

celebration

Leader Manual

Groups
EGYPT
Joseph's Journey
from prison to palace





CELEBRATION

Leader Manual



Loveland, Colorado
group.com/vbs



Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:



Relational

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong

Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.



Group's Holy Land Adventure®

Egypt: Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace

Celebration Leader Manual

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Credits

A big thanks to our amazing Holy Land Adventure Team: Jody Brolsma, Stephen Caine, Ardeth Carlson, Becky Chaplin, Shelly Dillon, Cindy Hansen, Elisa Hansen, Kerri Iserman, Kari K. Monson, Amy Nappa, Mike Porter, Jenn Schmidt, Joani Schultz, and Rodney Stewart.

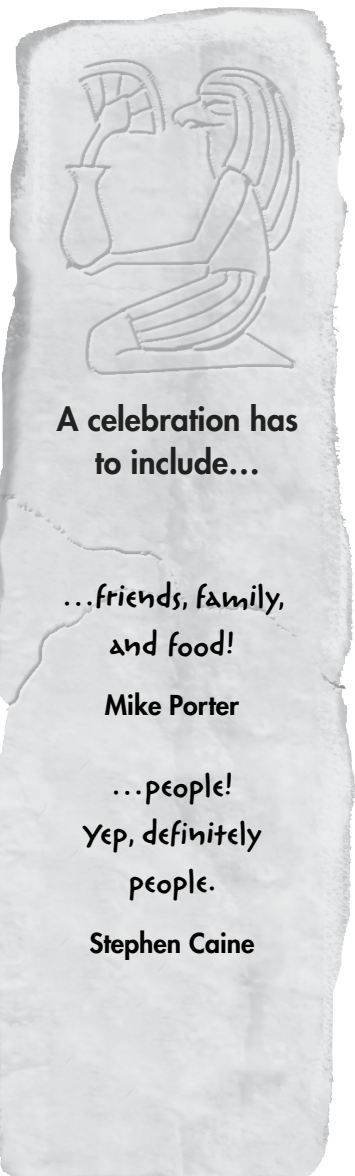
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Group's EGYPT™

You'll reinforce Bible learning in a big way because the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each activity. That's why each center is so important to the overall learning experience.

Bible Point, Story & Verse

Family Time (small group time)



Day 1

Bible point: God gives us hope.

Bible story: Joseph interprets dreams in prison.
(Genesis 40:1-23)

Bible verse: " 'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.' " (Jeremiah 29:11)



Inflate a ball to explore how hope fills their hearts.



Day 2

Bible point: God gives us special abilities.

Bible story: Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge.
(Genesis 41:1-40)

Bible verse: "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."
(Romans 12:6)

Watch colorful capsules transform into cute critters...just like their special gifts "bloom"!



Day 3

Bible point: God gives us wisdom.

Bible story: Joseph leads Egypt through famine.
(Genesis 41:41-42:5)

Bible verse: "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you."
(James 1:5)



Rely on a friend's wisdom to guide them through a maze.



Day 4

Bible point: God gives us forgiveness.

Bible story: Joseph forgives his brothers.
(Genesis 42:6-45:15)

Bible verse: "But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love."
(Nehemiah 9:17)

Compare God's forgiveness to an ink stain that vanishes!



Day 5

Bible point: God gives us a family.

Bible story: Joseph settles his family in Egypt.
(Genesis 45:16-47:27)

Bible verse: "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus."
(Galatians 3:26)



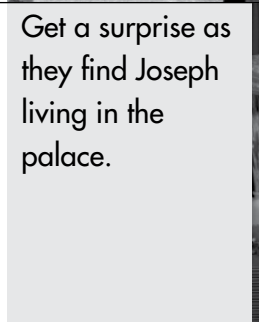
Connect paper people to explore how they're part of God's family.

Explore the entire program at a glance. Refer to the chart to see how each center's activities supplement other activities to make the story of Joseph come to life at your church!

Joseph's Journey



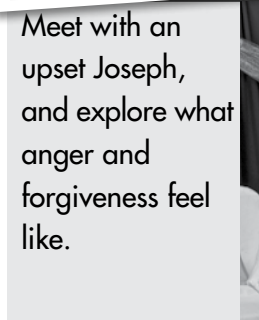
Meet Joseph in prison, and use a flickery light to explore how God gave Joseph hope.



Get a surprise as they find Joseph living in the palace.



Learn about Joseph's important job, and see how God has given him wisdom.



Meet with an upset Joseph, and explore what anger and forgiveness feel like.

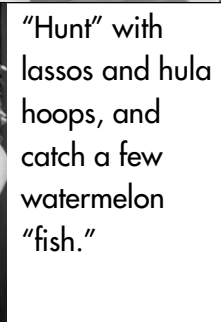


Celebrate with Joseph as he anticipates his family's journey to Egypt.



Pyramid Playground

Wrap up a few crazy mummy games.



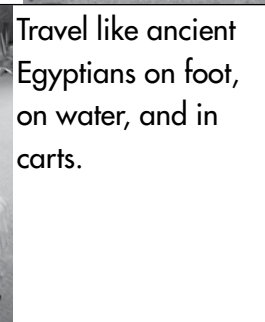
"Hunt" with lassos and hula hoops, and catch a few watermelon "fish."



Relay a wet sponge, untangle a web of arms, and follow the Pharaoh.



Tag a toe and tug of war...goofy, giggly, low-tech games!



Travel like ancient Egyptians on foot, on water, and in carts.

Marketplace Shops

Visit a variety of shops every day:



Barbershop & Salon



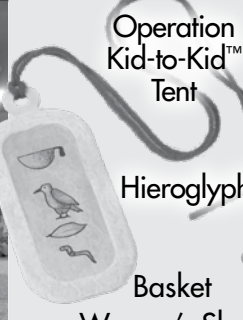
Toy Shop

Brickmaking



Embalmer's Workshop

Jewelry Shop



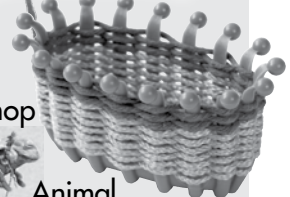
Operation Kid-to-Kid™ Tent



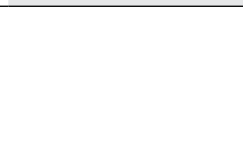
Hieroglyphic Artist's Shop



Basket Weaver's Shop



Animal Courtyard



Food Shop

SAMPLE

Daily Schedule and Announcements

day 1

Bible Point: God gives us hope.

Time	Group A Families: amarna zoan	Group B Families: per-bastet medinet el-fayum	Group C Families: giza asyut	Group D Families: sais pithom
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
9:00–9:15	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
9:20–9:35	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
9:40–9:55	Joseph	Pyramid Playground	Visit Marketplace	
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
10:00–10:15	Pyramid Playground	Joseph		
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
10:20–10:35	Visit Marketplace		Joseph	Pyramid Playground
			Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.	
10:40–10:55			Pyramid Playground	Joseph
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
11:00–11:15	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time
Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.				
11:20–11:35	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration

today's announcements:



Celebration Leader

As the Celebration Leader, you get the awesome job of leading participants in singing praises to our one true God. You'll be one of the first faces kids and adults see when they come to experience ancient Egypt. After they register or sign in each day, participants will join you for 15 minutes of worship and announcements. You will

- ✓ welcome everyone to Egypt,
- ✓ teach the Celebration songs and motions,
- ✓ help children and adults explore worship through music,
- ✓ talk with participants about what they've been discovering in Egypt, and
- ✓ dismiss the Egyptian Families to their Family Time.

At the end of each day, the participants will return to a closing Celebration for 15 minutes of singing, worship, and announcements. Then you'll dismiss them and tell them you've enjoyed your time together.

Celebration Tips

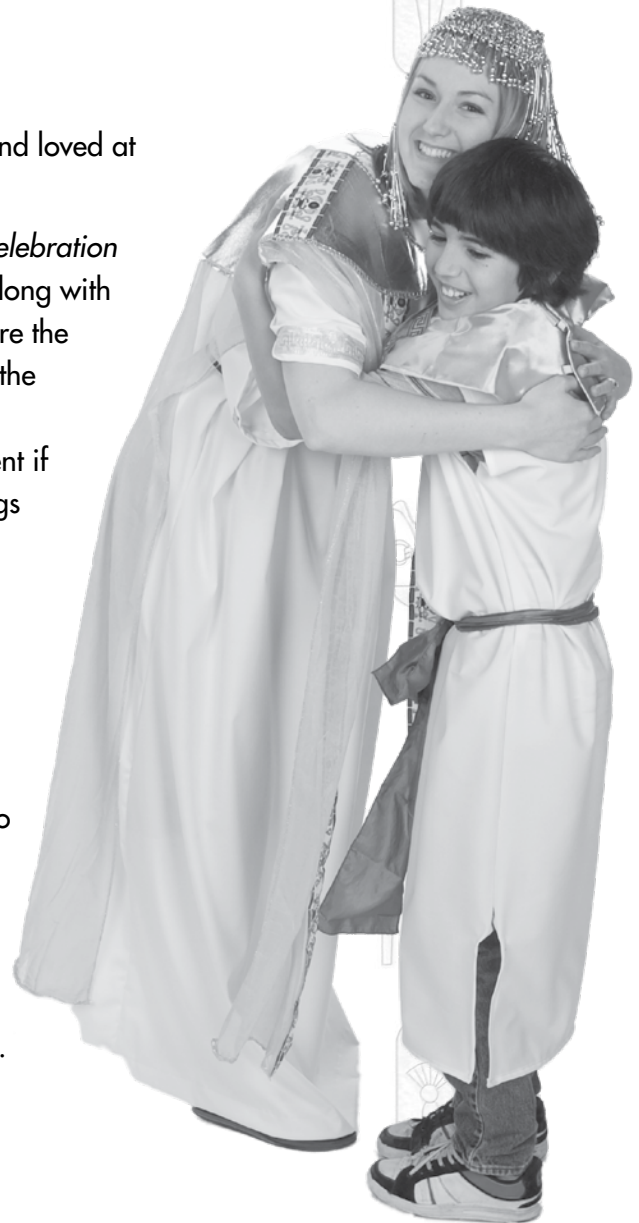
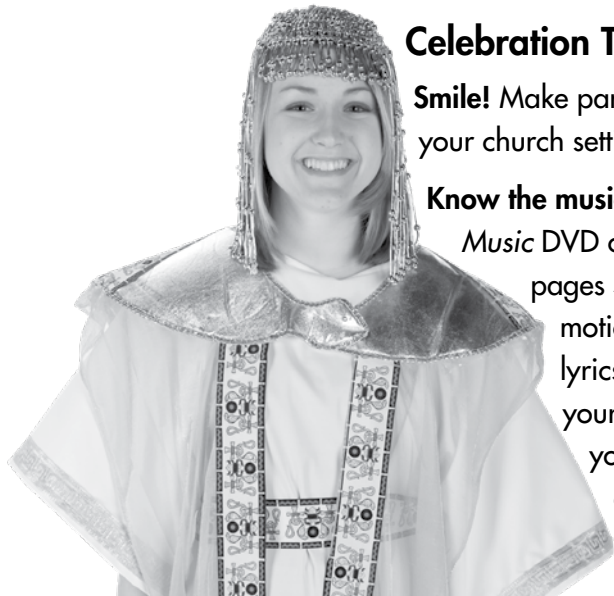
Smile! Make participants feel welcomed and loved at your church setting.

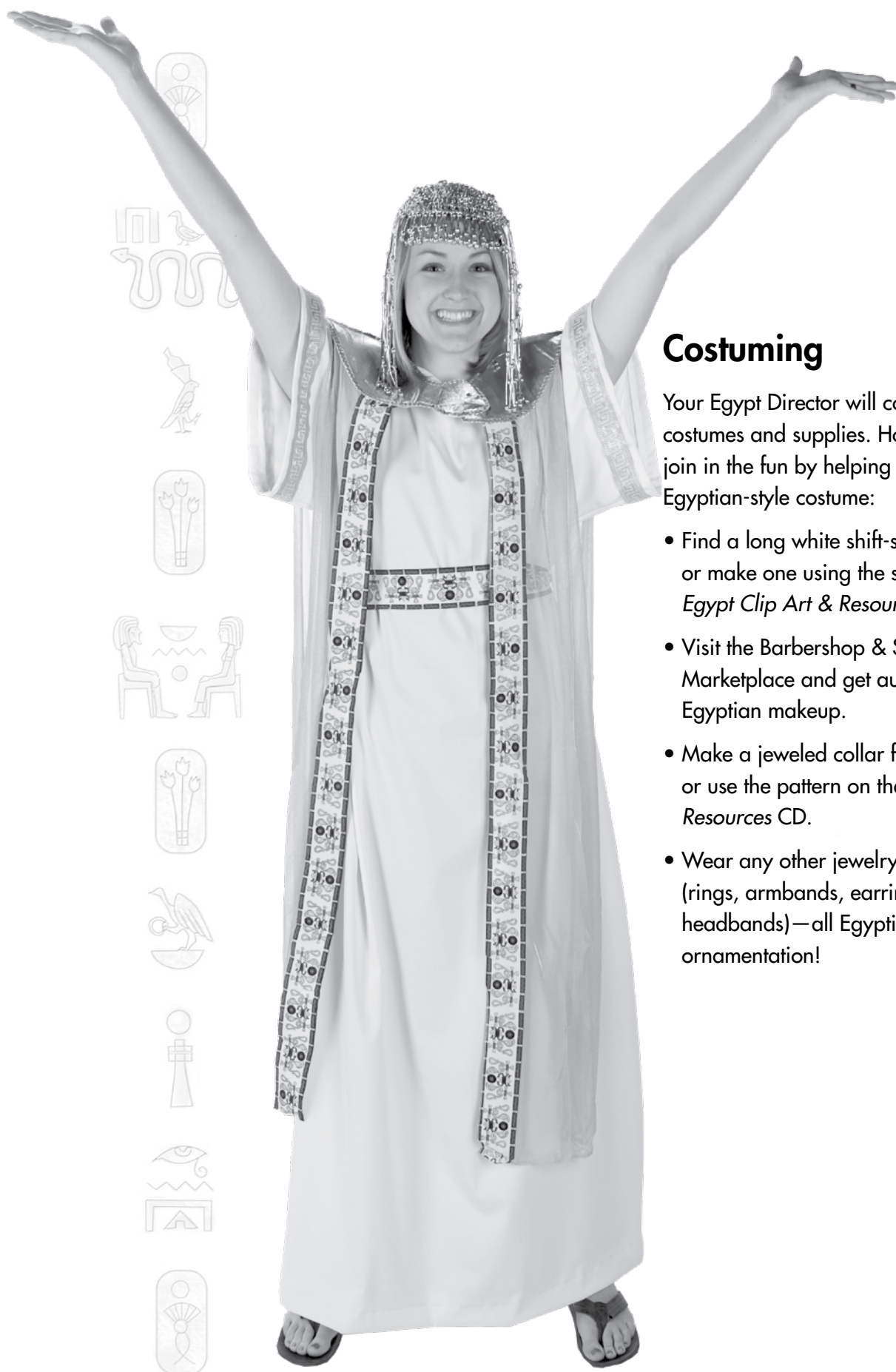
Know the music and motions. Use the *Celebration Music* DVD or downloadable videos along with pages 45-55 in this manual where the motions are described next to the lyrics. You'll be able to convey your enthusiasm and excitement if you're familiar with the songs and motions.

Learn (and use) people's names. While you won't have the opportunity to spend

one-on-one time with participants as the Family Leaders do, kids and adults *will* be wearing name tags and color-coded Banduras. If you call on them, try to call them by name. What an easy way to make someone feel special!

Create a welcoming environment. Play the *Celebration Music* CD or music downloads when participants enter the room, and don't be afraid to turn up the volume! Music and excitement will draw everyone in, sending the message that this is *the* place to be.





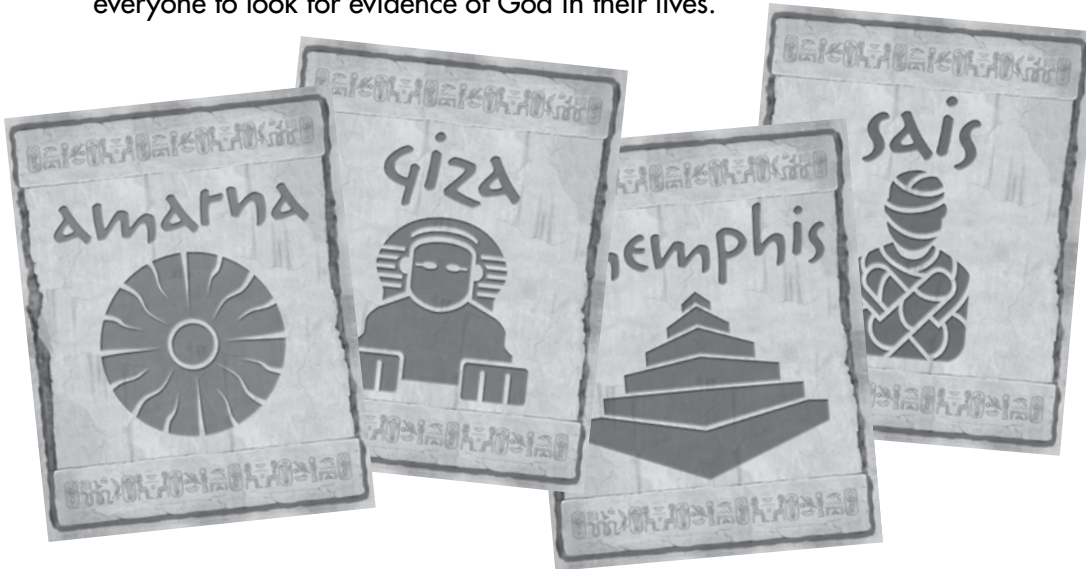
Costuming

Your Egypt Director will coordinate collecting costumes and supplies. However, you can join in the fun by helping to create your own Egyptian-style costume:

- Find a long white shift-style dress or robe, or make one using the simple pattern on the *Egypt Clip Art & Resources* CD.
- Visit the Barbershop & Salon in the Marketplace and get authentic-looking Egyptian makeup.
- Make a jeweled collar from the Jewelry Shop, or use the pattern on the *Egypt Clip Art & Resources* CD.
- Wear any other jewelry you can round up (rings, armbands, earrings, ankle bracelets, headbands)—all Egyptians loved their ornamentation!

Here's What You'll Do

- Work with the Director to determine where your Celebration will take place. Ideally you'll want to meet in a sanctuary or other large room. Even if you're meeting outside, plan to use a sound system and microphone.
- If the Celebration happens outside, you won't need to spend much time decorating. If you're meeting in a sanctuary or large room, consider removing hymnals or other items that might distract everyone. Set baskets, urns, pots, and imitation date palms near your "stage." Tape Family name posters on the walls, and then place large blankets on the floor beneath the posters for Families to gather on. (Be sure to allow *plenty* of room between Egyptian Family groups.)
- Choose a blank wall to make a God Sighting pyramid. (See page 10 for more details.) God Sightings are an incredible way you'll encourage everyone to look for evidence of God in their lives.



Operation Kid-to-Kid™

Over the years, Operation Kid-to-Kid has become one of the world's largest child-to-child service outreach programs! Egyptian Families will learn about this year's close-to-home mission project in the Operation Kid-to-Kid Tent. Each participant will be able to help provide warm clothing and blankets for families right here in the United States!

During the closing Celebration on Day 5, you can announce the final amount of donations your VBS raised throughout the week. Everyone will be amazed as they realize how their gifts will help keep kids warm and healthy! It's an awesome way for families to share God's love in their own communities and for kids and adults to *be* a God Sighting to others!

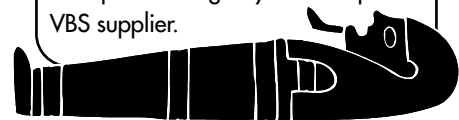
here's all you'll need...

- Bible
- *Celebration Music Leader Version* CD or music downloads from the Starter Kit
- CD or media player
- microphone/sound system
- God Sighting Stone*
- tape (to outline a pyramid shape on a wall for participants to tape God Sighting Stones)

*available from Group or your Group VBS supplier

mummy musings

Your Egypt Director will provide the Egyptian Family name posters. Each Egyptian Family will have a unique poster identifying its Family name and color. A Family Names Poster Pack is available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier.



field test findings

We're always keeping an eye open for how kids "get" the concept of God Sightings. And it's always a win! Kids *couldn't stop* talking about God Sightings. Parents shared that their kids—preschoolers to middle schoolers—pointed out God Sightings for *months* after VBS. It was amazing!



field test findings

We put the pyramid against a wall where a few Egyptian Families were meeting. Unfortunately, they got swarmed with people trying to add their stones to the pyramid! So we quickly moved them to a new spot. Be sure the pyramid is in a place everyone will see but that no one needs to sit.



field test findings

We've discovered that the God Sighting ideas given on each day's student book page are a good launching point, giving younger children an idea of what a God Sighting might be. After a day or so, kids get it and may not need these prompts. While kids aren't limited to the God Sightings on the list, younger children will appreciate the additional examples of God Sightings.

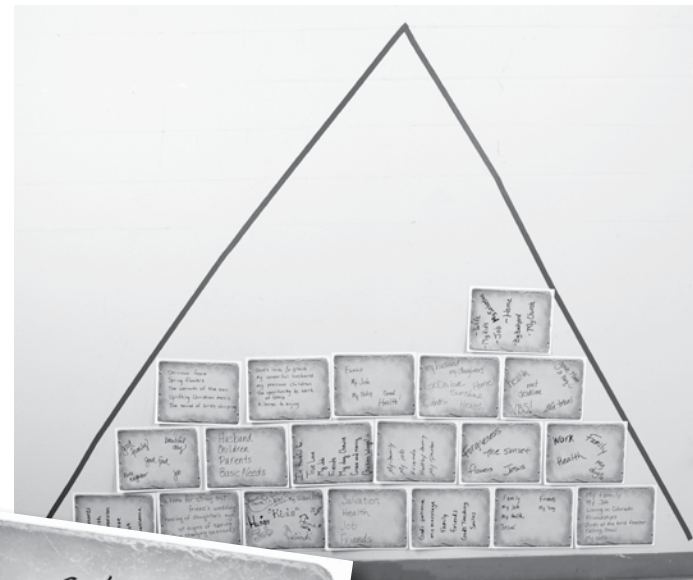


god sightings®

It's easy to read incredible, true stories in the Bible and quietly wonder why God doesn't do those things today. But God *is* active in our everyday lives—we just have to learn to look. At Egypt, you'll encourage Families to look for evidence of God in things like a sunset...a rainstorm...a laugh...a kind word...a tasty snack. We call those things God Sightings, and yes, even *preschoolers* can make them part of life. It's faith-building—and easy.

In ancient Egypt, people built things like pyramids as monuments or memorials to their kings. We serve the one true God—the one true King! With God Sightings, you'll create a visual tribute or monument to God as a reminder of all the ways he's active in our lives.

- 1. Make a pyramid outline.** Choose a blank wall that you can add low-tack painter's tape to. Use masking tape to make the outline of a pyramid on the wall. The size of your pyramid will depend on the number of participants in your program. The pyramid will need to be large enough to accommodate five God Sighting Stones per Family, and participants will need to be able to reach the top. It's OK if you need to make two smaller pyramids.
- 2. Watch for God.** At the end of Day 1, the Celebration Leader (that's you!) will explain that God Sightings are evidence of the one true God—all around us every day! You will challenge kids and adults to start looking for things that God has done or made or to practice sharing God's love and *being* a God Sighting.
- 3. Build a monument.** On Day 2, you will dismiss Egyptian Families to head to Family Time and spend about five minutes sharing God Sightings. Family Leaders will write on the God Sighting Stone, using single words or short phrases to capture the God Sightings shared within the Family. Then one Family Member will take the God Sighting Stone to the wall you prepared earlier. They'll begin to "build" a monument to the one true God. This is such a cool (and often tear-inducing) tribute to God's power and grace in our lives—you'll likely want to leave it up for a few weeks after Egypt ends.



DAY 1

Bible Point:

 **God gives us hope.**

Bible Story:

Joseph interprets dreams in prison. (Genesis 40:1-23)

Bible Verse:

**“‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord.
‘They are plans for good and not for disaster,
to give you a future and a hope.’”** (Jeremiah 29:11)

Joseph lived a life filled with dramatic highs and disheartening lows. The favored son of Jacob, Joseph sported an elaborate robe and had prophetic dreams. These dreams, however, made him hugely unpopular with his already-jealous brothers. Filled with hatred, Joseph’s brothers threw him in a well, then sold him to a caravan of Ishmaelite traders who were headed to Egypt.

As a slave in Egypt, Joseph gained favor and prosperity with his master...for a while. Then he was wrongly accused and shipped off to Pharaoh’s prison. Even in the hopeless depths of an Egyptian prison, things started looking up for Joseph. The warden put Joseph in charge, and “the Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed” (Genesis 39:23). When two prisoners had strange dreams, Joseph offered to tell them what the dreams meant. All he asked was this: “Please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place.” The man whose dream foretold great success *did* get out of prison and gain favor with Pharaoh. But he promptly forgot about Joseph. For two long years, Joseph sat in the same prison cell, forgotten.

Has it ever felt like you’re always facing a new disappointment, setback, or failure? Others get ahead, and you’re still sitting in the Egyptian prison. There’s hope, my friend! God is pouring out blessings daily. He’s *promised* us “a future and a hope.” And while you may not succeed in all you do, you can rely on a faithful God who loves you more than you can imagine. Today, help the kids and adults at your VBS realize that no matter how despairing life seems, we have the promise of hope from our Heavenly Father.

Did You Know...

Joseph is the first prisoner mentioned in the Bible.



field test findings

Egyptian-sounding names added even more fun at the field test. Our Celebration Leader was “Cindy-patra.” When you introduce yourself to everyone, add a “patra” or “poteth” or “ramses” to your name!



field test findings

Egyptian Families gathered in a large circle for all opening and closing Celebrations. A large circle made it easy for everyone to mix and mingle as well as learn the songs. Plus it was fun for everyone to see all of the people who would share their adventures in ancient Egypt.



Opening Celebration

Welcome

Play the *Celebration Music* as kids and adults enter. As participants register and join you in the Celebration area, help them find their Egyptian Family Leader. Each Egyptian Family will have a special identifying Bandura color to wear during their Egypt adventure.

When you're ready to begin, introduce yourself, and say: **Welcome to Egypt, everyone! Each day we'll begin and end our time in Celebration, where we will praise and worship our one true God!**

All week long we will get to know Joseph, whose story is toward the beginning of God's Word—the Bible. Hold the Bible open to Genesis and show that it's at the very front. The people in Egypt believed in lots and lots of gods. Joseph believed in the one true God.





Briefly explain the words and motions to the theme song, "One True God." (Words and motions are on page 45.)

Children of God

Say: **All week long you'll learn about our one true God with your Egyptian Family. You met each other as you came in, but give each other an *official* welcome, and make sure everyone knows your name. Give each other high fives, tell your name, and say, "Welcome to Egypt." Pause for the Family greetings.**



mummy musings

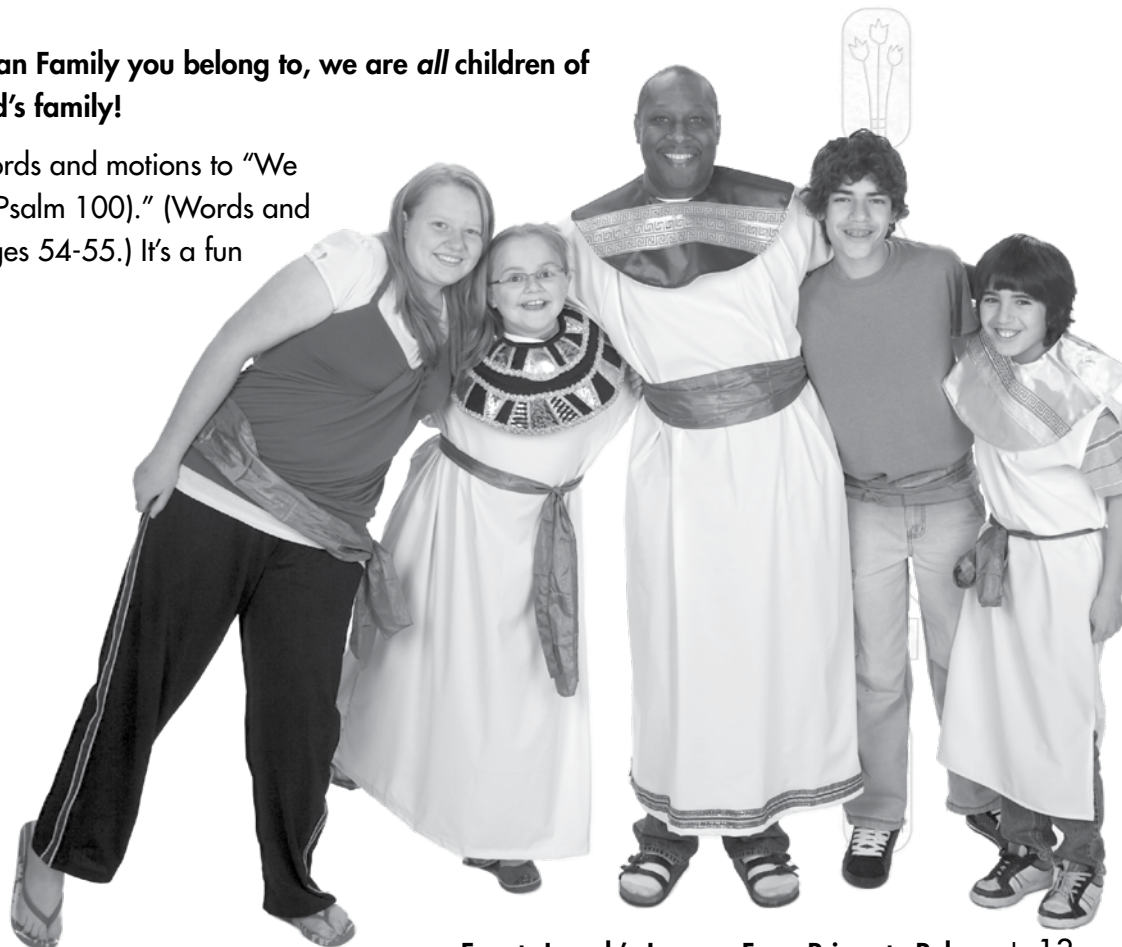
Egyptian tomb walls depict various poses and gestures used for worship. You'll take these gestures and use them in worshipping the one true God, just like Joseph did in ancient Egypt. Remember, Joseph was one of the first God-followers in Egypt.




Say: **No matter which Egyptian Family you belong to, we are *all* children of our one true God. We're God's family!**



Briefly teach the words and motions to "We Are God's People (Psalm 100)." (Words and motions are on pages 54-55.) It's a fun and easy song to learn.



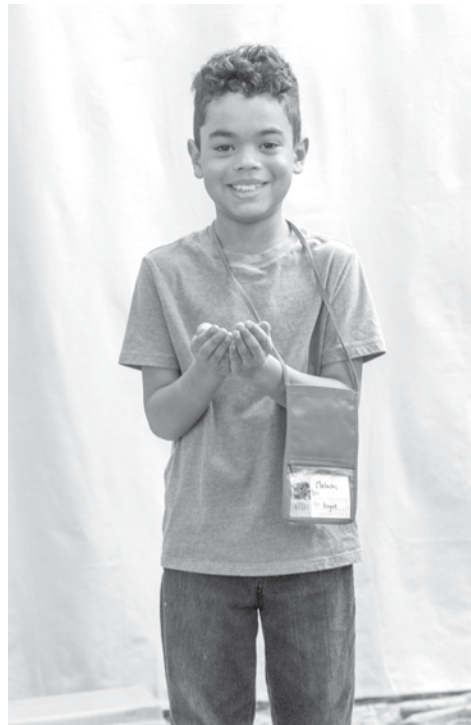
God Gives Us Hope

After the song, say: **Today Joseph will tell you about his bunch of jealous brothers who did a terrible thing to him. They sold Joseph to be a slave in another country—where we are right now—Egypt! Joseph was put in prison! When bad things happened to Joseph, God gave him hope. God wanted Joseph to know that he would make good come from bad.**  **God gives us hope, too.**

“Hope” is not like a birthday wish. “I hope I get a new bike” or “I hope I get lots of presents.” Pretend to blow out a birthday candle. Hope is what helps you feel better when you are feeling bad. For example, maybe your best friend doesn’t like you anymore, or maybe you just lost your job. You feel horrible. Hope is the encouragement that helps you feel better. It could be a hug or a phone call or someone praying with you. Hope is what we read in God’s Word—the Bible.

Hold up the Bible, and say: **Today’s Bible verse is found in Jeremiah 29:11. God says: “For I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future and a hope.”**

Teach these actions to help everyone remember the Bible verse. Have everyone hold their hands like an open book for “For I know the plans I have for you.” Have everyone give a thumbs-up sign for “to give you a future and a hope.”



**“For I know the plans
I have for you...”**



**“...to give you a future
and a hope.”**

Say: **We have a song that teaches today's Bible verse! Let's sing!**



Briefly teach "The Lord's Plans (Jeremiah 29:11)." (Words and motions are on page 46.) When kids sing "Lord," have them hold their palms up and shrug their shoulders—Egyptian-style!



Family Time

Say: **In a minute, you'll meet with your Egyptian Family and then head into ancient Egypt. Remember, the Egyptians you meet throughout the day believe in many, many gods. You'll be able to tell them about our one true God. Be kind to everyone. Maybe you can invite someone to the closing Celebration. Keep your eyes and ears open for ways to lovingly share your faith in our one true God!**

Give any announcements, and then say: **After 15 minutes of Family Time, you'll hear a signal (tell everyone what to listen for) and know that it's time for your trip to ancient Egypt.**

Play the *Celebration Music* in the background during Family Time.



Family Cheers

Say: I've enjoyed getting to know all of you Egyptian Families today! Here's something we can do to help us celebrate each other! Sometime this week, each Family will make up your own Family cheer. We'll share the cheers at the end of the week. I can't wait to hear them!

God Sighting Reminder

Say: In your closing Family Time, you talked about God Sightings.

God Sightings are evidence of the one true God—all around us every day! We are going to start looking for things that God has done or made, such as a sunset, a rainstorm, or a tasty snack. We can practice being a God Sighting, too, by showing God's love! We can give a hug, tell a kind word, or pray with someone.

Hold up a God Sighting Stone. When you meet with your Egyptian Family tomorrow, you'll share your God Sightings. Your Family Leader will write them on a God Sighting Stone, and you'll tape it to this pyramid shape on our God Sightings wall. Motion toward the pyramid shape on the God Sightings wall.

In ancient Egypt, people built things like pyramids to show how great their king was. We serve the one true God—the one true King! This pyramid will be a monument to God, because he's alive and real in our lives today!



Let's praise our one true God with a song! Quickly review the words and motions to "One True God." (Words and motions are on page 45.) Then sing the song praising our awesome God.



field test findings

No one knows exactly how ancient Egyptians pronounced words or even how they spelled them because their written language didn't include any vowels.

Here's a cheer from the Zoan Family at our field test. They pronounced "Zoan" like "Zone." You'll see why, in this call-and-response cheer.

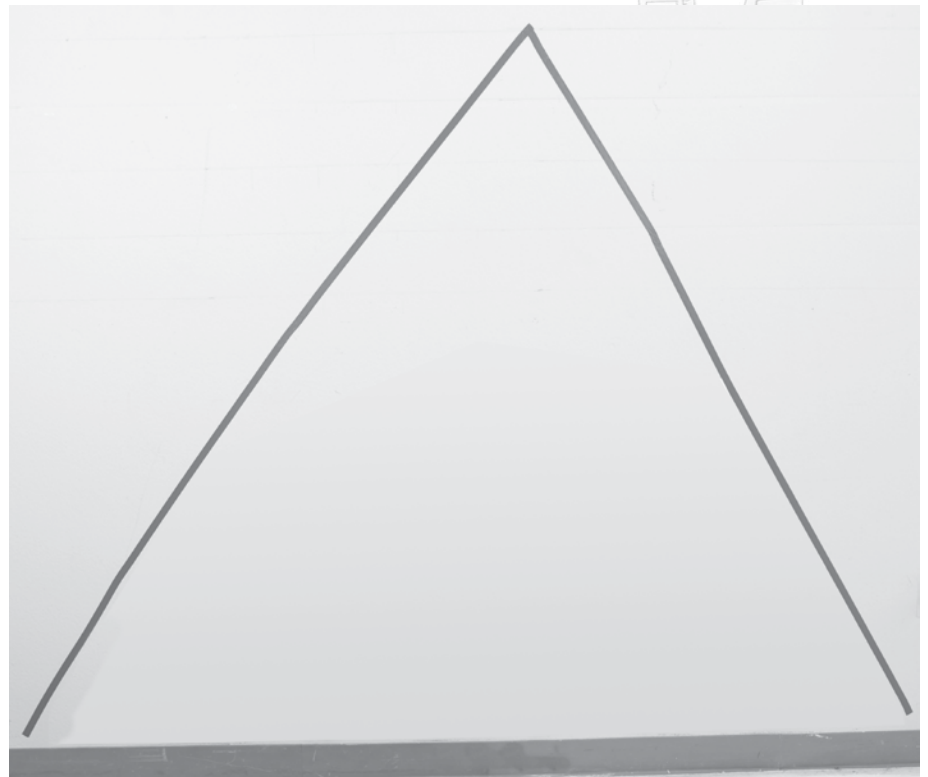
Family Leader: **Who's in the Zoan?**

Family members: **We're in the Zoan.**

Family Leader: **Who's in the Zoan?**


Family members: **We're in the Zoan.**

Everyone together: **Z-O-A-N, Zoan!**



Homeward Bound

Say: **We've had a great day in ancient Egypt. You've been God Sightings to me with your awesome singing! I can't wait to hear your God Sightings tomorrow.**

Give announcements, and then dismiss the Families. Remind them to take home their Notes From the Nile pages and craft projects. Encourage everyone to show others that  **God gives us hope.**

Play the *Celebration Music* in the background while participants leave.



congratulations!

You're about to bring children closer to Jesus.



This leader manual will show you how!

You're the Celebration Leader in the Egypt VBS...so what do you do—and how do you do it?

As the Celebration Leader, you get to lead children in singing praises to the one true God! You'll be one of the first faces kids and adults see—you'll make people feel welcome, teach everyone fun songs and motions, and help children explore worship through music.

Everything you need to succeed as Celebration Leader is right in this manual! Lyrics and motions... easy-to-follow daily scripts...practical, field-tested tips...and more!



Questions? Here's how to get answers:

- ▷ **First, check carefully through this book.** There's a LOT of helpful information tucked into these pages. The answer is probably already in your hands!
- ▷ **Connect with your VBS Director and leadership team.** Remember, you're not alone! You're part of a dynamic ministry team—so don't be afraid to take advantage of the people resources that surround you.
- ▷ **Expand your network with Group's social media platforms.** Connect with other Egypt leaders nationwide. Share ideas, ask questions, brainstorm...the sky's the limit! Online 24/7 at facebook.com/groups/holylandadventure.

And don't forget to pray! God put you in this VBS leadership role for a reason—and he wants you to succeed.

Ready to usher kids into God's presence? Open up this Leader Manual and get started!

Group's
Holy Land ADVENTURE



Did you know?

You can find cool costumes and props for Egypt online! Visit group.com/vbs or your Group VBS supplier today for great deals on exclusive items.



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