters without getting chilled to the bone. Their fur keeps them nice and insulated against winter weather.

SHOW: Platypus spurs slide

One more crazy thing about platypuses is that the males have venomous spurs on their hind legs! They use this venom to defend themselves. When they scratch another animal with their spur, you can bet that animal will back away and leave them alone! Platypus venom isn't strong enough to kill humans, but it sure does hurt! Keep in mind that, in the beginning, all platypuses were friendly—God made everything very good! But Adam's sin even affected all the animals, like the platypus. So God has given animals the ability to defend themselves from other critters.

SHOW: Bill the platypus slide

God obviously values this fascinating creature. He made him, after all! The platypus and all of God's creation bring him great glory. Bill is here to remind you that, as amazing as animals are, God values people much more. Because we're made in God's image, each of us has great value, no matter how old or young

we are, what skin shade we have, where we live, how healthy or sick we are, or what we can or can't do.

And because we're made in God's image and have great value, we should treat others with great care and dignity. We need to show respect to everyone, no matter how different from us they may be. The way we treat others reflects how we feel about their Creator, so we should be kind to everyone! Now let's go out and be amazing to all our fellow image-bearers!

Drama (8–15 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 do their "Beaut" of a Bible Challenge Sheet, found on the Digital Resources. Print ahead of time and give each child a copy as they leave today.

Prayer

Takeaway Time (1 minute)

Ready for our takeaway thought for today? *Pause.*

When you see a baby, an old person, a sick person, a person living with disabilities, any person whose *looks* or *life* may be different than yours, do you see them as a fellow image-bearer of God? Do you use respectful words and kind actions? Do you think to hold that door open, give them a hand, say hello, or ask how they're doing? That's part of valuing life!

If we really lived out our memory verse, our world would be a very different place. Let's say it together before we go. *Recite Luke 6:31.*

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

"Zoomerang"

Day 4: Aussie Opening Assembly

Welcome (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 4 WELCOME: Backpack and random, crazy, unusual items to put inside (a fun one is a dryer vent that is 20 feet long, all compacted together—at the right time mentioned below, start pulling it out and keep going and going)

Person 1: G'day, mates! It's great to see all you blokes and sheilas out there!

Person 2: Come hopping in with the pouch on so the opening of the bag is in front, like a kangaroo or koala pouch.

Person 1: Well, look who's just hopped by. What's happening?

Person 2: Well, I thought it would be cool to experience what it's like to be a kangaroo and have a pouch.

Person 1: That's interesting. Did you know kangaroos aren't the only animals with pouches? Koalas, wallabies, and many others have pouches, as well. Animals with pouches are called marsupials.

Person 2: Well, all I know is, it would be cool to have a built-in pouch like this. Look what I found!

Grab something out of the backpack. Person 1 comments. Continue in like manner taking other items out and having Person 1 comment. Last item can be the dryer vent. Leave it in the bag but keep pulling it out.

Person 1: Wow, you sure stuffed a lot into that pack!

Person 2: Yeah, it sure was full! But if it really were a marsupial's pouch, it would have baby animals in it.

Person 1: Yeah, and if you were a koala, for instance, you'd be taking really good care of that baby in there. But nobody takes better care of anybody than God. *He's* the perfect Father. Today we'll be talking about how you can be part of God's family and how God can be your loving, caring Father even if your father isn't here on earth with you.

Person 2: That sounds important.

Person 1: It is! We can think on that while we sing.

Song (3 minutes)

C: "One Way" / T: "The Greatest Story Ever Told"

Song (3 minutes)

C: "Everything" / T: "Servant's Heart" / Memory Verse Song: "John 11:25"

Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: "Life's Amazing Adventure" slide

Does anyone remember what we're raising coins for this week? Pause for participation. Right! We're raising coins to provide meals for children who don't have enough food to eat. Children's Hunger Fund will send those meals in Food Paks to churches all over the world, where they'll be delivered to families in need. But the churches don't just drop off food and leave; they also share the good news of Jesus!

Are you ready to meet another child?

SHOW: "Life's Amazing Adventure—Garma" slide

Myanmar is a country in Asia, located just south of China. Today, Harper's travels will take us to Myanmar to meet a young girl named Garma.

SHOW: Video 4—Garma

Country: Myanmar

Problem: Disaster

Can you imagine living in a place where it rains so much that you worry your house might collapse? Garma has to face this fear every year during monsoon season. Where Garma lives, the homes are not built the same way our homes are built here. The roofs leak, the ground around her home fills with large puddles, and everything feels wet all the time.

When her school and the building where her father worked were destroyed, do you think Garma felt like her life was out of control? Pause for participation. Do you think that learning about a loving God who is in charge of all things brought her comfort? Pause for participation. Me, too!

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

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

These coins are going to do so much more than provide food for children in need. You're providing an opportunity for pastors to build relationships with families and share the gospel of Jesus Christ! But don't stop collecting yet! We have one more day to collect coins to provide meals, so keep up the good work!

Announcements (time varies)

Make pertinent announcements.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

"Zoomerang" / Memory Verse Song: "Genesis 1:27"

Day 4: Aussie Closing Assembly

Song (3 minutes)

"Zoomerang"

Song (3 minutes)

C: "Take My Life" / T: "Building the Kingdom"

Creature Feature: Paula the Koala (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

Welcome back to our Creature Feature time! Our animal today is the adorable koala.

SHOW: Koala slide

Everyone say, "Awwwwwww." Do so. Now here's a question for you. Do you think koalas are bears? Pause. We tend to hear about the koala bear, don't we? Guess what? They aren't bears!

SHOW: Koala with baby slide

They're actually marsupials! They carry their babies in a pouch on their bellies, like kangaroos. Kangaroos and koalas aren't the only marsupials.

SHOW: Marsupial collage slide

There are hundreds, but a few others you may have heard of are the wombat, the bilby, the wallaby, the numbat, the sugar glider, and the Tasmanian devil. All of these have a pouch because all marsupials do.

Make a ring with your fingers. Do so. The mom's pouch has a ring of strong muscles around it that can tighten and seal off the opening to protect the baby from bouncing out. Can you

imagine if the mama was moving along and the baby fell out? That won't happen because God gave that pouch a built-in seal!

SHOW: Koala eating eucalyptus slide

Tell your neighbor a food you don't love. **Do so.** Did you know that koalas are some of the pickiest eaters on the planet? Out of all the food in the world, they'll only eat a few kinds of eucalyptus leaves which can be very poisonous to most other animals. So how do koalas eat them without being harmed? God gave the koala a special digestive system that has a caecum [SEE km]. The caecum breaks down the tough eucalyptus leaves and keeps them from poisoning the koala.

Other animals (and humans) have caecums, but the koala's is the longest of any mammal. It's up to four times the length of a koala! This allows for extra digesting time for any food that passes through it. This special organ protects the koala from poison while also helping it get all the nutrition possible from the leaves it eats. And because they eat so many eucalyptus leaves, they even smell like eucalyptus. What food do you eat a lot of? **Pause.** How would you like to smell like that all the time?

Eucalyptus smells a lot like a menthol cough drop, so the next time you eat one, think of a koala!

SHOW: Koala in sun slide

How many of you drink a lot of water? **Pause.** Did you know koalas don't bother to drink water? The word "koala" actually means "no drink." God gave the koala the ability to get enough water from the leaves they eat. They also have special fur that doesn't allow any of the water in their bodies to evaporate. They never sweat! This helps keep the water they need inside their bodies.

SHOW: Koala sleeping slide

Tell your neighbor what time you go to bed and what time you get up each day. **Do so.** Did you know koalas sleep for up to 20 hours a day? They do this to conserve energy. If they were running around all day, they'd need more food and water to give them enough energy to keep going. But when they're sleeping, their bodies slow down and don't need as much food. God sure knew what he was doing when he made the koala!

SHOW: Koala paws slide

God designed the koala with special feet that help them grip trees. Their front paws have sharp claws and two thumbs for holding on to tree branches. That's right, two!

Look at your hands and imagine each one having two thumbs! **Do so.** Rough pads on the bottoms of a koala's feet also help the koala grip trees without falling.

SHOW: Paula the koala slide

God sure is the perfect Creator! He created Paula the koala and every other kind of animal just the way he wanted them to be. He also created the first people, Adam and Eve, perfectly. He

gave them everything they needed to live for his glory and for their own good in his creation. Sadly, instead of honoring and obeying their Creator, they decided to disobey, and their choice to sin affected the entire creation. Their sin has been passed down to each of us—we all choose to disobey God, don't we? God says to always tell the truth—have you ever told a lie? That's a sin. And our sin separates us from God, who is holy and pure. Thankfully, God sent his son, Jesus, to save us from our sins and allow us to have a relationship with him while we're here on earth and after we die. When we repent of our sin and believe that Jesus died and rose from the grave to save us, we're given the amazing gift of eternal life! Now let's go out and share that amazing news with our fellow image-bearers!

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 (1 minute)

Here's our Takeaway thought for the day.

If you could go anywhere on earth, tell your neighbor where you think the best place would be. **Do so.** Well, Jesus left a place far better than the best place on earth. He left his Father in heaven and came to earth as a baby. Can you even imagine that?

And he lived a perfect life. Can you imagine being a baby or toddler and never once taking a toy away from another child? Jesus never selfishly took a toy away—ever.

Can you imagine being a grade schooler and never once disobeying your mom or dad? Jesus never disobeyed—ever.

Can you imagine being a teenager and never once having a bad attitude or rolling your eyes? Jesus never had a bad attitude—ever.

Can you imagine being an adult and never once talking about someone behind their back? Jesus never said an unkind or untrue word—ever.

Jesus never once sinned. And because he was perfect, he was the only one who could be the substitute for our sin. Have you thanked him recently for doing that?

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

C: "Masterpiece" / T: "Made by the Father"

Day 5: Aussie Opening Assembly

Welcome (2 minutes)

SUPPLIES FOR DAY 5 WELCOME: Sheet, blanket, or tarp and a small table or structure to make a “fort”

Person 1: Welcome back to our final day at *Zoomerang*, mates! We’re looking forward to sharing with you how each person is created *on purpose for a purpose*. Any who are part of God’s family have work to do for God!

Person 2: Come out with a sheet, blanket, or tarp and drape it over something to make a “fort,” which we will refer to as an underground cave.

Person 1: Hey, what are you making over there?

Person 2: My underground cave. I’m going to hang out under here. It’s really cool. Get down inside it.

Person 1: Why are you making an underground cave?

Person 2: Peek your head out and say the following, then go back under. Because there’s a place in Australia that has something like this.

Person 1: Oh, that sounds amazing.

Person 2: Peek your head back out and say the following, then go back under. It might have something to do with where we’re going today in Australia.

Person 1: Could be. That would be interesting.

Person 2: Peek your head back out and say the following, then go back under. I want to be ready.

Person 1: Well, great. Mates, do you . . .

Person 2: Peek your head back out and say the following, then go back under. You can never be too ready.

Note: Person 2 can continue to interrupt a couple more times if you want before he finally stops.

Person 1: Mates, do you think you know which part of Australia we’re headed to today? We’ll be finding out soon, but first, let’s sing!

Song (3 minutes)

Memory Verse Song: “Ephesians 2:10”

Song (3 minutes)

“Zoomerang”

Mission Moment (5 minutes)

SHOW: “Life’s Amazing Adventure” slide

Are you excited to head out with Harper on one more adventure this week? I hope you’ve learned as much as I have about how people are living in other countries and what we can do to help.

I’ll share with you in just a moment how many meals we’ve raised this week, but first, let’s head off on one more adventure with Harper.

SHOW: “Life’s Amazing Adventure—Hector” slide

All week long, we’ve been meeting children living in countries thousands of miles away, but the child we’re meeting today lives a lot closer. Today, we’re going to meet Hector, who lives right here in the United States.

SHOW: Video 5—Hector

Country: United States

Problem: Invisible Poor

Does it surprise you that there are people living right here in the United States who might not have enough food to eat? Hector lives in a house. His dad has a job. Looking at them, you might not think that they’re living in poverty. That’s why they’re known as invisible poor. Sometimes, illnesses or the loss of a job can mean that a family has to choose between paying rent and buying food or paying the electric bill.

Thankfully, you can help! Not only can the coins you’re collecting this week provide meals for children like Mimi, Isaac, Garma, and Roan living in faraway countries, but they’re providing meals for children right here in the United States. Kids like Hector.

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?

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

The grand total number of meals we’ve provided this week during Life’s Amazing Adventure is ____ meals! Remember, one dollar provides four meals. To calculate your VBS meal progress, multiply the dollars raised by four.

Announcements (time varies)

Make pertinent announcements.

Prayer

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

Memory Verse Song: “Luke 6:31”

Day 5: Aussie Closing Assembly

Song (3 minutes)

C: "Everything" / T: "Servant's Heart"

Song (3 minutes)

C: "One Way" / T: "The Greatest Story Ever Told"

Creature Feature: Ringo the Dingo (5 minutes)

Use the PRESENTATION SLIDES or show the CREATURE FEATURE VIDEO

SHOW: Creature Feature title slide

Welcome back to our Creature Feature time, mates!

If you have a dog, show a picture of your dog and say the following. If you don't have a dog, just ask if they do.

This is my dog ____. I love _____. Describe your dog and what you like to do. Then have them tell their neighbor if they have a dog and what its name is.

SHOW: Dingo slide

Today's animal is a member of the dog kind, and it may look cuddly like your pet at home, but don't be fooled! It's a dingo, and though a dingo is cute, it can be very fierce!

SHOW: Dingo fence slide

People in Australia have built the longest fence in the world, the Dingo Fence, to keep dingoes out of part of the country so they can't kill as many animals.

SHOW: Dingo teeth slide

Dingoes are known for their teeth which are longer, sharper, and more massive than other dogs' teeth. In this sin-cursed world, they use these teeth to help them capture and eat their prey more easily. They travel and work together in a group called a pack when they're on the hunt. There can be around 10 dingoes in a pack.

Do you like to eat leftovers? **Pause.** Well, a pack of dingoes sometimes hunts large animals like kangaroos, and when they gather more food than they can eat, they bury the food and come back later for the leftovers.

SHOW: Dingo head turning slide

Turn your head all the way to the right. **Do so.** Now turn it all the way to the left. **Do so.** Did you know dingoes can turn their heads 180 degrees so they can see behind them? Humans and domestic dogs can't turn their heads nearly as far as dingoes! After Adam disobeyed, bringing sin and death into the world, God gave them this ability so they can easily spot their prey in the wild.

SHOW: Dingo howling slide

Everybody, let's try our best howl. **Do so.** Did you know dingoes don't usually bark? Instead, they howl like wolves and have even been called the "singing dogs." God gave them the ability to howl to find other dingoes that belong in their pack or to scare off intruders. Their howls would be enough to scare me off, that's for sure!

SHOW: Dingo walking slide

Act like you're opening a door. **Do so.** Did you see how your wrist moved? God gave dingoes unusual wrists that can rotate like a human wrist. The dingo is double-jointed all throughout its body, allowing it to open doors, reach through small openings in fences, and even climb trees. Their paws act like human hands which allow them to get into places other dogs could never go to catch their food.

SHOW: Ringo the dingo slide

Dingoes like Ringo have their place and their purpose in all of God's creation, as does every animal. But God has a unique purpose for each human. He made us to live for him, and each one of you has a special, God-given role. Your role will look different than mine. God has given you just the right combination of talents, personality, and experiences to fulfill your purpose in his kingdom. He's made you in his image, with great care and purpose, to bring him glory and for the good of all of us! He has created each of us *on purpose for a purpose!* And when we all work together, it's amazing what can happen for God's kingdom. Now get on out there and do what God made you to do!

Drama (8–15 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 (1 minute)

Here's our Takeaway thought for the day. **Pause.** You are created *by God for God*. You are created *on purpose for a purpose*. Let's say our memory verse together. **Recite** Ephesians 2:10.

In other words, if you're a Christian, then God has prepared good works just for you. So let's see what you think about the following: Which is more special? Being a head of a company or working at that company in a cubicle? **Pause.** Owning a restaurant or making food for homeless people? **Pause.** Being a news broadcaster on TV or being a stay-at-home mom, changing diapers and playing with kids? **Pause.** Being a student or being a sports star? **Pause.** You see, if you're part of God's family, any role in life is important because he has prepared good works for you to do wherever you are—right now and as you grow! Just love God and love others through all that you do. Think of *God* and think of *others*. Live for *God* and live for *others*. That's why we're here!

Dismissal

Song (play as children leave)

Your favorites