



**Elementary Curriculum
Day by Day**

DAY 1

THE PONDER POINT: “THE BIG PLAN”: *GOD IS REDEEMER*

REMEMBER VERSE: Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

BIBLE LESSON: Adam and Eve—relationship broken & redemption promised (Genesis 2–3)

THEME FOR THE DAY: Big Welcome Day

ACTIVITY	TIME	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Prayer and Preparation Time	60 min	Site Leader
Registration and Check-In	20 min	Registration Leader
Anticipate	20 min	Anticipate/Create Leader
Connect//Games	15 min	Game Leader
Connect//Small Groups	10 min	All Leaders
Announcements	5 min	Storyteller
Celebrate//Large Group	20 min	Storyteller (and optional Worship Leader)
Respond//Small Groups	15 min	All Leaders
Snack	10 min	All Leaders
Create	20 min	Anticipate/Create Leader
Bible Learning Games	15 min	Game Leader
Game Time	20 min	Game Leader
Bless and Dismiss	10 min	Storyteller
Team Debrief	30 min	Site Leader

DAY 1

SUPPLY LIST

Registration and Check-In

child registration forms
daily sign-in sheets
name tags (shipping labels)
markers

Anticipate

construction paper
scissors
tape
yarn
washable markers
pom-poms
pipe cleaners
feathers
craft glue tubes

Connect//Games

none

Connect//Small Groups

rubber chicken (1 per small group)

Celebrate//Large Group

Bibles
TBGS Image #1: Eden
Ponder Point paper strip #1: "The Big Plan": *God Is Redeemer*
twine
clothespins (3)
rainbow yarn or crepe paper streamers in 5 colors
gold foil seal
music (optional)

Respond//Small Groups

The Big God Story flipbooks
pens/pencils
gallon sized sealable plastic bag

Snack Break

cheese crackers (optional)
juice boxes (optional)

Create

canvas drawstring backpacks
fabric markers

Bible Learning Games

poster board (1 piece, will also use for Game Time)
washable markers
construction paper (20 sheets)
tape

Game Time

poster board (use the back of the piece from the Bible Learning Game)
marker

Bless and Dismiss

Daily Take Home pages

DAY 1

INSPIRE

The longer I was in South Africa, the less I was praying and reading God's Word. I was too overwhelmed with the pain and brokenness around me. Faced with the harsh reality of suffering, my faith was challenged as never before.

In the grand scheme of things, did our work even matter? Did it end the suffering? No. I looked up at the night sky. Amidst the pitch-black, a strip of stars stretched on a swirling deep purple and tan backdrop—more stars than I had ever seen in my whole life. My jaw dropped. I realized I wasn't just looking at stars. I was looking at the Milky Way. I was looking directly at, and through, our galaxy.

I could feel myself shrinking in the light of His majesty. In that moment, I was reminded that my ways are not His ways; God's ways are perfect. And yet God is not distant or removed from the brokenness of this imperfect world. I cannot fix the brokenness and hurting, but He is more than able. He allowed me to glimpse His universe. And once again, I was filled with hope and faith. If He can create, then He can redeem.

—Erika Abdelatif

EQUIP

In the first chapters of the Bible, we see God's perfect love and care for His creation. Genesis, which means "origin," explains how God created everything in the universe and the world. God created everything ex nihilo—out of nothing. Yet, immediately after creation, the universe and the earth were an empty, unproductive chaos. So God ordered, formed, and spoke everything into the beautiful, vibrant life we see.

After this first, explosive act of creativity, God separated His creation into categories. In the first five days of creation, God separated dark from light, water from sky, sea from land, and then filled these empty canvases with life: stars, fish, birds, and land animals.

On day six, God moved to the climax of His creation. He created mankind. He had spent the first five days building a home for mankind, who have the privilege of being made in God's image. And God gave the first humans full responsibility over the earth and the animals. Man lived in perfect harmony with God.

But the first people gave up their right to live in perfect harmony with God when they chose to sin. Still, no sooner had the wound been inflicted than the remedy was revealed: God gave the people the promise of the Redeemer, who would eventually pay the penalty for the sins of mankind (Genesis 3:15).

And so God's redemptive plan began to unfold. He covered Adam and Eve with skins, costing the life of an innocent animal to do so. He also gave a promise about the Redeemer—Jesus—who would eventually be the innocent sacrifice who would pay the penalty for the sins of all mankind.

SUPPORT

"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant." (Hebrews 9:14-15)

Jesus paid it all. He stripped Himself of His glory, came to earth as a man, and gave up His life so we could be free. Once in a while, the unbelievable truth of what Christ did for us on the cross really sinks in. Once in a while, we're awestruck, convicted, humbled, amazed, grateful, and overwhelmed by the love we've received.

How long has it been since God has bowled you over with the truth of how perfectly He loves you? This week ask God to stir your heart. Ask Him to give you a glimpse of how astonishing His love is. Ask Him to use you as His vessel, out of which He can pour His perfect love into others.

REGISTRATION AND CHECK-IN

Registration Leader: 20 min

Volunteers can take this opportunity to greet each child and parent, introducing them to kids and leaders. This portion of the day sets the tone for the site. Prior to parents leaving, the Registration Leader will make sure the appropriate paperwork has been filled out for each child. Each site will be provided with a registration packet that will include registration and liability release forms and sign-in sheets for each day of VBS. All of the children in attendance must have a completed registration form signed by their parent or legal guardian. Parents/guardians must sign their children in upon arrival and sign them out for dismissal. Each site should have a table designated for registration.

Materials: child registration forms, daily sign-in sheets, name tags (shipping labels), markers

Relate: Registration on this first day is especially important. The dress-up theme for today is a “Big Welcome” and that’s just what you want to make sure happens. Make sure everyone gets a big welcome! In the days to come the children will prepare for the day’s theme before arriving. But since today is the first day, everyone will be using the giant name tags to dress-up. While parents are filling out paperwork, ask the children to take the name tags (the shipping labels, the smaller normal name tags will be used the other days) and write their names on them. Encourage them to write big! They can also decorate them as time allows.

ANTICIPATE: CRAZY CRITTERS

Anticipate/Create Leader: 20 min

This is an energizing time for parents and kids to start engaging with the material that will be presented in the lesson. It’s intentionally designed to spark curiosity and cultivate a sense of awe and wonder about God. Encourage parents to stay and participate in this time if they’re dropping off their children.

Materials: construction paper, scissors, tape, yarn, washable markers, pom-poms, pipe cleaners, feathers, craft glue tubes

Prepare: Prepare a work area where children will be able to explore and create at their own pace. They’ll be using the materials to create animals. These might be recreations of real animals or imaginary ones.

Relate: As the kids arrive and check in today, welcome them and direct them toward the Anticipate activity. This is primarily a chance for kids to meet and engage with one another as they participate in some side-by-side fun. Encourage leaders who aren't assisting with registration and check-in to take these first few moments to introduce themselves to the kids and families, making sure everyone is welcomed and feels the excitement!

Today we're going to hear about how God created everything, and how He has a plan for all of His creation! He was super creative when He made all of the animals and plants and stars and planets, and especially each of us! I don't know about you, but some of my favorite parts of God's creation are the animals. Let me hear what some of your favorite animals are. Have the kids take a few seconds to shout out their favorite animals. **Well, right now we are going to create some animals out of these supplies! Be ready to share about your animal with some of your new friends later.**

Let the children know they can use any of the supplies in their creations. Encourage them to be creative and have fun.

CONNECT//GAMES: GOOD TO MEET YA!

Game Leader: 10 min

The Connect Games are designed for children to have fun while engaging with others. Use this time to be silly and help new kids feel comfortable by inviting them to participate.

Materials: none

Relate: Gather the kids together in a group. Explain that you are going to call out several things that the children might or might not have done before. (See activities below.) Designate two sides of the game area, a "Yes" and a "No" side. Everyone who has done the said activity should go to the "Yes" side, while everyone who has not done the activity should go to the "No" side. Ask the kids to move quickly; decide if running is appropriate for your space and group. Once children have moved to the appropriate sides, take a second to recognize each group, and then ask them to move back toward the middle of the area. Upon meeting in the middle they must shake the hand of at least one person from the opposite side. (If there are lots of kids on one side and only a few on the other, the few kids will have to shake lots of hands.) When they shake hands, they should say, "Hello, my name is (child's name) ... Good to meet ya!" in their best exaggerated southern drawl. Remember this is a time to be silly. Before beginning, go around and shake the hands of as many of the kids as possible, giving them your best "Good to meet ya!".

Have you ever put your shirt on backwards?

Have you ever stubbed your toe?

Have you ever coughed and hiccuped at the same time?

Have you ever accidentally stuck your straw up your nose?

Have you ever put two different socks on?

Have you ever gotten sick from eating too much junk food?

Have you ever stayed up all night?

Have you ever chewed gum so long that it falls apart?

Have you ever jumped off of a diving board?
Have you ever eaten so much sour candy that your mouth hurts?
Have you ever found your birthday or Christmas presents early?

CONNECT//SMALL GROUPS:

All Leaders: 10 min

VBS small groups are designed for kids to laugh, play, and form new relationships in a smaller setting. Each day kids will engage in traditions and answer fun questions within their small group.

Materials: Rubber chicken

Prepare: Each leader will have a group of five to seven children. Site Leaders might consider dividing the small groups by age when possible. Consider grouping ages five to six, seven to nine, and ten to twelve. However, at smaller sites or sites where ages are not so evenly divided, it can actually be fun to have kids of varying ages learning and playing together.

Relate: As you're getting started today, take time to connect with the kids in your small group. Find a place to sit in a circle. This time will be important for kids to get to know you, as well as for you to know them. Be sure to begin by giving everyone a Big Welcome by name. Then, explain to the children that each day everyone in your small group will get a chance to pass around the rubber chicken and get to know each other a little better. If you'd like, your group can decide on a name for your chicken! There will be a Connect Question that you'll ask the kids each day. Pass the rubber chicken around the group and have each person answer the question.

Connect Question: Earlier today we had a chance to create some of our favorite animals. Take a moment and tell us about your creation. Is it a real animal or one you thought of in your mind? What is your favorite thing about your animal?

After everyone answers the Connect Question, you can also ask them to share highs and lows. Explain that "highs" are things that they're excited about in their life right now. "Lows" are the difficult things they're experiencing. This is a great way for you to learn ways to pray for your kids. Don't be afraid to take every opportunity to pray with them. If a child shares a "low" that needs prayer, take a moment to stop and pray as a group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Storyteller: 5 min

This is a time for kids to hear about the missions project for the week and also hear about daily traditions and instructions on dress-up days. Kids can also be reminded about the Family Remember & Celebrate Event at the end of the week.

Missions Project: The Registration Leader can inform the Storyteller about what to announce, or the Registration Leader can do the announcement on his own.

Dress-up Days: Tomorrow (Tuesday) will be Big Hair Day! This can be interpreted as literal bigness, or simply big in style. Encourage them to be creative and have fun. Let them know that they'll get a chance to show off their big hair tomorrow!

Family Remember & Celebrate Event: Tell kids about the Family Event on Friday. Encourage them to invite their families!

CELEBRATE//LARGE GROUP:

Storyteller and optional Worship Leader: 20 min

During this time, kids get to connect with God and others as they experience The Big God Story through engaging Storytelling.

Scripture: Genesis 2–3; Adam and Eve—relationship broken & redemption promised

The Ponder Point: “The Big Plan”: *God Is Redeemer*

Materials: Bibles, TBGS Image #1: Eden, Ponder Point strip #1: “The Big Plan”: *God Is Redeemer*, twine, clothespins (3), rainbow yarn or crepe paper streamers in 5 colors, gold foil seal, and music (optional)

Prepare Storytelling: Images from *The Big God Story* (written by Michelle Anthony, illustrated by Cory Godbey) storybook will be used to create a storyboard throughout the week. At the end of the week, the kids will be able to look back on the storyboard and share The Big God Story as well as what they know about God.

Prepare by stringing your piece of twine between two secure objects. (The twine should be approximately 10 feet long. Allow for around 7 feet of space to hang the pictures.) Each day you will add another image and the day's Ponder Point to the twine. Use the clothespins to hang the images and Ponder Point paper strips on the twine (2 clothespins for the images and 1 for the strips of paper).

Additionally, to visually connect the parts of The Big God Story and the thread of redemption you will string your rainbow yarn or crepe paper streamers between the images. (The rainbow yarn and crepe paper should also be approximately 10 feet long.) You will attach the yarn to the images with the gold foil seals. If you have a larger group and are teaching in a larger space consider using the crepe paper option, instead of the rainbow yarn. The effect will be the same, but the crepe paper will have a bigger visual impact. If using the crepe paper, group several colorful streamers together to create a rainbow effect and drape them over the images. You can still use the gold foil seals to help secure them.

Prepare Worship: If your site has a Worship Leader, consider leading the children in worship through music during Celebrate/Large Group. Deciding whether your site will have a time of singing isn't merely dependent upon whether or not you have a leader. You must take into consideration the group of kids at your particular site. Are they ready to participate in singing? For some unchurched children, singing and dancing in a big group is probably something they aren't used to doing.

If your site is going to have a time of worship through music, it might be best, at least at the beginning of the week, to keep the songs light and fun.

Storytelling:

Friends, I'm so glad you're here! This week we are going to have lots of fun as we learn about God and The Big God Story. We find The Big God Story in a special book called the Bible. (Hold up your Bible.) **During this time each day, we'll have the chance to hear different parts of The Big God Story. It is the greatest story ever told! It's a story of adventure, excitement, and promise. It's all about God's love for us, and it's all true! Before we get started, let's take a moment to ask God to help us quiet our hearts and minds so we can hear what He wants to teach us today.** (Lead children in the Prayer of Release.)

The Prayer of Release is a time for children and leaders to pause and ask God to quiet their hearts and minds. Encourage kids and leaders to hold their hands out in front of their body as if releasing their worries and distractions. This posture of prayer helps prepare us to receive from the Holy Spirit.

The Big God Story begins before everyone and everything was created. We read the beginning of The Big God Story in a part of the Bible called Genesis. (Open your Bible to Genesis to help the kids understand that, even when you're storytelling, the things you're sharing are straight from the Bible.)

In the very beginning there was no earth. No stars. No sun. No water. No animals. No people. But God was there, and God began to create. He spoke the whole universe into existence, from the tiniest bug, to the biggest whale. I wonder, what is the biggest animal you've ever seen? (Allow a few children to respond.) **Well, God created everything from the dust of the ground to the stars in the sky. Then God formed a man from the dust and breathed life into him ... and the man became a living being. God called him Adam. Adam was unique from all the rest of creation. Adam was made in the image of God!**

(Take TBGS Image #1: Eden, and hang it on the twine with 2 of the clothespins.) **Adam lived in the most beautiful place.** (Point to the picture.) **It was a place called the garden of Eden. The garden had trees that were full of delicious things to eat. What are some things you might like to eat from a garden?** (Allow a few children to respond.) **That all sounds yummy! In the garden of Eden there was one tree that God told Adam not to eat from. It was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We don't really know what this tree looked like, but we know God did not want Adam to eat its fruit.** (Reference the picture.) **God had already given Adam so many beautiful trees full of fruit to eat. This was the only one that was off-limits. God said that the cost for disobeying and eating from the tree would be the ultimate cost. The cost was death.**

So the man lived in the garden and went to work taking care of the plants and the animals. But God knew that it wasn't good for Adam to be alone. So God caused Adam to go into a deep sleep. Then God took one of Adam's ribs and created a woman called Eve. This must have been such a wonderful life for the first people, Adam and Eve. They had a beautiful, perfect garden to live in. They knew no pain, no sadness, no fear.

The Bible says God even walked around in the garden with them!

But sadly, something happened that changed all of this. One day a snake came to Eve and convinced her not to listen to God. Remember, God had said that if the people ate from the tree that was off-limits, they would die. They wouldn't be able to live with God in the garden forever. The snake lied and told Eve that it would actually be ok to eat from that tree. So Eve ate some of the fruit and shared it with Adam. Adam and Eve knew right away that they had made the wrong choice, and they were ashamed. They tried to hide from God because they had sinned. The Bible says that like them, we all are sinners.

We are sinners, but God is perfect. He is holy. Everything He does is good and right. He loves us so much, but He is too holy to live with people who are in disobedience and sin. So Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful garden where they walked and talked with God. They must have been so sad as they walked away. But God never stopped loving them, and He had a plan to make things right again! A plan to fix the broken relationship between His people and Himself. A plan to redeem His whole creation.

Right there in the very beginning of the story God made a promise that we wouldn't have to be separated from Him forever because of our sin. God promised that He would send a Savior to come and redeem us. What does that word mean, redeem? (Pause.) To redeem means to buy something back; or to give something that you have so that you can get something else. Jesus gave His life for us, so that He could pay the price of our sin. That was God's plan all along. The Redeemer came to pay the price for our sin by dying in our place. Who is the Redeemer? Jesus, that's right. For the rest of this week, we will hear all about God's big plan and His promise to redeem His creation (hold up the Ponder Point paper strip that says "The Big Plan": *God Is Redeemer* and then secure it to the twine next to the image using a clothespin). This can help us to remember God's promise of redemption, so let's see if we can follow the thread of redemption in each story we hear this week. (Hold up the rainbow yarn or crepe paper and secure one section of it to the image with the seal. Let the remainder hang down, as it will be used in the coming days.) We can see God keeping His promise to send a Redeemer in every part of The Big God Story, but it didn't happen right away. God's people had to wait. And we have to wait till tomorrow to hear the next part of the story too!

RESPOND//SMALL GROUPS:

All Leaders: 10 min

Respond is a time for children to engage in relationship, reflect on the lesson, and consider how God might want to transform their lives. During Respond, help kids to have spiritual conversations, reflect on who God is in their lives, and explore what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

Small Group Circle Questions:

Younger Children

- I wonder ... How did the garden look and smell?
- I wonder ... What did Adam and Eve talk to God about in the garden?
- I wonder ... Why do you think Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God?
- I wonder ... How do you think God felt when they disobeyed Him?

- I wonder ... How do you think Adam and Eve felt when they left the garden?
- I wonder ... What is a redeemer?
- I wonder ... Who is the Redeemer, and what did He do for us?
- I wonder ... What is The Big God Story, and how can we be part of it?

Older Children

- I wonder ... What do you think it was like to hear God’s voice and His footsteps in the garden?
- I wonder ... What kinds of things did God put in the garden?
- I wonder ... Why would you like to live in the garden?
- I wonder ... What kind of relationship did God want for the people He created—with each other and with Him?
- I wonder ... After the first people disobeyed Him, what did God do?
- I wonder ... What is a redeemer?
- I wonder ... Who is the Redeemer, and what did He do for us?
- I wonder ... What is The Big God Story, and how can we be part of it?

SMALL GROUP FLIPBOOK:

Materials: The Big God Story flipbooks, pens/pencils, gallon sized sealable plastic bag

The Ponder Point: “The Big Plan”: *God Is Redeemer*

Remember Verse: Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

Relate: After discussing the questions above, pass out the small group flipbooks to each child. This is a chance for your group to discuss and review the Ponder Point and the Remember Verse for the day. Have the kids write the Ponder Point for today at the top of the page. For younger kids, you may consider writing it out and having them copy it off of your paper. Then have the kids take some time to interact with the prompt in their booklet.

Prompt Day 1: Trace an outline of your hand in the box below. Did you know that your hands and your fingerprints are not like anyone else’s in the whole world?! God made you uniquely you, and He loves you just for being you! God sent Jesus to be your Redeemer. That is how much He loves you! Take a few minutes and write or draw on the tracing of your hand. Tell God how it makes you feel to know that He loves you that much.

If you have time, you can ask the kids if they’d like to share what they did in their books. Once everyone is done, collect the booklets and place them in the plastic bag to keep them together for tomorrow.

SNACK BREAK:

All Leaders: 10 min

Snack Break is a time to find some shade and take a break. Spend some time eating together and building relationships with one another. These spontaneous conversations during Snack Break can be some of the best conversations all week.

Materials: cheese crackers (optional), juice boxes (optional)

Prepare: Depending on the budget, snacks can be handled in different ways. You might consider providing a small snack on the first day, and then asking parents to send their children with their own personal snacks the following days. This ensures that children with special dietary needs or restrictions are getting an appropriate snack, and it can also keep costs down. Another option to consider is actually asking parents to bring a grouping of something. For example, one parent might bring two dozen juice boxes and another parent might provide a big box of cheese crackers. If the church won't be providing a daily snack, Site Leaders should make use of one of these options instead of feeling pressured to front the cost and provide the snacks themselves.

CREATE: BACKPACKS

Anticipate/Create Leader: 20 min

This is a time designed for kids to work individually or together to create a physical expression or remembrance of what they have learned during their time together.

Materials: canvas drawstring backpacks, fabric markers

Prepare: Each child should have a canvas bag and a few markers for this activity.

Relate: Once the children are finished in their small groups, gather everyone back together for a time to Create. **In today's part of The Big God Story we heard how God created everything, even us! He created us, He loves us, and He has a plan so we can be with Him forever. God is a creative God. Right now, we get a chance to be creative too!** Help the kids think of things they can draw or write on the bag to help them remember that God created them and loves them so much that He has a plan for them to be with Him forever! Have the kids write their names on their bags. Remind the kids to bring their backpacks with them each day to carry their supplies home.

BIBLE LEARNING GAMES: GET IN ORDER

Game Leader: 15 min

These games are a fun and interactive time to learn the Remember Verse for each day.

Materials: poster board (remember this will also be used for Game Time), 20 sheets of 8" x 11" construction paper, washable markers, tape

Remember Verse: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

Prepare: Write the verse on a poster board for all the kids to see. Then take the 20 pieces of construction paper and write one of the following words, phrases or numbers on each piece of paper.

1. Jesus
2. answered,
3. “I
4. am
5. the way
6. and the
7. truth
8. and
9. the
10. life.
11. No
12. one
13. comes
14. to
15. the Father
16. except
17. through
18. me.”
19. John
20. 14:6

Relate: Each day, children will get a chance to learn and memorize small portions of God’s Word. With all the activities of each day, sometimes it’s easy to forget the things God tells us in His Word. When kids memorize these verses, it helps them store away the truths God wants them to remember in their hearts and minds. Today we heard how God created each of us, and how He made a plan for us to be with Him, even though we sin. God’s plan is Jesus, and this verse from the Bible helps us remember that because of Jesus we can be with God. God sent Jesus to redeem us and pay the price for our sin.

Practice

Point to the poster board with the verse on it. Explain key words in the verse and say it together a few times. Optionally: As a group, decide on a motion or action for each word or phrase. Recite the verse (with or without motions) a few times.

Play

Give each child a piece of construction paper with a part of the verse written on it. Use the tape to attach the papers to the children’s backs. If you have fewer than 20 children you can give them multiple pieces of paper. Just make sure they do not have two parts of the verse that are right next to each other. The Game Leader should begin as “it,” and will tag the child who has “Jesus” taped on his back. “It” should take that paper and lay it on the ground. This will be the beginning of a line of papers that will form the verse. The child who was just tagged will then become “it” and will look to tag the child who has “answered” on her back.

This process continues, tagging children in the order of the verse. Once a child is done being “it,” he should wait on the side and help the child who is “it” by reminding her of the word she is looking for. (That is, unless the child has multiple words taped to him. In that case he would continue to play.) Once all the pieces of the verse have been collected, make sure they are all in order, and have the kids join you in reading through it one last time.

GAME TIME: LIONS, AND ELEPHANTS, AND GORILLAS, OH MY!

Game Leader: 20 min

Game time is designed to close out the day with kids playing together. It allows the kids to have fun, building greater relationships with the other kids and families in their community. If parents begin to arrive around this time, invite them to join in the closing game time.

Materials: poster board (use the back of the piece from the Bible Learning Game), marker

Relate: The game plays like a full body version of Rock, Paper, Scissors, where Elephant beats Gorilla, Gorilla beats Lion, and Lion beats Elephant. Each animal has a unique motion. Spend some time practicing the motions with the kids before beginning the game. Also, write out the order of who beats who on the backside of the poster board that was used during the Bible Learning Game to have as a reference during the game.

Motions

Elephant: hold your right arm up against your head and move your forearm up and down like a trunk

Gorilla: pound your fists on your chest

Lion: place both of your hands, open with palms facing out, up around your face, framing your face with a sort of mane

Remember

Elephant beats Gorilla

Gorilla beats Lion

Lion beats Elephant

This game can be played two different ways, as a group, or as individuals. To play as a group divide the children into two equal teams. At the beginning of each round, each team will huddle up and select a player for that round. They will also decide as a group which animal they want the player to be. After a few seconds the Game Leader will ask the two players to come forward. They should stand back to back, and when directed they will each take three steps apart. On the Game Leader’s “Go” the two players will then turn around showcasing their animal motion. Whoever wins gets a point for their team for that round.

To play as individuals, begin by having each child pick a partner. All pairs will play at the same time, with the Game Leader calling out directions. The children will stand back to back, take three steps apart, and then turn around and make their animal motions. The game leader should call out the order to help remind the children who won. The children can keep track of their own wins. Then have the children switch partners and play again.

At the end of your time invite the children to call out how many wins they had.

BLESS AND DISMISS:

Storyteller: 10 min

This is a time to pray over the kids before they leave. A blessing can be a portion of Scripture, a prayer of commission, or a word of encouragement. This will close the group's time together each day and will serve as the dismissal for the children. If parents begin to arrive around this time, invite them to participate in this special time.

Relate: As kids receive this blessing, tell them that they now have the opportunity to also be a blessing to others. Encourage them to freely give away to others the joy and love they have received from God today and throughout their lives. Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, palms up. This posture is meant to symbolize a willingness of heart to respond to God's Holy Spirit to receive what God has for them. Invite them to remain in this posture as you bless them.

Read this Scripture and blessing over them. You may wish to repeat the verse several times.

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8)

Blessing: Rejoice and praise God for the great promise He made. The Promise is Jesus!

During Dismiss, remember to:

- Have parents sign their children out.
- Hand out the Daily Take Home papers.
- Build relationships and get to know the parents.
- Remind everyone to come dressed for the next day's theme, Big Hair Day!
- Remind kids to bring their money for the Missions Project.
- Remind everyone about the Family Remember & Celebrate Event at the end of the week.

DAILY TEAM DEBRIEF:

Site Leader: 30 min

Team Debrief is a time for the site's team to come together to talk about the day. Site leaders should allow time for storytelling, affirmation, prayer, celebration, and planning for the next day. It's important for Site Leaders to be intentional with this time to build community within the team and to thank God for what He is doing at the site.