



A Simple Solution to VBS!

Preschool to Grade 6



WELCOME!

Welcome to Fixer Upper! We are so glad you have chosen to invest your time and energy to reach the kids in your church and community with the amazing message of God's love. It is our hope and prayer that the materials you have in hand, coupled with your efforts and God's grace, will make a lasting impact on the lives of the kids you minister to this summer.

As you drill down into everything you'll find in these pages and on the resource CD included, you'll find that Fixer Upper is an easy-to-implement VBS program that is also easy on your budget. The program has been built on a core ministry philosophy that is intentionally simple and focuses on relationship building.

Over the years we have found that kids don't really need us to put on a big production for them to learn the truths of God's Word and have fun. In fact, we have found that the most effective ministry to kids takes place when strong relationships are formed. So Fixer Upper seeks to help kids develop relationships with one another, caring adults, and, most importantly, Jesus.

We trust you will find that this program allows for the opportunity and time to build relationships while teaching the truths of God's Word. And we hope you will have fun in the process! As you dig into the material, feel free to add your creativity and special touch. Make it your very own and enjoy watching what God will do as you minister to the kids He brings your way.

I look forward to hearing from you about all that God accomplishes through your efforts. May His blessings be yours in abundance!

In Him,



Brian Ondracek
President/CEO
Pioneer Clubs

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Highlights of what you'll find on the Resource CD

DIRECTOR'S RESOURCES

Age Characteristics
 Director's Planning Calendar
 Registration Form
 Small Group Lists
 Supply Request Form
 Volunteer Sign-up Sheet
 Recruiting Bulletin Insert
 Job Descriptions
 Promotional Calendar

PROGRAM MATERIALS

Bible Memory Cards (3 translations)
 Under Construction Crafts Leader
 Resources
 Take-Home Tool Box Papers
 • Elementary
 • Preschool
 What's on Your Tool Belt? Sheets
 • Elementary
 • Preschool
 Sheet Music for VBS Songs
 Fixer Upper PowerPoint Template
 Music Lyrics PowerPoint

PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Artwork
 • Banner
 • Postcard
 • Poster
 • Bulletin Insert
 Logos
 Parent Letter
 Promotional Video Clip

CHAPTER FIVE

Days 1–5 Insights for Leaders





Sin Ruins, but God Restores

Genesis 1:27; 2:8-17; 3:1-15; 6:9-14; 11:1-9

Life Builder Tip: Building your life without God will NOT work!

Tool of the Day: Claw hammer – useful for demolishing or rebuilding.

Have you ever watched “This Old House” or other home fixer-upper shows on TV? The first step in their process is always demolition. You can’t build something the right way until you clear out what’s broken, faulty, or rotten!

As human beings, we need to admit that we’re messed up and need help. God created humans in His image to be in a relationship with Him. He made a beautiful Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve and walked with them there. But they rejected God’s plan and chose their own way. Their beautiful fellowship with Him was broken! Yet God still had a plan to bring salvation through their offspring. After Adam and Eve, generations came and went, and people grew more and more evil. Still, God did not give up. He sent a flood to curb sin, but preserved the family of Noah, who followed Him.

Noah’s descendants multiplied, and sin multiplied too. A large population gathered into a city on a plain, and decided to build a tower “to reach heaven.” Though there was nothing wrong with a tower in itself, this tower represented people glorifying themselves and looking to false gods. God saw that their plans would become increasingly evil—so He confused their language and stopped the tower we now call Babel. In His love, God restrained sin. He kept revealing the truths leading to His plan of salvation through Jesus.

Teacher Tidbits:

Today you’re sharing two key truths:

1. We all sin and turn away from God.
2. God still loves us and wants us to come back!

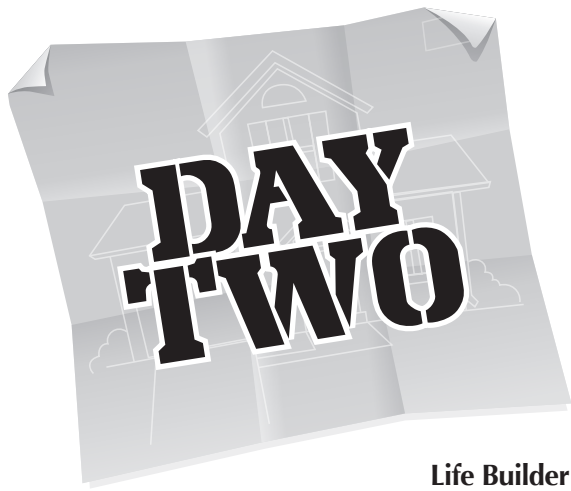
Younger kids will know what “bad” or “wrong” means if you provide concrete examples—but still may have trouble understanding their own sin. Older kids can recognize obvious sins, but need to grasp a more subtle truth: that we are sinning any time we want our own way instead of God’s. (Again, it helps to give examples.) For all ages, it’s important to emphasize God’s incredible, determined, and loving desire to bring us back to Himself.

Bible Focus: We sinfully chose our own plan instead of God’s loving design – yet God can help us return to Him.

Key Verse: “For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything” – Hebrews 3:4 (NIV).

“For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God” – Hebrews 3:4 (ESV).

“For every house is builded by some man; but He that built all things is God” – Hebrews 3:4 (KJV).



God Can Rebuild You If You Turn to Him

Nehemiah 1:3-11; 2:1-18; 4:1-15; 6:15-16; Hebrews 11:8-10, 24-28, 32-34

Life Builder Tip: God can build your life the right way through Jesus.

Tool of the Day: Bubble level – used to determine if foundations, beams, and more are level and true.

In construction, an unstable or uneven foundation will lead to big problems for the whole structure! The only solid, perfect foundation for our lives is the one laid by God in Christ.

After the Tower of Babel, God continued with His plan to save us. Over the years, He taught people the truth about His goodness, their sin, and their need to repent. His messengers (Abraham, Moses, David, and more) are included in the honor roll of faith in Hebrews 11. But God has no “grandchildren” – each generation must seek Him on its own. Sadly, after King David’s death, God’s people slid into idolatry. God allowed the nation to split and then be conquered. Jerusalem was demolished, and the people were taken into captivity.

Fortunately for them – and for us – our God is a God of grace and second chances! Years later, Nehemiah was serving in the court of a pagan king when he heard about the deplorable conditions in Jerusalem. When Nehemiah prayed and repented on behalf of the people, God granted him a way back to his beloved city. There Nehemiah explored the ruined wall and spoke to the small, discouraged group of returned Jews. When he told them of his prayer of repentance and of God’s promise to help, their hope was restored. They labored together faithfully in spite of backbreaking work and enemy threats. When the wall was repaired in record time, the people praised God – and all the surrounding nations were awed by God’s power!

Years later, Jesus would walk the streets of that same Jerusalem: teaching, healing, and ultimately dying for sins like Nehemiah’s and ours – and rising again.

Teacher Tidbits:

Kids often have a keen sense of what’s fair and unfair. Some kids – like the inhabitants of Jerusalem – may think God could never forgive them or help them because of something they’ve done. As you share the lesson, show the wonder of God’s love for sinners. God offers much more than fairness – He offers grace.

Bible Focus: Sin destroys God’s plans for us – but if we repent, He can give us a new start through Jesus.

Key Verse: “For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ” – 1 Corinthians 3:11 (NIV).

“For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” – 1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV).

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ” – 1 Corinthians 3:11 (KJV).



God Changes Us From the Inside Out

Luke 19:1-10

Life Builder Tip: Jesus can forgive you and give you a new, changed life.

Tool of the Day: Screwdriver – tightens screws firmly when attaching things, or loosens screws to examine the inside of something.

In a home renovation, unseen repairs are often the most important! Damaged wiring has to be replaced and faulty plumbing redone before the house can function as it should. Similarly, people need a “heart change.” Once they repent of sin, Jesus gives them a new heart – and then their lives can really shine!

Before Jesus came to him, Zacchaeus was well-known in Jericho – but not in a good way. People despised him for collecting taxes for the hated Romans. And they were furious that he collected more than he should, just to enrich himself. But Zacchaeus’s reputation was about to turn around. First, he surprised everyone by wanting to see Jesus, even climbing a tree (a rather undignified activity) to get a look. Perhaps he knew that his life needed to change, and that Jesus could help.

Zacchaeus was delighted – and the people were shocked – when Jesus invited Himself to Zacchaeus’s house for dinner. They had written off Zacchaeus as a sinner, but Jesus offered him salvation. At the dinner, Zacchaeus displayed his new heart by promising to give half his wealth to the poor and to repay 400 percent to those he had cheated. Jesus had come to seek and save the lost – even us! Like Zacchaeus, we can be saved and made new.

Teacher Tidbits:

Zacchaeus is a wonderful example of a life turned around by Jesus. Kids should see that if there’s hope for Zacchaeus through Jesus, there’s hope for anyone! Today’s lesson includes a salvation prayer that the kids can repeat after you. But the words in themselves are not magic; the Holy Spirit must work in their hearts for them to repent and receive the new life Jesus offers. Pray that God will use the lesson to plant seeds of understanding in kids just learning about Him, growth in the hearts of others, and even the fruit of salvation in some.

Bible Focus: When we trust in Jesus for salvation, He remakes us to be new inside.

Key Verse: “For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill His good purpose” – Philippians 2:13 (NIV).

“For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure” – Philippians 2:13 (ESV).

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure” – Philippians 2:13 (KJV).



God's Spirit Keeps Working on Us

Acts 9:1-22; 11:25-26; 13:1-9; 1 Timothy 1:15-16;
2 Timothy 1:7-8

Life Builder Tip: God's Holy Spirit gives power to transform us.

Tool of the Day: Power drill – creates holes for screws and fasteners, using electricity or batteries rather than just human muscle.

A home makeover doesn't happen in a day. It takes a lot of time and work! And even if a TV show "finishes" a fixer-upper project in two weeks, the house isn't completely "done." Why? Because any owners will continue to modify their home over time to better fit their plans. In the same way, believers' lives receive ongoing "renovation" to fulfill God's plans.

Saul sure needed a makeover! A passionate teacher of the Jewish law, he was so infuriated by Jesus' teachings that he threw Christians in jail. But as Saul traveled to Antioch to imprison more believers, he was halted by an encounter with the risen Christ. The shining light blinded Saul's eyes, but Jesus' voice opened his heart. Saul knew now that Jesus truly was the Lord God. Three days later, Saul's sight was restored, he received the Holy Spirit, and was baptized. Immediately he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues.

Saul had done a U-turn. Was he done changing? No! The power of the Holy Spirit continued to develop him for God's purposes. First, he was mentored by Barnabas as they pastored a church together. Then the Spirit set Saul and Barnabas apart for a mission work. Soon Saul began using his Greek name, Paul, which was more acceptable to Gentiles. And Paul continued to grow, telling his protégé Timothy that he was thankful for God's help in facing fear, and for God's patience in his life. We too can be thankful that God keeps patiently working on us for His purposes!

Teacher Tidbits:

Today's kids live in a world where they can instantly call parents at any time or see a photo with the touch of a finger on a smart phone. When they don't see "instant" spiritual change in themselves, they may become discouraged. Remind them that most activities – such as learning to read, ride a bike, tie shoes, or shoot a basket – take time and practice, and spiritual growth does too. The encouraging news is that God promises to stick with us until we finish the process!

Bible Focus: Throughout our lives, God transforms us by the work of the Holy Spirit.

Key Verse: "Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" – Philippians 1:6 (NIV).

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" – Philippians 1:6 (ESV).

"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" – Philippians 1:6 (KJV).



God Invites Us to Our Forever Home

John 14:1-6, 25-27; Revelation 21:1-4, 10-27; 22:1-5

Life Builder Tip: We're on our way to the best home of all – with God!

Tool of the Day: Measuring tape – a way to determine if something fits just right.

Fixer-upper shows often end with a “big reveal,” when the results of the renovation are unveiled. The designers want the homeowners to be thrilled with what they see! But the thrill of that “big reveal” will be nothing compared with our experience of seeing heaven!

During the Last Supper, Jesus told His followers He was going to leave them and be killed. Though they did not fully comprehend His words, they were worried and afraid. Jesus comforted them with a glimpse of the future. He said that His Father's house had many rooms, and He was going there to prepare a place for them. Even better, He would come back and bring them there Himself! Jesus didn't always talk about what heaven looked like. Instead, He emphasized that He would be there, and they would be with Him.

The young disciple John recorded Jesus' words. Later, as an old man, John was granted a vision of heaven. The sight must have been stunning; he described brilliant light, gold, jewels, and more. Yet the emphasis is the same as at the Last Supper. The most important thing about heaven isn't what is there, but who is there!

John's Book of Revelation closes with God and Christ dwelling in a huge, beautiful city among their people. No darkness, sin, or tears can ever invade this kingdom where God's glory shines into every corner. This is the fellowship that God intended for us from the days of Eden. Our sin destroyed that plan and banished us from His presence. But because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can receive a new life. We can dwell with Him forever – hallelujah!

Teacher Tidbits:

Your kids may have heard frivolous ideas about heaven as a place of clouds where everyone wears wings. They may want to speculate about pets in heaven, or favorite foods. As you teach, be honest: There are many things we do NOT know about heaven. Then point them to what we DO know. Heaven is our best and ultimate home because we'll live there in joy with those we love most – God, Jesus, and other believers!

Bible Focus: When we get to be in heaven with God, all our “remodeling” will be done, and we will have great joy!

Key Verse: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people’” – Revelation 21:3a (NIV).

“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people’” – Revelation 21:3a (ESV).

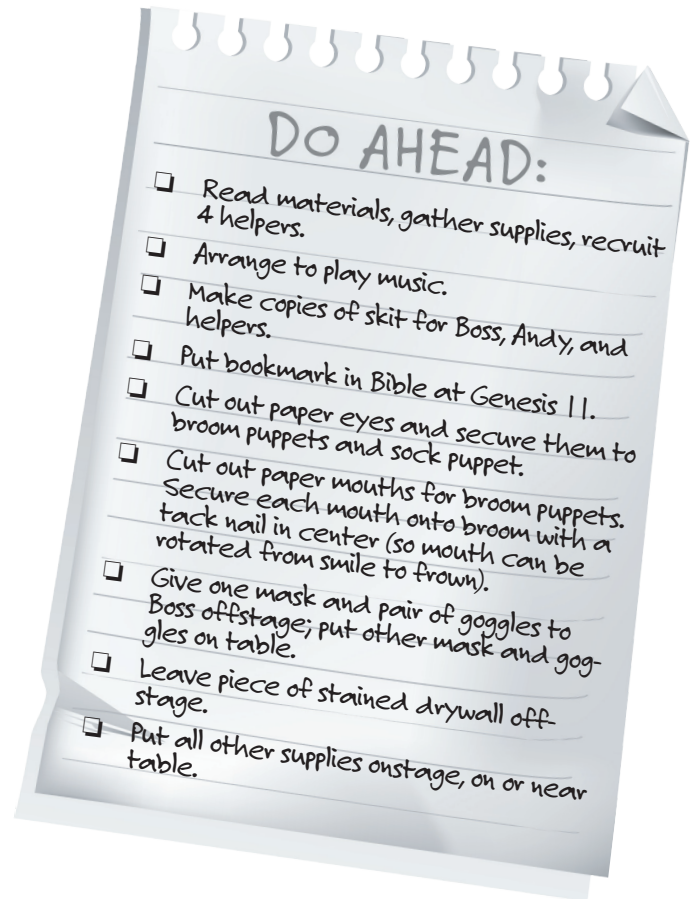
“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people” – Revelation 21:3a (KJV).

DAY 1: DEMOLITION DAY

LARGE GROUP OPENING

Supplies for Skit:

- Clipboard, copy of skit, and costume for the Boss (see Getting Ready, p. 48)
- Pocket folder, pencil, copy of skit, and costume for Andy (see Getting Ready, p. 48)
- 4 helpers to be “crew,” costume, and copy of skit for each (see Getting Ready, p. 48)
- Job site props (see Setting the Stage, p. 51)
- 2 disposable paper respirator masks (inexpensive, used for sanding, etc.)
- 2 pairs of safety goggles
- Medium-sized piece of drywall, made to look very dirty/stained/broken, with one edge nailed VERY loosely (just 2-3 nails) onto a short 2 x 4 board
- Bible
- Branch with greenery (real or artificial) Lunchbox with apple, orange, and banana inside
- Poster-sized piece of cardboard
- 1 long sock
- Eyes and mouths for broom puppets and sock puppet
- 30+ bricks (real bricks OR cardboard preschool bricks)
- Toy rubber snake



START-UP

Welcome:

ANDY: *Walks onstage carrying pocket folder and pencil. Acts excited to find hammer, nails, and scrap wood. Sits on floor and starts hammering nails into wood. Often hits thumb and says “Ouch!” Looks up, talks to audience in a stage whisper. Psst! I’m Andy! Don’t tell anyone, but I’m waiting for “the Boss” –*

you know, the one in charge of the BIG fixer-upper job in that house over there. Points offstage. I want to work there too. That’s why I’m practicing! Resumes hammering, with the occasional “Ouch!”

BOSS: *Walks onstage with clipboard, turns to audience.* Hi, everybody! Welcome to my work site at the (name of church) Vacation Bible School! I'm the Boss. We're all SO glad you could come this week! My crew and I are going to work on the house over there (gestures offstage) and do other fun stuff and -- *Interrupted by "Ouch!" and turns to ANDY.* Hey, are you OK?

ANDY: *Jumps up nervously.* I -- I'm fine. I hardly ever hit my thumb like that. I really like hammering. *Holds up hammer.* I'm Andy. So you are the -- the Boss?

BOSS: Yes, I am. Nice to meet you, Andy! *Extends hand for a shake.*

ANDY: *Flustered and still holding hammer, so drops it in order to shake BOSS'S hand. Hammer appears to fall on ANDY'S foot. Ouch! Hops up and down, holding foot.* I've been waiting for you. I want to work on your crew and learn about building! I'm even going to take notes! *Shows pocket folder and pencil.*

BOSS: Hmmm. *Scratches head.* So you would like to be my apprentice?

ANDY: *Looks puzzled.* Your "applesauce"? I like applesauce. But I don't see how I could BE your --

BOSS: *Interrupts.* Not applesauce -- apprentice! An apprentice is a learner.

ANDY: *Jumps up and down.* A learner? Great! I'd love to be your ap-per-ent-iss! Can you teach me something right now?

BOSS: Sure. Maybe I can teach everybody! *Gestures to audience, picks up hammer.* Do you know what this is called? *Audience responds.* This isn't just a hammer; it's a claw hammer! Claw hammers have been around since the Roman Empire! They can do FOUR different

things. *ANDY scribbles in pocket folder.* The first is that they can hammer nails. Let me give you some tips. *Kneels by board.*

ANDY: *Kneels next to BOSS.* OK, I'm ready!

BOSS: It's important to hit the nail the right way, hammering straight down and not to one side. *Holds nail in place and hands hammer to ANDY.* OK, when I nod my head, hit it! *Nods head.* *ANDY aims hammer at BOSS'S head. BOSS holds up arm to protect self.* Wait! Stop!

ANDY: *Puzzled, turns to audience.* The Boss said when he nodded his head (points to head) . . . I should hit it (points to head again)!

BOSS: *Looking concerned.* We'd better take a break and have some music now. We'll learn more about hammering later.

Music and Singing:

Teach the week's theme song, "Fixer Upper." Tell kids that today they'll be learning about how building our life without God doesn't work. Teach the day's song, "Never Give Up."

Introduction of Bible Theme:

ANDY reenters, still carrying folder, and starts hammering again. BOSS reenters wearing paper mask and goggles, carrying clipboard plus piece of old stained drywall.

ANDY: *Sees BOSS, jumps up, and shrieks.* Who are you? Are you an alien?

BOSS: *Removes mask and goggles.* It's just me, Andy, with my safety gear on for the demolition. *ANDY looks relieved.* *BOSS points offstage.* We have to tear apart just about everything in that house.

ANDY: *Looks shocked.* Tear it apart? It looks OK to me! I've been practicing hammering, and I'm ready to start building! *Motions with hammer.*

BOSS: Maybe the house looks okay on the outside, but on the inside it's a real mess. *Holds up drywall, points to stains.* Look -- there must have been a major water leak! It got into the drywall, and then mold and slime started to grow in it. See?

ANDY: *Makes faces, runs to stepladder, climbs halfway up.* Mold and slime? Eww! Gross!

BOSS: There are a lot of other problems in the house too. And that reminds me of the other 3 uses for a claw hammer! I need 3 volunteers! *Selects 3 kids to come up.*

ANDY: *Climbs down, gets pocket folder and pencil.* Three more uses!

BOSS: *Kneels down by ANDY'S board.* One use for the claw part is to pull nails OUT. *Has first volunteer help.* Just slide the two pieces of the claw under either side of the nail, and pull! *Helps kid pull out 1 nail.* Good job! *ANDY leads applause.* You can also use the end of the claw to pry things apart. Just wedge it in there and pull! *Helps second volunteer pry drywall off 2 x 4 board (should work if remaining nails are loose).* Great! *ANDY leads applause.* Last of all, sometimes you just need to smash something! *Holds hand of third volunteer and guides him in smashing a hole in drywall.* You got it! *ANDY leads applause, scribbles in pocket folder.* Kids return to seats.

ANDY: Boss, I still feel bad that you have to tear most of the house apart.

BOSS: Tearing it apart is the best way to fix it! If something is REALLY messed up, it's better to start over. We can be like that too.

ANDY: *Scratches head.* What do you mean?

BOSS: We build our lives the wrong way. We look OK on the outside, but on the inside, we're a mess! We are born sinners and sin messes it up for all of us. I know a story from the Bible about a messed-up building and the messed-up people who built it. Would you like to hear it?

ANDY: *Jumps up eagerly.* Yes, I love stories!

Bible Story:

BOSS: Great! I think I'll have my crew help me tell the story. Come here, crew! *HELPERS go to BOSS, who opens Bible. They whisper briefly.* Yes, I know you don't have REAL costumes or REAL props. Just use what you have! *HELPERS shrug and get to work.* *HELPER 1 moves stepladder to front of stage.* *HELPER 2 grabs blue tarp.* *HELPERS 3 and 4 get brooms, but do not show broom faces to audience yet.*

ANDY: *Meanwhile, gestures to BOSS, whispers loudly.* My friends want to hear the story too. But do they know what the Bible is?

BOSS: *Holds up Bible and asks audience to explain.* Yes, the Bible is God's Word -- His message to us! Every story in it is true, just like this one is. Now Andy, close your eyes and imagine a time long, long ago. *ANDY closes eyes.*

HELPERS: *HELPER 1 gets greenery and goes partway up stepladder. HELPER 2 lays blue tarp down near ladder, and holds one end. HELPERS 3 and 4 hold up broom puppets in front of their faces, with broom eyes and smiles facing toward kids.*

BOSS: Open your eyes! Our story starts with God, who is THE Master Planner! At the beginning of time, He created our world out of nothing: oceans, mountains, plants, animals, and people! He also made

a wonderful place for people to live. It was a beautiful garden with a river, grass, plants, animals, and trees full of delicious fruit.

HELPERS: *As BOSS reads, HELPER 1 moves greenery like a branch in the breeze. HELPER 2 wiggles blue tarp to look like river. HELPERS 3 and 4 bounce broom puppets up and down happily near the stepladder.*

BOSS: *Pauses and looks at HELPER 1. Ahem! I said, DELICIOUS FRUIT.*

HELPERS: *HELPER 1 gasps and runs to lunchbox to retrieve fruit. Goes back to ladder. Places banana and orange on lower rungs. Climbs back on ladder, holding apple and greenery in hand.*

BOSS: Thank you! *Opens Bible and reads Genesis 1:31a. God had created people so they would build their lives on Him. He had made this special place so He could be WITH them. But then the first humans – Adam and Eve – did something terrible. They listened to a terrible lie. ANDY looks worried.*

HELPER 2: *Puts down tarp, runs to table, puts on sock puppet, and takes it over to stepladder. Using sock puppet, says: Did God say NOT to eat that fruit from that tree? Gestures toward apple. Don't listen to Him! You can do whatever you want! God doesn't really love you!*

HELPERS 3 and 4: *Move broom puppets, saying: We can do whatever we want! God doesn't really love us! Broom puppets pretend to eat apple.*

BOSS: Adam and Eve listened to Satan, and disobeyed God. Deep inside, it changed their hearts and they became sinners. There was a terrible change in their relationship with God! Their sin blocked the good relationship they had had with God and they had to leave His special garden. *HELPERS 3 and 4 turn*

broom mouths from smiles to frowns, move away from ladder and tarp. Soon there were more and more people in the world but every new baby had sin in their heart from the very beginning. It made people still build their lives the wrong way. Their hearts were messed-up, slimy, and moldy.

HELPERS: *As BOSS reads, HELPER 2 picks up another broom puppet (with frowning face) and joins HELPERS 3 and 4. All three puppets pretend to fight and argue, saying: We can do whatever we want!*

ANDY: *Surprised. They're pretty mean and nasty, aren't they!*

BOSS: Worse and worse! *Reads Genesis 6:11. God wanted to give people another chance to follow Him. He told a man named Noah to build a big boat, because a terrible flood was coming. Noah and his family obeyed – but no one else did.*

HELPERS: *As BOSS reads about Noah from Genesis 7:11-24, HELPERS 1 and 2 hold ends of blue tarp and raise it up slowly to look like water rising. HELPERS 3 and 4 pick up the poster-sized cardboard and hold smiling broom puppets behind it as if they are in the ark. As tarp rises up, they move "ark" up above it as if floating on the water.*

ANDY: Hooray! God saved Noah's family from that flood. Now people wanted to follow God, right?

BOSS: No, the real problem was sin and that only gets worse. Soon there were lots of people again, and this time they decided to build a tower together. Not just any tower – the biggest, tallest tower the world had ever seen! They made it out of bricks.

HELPERS: *HELPERS 1, 2, 3, and 4 make all broom puppets frown. They bring bricks, 2 buckets, and 2 trowels over to stepladder. HELPERS slowly work in*

pairs on "tower" next to stepladder; one gets a brick to put on the stack and the other pretends to spread mortar using the trowel and bucket.

ANDY: *Smiling.* That sounds pretty cool!

BOSS: But it was NOT cool. Their hearts were still messed-up, slimy, and moldy. *Reads Genesis 11:4, emphasizing the words "reaches to the HEAVENS" and "a name for OURSELVES."* They were building the tower to show how great THEY were. They were doing whatever they wanted. They didn't believe God loved them!

HELPERS: *Talking as they work.* We can do whatever we want! We don't need God!

BOSS: God wanted people to build on His plan, not their own. He didn't want this tower to mess up their lives. He had to stop it!

ANDY: What did He do?

BOSS: He changed their talking. Instead of speaking the same language, suddenly they were all talking in *different* languages! When one person said, "Put the brick over here," the other one just heard "Babble, babble." They couldn't understand each other, and started fighting.

HELPERS: *Start talking gibberish to each other, argue, fight, exit.*

BOSS: *Reads Genesis 11:8.* And that was the end of the Tower of Babel. God did that to protect them and stop the sin from getting worse. *Turns to crew.* Good job, crew! Thanks for helping tell our story! *ANDY leads applause. Crew exits and BOSS turns to ANDY and audience.* So here's today's Life Builder Tip: Building your life without God will NOT work! Say that with me. *Everybody repeats Life Builder Tip.*

ANDY: That's kind of a sad story, Boss.

BOSS: You're right. But that's not the end. God is the Master Planner! He wanted a relationship with us no matter what. He had a plan to rebuild those messed-up people! We'll talk more about that tomorrow.

ANDY: *Points offstage.* Now I know why you have to tear apart that house. You have to get rid of the bad stuff so you can start over the right way.

BOSS: Very good, Andy! You got it! Welcome to my crew! *Hands ANDY a paper mask and/or safety goggles.*

Bible Memory:

ANDY: *Looks thrilled, puts on mask and/or goggles.* Let's go!

BOSS: Wait! First we're going to memorize a verse from the Bible, to help us remember what we just learned.

ANDY: *Takes mask and/or goggles off, looks uncertain.* I'm not sure I know how to do that!

BOSS: No problem – it's easy! You and the kids can do it together. I'll say a few words at a time. Then you echo back what I say. *Starts Hebrews 3:4, "For every house." Points to ANDY and kids; they repeat. Continues phrase by phrase through verse and reference; kids repeat. Says entire verse and reference at once; ANDY and kids repeat.*

Wrap Up:

Pray. Play theme song on CD while kids head off to small groups. *Option:* Use "boom box" from set to play music.

DAY 1: DEMOLITION DAY

TOOL TIME

Welcome:

BOSS and ANDY reenter. BOSS asks if everyone's been having fun. ANDY nods head and encourages kids to cheer and clap. ANDY asks a few kids what they did for crafts, games, or snacks. BOSS says it sounds fun, then introduces music time.

Music and Singing:

Review the week's theme song, "Fixer Upper," and the day's song, "Never Give Up."

Bible Story Review:

BOSS: Who can tell me something they learned today? *ANDY finds 2-3 kids who want to share. BOSS prompts kids as needed to bring out important ideas. (God made us, God made a garden for people to be with Him, God wants us to build our lives on Him, people chose to disobey God, people believed the terrible lie and their hearts turned sinful, people built a tower without God, God stopped the tower, houses built the wrong way need to be torn down, God has a plan to rebuild us.)*

Bible Memory Review:

BOSS: Great job, kids! Did you learn the memory verse, too?

ANDY: Looks embarrassed. Um, I don't think I know it.

BOSS: I'm sure the kids can help you. *Invites the 1st and 2nd grade group up to hold up their memory verse pictures. Leads everyone in saying verse together.*

Wrap Up:

BOSS: *Picks up rubber snake from table, hides it behind back, and turns to ANDY. You were a big help today, Andy. And you saw why we have to do all that demolition.*

ANDY: Yeah, that house was a mess!

BOSS: I forgot to tell you about another problem in the house. Look what we found in the attic! *Pulls rubber snake from behind back and wiggles it.*

ANDY: Yikes! I hate snakes! *Runs offstage, shrieking.*

BOSS: I'd better go tell Andy this isn't a real snake! But first we have a few announcements.

Closing:

Give announcements. Close with prayer.



SMALL GROUP TIME

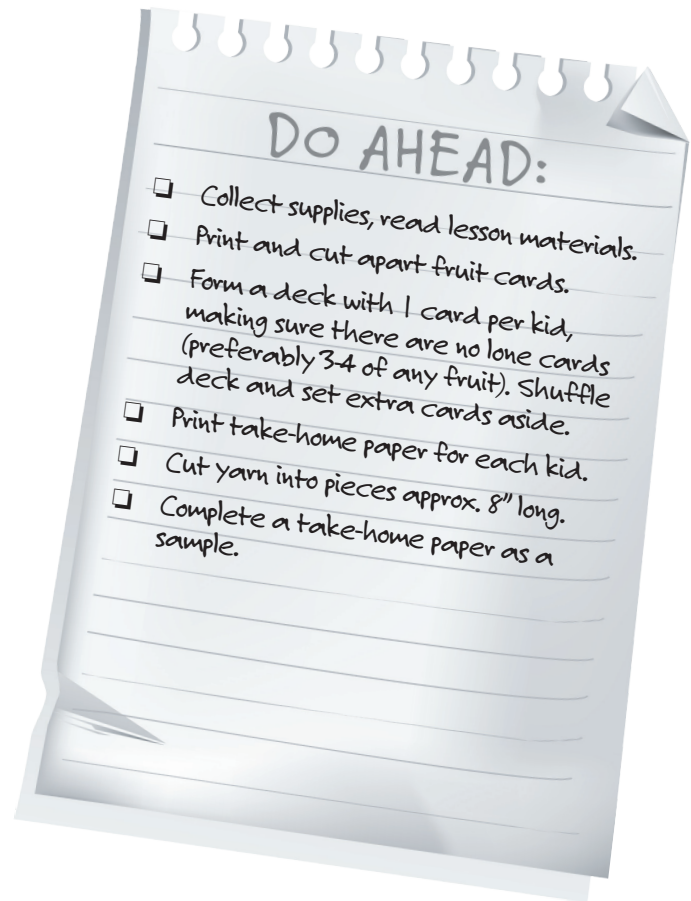
Goals

For kids to:

- form relationships with leader and one another.
- know that when people trust Jesus to save them, He changes them.
- desire to trust Jesus and begin a process of change.

Supplies

- Fruit cards (from Small Group Leader folder on CD)
- Bible for each kid
- Pictures of damaged and good wiring (from Small Group Leader folder on CD) OR item with a damaged electric cord (e.g. old lamp)
- Day 3 take-home papers (from Small Group Leader folder on CD)
- Pencils
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors (one for every 1-2 kids)
- Varied colors of yarn, about 2-3 feet per kid
- Glue or glue sticks
- *Optional:* glitter, glitter glue, or glitter markers
- Beanbag



Get-to-Know-You Time

Pass out 1 fruit card, face down, to each kid. Don't look at your card yet. **We're playing "Fruit Finder."**

When I say "Go," hold up your card and start yelling the name of your fruit, looking for the other 2-3 kids with the same card. When you've found them, stand with backs together to be the "tree trunk." Raise your arms in the air like branches and wait. Play game.

When everyone is ready, interview each "tree":

- **What kind of tree are you?** (Apple, etc.) **How can I tell?** (We have apples on our branches.)
- **Would I ever find** (name of different fruit) **on this tree?** (No.)

Thinking about God's Word

Have kids give fruit cards back. **Imagine that I bought some apples and then stapled them onto the branches of a tree.**

- **Would that make it an apple tree?** (Not really.)
What makes something a real apple tree? (Needs to have apple tree roots, trunk, branches; has to be an apple tree on the inside to grow apples on the outside.)

We're going to talk more later about inside and outside. Open Bibles to Luke 19. **In our story today, Zacchaeus had a lot of money—but there were things he did NOT have.** Read Luke 19:1-4.

- **What did tax collectors do?** (Collected money for taxes, often cheated people.) **Did people like them?** (No.)

Wherever Jesus traveled, big crowds of people came to see Him.

- **Raise your hand if you've gone to a parade, or sat in a stadium to watch a game or show. If you had a good view or seat, how did you get it?**
- **Does it surprise you that Zaccheus climbed a tree? Explain.**
- **Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus?** (Jesus was famous; maybe Zacchaeus wanted to change, learn about God, etc.)

Zacchaeus did not have many friends. No one saved him a place where he could see Jesus. So he had to climb a tree! Then Jesus came along. Read Luke 19:5-7.

- **How did Jesus know Zacchaeus's name?** (Jesus is God's Son, He knows everything.)
- **What else did Jesus know about Zacchaeus?** (Knew he was a tax collector, a "sinner," knew he wanted to change, etc.)
- **How did the people feel about Zacchaeus? About themselves?** Have kids answer with thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

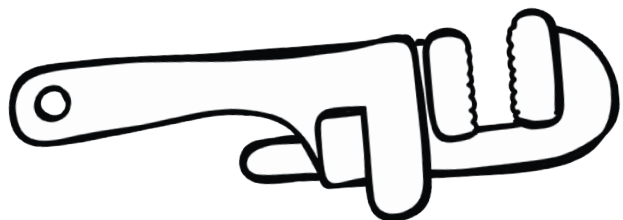
- **How did they feel when Jesus went to Zacchaeus's house? Show me with your face.** (Surprised, shocked, mad, etc.)
- **The people thought that God didn't care about "sinners" like Zacchaeus. Give me a thumbs-up or thumbs-down to show if God cares about these kinds of people today. Does He care about someone who _____?** Read examples. (Cheats, calls people names, lies, steals, beats people up, etc.) Let kids respond.

Read Luke 19:8.

- **Do you think people were surprised at what Zacchaeus said? Why?** (Yes. They thought he was a bad guy; didn't think he could change.)
- **How would you know if Zacchaeus had really changed or was just faking it?** (See later if he really gives money, pays people back.)

Jesus knew Zacchaeus wasn't faking it. Read Luke 19:9-10. **Zacchaeus was "lost," far away from God's good plans for him. And Jesus came to earth to "save" the "lost" – not just Zacchaeus, but all of us sinners! Zacchaeus was sorry for the wrongs he had done. That day he trusted Jesus to save him – and Jesus gave him a brand-new foundation, and his whole life shifted!**

Remember my apple and stapler idea? A tree has to be an apple tree on the inside to grow apples on the outside. There are other things that have to work right inside in order to work right outside. Bring out pictures of wiring OR item with damaged cord. **When the wiring is damaged inside, electricity can't go through it. Then the lights won't turn on outside!**



Zacchaeus started out like this messed-up wiring. Hold up picture of bad wiring OR item with damaged cord. **Nothing good was shining out of him. Then he trusted in Jesus, who made him new inside.** Hold up picture of good wiring.

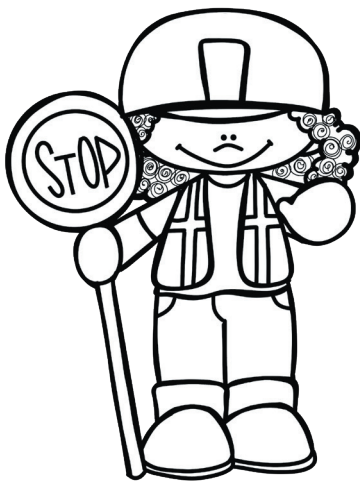
- **How did Zacchaeus's life start shining after Jesus changed him?** (He started giving to others, repaying wrongs, helping others.)

Jesus can forgive you and make you a new person—no matter what you've done or how badly you are wired right now. I'm going to say a prayer about that. If it says what you want to pray to Jesus, then you can say it with me softly or silently the next time:

Jesus / I'm sorry! / I've done wrong things. / I'm lost and far away from You. / I know You're God's Son. / You died and rose again / to pay for my sins. / Thank You for loving me! / Please forgive me / and give me a new foundation. / I want you to change me/ on the inside. / Amen.

If you prayed the prayer, you have a new foundation and will begin to change just like Zacchaeus did! Ask kids to tell you later if they prayed the prayer or want to talk.

It's amazing that Jesus can change people like Zacchaeus – and us too. Read Philippians 2:13, emphasizing the words "in you." **We'll memorize that verse later.**



RESPONSE

Pass out papers, pencils, yarn, scissors, glue or glue sticks, and crayons or markers. Hold up sample paper. **We're going to put in new "wires" to make the candle bulbs in this chandelier "light up."** Kids should glue a yarn "wire" connecting each bulb through the lamp stem to the base. After gluing and trimming yarn, they can decorate light bulbs. Have them trace the word showing how they feel about new life in Jesus. Then they can trace the words near each bulb, showing how a believer's new life can "shine out."

Bible Memory

Choose a kid to be your partner and have the rest form pairs. **My partner and I are going to say the verse together. He/she will also be my "mirror," doing the same motions that I do. You copy us as we go.** Say verse phrase by phrase and demonstrate motions with your partner mirroring; the rest will imitate. Next act out two phrases at a time as others repeat. Then recite whole verse as they echo. **I'm going to toss a bean bag to some partners who will show us the verse.** Continue tossing beanbag from pair to pair until all have had a turn.

MOTIONS:

God (point up)

works (pound one fist on the other)

you (point to someone else)

will (point to forehead)

do (run in place)

pleasure (fingers on cheeks as you smile)

Philippians 2:13 (hold up 2 fingers)

DAY 4: TOTAL TRANSFORMATION!

PRESCHOOL BIBLE FUN

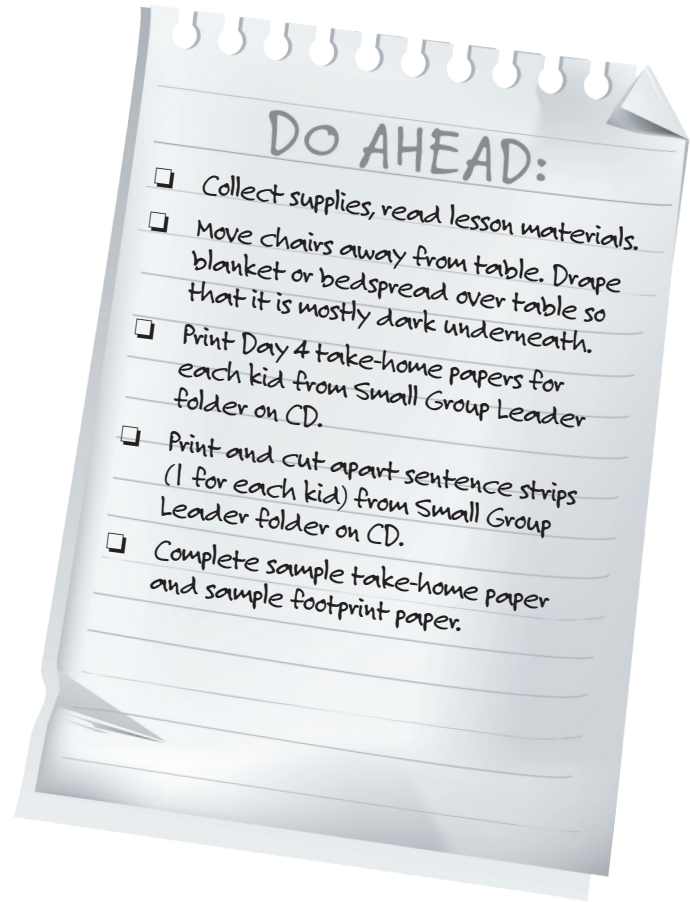
Goals

For kids to:

- form relationships with leader and one another.
- understand that God keeps on changing us through the Holy Spirit.
- feel glad God can help us do good things for Him.

Supplies

- Kid-sized shoe
- Flashlight (1 for every 6-8 kids)
- Large blanket or bedspread (1 for every 6-8 kids)
- Table (1 for every 6-8 kids)
- Bible
- Day 4 take-home papers
- Sentence strip (1 for each kid)
- Colored paper (1 sheet for each kid)
- Crayons
- Glue sticks



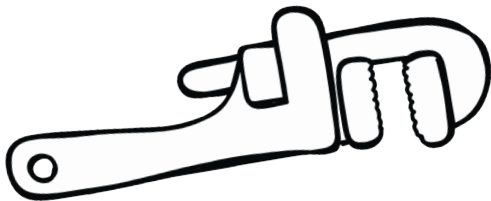
Get-to-Know-You Time

Form a circle. Show the shoe. **Here comes our get-to-know-you time again! Today we're going to say our name and then tell about one way we like to *move*! Maybe you like to *walk* or *run*. Maybe you like to *jump* or *climb*! I'll go first, and then I'll pass the shoe. When you get the shoe, it's your turn!** Hold the shoe and say your name and one way you like to move: "My name is _____, and I like to _____." Pass the shoe to the kid next to you. You may have to suggest movement ideas (crawl, skip, dance, swim, hop, scoot, etc.) Continue until everyone has a turn.

Activity Time

In our Bible story, Saul saw a bright light! We're going to have fun with a flashlight. Everyone will get a turn to hold it. Have kids go under table and blanket. Bring flashlight and join them. **Listen: Saul was traveling.** Have kids "walk" palms on the floor. **He saw a bright light!** Turn on flashlight, being careful not to shine directly into anyone's eyes. **He was scared and fell down!** Kids can fall over.

Let a kid use the flashlight as you tell the story again. Repeat until all have had a turn. (*Option:* If you have lots of kids and extra helpers, divide this activity into groups of 6 or 8.)



Exploring God's Word

Open Bible to Acts 9. Let's see what you remember about our Bible story! Once there was a man named Saul. Saul did *not* believe in Jesus. He did *not* like people who followed Jesus.

- What did Saul do to people who followed Jesus? (Put them in jail, tied them up, etc.)

One day Saul went to another city to put more of Jesus' followers in jail. Then something happened.

- What did Saul see? (A bright light.)

Yes, Saul *saw* a bright light up in the sky. (Have kids point to their eyes.) He also *heard* something. Have kids touch their ears. Read Acts 9:3-5.

- Who was talking to Saul? (Jesus.)
- Jesus wasn't standing there. How could Saul hear Jesus? (Jesus was talking from heaven, Jesus is God's Son, Jesus can do anything.)

Right then, Saul knew Jesus was really God's Son. And Jesus changed him! Saul did not try to put people in

jail anymore. He wanted to tell people about Jesus. He changed his name to Paul.

Let's pretend we're traveling with Saul. Have kids stand in a row on the edge of an open area. Bring flashlight and stand beside them. **Listen as I sing some words. Then sing them with me as we walk.** Sing the first line, then walk forward step-by-step with the kids, singing together. Sing the second line for them. Then walk forward as you sing together. (Use the tune of "Happy Birthday" or make up a tune.)

Saul is walking, walking, walking.

Saul is walking to do something bad.

Then Jesus said STOP! Have everyone stop. Shine flashlight on kids. Have everyone fall down. **And Saul changed! He is called Paul. Go, Paul, go!** Have kids stand up and turn around. Walk back the way you came, singing:

Now Paul is walking, walking, walking.

Paul is walking to do something good.

Sometimes Saul rode on a horse! Repeat activity, substituting "riding" for "walking" in song and motions. If you have time, repeat "walking" verse again.

God kept working on Paul. He gave Paul more and more good things to do. Paul walked to tell people about Jesus. Have kids "walk" their feet as they sit. **He rode horses to tell people about Jesus.** Have kids pretend to hold reins and bounce up and down. **He even sailed in big boats!** Have kids rock side to side as if in a boat.

God had good things for Paul to do. He has good things for us to do too!

- What is something good you can do? (Pick up, help, share, etc.) Be ready to help with ideas.
- What is something good you can say? ("I love you," "Thank you," etc.)

Lead kids in a prayer, thanking God that He works in us and helps us do good things.

RESPONDING TO GOD

Let's color a picture about our story. Then we'll draw another picture about our feet! Show the sample take-home paper. Pass out take-home papers and crayons. Make sure kids color the "Stop" circle red and the "Go" circle green. They can make the face at the bottom look like them (hairstyle, hair color, skin color, etc.)

Use a crayon to trace around each kid's shoes (both if possible) onto the colored paper. Help kids glue the sentence strips onto the bottom of the page. **Are you happy that God helps you do good things?** Then finish drawing the smiley face!

Bible Memory

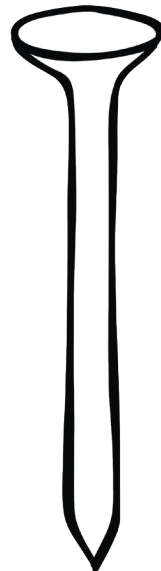
Here's a verse about God working on us and helping us! I'll say a few words and do an action.

You copy me! Say the verse a few words at a time with the motions, and have kids imitate. Repeat. Then let kids take turns standing next to you and "helping" as you lead the rest. Go through longer and longer sections of the verse.

(Option: Teach kids a shortened verse.)

IF TIME PERMITS:

Sing and do the "Saul is walking" activity in another part of the building, or even outdoors. Or do the flashlight activity under the table again.



MOTIONS:

Confident of this / He

(both thumbs up / point up)

Good work / you

(pound one fist on other / point to someone)

Complete it / Jesus

(one fist on other above head /

"Jesus" sign—tall fingers in opposite palms)

Philippians 1:6

(palms go up like water is "filling" pool / 1 finger, then 6)

ELEMENTARY - DAY 3

UNDER CONSTRUCTION CRAFTS

LIGHT-UP FIREFLIES

Object: Jesus can rewire our hearts to give us a new, changed life.

Supplies

- 1 plastic colored egg for each child
- 1 flameless LED tea light for each child
- Three pipe cleaners in various colors for each child that are about 4 inches long
- 26 beads for each child
- Self-adhesive googly eyes or cartoon-eye stickers
- One black Sharpie marker

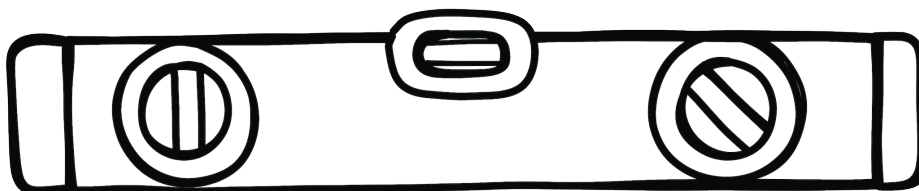
Instructions

- What was the Bible story about today? Take responses. **That's right. Zacchaeus met Jesus and everything changed. He began to live differently. It was like a light came on inside.**
- Today's Life Builder Tip is: Jesus rewires us for new life. We are going to make fireflies that light up on the inside to help us remember how Jesus can bring life and change to us.
- First, let's get your plastic egg and open it up. The bottom of your egg is where you will put your legs. Have everyone hold up the bottom of their egg. Take your thumbtack and gently push it into the black dots on the bottom half of both sides of your egg.

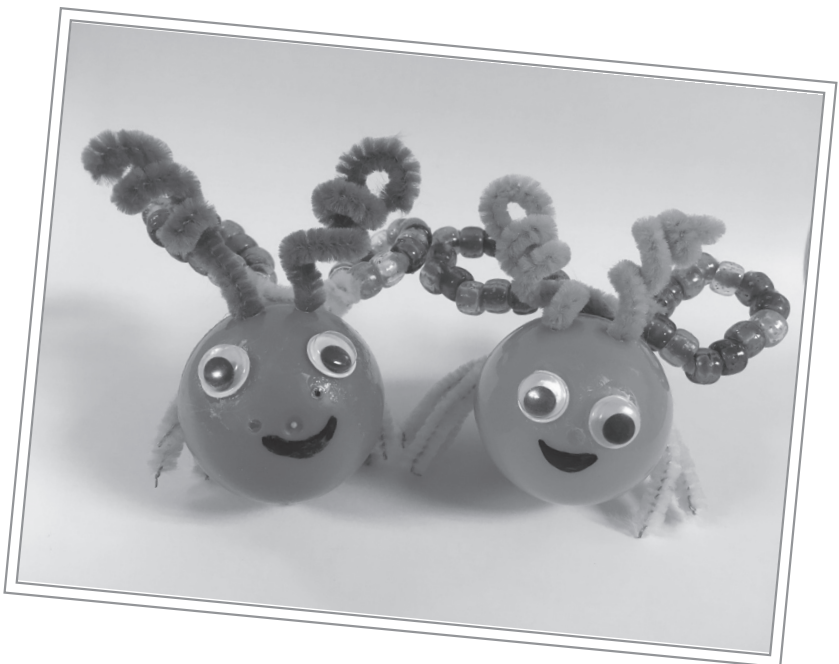
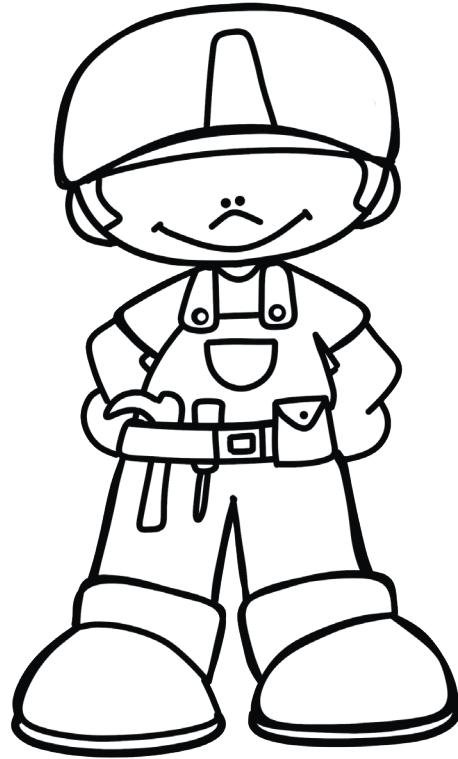
DO AHEAD:

Take a Sharpie marker and make dots on the eggs where the antennae, wings, and legs need to be. Make three small holes on each side of your bottom egg about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart, going from the side of the egg towards the rounded end of your egg. Do the same thing on the other side of the egg. Next, take the top part of the egg and on the top edge, near the opening make two black dots for the antennae. On the other side of the egg, right across from the

antennae, make two more dots for the wings. Then take a drill or Dremel and make $\frac{1}{8}$ bit holes using a drill or Dremel on each of the black dots. Put a smiley on the egg at this point, leaving room for the kids to add eyes.



- Once your holes are made on both sides take a pipe cleaner piece and thread it through the egg to create legs. Do this until each child has six legs made.
- Insert the votive with the flame pointing out into the bottom of the egg.
- Next pick up the top part of your egg. Show me the top! Great! Let's make two holes with the thumbtack where the two black dots are. Now we will thread one piece of pipe cleaner (about 5 inches long) through the two holes to create antennae. If the antennae are a bit long, you can curl them around and twist them a bit to make them look good.
- Let's make the face. I will give you two cartoon eye stickers and you need to put them on your firefly right below the antennae. Then put on a smiley with the Sharpie Marker if you have not already done so.
- Lastly, we will put on your silver wings. Come see me and I will give you wings when you are ready.
- Once your wings are on, let's turn the black switch on inside your egg and close your egg. Now we will turn out the lights and watch our fireflies glow.



ELEMENTARY - DAY 2

NUTS & BOLTS GAMES

Today our games will be centered around Pool Noodles with holes through the center. We recommend buying pool noodles that are the same color for each team. (Example: 20 green, 20 blue, 20 red, 20 yellow). The last game is a tag game where the color choices will matter.

NOODLE TOSS

Outdoor/Indoor

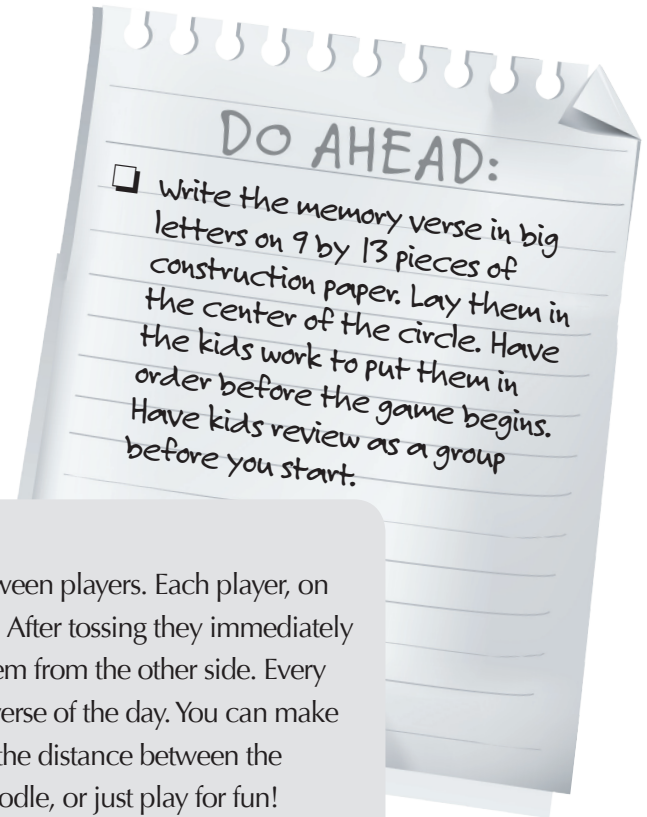
Energy Level: High

Supplies

- One pool noodle for each player
- Memory Verse written one word at a time on big pieces of construction paper (9 by 13)

How to Play

Have players form a large circle with about 2 feet in between players. Each player, on "go," tosses their pool noodle to the player on their right. After tossing they immediately have to catch the pool noodle that is being thrown to them from the other side. Every three tosses, the whole group has to shout the memory verse of the day. You can make the game harder by increasing the size of the circle and the distance between the players. Players can be eliminated if they drop a pool noodle, or just play for fun!



Game:

- Kids, who would like to help put the memory verse in order. Let 3-4 kids put the memory verse in order. **Great job! Can you lead the group in going over the memory verse one more time?**
- So what was our Life Builder Tip for today? Let kids respond. **That's right. Our Life Builder Tip is: God can rebuild your foundation with Jesus. How does having a new foundation with Jesus change things?** Let kids respond. **He gives us a new foundation, and that helps us build a solid relationship with God.**
- Today's game is all about throwing around pool noodles. You will need to be on top of it today. Your job is to toss your noodle to the person next to you when I say "Go!" At the same time you must catch the pool noodle that the person next to you throws at the same time. Every third toss, we will all shout the memory verse together. We will start slow to get everybody used to all this but we will speed up. Are you ready? Go! Be willing to adjust the amount of time based on kids' ages and physical abilities. Keep going until you are ready for the next game.

DON'T LOSE YOUR NOODLE RELAY

Outdoor

Energy Level: Medium

Supplies

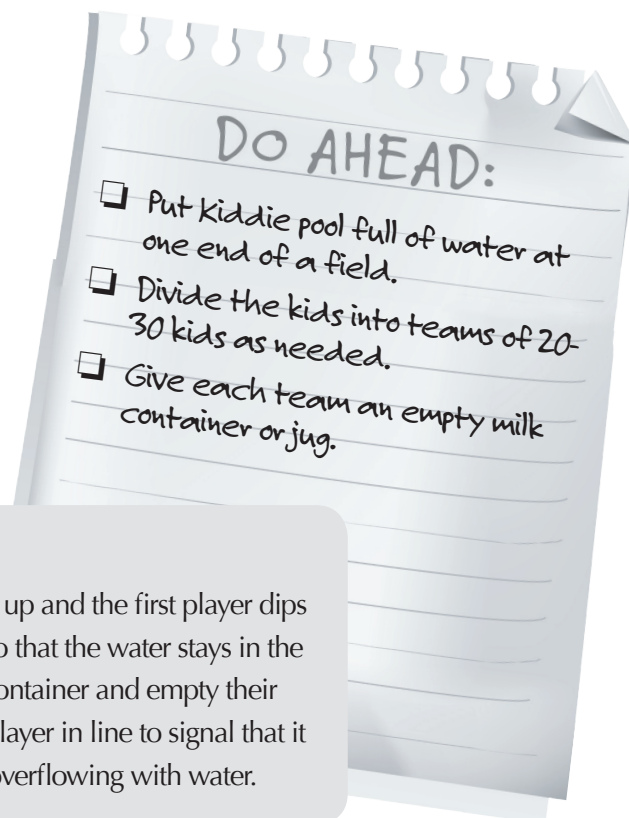
- Kiddie pool full of water
- 1 pool noodle for each kid
- 1 empty gallon milk container or jug per team

How to Play

Teams race to fill up their jug using 1 noodle. Teams line up and the first player dips the pool noodle into a Kiddie pool of water, bending it so that the water stays in the channel. They then run across the playing field to their container and empty their water into the jug. They then run back and tag the next player in line to signal that it is their turn. The game continues until one team's jug is overflowing with water.

Game:

- Let's divide you into teams. Each of you has your trusty pool noodle with you. I hope you are ready for a challenge! Your job will be to take your turn as part of your team, race to the end of the field where the pool is, fill your pool noodle with water, and carefully bend it to keep the water inside. Then you need to race to the jug where your team is and carefully empty all the water you can into the jug. Then run back and tag the next person in line to signal that they need to take their turn. The first team that fills their jug wins.
- Any questions? Are you ready for this challenge? When I say "Go" the first person in line can start the race. Ready, set, GO! Play until you have a winner. Put water from jug back into the pool to start the next game.



CRAZY NOODLE FLOW THROUGH RELAY

Outdoor

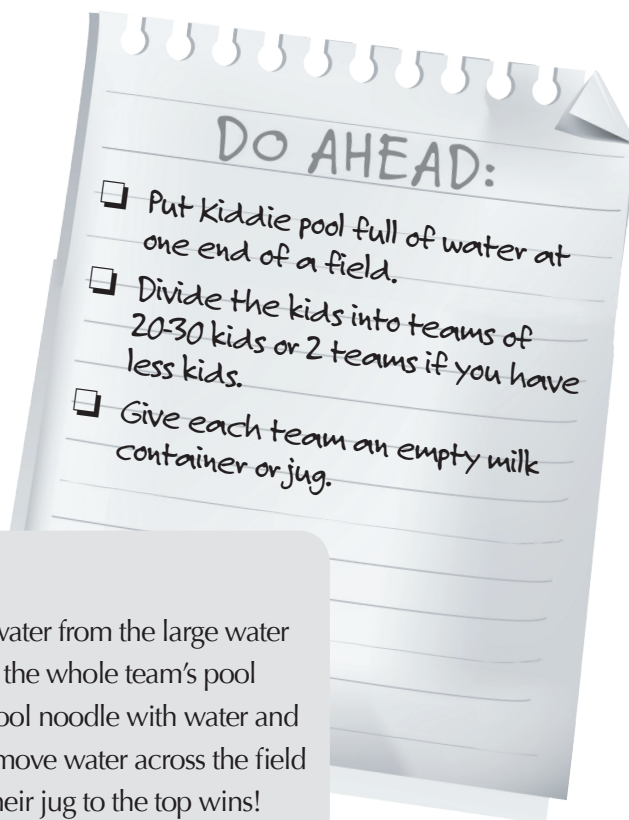
Energy Level: High

Supplies

- Kiddie pool full of water
- 1 pool noodle for each kid
- 1 empty gallon milk container or jug per team

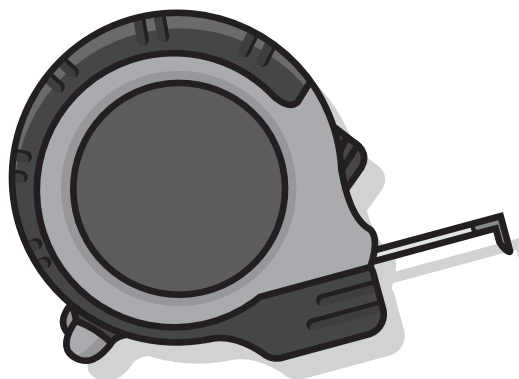
How to Play

The object of this fun and challenging game is to move water from the large water container to a milk jug using only the middle channel of the whole team's pool noodles pushed together. Players fill up the center of a pool noodle with water and then work together to place their noodles end to end to move water across the field into their milk jug at the other end. The first team to fill their jug to the top wins!



Game:

- You guys did a great job with the last game; now we are going to the next level with this game. The idea is still the same, to fill your milk jug, but the challenge is far greater this time. Everyone on the team has to be laser-focused to get this done.
- Each person with their pool noodle needs to line up their pool noodle with the person next to them to create one long continuous pool noodle from the kiddie pool to the jug. Make sure the distance is not too great and make adjustments as necessary.
- The person who is right next to the pool needs to fill up their noodle. Then each person in line needs to perfectly line up their noodle with the person on both sides of them and get ready for water to come through their noodles. Make sure they are tightly connected. The person next to the milk jug needs to make sure their noodle is pointing into the jug.
- Then the person with the noodle full of water pours it into the noodle next to them so that the water goes through each person's pool noodle to the milk jug. Keep adding more water as fast as you can until the jug is full.
- On your mark, get set, go! Celebrate when the milk jug is full and you have a winning team.



NOODLE MANIA TEAM TAG

Outdoor/Indoor

Energy Level: High

Supplies

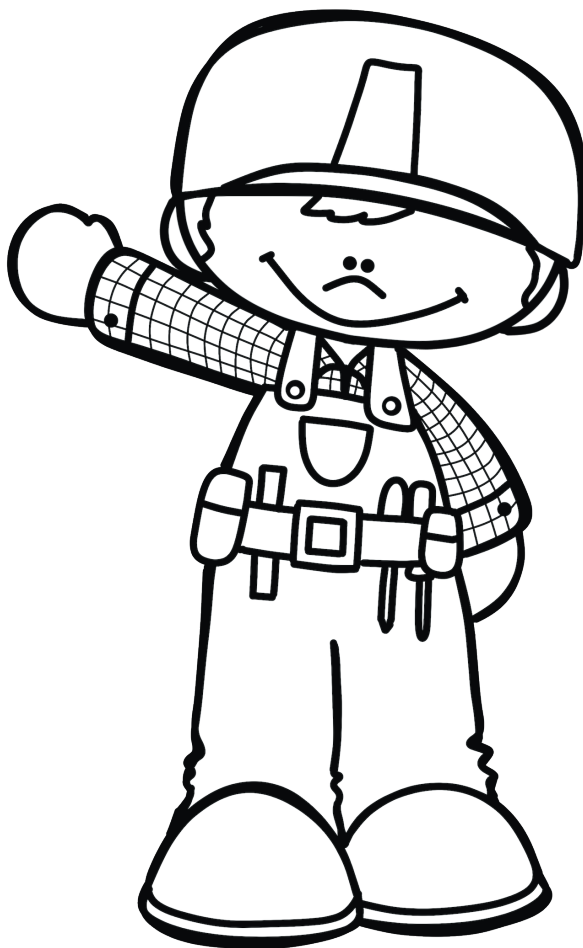
- 2 colors of Pool Noodles - one color for each team

Game:

- Now we are going to play Noodle Mania Team Tag. Each of you is divided into teams based on the color of your noodle. This is a game that requires you to be very honest. Can you do that? Kids respond.
- Okay! On “go,” both teams will try to tag each other by hitting the other team’s players **BELOW THE WAIST** with their pool noodle. Here is where you need to be very honest: **IF A PLAYER IS TAGGED, THEY MUST SIT DOWN RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE TAGGED.** They can only be untagged if another of their own team members tags them with their noodle to allow them to play again. It is very important to free your own team members because the team who tags all the other team’s players wins. If you have really amazing teams and no one can win, you can yell “Freeze” and then count which team has the most players alive.
- On your mark, get set, go! Celebrate when you have a winning team. Play again if you have time.

How to Play

Divide into teams. On “go,” teams try to tag each other by hitting the other team’s players below the waist with their pool noodle. If a player is tagged, they must sit down right where they are tagged. They can be untagged only if one of their team members tags them with their noodle. Play continues until one team has tagged all the other team’s players.



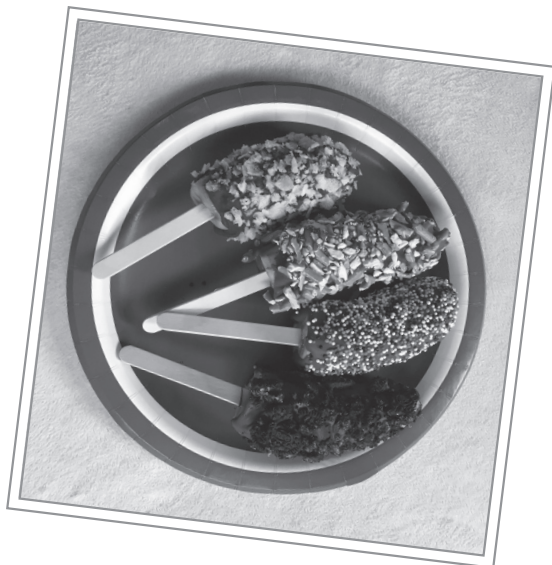
ELEMENTARY - DAY 3

DIG IN SNACKS

MONKEY TAILS

Supplies

- Bananas (1 for every 2 children – ideally medium ripe, but firm)
- Popsicle Sticks (1 for every child)
- Napkins
- Plastic or paper cups for beverages
- Water, milk, or Kool-Aid (fruit-flavored) for beverage
- Parchment Paper
- Access to a double boiler, microwave, or Crock-Pot
- Spoon
- Chocolate Candy Melts (about 6 ounces for every 8 kids)
- Oreos
- Sprinkles
- Caramel Syrup
- Strawberries
- Shredded Coconut
- Cereal
- Potato Chips
- Pretzels
- Graham Crackers



DO AHEAD:

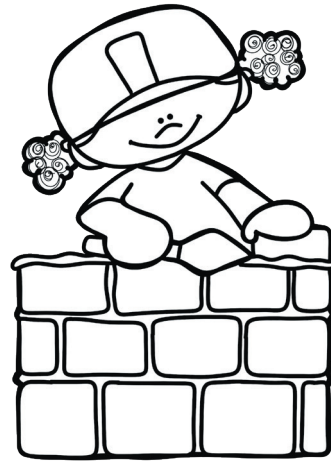
- ❑ The day before, cut the bananas in half and insert a popsicle stick into one end of each banana. Place in an airtight container and freeze overnight until bananas are completely frozen.
- ❑ Before the kids come, melt the chocolate with a double boiler, a microwave, or a crock pot. Keep chocolate warm as kids arrive. If you are using a double boiler, melt the chocolate in the top of a double boiler over slightly simmering water and the lowest possible heat, stirring frequently.
- ❑ Set out the toppings, sandwich bags, and a piece of parchment paper for each child
- ❑ Pour beverage into individual cups before children arrive so that when it is time to serve the snack, they will only need to hand out the cups and not take time to pour.

Instructions

- Have kids wash hands and sit down at a table or on the floor. Take a moment to thank God for providing your snack and blessing the day together.
- **Tell me about your Bible story today. What did you learn?** Let kids reply. **Has anyone heard of**

the phrase “monkeying around”? What do you think it means? Let kids reply. Zacchaeus was “monkeying around” before he met Jesus. He was living life for himself by lying and stealing before his heart was rewired for Christ. What changes did Zacchaeus make as a result of being rewired to Christ? Let kids respond. As a reminder that both we and Zacchaeus need to be rewired, today we are making Monkey Tails.

- Our Monkey Tails are chocolate-covered frozen bananas. You will get to choose which toppings you would like to put on your Monkey Tail. There are toppings on the table. First, you will need to pick out what you would like to put on your Monkey Tail and spread it out on the parchment paper in front of you. You will need to crush some toppings to make them stick better, such as the chips, graham crackers, or pretzels. Put it in a sandwich bag and crush it before you put it on your parchment paper. When you have finished spreading out your toppings on your parchment paper, I will come around with your banana, which has just been dipped in chocolate. Before the chocolate cools, quickly roll it in the toppings on your parchment paper. Then you can eat!
- Have one of the kids pass out napkins as the kids begin choosing their toppings.



- As soon as kids are ready to roll their bananas, dip the banana into the melted chocolate and use a spoon to coat the banana evenly. Hand it to the child to roll immediately before the chocolate cools.
- If there are some kids who do not like bananas, encourage them to dip chips, pretzels, oreos or strawberries in the chocolate.
- If children are old enough, some children can help pass out the cups with beverages.
- When they are finished have kids clean up their area and throw away their parchment paper, sandwich bags if used, and garbage.

