

ultimate director go-to guide®



Groups  
**EGYPT**  
Joseph's Journey  
from prison to palace

Groups  
**Holy Land ADVENTURE**

**Group**



ULTIMATE  
DIRECTOR  
GO-TO GUIDE®



Loveland, Colorado  
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## 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:



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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

### Ultimate Director Go-To Guide®

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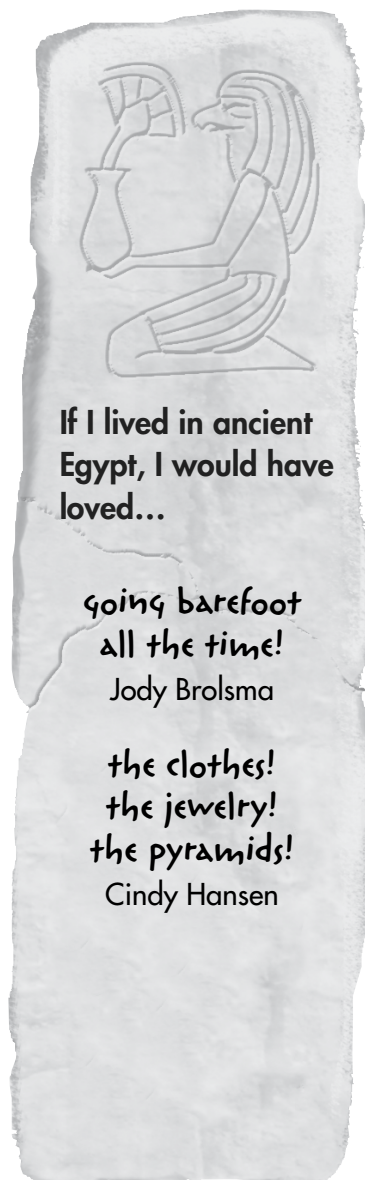
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27 26 25



If I lived in ancient Egypt, I would have loved...

going barefoot  
all the time!

Jody Broolsma

the clothes!  
the jewelry!  
the pyramids!

Cindy Hansen

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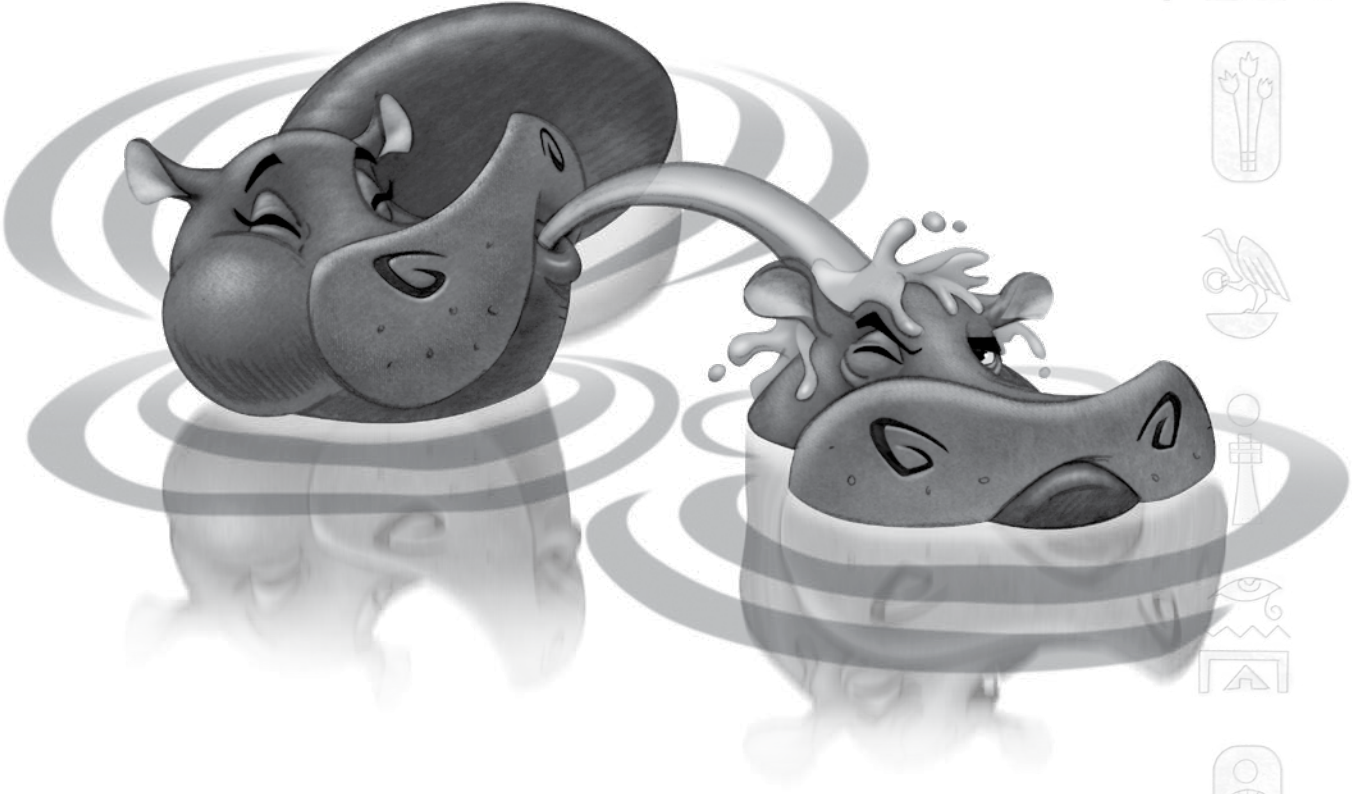


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# EGYPT BASICS







# GREETINGS FROM EGYPT!

Welcome to Egypt! We're glad you've chosen this amazing experience that will help kids (and adults) experience Joseph's incredible faith journey from prison to palace—right alongside Joseph himself! Our team had the opportunity to see this program in action as we tested it. All we can say is that you're in for an unforgettable time!

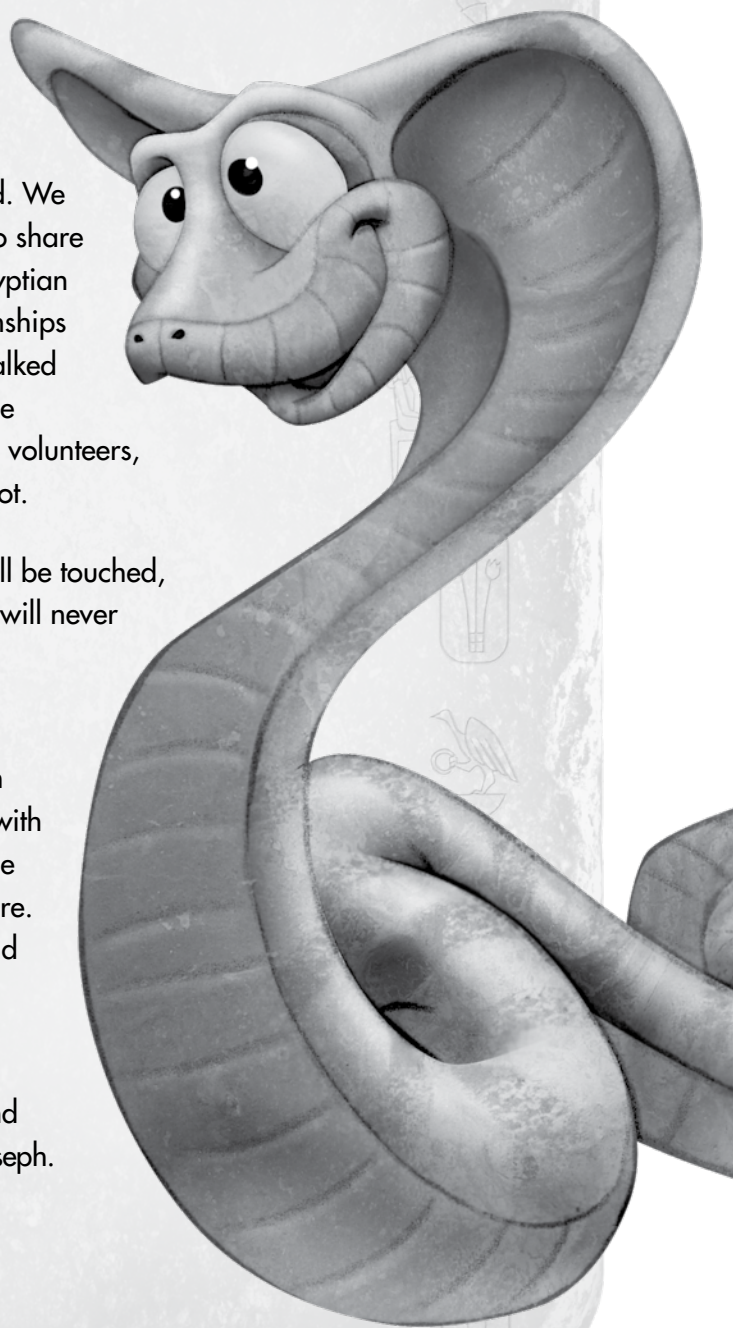
During our field test, we looked for opportunities to make God's Word come alive for everyone involved. We made sure each day Families had the opportunity to share their belief in the one true God. We watched as Egyptian Family Leaders developed wonderful, warm relationships with the kids and adults in their small groups. We talked with kids and adults, asking them what they liked the most...and the least. We listened to the kids, adults, volunteers, parents, and even bystanders. And we prayed...a lot.

It's our prayer that through your Egypt VBS, lives will be touched, hearts will be changed, and your entire community will never be the same again.

This Director Go-To Guide contains everything you need to plan a successful program, recruit and train volunteers, publicize your program, and follow up with families after the big event. Be sure to join our online "family" at [facebook.com/groups/holylandadventure](https://facebook.com/groups/holylandadventure). There you'll find support, ideas, encouragement, and a team of experts ready to answer your questions right away.

And we'll be praying for you, asking God to guide and bless you on this firsthand adventure into the life of Joseph.

## GROUP'S VBS TEAM



# Groups 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 paper balloon to explore how hope fills their hearts.



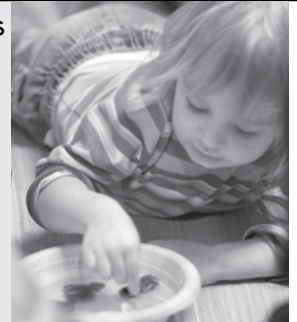
### Day 2

**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

### Pyramid Playground

### Marketplace Shops



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



Wrap up a few crazy mummy games.



Visit a variety of shops every day:

Barbershop & Salon



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



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



Toy Shop

Brickmaking

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



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



Embalmer's Workshop

Jewelry Shop



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



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

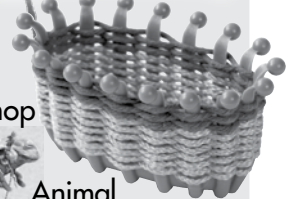


Operation Kid-to-Kid™ Tent



Hieroglyphic Artist's Shop

Basket Weaver's Shop



Animal Courtyard

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



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



Food Shop





## Digging Into Your Egypt Starter Kit

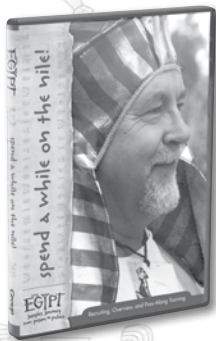
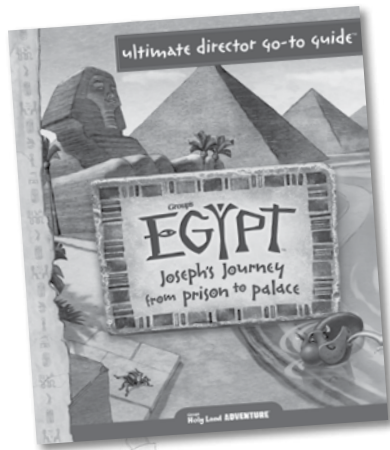
Before you begin your Egypt program, dig into your Starter Kit to make sure it contains all the following items.

- **Egypt Ultimate Director Go-To Guide** (you're reading it now!)— This is your guide to directing your Egypt program. It includes everything you need to plan, staff, and promote your church's best VBS ever! In it you'll find photocopyable handouts, letters, planning guides, and more.
- ***Spend a While on the Nile! Recruiting, Overview, and Pass-Along Training DVD***—You'll reach for this DVD again and again because it contains a wealth of information—for you *and* your staff! You'll find
  - recruiting commercials that will get church members excited about helping at *this* VBS,
  - a promotional tool that you can use to publicize Egypt in your church, and
  - training that'll get everyone ready to step back in time.

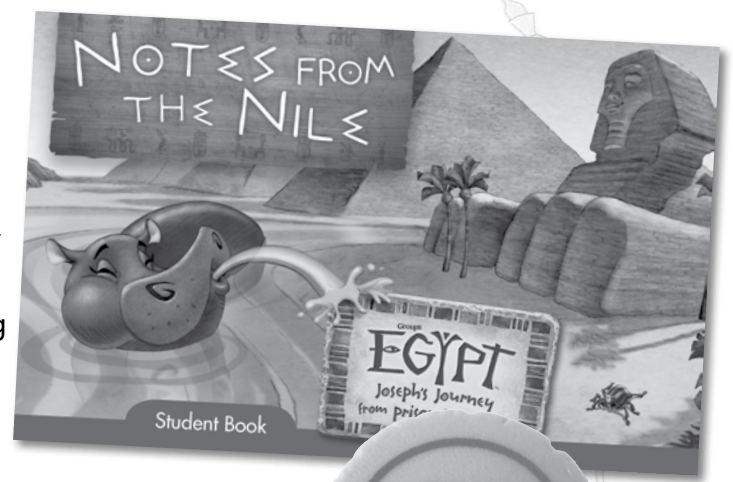
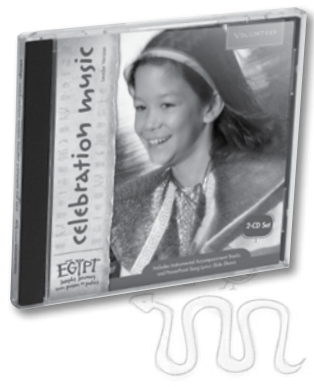
You can feel confident that your staff is well prepared for its role at Egypt. Plus, you'll see for yourself how much fun Bible learning can be!

- ***Egypt Clip Art & Resources CD***—You'll go to this amazing resource again and again for the great Egypt clip art, publicity helps, customizable forms, and much more.
- **four leader manuals**—
  - Celebration Leader Manual
  - Shopkeeper Manual
  - Joseph's Journey Leader Manual
  - Pyramid Playground Leader Manual

Each book contains easy instructions for specific roles at Egypt. Leader manuals include interesting historical backgrounds, step-by-step directions for each activity, guided discussion questions, and valuable information to make sure everything goes smoothly.



- **sample Family Time Teaching Kit** (includes leader manual)—Equip your Family Leaders to guide meaningful object lessons, life application discussions, and unique experiences that make Scripture stick.
- **Celebration Music Leader Version 2-CD Set**—Disc 1 provides 9 faith-building songs plus the awesome Egypt soundtrack and instrumental-only tracks. Disc 2 contains PowerPoint song lyrics to use at Celebration. After you’ve listened to the CD, give it to your Celebration Leader. He or she will use it to teach these cool songs.
- **Celebration Music DVD**—This is the easiest way to lead Celebration. Follow along with onscreen lyrics, as kids on the DVD show the motions.
- **Marketplace sample project packet**—Use the items in this packet to create samples of Bible-times projects for the Barbershop & Salon, the Toy Shop, the Embalmer’s Workshop, the Jewelry Shop, the Hieroglyphic Artist’s Shop, and the Basket Weaver’s Shop. Everyone will love making such high-quality, unique projects that are a far cry from your usual VBS crafts. They’ll weave, stamp, bead, and more!
- **Participant resources packet**—Send home eye-catching reminders of each day’s Bible truths. Notes From the Nile Student Books include snippets from Joseph’s journal, faith-building devotions based on historical insights, the key Bible verse, and practical ways for everyone to watch for God in daily life.



If any Egypt Starter Kit items are missing or damaged, contact Group or your Group VBS supplier for prompt replacement. If you checked off everything on this list, you’re ready to wrap up big fun in Egypt!

## Spend a While on the Nile!

Imagine what it was like to live and work in a dusty, bustling, noisy city along the Nile in ancient Egypt. You would hear the hubbub about what was happening in Pharaoh's palace. You might work with people who follow countless gods—and perhaps hear about someone who follows only one God. Perhaps you'd wonder about the new guy Pharaoh has put in charge of storing and distributing food. Some say this former prisoner has the gift of interpreting dreams!

Egypt immerses learners of all ages in Bible-times culture, helping kids and adults explore what it might have been like to live in a culture that had never heard of the one true God. Families will experience new traditions, taste new foods, try new craft projects, and discover that God never leaves us alone through life's trials and triumphs.

Kids and adults gather for a brief time of worship at Celebration before joining their Egyptian Families for small-group interaction. During Family Time, Egyptian Families will get ready to step back in time by looking at their "travel itinerary" (that's their daily schedule), putting on their Family Banduras, and preparing to share God's love throughout Egypt. Then Families are off to visit Joseph while he's in prison (or when he's moved into the palace), or laugh and play at Pyramid Playground. Every Family will have plenty of time to explore the Marketplace, where they might create an Egyptian board game, craft a jeweled Cairo Collar, design an authentic-looking Hieroglyphic Necklace, sample unique treats at the Food Shop, or visit the animals at the Animal Courtyard. The Egyptian Marketplace consists of the following shops:



**Barbershop & Salon**



**Operation Kid-to-Kid™ Tent**



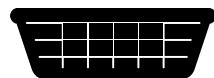
**Toy Shop**



**Hieroglyphic Artist's Shop**



**Brickmaking**



**Basket Weaver's Shop**



**Embalmer's Workshop**



**Animal Courtyard**



**Jewelry Shop**



**Food Shop**



Throughout the day, kids and adults will be challenged to share God’s love and their belief in God with shopkeepers, Joseph’s guard, and the Pyramid Playground Leader. In field testing, this was a highlight of the program because it allowed participants to practice sharing their faith in a safe environment. Talk about real life-application!

The day at Egypt wraps up with Family Time, where kids and adults connect their experiences “in Egypt” to their modern-day lives at home. They’ll discuss how they see God’s hand today, what God’s love means to them, and how they can share that love with others. In fact, everyone learns to watch for evidence of God in everyday life! They’ll even build their own monument to God right at your church.

Finally, everyone gathers for a brief time of singing and announcements at Celebration. This unique, hands-on approach to Bible learning is one that kids and adults won’t soon forget!



**mummy musings**

It’s OK to start your week with fewer shops and then add others later in the week. It will be nice to have a few surprises, and people will be excited to see something new and different.





### mummy musings

Churches around the country have reported great success with having families travel together as Egyptian Families. Families build unity, encourage communication, and create wonderful memories that families will cherish for years to come. You'll love watching families interact together. It really works!



## Egypt Is Really Unique

Take a closer look and you'll see why this Holy Land Adventure is the most effective program around!

- **At Egypt, everyone explores the culture of Joseph's world.** Too often, the Bible feels like an outdated history book. After all, those things *did* happen a long time ago! Kids (and adults) might sometimes forget that Joseph was a young man who faced heartbreaking trials, discouraging moments of hopelessness, joyous victories, and tear-filled celebrations. Through every circumstance, Scripture shows us that Joseph proclaimed a steadfast faith in God. At Egypt, participants get to meet Joseph and live these ups and downs alongside him. These eye-opening interactions are specially designed to help learners of all ages discover that God is with us today. God's Word comes alive as Egyptian Families explore traditional Bible-times customs, occupations, food, and even games! Each day kids and adults will leave Egypt with a fresh understanding and appreciation for what it was like to be a God-follower in a Godless culture. And, more importantly, they'll discover that God gives us a family.

- **At Egypt, everyone lives what they've learned...every day!** All that information about Bible culture is great, but it's useless if it doesn't help kids and adults grow in their relationship with Jesus. That's why each day you'll challenge participants to look for evidence of God in everyday life.

- **At Egypt, volunteers teach only what they're interested in.** Egypt provides opportunities for you to place a variety of volunteers in the role that best suits them. Have a great storyteller in your congregation? Recruit that person to be Joseph. Have someone who loves crafts? Recruit that person to head up one of the Marketplace shops. Teachers can volunteer in their areas of expertise. And volunteers who would rather participate in the entire experience can join your staff as Egyptian Family Leaders!



- **At Egypt, everyone meets new friends as they form Egyptian Families.** Say goodbye to traditional classrooms, and get a taste of multi-age learning! Each day kids (and adults, if you want a family program) join an Egyptian Family. These small groups of no more than 10 ensure relationship building and create a safe learning environment.
- **At Egypt, no activity stands alone.** Instead of leading independent, isolated classes, Egyptian “citizens” see all the Egyptian Families each day. Just like real Bible-times families, children and adults experience different facets of everyday life in Egypt. Each day they’ll interact with shopkeepers, guards, and even Joseph himself! Every member of your staff provides a unique and important part of the total experience.
- **At Egypt, Egyptian Families get to experience unique, unforgettable activities.** Throughout the week, kids and adults become apprentices at a variety of Marketplace shops, such as the Toy Shop and the Embalmer’s Workshop. They’ll discover what games were like for kids in Bible times. These awesome experiences bring fresh life to Bible passages people may have heard again and again.

Each Family has an adult or teenage Family Leader and an Assistant Family Leader. Family Leaders are teachers who become part of the Family—like parents or older siblings. Family Leaders participate in



**Mummy Musings**  
 We’ve heard it again and again from VBS directors everywhere: “This program brought out people’s talents in wonderful new ways. People who never imagined they could work with kids had a great time—and already volunteered to help next year.” So go for it! Look beyond the “usual” group of volunteers, and bring in some new faces.







all the activities and encourage kids and adults to talk about and apply what they're learning. Family Leaders who participated in Egypt field tests saw kids and adults encouraging each other during the activities, older kids helping younger Family members with difficult tasks, and everyone reminding each other to use kind words. At Egypt, everyone puts God's love into action!






- **At Egypt, everyone is treated with respect.** Because kids travel in intergenerational Families, big kids and little kids learn to work together. Instead of trying to compete with children their own age, older children help younger children at the Pyramid Playground area. Younger children spark older children's imaginations during a visit with Joseph and at each of the Marketplace shops. Social skills improve, self-esteem rises, cooperation increases, and discipline problems diminish.

***Knowing and understanding these distinctions will help you present Egypt to your church or committee.***



# How Families Will Learn the Bible

Each day focuses on a Bible Point as well as a corresponding Bible passage. When Egyptian Families visit with Joseph, they'll explore the story from his perspective, digging into the emotion and intrigue of Joseph's life. These key Scripture passages take on new meaning as kids and adults immerse themselves in the culture of Egypt. The chart below shows the Bible content Families cover each day.

Day	Bible Point	Bible Story	Bible Verse
<b>1</b> 	God gives us hope.	Joseph interprets dreams in prison. (Genesis 40:1-23)	"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)
<b>2</b> 	God gives us special abilities.	Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge. (Genesis 41:1-40)	"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well." (Romans 12:6)
<b>3</b> 	God gives us wisdom.	Joseph leads Egypt through famine. (Genesis 41:41-42:5)	"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you." (James 1:5)
<b>4</b> 	God gives us forgiveness.	Joseph forgives his brothers. (Genesis 42:6-45:15)	"But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love." (Nehemiah 9:17)
<b>5</b> 	God gives us a family.	Joseph settles his family in Egypt. (Genesis 45:16-47:27)	"For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26)



## field test findings

This program really gets everyone into playing a role—even the kids and adults who come as participants! By the end of the week, kids were inviting Joseph’s guard to come to the Celebration to learn about God. Family Leaders were sharing their faith with “unbelieving” shopkeepers. The drama was everywhere!



## During Celebration...

The Celebration Leader leads songs that reinforce the Bible Points and Bible verses. He or she introduces the daily Point and encourages Family members to look for ways they can share that Bible truth in their Egypt experiences.

## During Family Time...

Family Leaders remind their Family members of the Bible Point before they head into the Marketplace each day. After their Marketplace experiences, Egyptian Families gather to discuss the Bible Point and explore how it applies to real life.

## In the Marketplace...

Shopkeepers and Bible-times characters talk about what *they* believe about Joseph and other God-followers. Each person plays a role of someone who has a different viewpoint of Joseph’s story. These characters allow participants to think about and verbalize what they know about the one true God.

## With Joseph...

On Day 1, Joseph is in Pharaoh’s prison, reflecting on the ups and downs he’s faced so far. But on Day 2, Families will be surprised to find Joseph in Pharaoh’s palace, with new responsibilities and a new life. As Joseph welcomes his visitors, he’ll have the opportunity to share his perspective, emotions, and faith. Joseph encourages Families that God will be with *them* through whatever life circumstances they’re facing.



# Egyptian Families

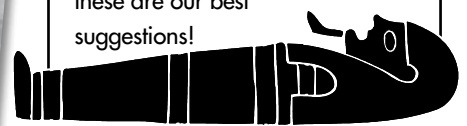
You'll give each small-group Egyptian Family a Family name, based on a city in ancient Egypt. Families give children a taste of Egyptian culture as well as a warm and welcoming group of friends to hang out with! Plus, the colored Banduras (which coordinate with the Family name posters) help you easily identify who is with which group and where different Families are during your Egypt VBS. Just hang these posters around your Celebration meeting area.

The Family Names Poster Pack includes these Family names:



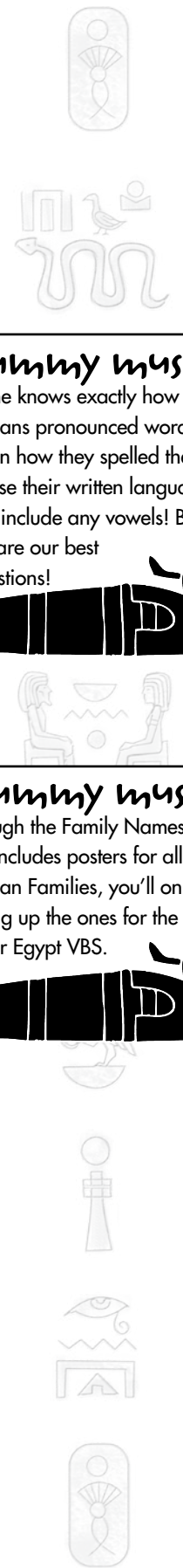
## Mummy Musings

No one knows exactly how ancient Egyptians pronounced words or even how they spelled them because their written language didn't include any vowels! But these are our best suggestions!



## Mummy Musings

Although the Family Names Poster Pack includes posters for all 10 Egyptian Families, you'll only need to hang up the ones for the Families at your Egypt VBS.





If you have more than 100 participants, you can form "Households." For example, in the Family of Amarna, you might have the Households of Elephantine, Aswan, and Edfu. These Households would all wear the same color Bandura (as the Family of Amarna) and would be part of the larger Family of Amarna. You can use the Egyptian names we've given on page 33 or create unique names for each Household!

Detailed instructions for setting up Families begin on page 130. Qualifications for Family Leaders are listed on page 92.

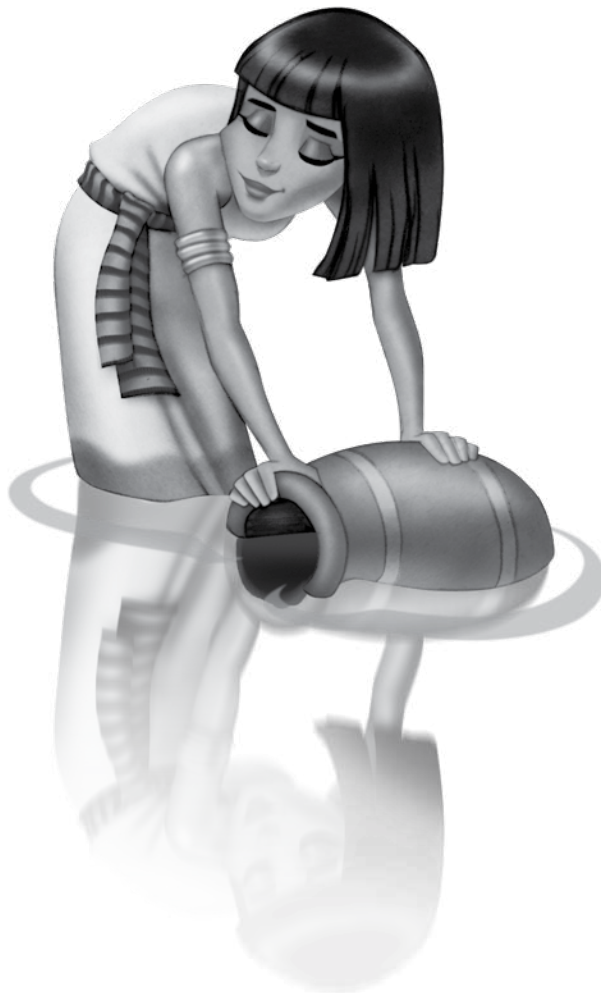
### Mummy Musings

Try to structure your Families so they contain no more than 10 members and two Family Leaders. Through field testing and customer feedback, we've discovered that larger groups can become unmanageable and cause frustration. Plus, smaller groups maximize important relationship-building time.



### Important!

Be sure to distribute the Family Time Leader Manual to all Family Leaders during your leader training or at least a week before VBS. Have extras available at VBS in case you need to form extra Families. Family Leaders will need to be familiar with all the information inside so they will be prepared to guide their Families in two 15-minute segments each day.





# Bible Memory Makers®

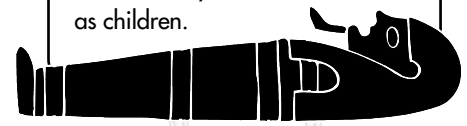
Your Egypt program will be an event that participants of all ages remember for years to come. Families will not only enjoy traditional Bible-times activities together but also be challenged to create meaningful faith-building customs and traditions of their own. That's why you'll want each person to have a set of Bible Memory Makers.

In ancient Egypt, embalmers wrapped small amulets or good luck charms into the mummy wrappings. They believed these small tokens would help the dead as they entered the afterlife. At your Egypt VBS, each person receives a special Bible Memory Maker hieroglyph, a Scripture reminder of the one true God and his real love for each of us. These simple "stones" fit perfectly inside the sarcophagus participants make during their time in the Embalmer's Workshop.

During closing Family Time, the Family Leader will hand each person a Bible Memory Maker in a unique, affirming way. Be sure each person receives a set of Bible Memory Makers so no one misses out on these special moments. (Bible Memory Makers are available from Group or your Group VBS supplier.)



**mummy musings**  
"Why does each person need a set of Bible Memory Makers? Can't I just get one per family?" Think of how much kids will treasure these keepsakes for their very own. Plus, with the Scripture included on each one, you'll encourage Bible memory in adults as well as children.







## field test findings

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 those Families to a new spot. Be sure the pyramid is in a place where everyone will see it but that no one needs to sit nearby.



# god sightings®

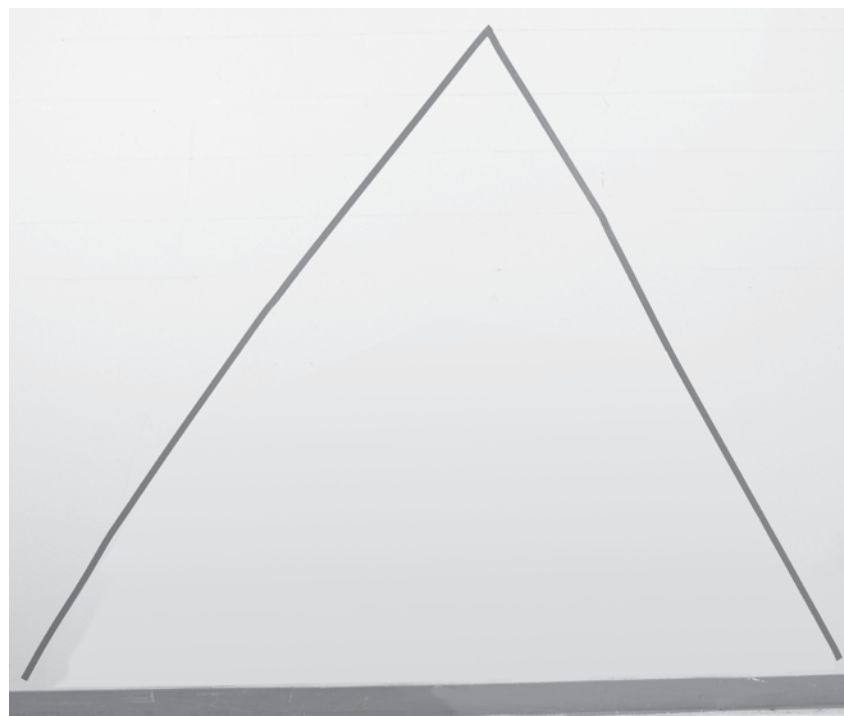
It's easy to read incredible, true stories in the Bible and quietly wonder why God doesn't do those things today. But God *is* active in our everyday lives—we just have to learn to look. At Egypt, you'll encourage participants to look for evidence of God in things like

- 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 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. Gather God Sighting Stones.** You'll need five God Sighting Stones per Egyptian Family. (These easy-to-use paper "blocks" are available from Group or your Group VBS supplier.) Starting on Day 2, you'll drop one God Sighting Stone in each Family basket before Egypt begins. (On Day 5, each Family will get two Stones.)



**3. Watch for God.** At the end of Day 1, the Celebration Leader explains that God Sightings are evidence of the one true God—all around us every day! He or she challenges 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.

**4. Build a monument.** On Day 2, the Celebration Leader dismisses Egyptian Families to Family Time, where they spend about five minutes sharing God Sightings. Family Leaders 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 takes 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.

### 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.





## Setup Is Easy!

Building the pyramids might sound like a lot of hard work (and it was for the Egyptians), but it doesn't have to be for you! With a little creativity and networking, you can have your Marketplace set up in no time. (A hammer and nails are *not* required!)

**Designate a “home base” for each Egyptian Family.** First, you'll need a large blanket to serve as home base for each Egyptian Family. The blanket serves as the Family home and can be a place for kids and adults to store their belongings during the day. Spread the blankets *at least* 6 feet apart in one area of your meeting space.



**Create spaces for Marketplace shops.** For Marketplace shops, use large canopies (such as EZ-Ups). Many of these can be set up indoors if you're having your program inside. Ask around your congregation to see how many you can borrow. Party rental companies often have large canopies you can rent for the week. Just hang solid-colored sheets from the sides of the canopies to distinguish each shop. If your outdoor Marketplace area is blessed with trees, some shopkeepers can simply spread blankets in the shade.





**Add decorating touches.** Canopies, sheets, and blankets are the basic “sets” you’ll use. Then feel free to let your imagination run wild. Gather baskets to set around each shop, drape colorful pieces of cloth on ladders or quilt racks outside shops, and place large pots and urns at the edges of your shops. Set imitation date palms between shops to add a touch of greenery.





## field test findings

We discovered that ornate Christmas ribbon in deep reds, gold, and even black made spectacular (and inexpensive) trim for our Egyptian costumes. Have craft store enthusiasts keep their eyes open for these end-of-season bargains!



# Costuming

## For Your Staff...

Costuming will be a fun part of Egypt because it's a simple way to set the tone and encourage your staff to play their parts. You'll want each staff member to wear a basic costume such as a long white shift-style dress, tunic, or robe. They can tie on a decorative braid belt and slip on a pair of sandals.

Then add jewelry, Egyptian eye makeup, and awesome Egyptian headwear to make these costumes really feel authentic! Check out the simple Cairo Collar craft that kids and adults make in the Jewelry Shop. You may want to have your staff members decorate their own *usekh* collar ahead of time to wear at VBS.

Have a seamstress or tailor in your congregation? Let them use the easy costume instructions on the *Egypt Clip Art & Resources* CD to contribute in a memorable way.





## For Participants...

Each Family member should wear a color-coded Bandura that corresponds to his or her Egyptian Family color. (Family Banduras are available from Group or your Group VBS supplier.) Family Leaders will be so glad their Family members have these Banduras! At a glance, leaders can tell where their Family members are or whether there are still a few “stragglers” left in the Marketplace. It’s a great way to keep everyone safe.

If you want to provide basic tunics for kids, simply cut the arms off of men’s T-shirts. (Find the largest size possible.) Then kids can tie colorful sashes around their waists. It’s important that you not force children to wear costumes. Younger kids will likely jump at the chance to “dress up,” while it may take older kids a while to get into their roles. Remember, costumes help create the environment and will set the tone for fun and authenticity.



### field test findings

We always make costumes an optional part of the program for participants—and we’re always amazed at the number of people who want to wear them! Some kids brought their own costumes (one was an angel costume left over from Halloween—minus the wings), adding the jeweled Cairo Collars and headbands they made during the week.





# Egypt Fits Churches of All Sizes!

## Small...

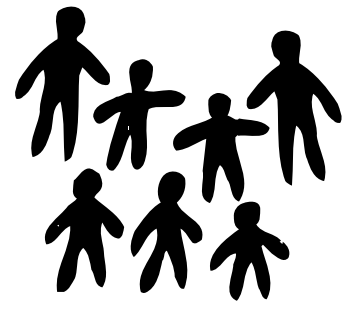
If you have fewer than 50 participants, you'll have only a few Egyptian Families.



Family of Amarna

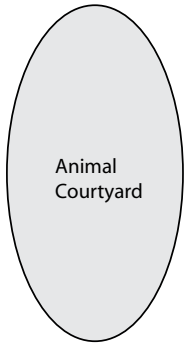


Family of Per-Bastet

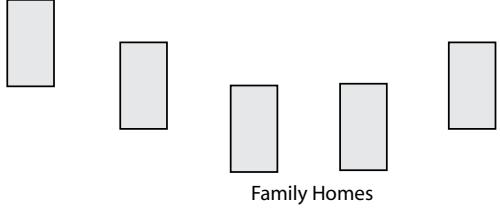
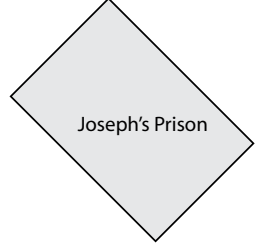
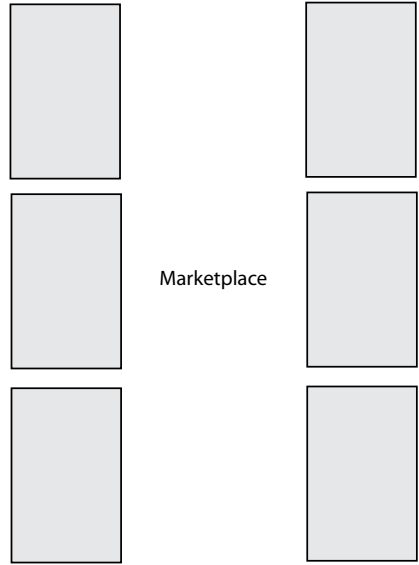


Family of Giza

Since you have fewer people exploring the Marketplace shops at one time, you'll require fewer shops. (Of course, you're welcome to have them all up and running.) You'll still set up Joseph's prison/palace and an area for Pyramid Playground. Your church might be set up like this:



Pyramid Playground



Your daily schedule might look as simple as this:

Groups  
**EGYPT**<sup>TM</sup>  
 Joseph's Journey  
 from prison to palace

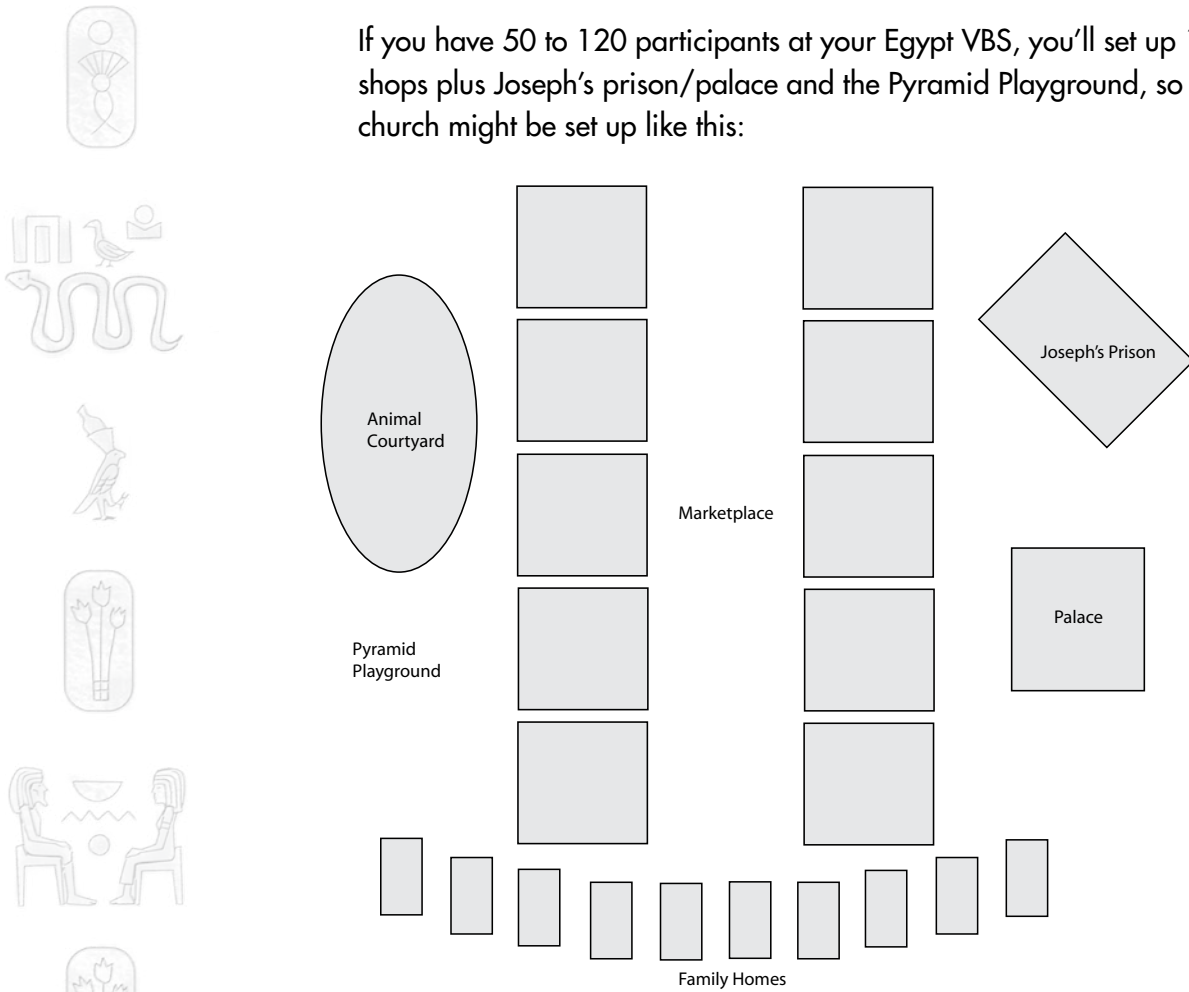
**Sample  
 Schedule**

Time	Group A Families: <u>Amarna</u> <u>Zoan</u>	Group B Families: <u>Per-Bastet</u> <u>Medinet el-Fayum</u>	Group C Families: <u>Giza</u>
9:00-9:15	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>			
9:20-9:35	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>			
9:40-9:55	Joseph	Pyramid Playground	Visit Marketplace
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>			
10:00-10:15	Pyramid Playground	Joseph	
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>			
10:20-10:35	Visit Marketplace		Joseph
10:40-10:55			Pyramid Playground
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>			
11:00-11:15	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>			
11:20-11:35	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration

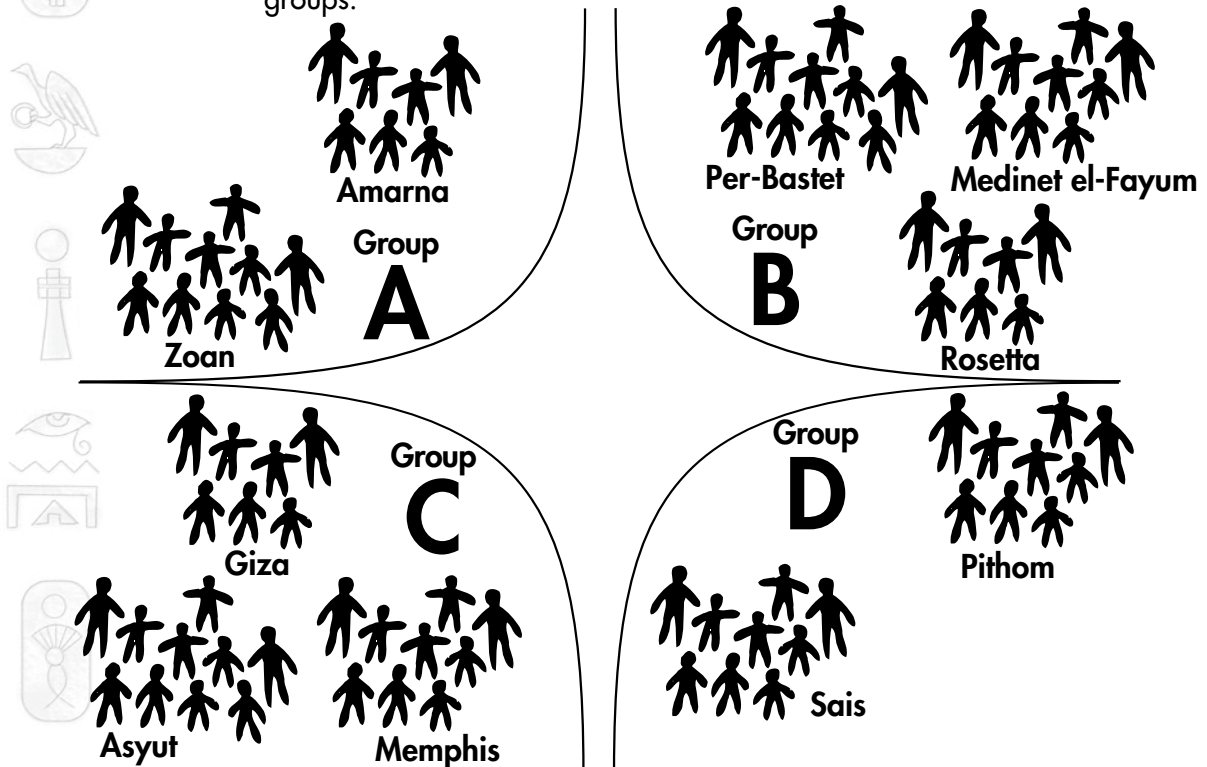


### Medium...

If you have 50 to 120 participants at your Egypt VBS, you'll set up 10 shops plus Joseph's prison/palace and the Pyramid Playground, so your church might be set up like this:



Divide your total number of Egyptian Families by four to form four large groups.





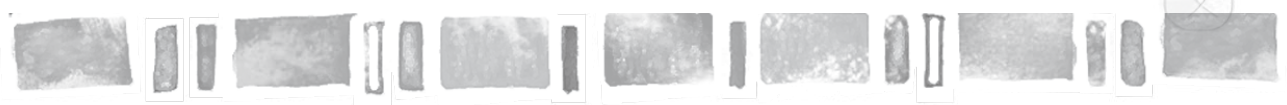
These groups will travel to each area, following a schedule that looks like this:

Groups  
**EGYPT**  
 Joseph's Journey  
 from prison to palace

**Sample  
 Schedule**

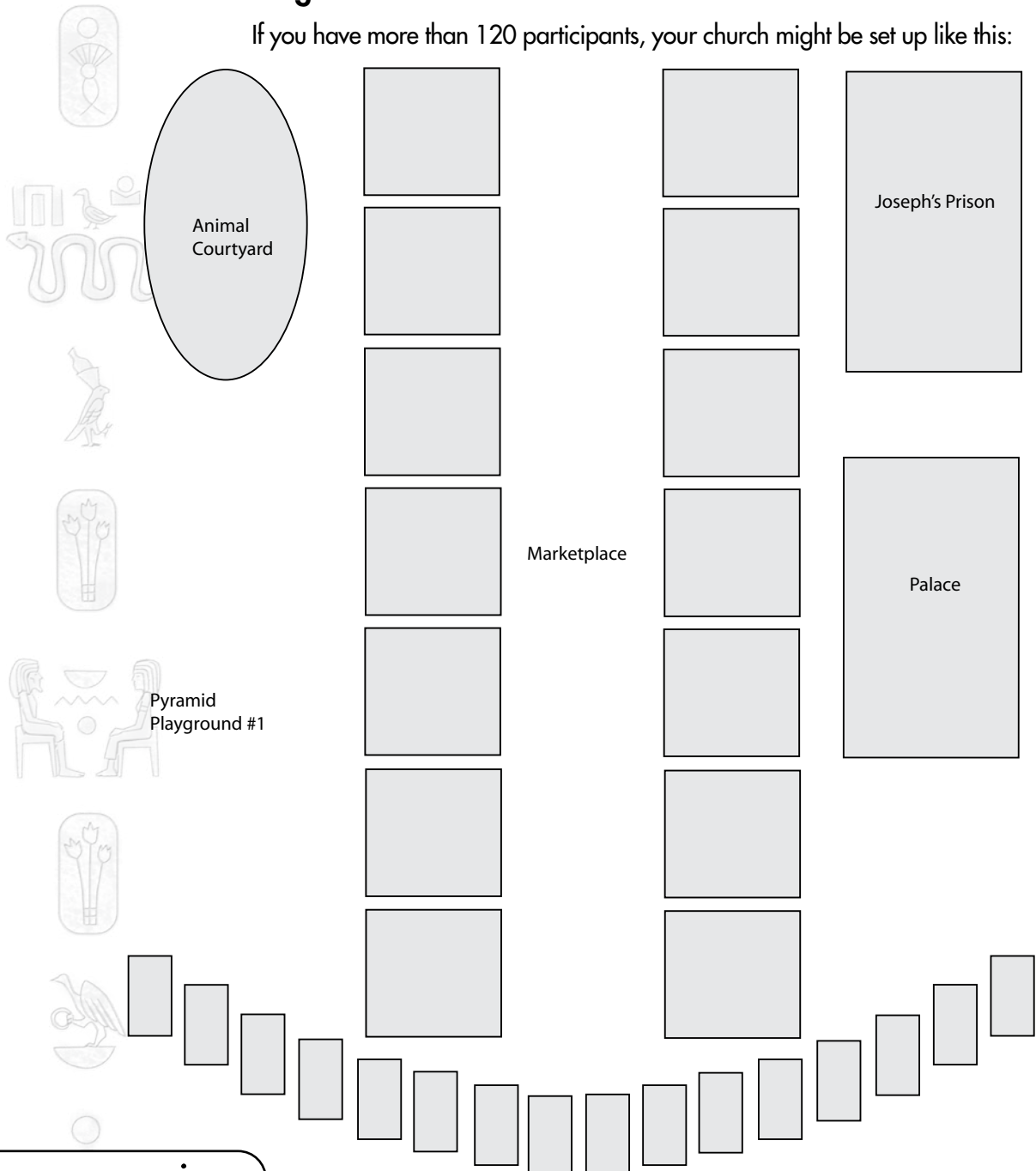


Time	Group A Families: <u>Amarna</u> <u>Zoan</u>	Group B Families: <u>Per-Bastet</u> <u>Medinet el-Fayum</u> <u>Rosetta</u>	Group C Families: <u>Giza</u> <u>Asyut</u> <u>Memphis</u>	Group D Families: <u>Sais</u> <u>Pithom</u>
9:00-9:15	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>				
9:20-9:35	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>				
9:40-9:55	Joseph	Pyramid Playground	Visit Marketplace	
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>				
10:00-10:15	Pyramid Playground	Joseph		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>				
10:20-10:35	Visit Marketplace		Joseph	Pyramid Playground
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>				
10:40-10:55			Pyramid Playground	Joseph
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>				
11:00-11:15	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>				
11:20-11:35	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration

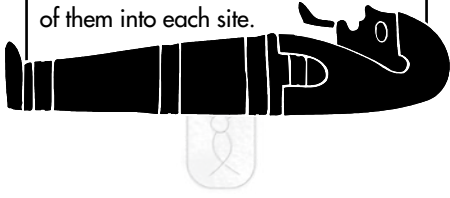


### Large...

If you have more than 120 participants, your church might be set up like this:



**ḫꜣḫꜣḫꜣ ḫꜣḫꜣḫꜣ**  
 Don't worry if you need to set up duplicate shops—it's easy and really works best. If at all possible, place the duplicate shops next to each other. Then when participants arrive at the areas, leaders can simply direct half of them into each site.



Divide your total number of Egyptian Families by eight to form eight large groups. These groups will travel to each area, following a schedule that looks like this:

### Sample Schedule

Time	Group A Families (Amarna): Households: Elephantine, Aswan, Edfu	Group B Families (Per-Bastet): Households: Armant, Luxor, Karnak	Group C Families (Giza): Households: Maadi, Dendera, Thebes	Group D Families (Sais): Households: Abydos, Hawara, Tanis		
8:30-8:45	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
8:45-9:00	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
9:00-9:15	Joseph	Pyramid Playground #1	Visit Marketplace			
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
9:15-9:30	Pyramid Playground #1	Joseph				
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
9:30-9:45	Visit Marketplace		Joseph	Pyramid Playground #1		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
9:45-10:00			Pyramid Playground #1	Joseph		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
10:00-10:15	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
10:15-10:30	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration		

### Sample Schedule

Time	Group E Families (Zoan): Households: Saqqara, Ombos, Kahun	Group F Families (Medinet el-Fayum): Households: Nebet, Canopus, Naqada	Group G Families (Pithom): Households: Damanhur, Esna, Pi-Ramesses	Group H Families (Memphis): Households: Beni Hasan, Dahshur, Deir el-Medina		
8:30-8:45	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
8:45-9:00	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
9:00-9:15	Joseph	Pyramid Playground #2	Visit Marketplace			
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
9:15-9:30	Pyramid Playground #2	Joseph				
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
9:30-9:45	Visit Marketplace		Joseph	Pyramid Playground #2		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
9:45-10:00			Pyramid Playground #2	Joseph		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
10:00-10:15	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time		
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.</i>						
10:15-10:30	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration		



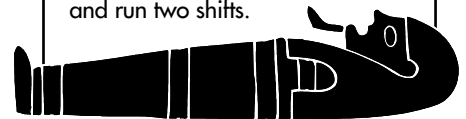
#### Mummy Musings

If you have more than 100 participants and “outgrow” your Family names, you’ll form households. For example, in the Family of Amarna, you’d have the Households of Elephantine, Aswan, and Edfu. These Households would all wear the same color Bandura, and be part of the larger Family of Amarna. You can use the Egyptian names we’ve given on this page to create unique names for each Household!



#### Mummy Musings

For another large-group option, run a morning and evening program. Simply have participants sign up for the daytime or evening program; then decorate once and run two shifts.







## Does Egypt Need to Be Intergenerational?

Although the activities included in Egypt have been designed for and tested by families, you *can* create an Egypt VBS just for kids. If you're planning to use Egypt as a children's ministry event, simply form combined-age elementary Families. Include one or two kids from each age level, along with an adult or teenage Family Leader and an Assistant Family Leader. (It's important to have both a Family Leader *and* an Assistant Family Leader so kids can form two groups when they go into the Marketplace. Plus, the Assistant Family Leader will help with Family Time activities.) The mixed-age Families will still maintain a family feel, so your activities will be just as powerful and meaningful.



## Preschoolers Dig Into *This Big Bible Fun*

Ideally, you'll want preschoolers to join intergenerational Families so they can experience the Marketplace shops and other activities with adults and older kids. In our field tests, preschoolers joined right in and enjoyed talking with Joseph and trying out Pyramid Playground right along with everyone else.

However, if your Egypt program isn't intergenerational, you may want to create a special Egypt experience just for preschoolers. Little adventurers can join the older kids for opening and closing Celebration each day, and in between, they will enjoy fun, age-appropriate Bible-learning activities in Egypt Preschool. Here's how.

- **Form Egyptian Families of up to five preschoolers and one teenage or adult Family Leader.** Preschool Family Leaders can follow most of the activities given in the Family Time Leader Manual, allowing preschoolers to wear a colorful Bandura, try unique (and surprising) Family Time experiences, and receive a special Bible Memory Maker.
- **Each day preschoolers can explore their own "mini-Marketplace" with all five senses.** Simply set up a duplicate Marketplace area with fewer shops. We recommend the following Egypt Preschool shops:
 

Barbershop & Salon	Hieroglyphic Artist's Shop
Brickmaking	Animal Courtyard
Embalmer's Workshop	Food Shop
Jewelry Shop	
- **You'll also set up a Pyramid Playground area just for preschoolers.** Simply hand the Pyramid Playground Leader Manual to a volunteer who can lead these easy activities. Little ones will love playing "Heart, Heart, Brain" on Day 1 or getting wheelbarrow rides on Day 5.
- **Preschoolers can visit Joseph.** Joseph can change his setting to be fully lit on Day 1 so your youngest learners feel right at home. He might even have a few crackers to share with them!



### field test findings

We've heard from many churches that didn't provide a nursery. Families included babies, toddlers, and preschoolers—all participating right along with their families. Don't hesitate to include the littlest learners, too!



### mummy musings

Almost every shop includes alternative projects or activities suited for younger children. Check with your shopkeepers to see if they can arrange to have these options available.







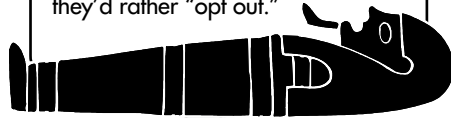
### ḥꜣḥꜣḥꜣ ḥꜣḥꜣḥꜣ

It's important that middle school kids understand the specifics of their jobs. Give them specific roles, such as Assistant Brick Maker or Assistant Pyramid Playground Leader, and you'll see them do a super job.



### ḥꜣḥꜣḥꜣ ḥꜣḥꜣḥꜣ

Make sure you choose more mature fifth- and sixth-graders for leadership roles. Many kids this age still enjoy being Family members and participating in all activities. Some upper-elementary kids will feel left out if they can't make their own crafts or participate fully in other activities. Be sure to ask kids what *they'd* like to do instead of assuming they'd rather "opt out."



## Even Middle Schoolers Fit In

Many churches are unsure how to handle middle schoolers; they seem too old for some children's ministry programs and too young for youth group. Ideally, you'll want middle schoolers to join intergenerational Families so they can experience the Marketplace shops and other activities in a mixed-age setting. With Egypt VBS, middle schoolers can fill a number of roles. Check out the following options to find the perfect fit for your middle schoolers.

- **Have them join Egyptian Families as Assistant Family Leaders.** Many middle schoolers are ready for simple leadership roles, but they still enjoy participating in activities such as games, food, and crafts. As Assistant Family Leaders, they can help their Family Leaders by keeping kids together and working with younger children in the Marketplace shops.
- **Use them as assistant center leaders.** Your middle schoolers are developing their gifts and talents and are discovering the things they excel at and enjoy. Being an assistant center leader is a great way to encourage kids toward this discovery. Do you know an older child who's developing a love for drama and storytelling? Use him or her as Joseph's assistant. What about a child who enjoys sports and other athletic activities? Ask him or her to be an Assistant Pyramid Playground Leader. Your leaders will love the extra help, and older kids will enjoy the added responsibility.
- **Let them help with registration.** Some middle schoolers are nurturing and caring, great qualities for helping younger kids find their way at Egypt. For the first day or two, have a few middle schoolers available to act as guides—helping registrants find their Family Leaders, showing kids the restrooms, or playing with shy children to get them accustomed to the Egyptian Marketplace.
- **You can create a middle school worship team.** Older children (who might normally hesitate to sing and move to music) will enjoy teaching song motions and leading younger children at Celebration. Ask a group of middle schoolers to work with the Celebration Leader to learn the words and motions to all the Egypt songs. The worship team will add visual excitement and energy to your singing time.

Middle schoolers have so much to offer (and gain from) your program! We've heard countless stories of middle schoolers and teenagers whose lives were changed because of their experiences in leading or assisting in VBS. The more these kids are involved in your program, the more opportunities you have to touch their lives.



# Teenagers Have a Role at Egypt

Ideally, you'll want teenagers to join intergenerational Families so they can experience Marketplace shops and other activities in an intergenerational setting. You can also use the following suggestions to involve teenagers (or college students) in your program.

- **Have them act as Egyptian Family Leaders.** Many young adults have younger siblings or baby-sit frequently and are comfortable working with children. Young adults will have a great time leading their Families—and will love how easy it is. (Teenagers actually get as much out of the Bible discussions as the young children!)
- **Let teenagers and young adults help with registration.** Believe it or not, some young people have excellent organizational skills. These young people enjoy organizing the Egyptian Families, greeting children, and helping kids find their Family Leaders. (These helpers make a great first impression for adults as well as kids.) After the first day, your registration helpers can register newcomers, count the daily attendance and report the number to the Food Shop owner, and fill in for absent Family Leaders.
- **Have qualified teenagers run your sound system or act as photographers.** Some high school drama programs train young people to run sound, lighting, and video equipment. These teenagers make excellent Egypt technical staff members. You may even ask them to put together a slide show or video production of your program.

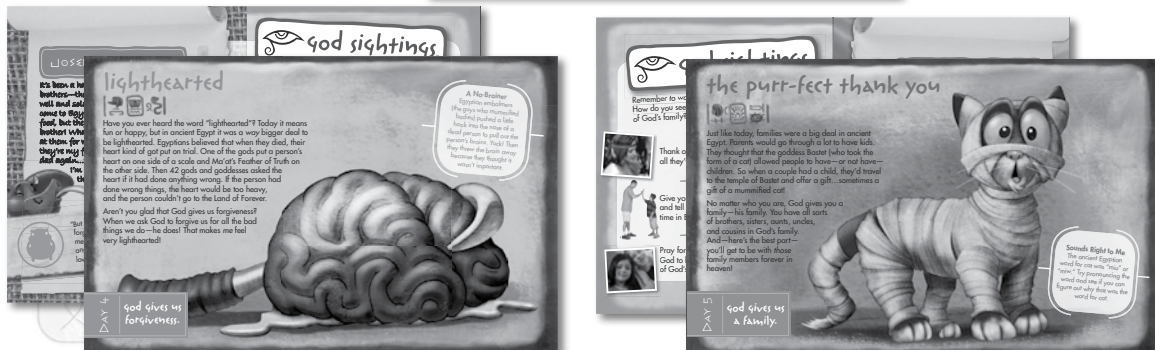
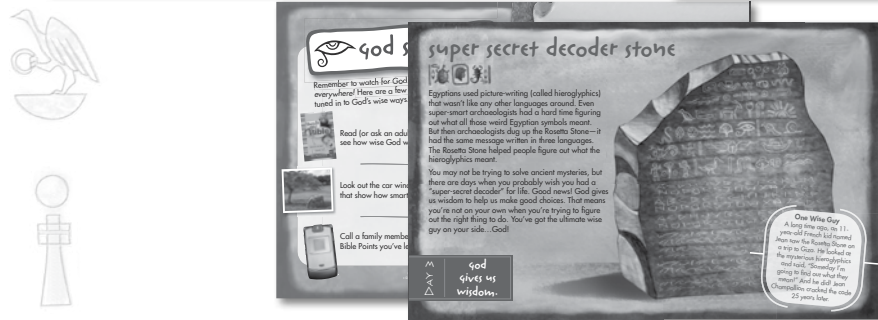
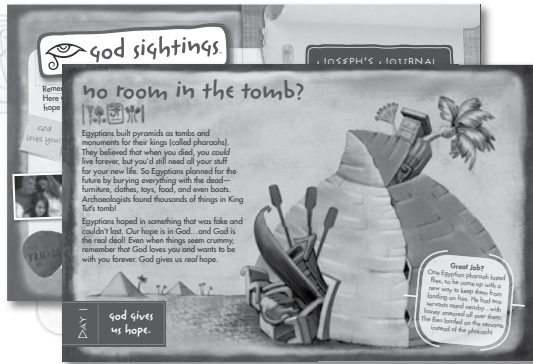
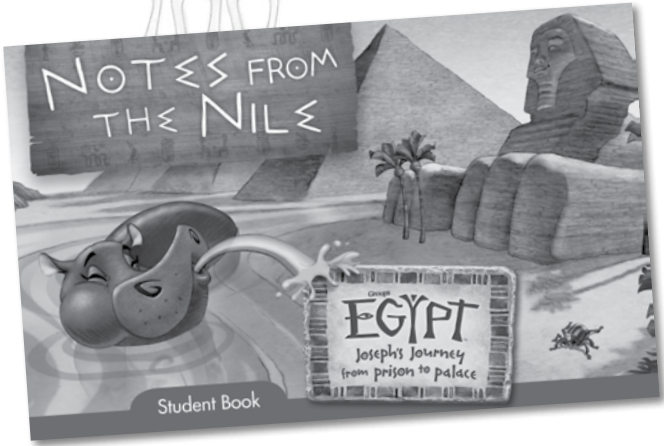
There are countless ways to involve youth in Egypt. Just let teenagers find roles where their gifts, talents, or interests lead them. You'll be surprised at how committed and enthusiastic these young volunteers are.



# Notes From the Nile Student Book

Family members at Egypt will each want a Notes From the Nile Student Book. These colorful books are an easy way to send home the Bible truths kids and adults have explored at Egypt. Each day's Notes From the Nile take-home page highlights that day's Joseph story (through a "journal" entry), gives historical insights that link to a devotional thought, and provides ways kids and adults can look for evidence of God in everyday life.

Each student book also includes a set of pyramid blocks that participants can cut out to build their own miniature memorial to the one true God! You'll encourage kids and adults to keep looking for God—and showing God's love—long after your Egypt VBS has wrapped up.



# A Faith-Building Family Resource

One of the most powerful parts of this program is that it's designed for families to enjoy it together. As families participate in your Egypt VBS, they'll pray, play, laugh, and grow in faith...together! At our field tests, families kept asking how they could develop faith-building family traditions after VBS. So we've created the Building Blocks Family Devotional for the families at *your* church!

If doing family devotions seems daunting, hard, or boring, you've never tried them like this! We've intentionally created each experience to be simple, meaningful, and memorable for all ages. These 10 devotions can be done after dinner, before bedtime, or whenever a family is together. And because the booklets come in a 10-pack, they're affordable and easy for *you*! Families who attend your Egypt VBS will be thrilled at having such a simple resource at their fingertips.



**field test findings**  
We can't say it enough—you've got to try this VBS as a family event! We were so moved to watch parents, grandparents, kids—families of every imaginable structure—laugh, play, and worship together. It's absolutely a must-see.





## Must-Know Info

### Program and Format

- **Does everyone need to be in costume?**

No one should be required to wear a costume, but costumes help create the environment and will set the tone for fun and authenticity. It could be as simple as a colored belt, a simple tunic, or even a bathrobe. Costuming is a fun part of Egypt because it's a simple way to encourage your staff to play their parts and exciting for participants to dress in Bible-times costumes.

- **Do I need to build sets to create the Marketplace?**

Hammer and nails are not required! Creating an ancient Egyptian Marketplace doesn't have to be a lot of work. Canopies and blankets are the basic "sets" you'll use. Gather sheets, baskets, and pots to create shops and see your Marketplace come alive. Also, our field test showed us that Egypt works indoors or outdoors!

- **Will kids have as much fun at Egypt as they would at Group's Easy VBS?**

You bet! Egypt is filled with high-energy games, hands-on crafts, big-action Bible drama, and tasty snacks. But kids will also get the freedom of choice—choosing which shops they visit each day. They'll enjoy learning new skills like brickmaking and writing their names in hieroglyphics. Plus, they'll get insights into Joseph's life and learn how to apply those lessons to their own lives.

- **Can I use the program *just* for kids?**

Yes. Although the activities have been designed for and tested by families, you can create an Egypt program just for kids. Simply form combined-age elementary Egyptian Families that include one or two kids from each age level along with an adult or teenage Family Leader and Assistant Family Leader. Mixed-age Families will still maintain a close-knit feel.

- **Can my Egypt be shorter than five days?**

Yes! If time constraints only allow you to do a four-day program, simply omit the Day 3 activities. Even if you condense your schedule, be sure to send home Notes From the Nile for each day, since the activities will help everyone connect Bible truths to everyday life.



- **How does Egypt work with smaller churches?**

If you have fewer than 50 participants, you'll just have fewer Families. And since you'll have fewer people exploring the Marketplace shops, you'll require fewer shops. (Of course, you're welcome to have them all.) However, you will still set up Joseph's prison/palace and the Pyramid Playground.

- **We have a lot of kids attend who've never been to church before. Will this program be "over their heads"?**

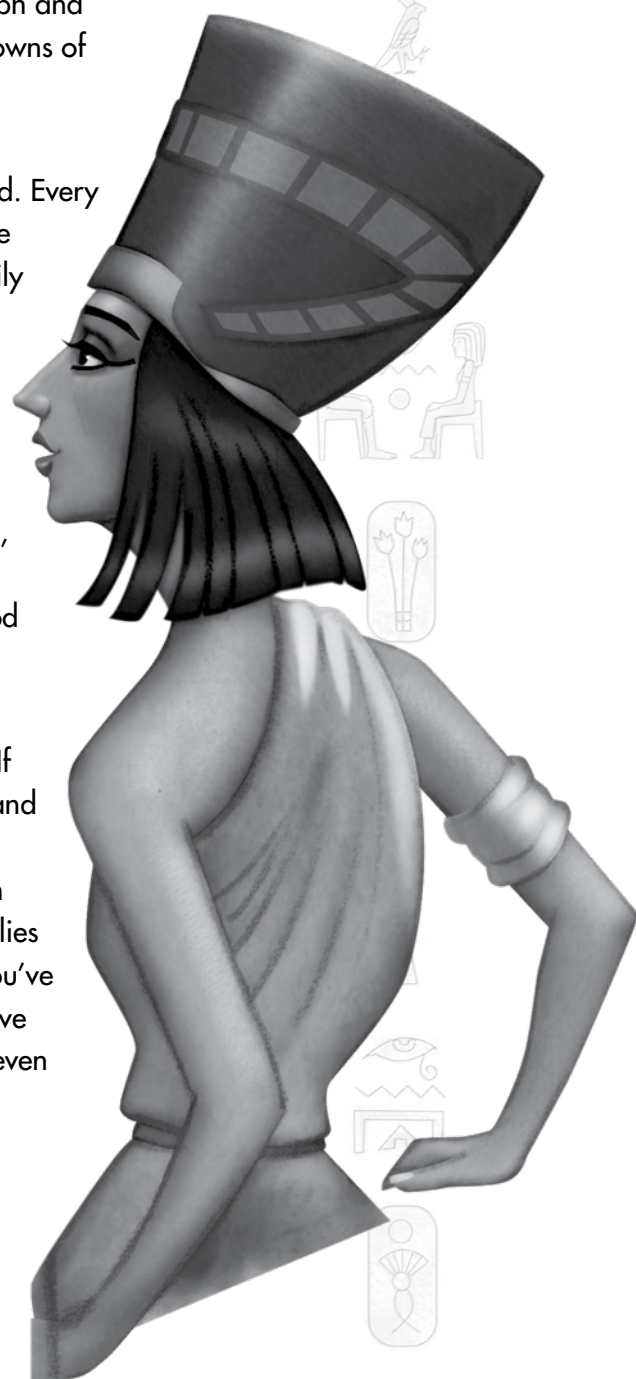
Egypt doesn't assume that kids or adults know *anything* about the Bible, so it's learner-friendly for everyone. You'll get kids of all backgrounds intrigued to learn more about the life of Joseph and about what it means to follow God through the ups and downs of real life.

- **Won't the Marketplace be chaotic?**

Surprisingly, the Marketplace is kind of mellow and relaxed. Every day, each Family forms two groups before heading into the Marketplace. Half of the Family members go with the Family Leader, and the other half go with the Assistant Family Leader. Family Leaders and shopkeepers help kids settle into their projects; or Families might gather together to enjoy a snack they've purchased at the Food Shop. Even though kids get to choose which shops they visit, by the end of the week everyone will have visited each shop. Plus, the use of the silver coins helps kids and adults "budget" time, visiting two shops plus purchasing a snack at the Food Shop every day.

- **What should I do with my preschoolers?**

Preschoolers *love* the fun "make-believe" aspect of Egypt! If you're incorporating entire families, little ones fit right in, and you'll appreciate the extra supervision that parents lend. If you're doing the program exclusively for children, you can either incorporate preschoolers into smaller Egyptian Families (we recommend aiming for about five kids per Family if you've got preschoolers present) or create preschool Families of five children to one Family Leader. Check out page 35 to find even more easy ways to adapt Egypt for preschoolers.



## Products

- I'm not familiar with Holy Land Adventure programs. Which products will have the biggest impact on families that attend? There are many unique products available for Egypt, but when it comes to creating memorable experiences and lasting memories, a few stand out.

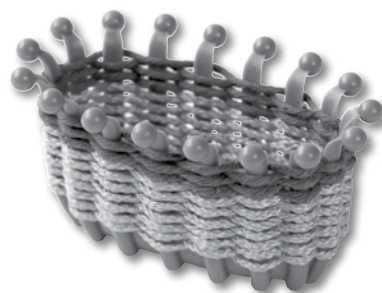
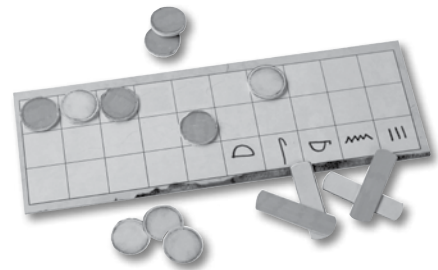
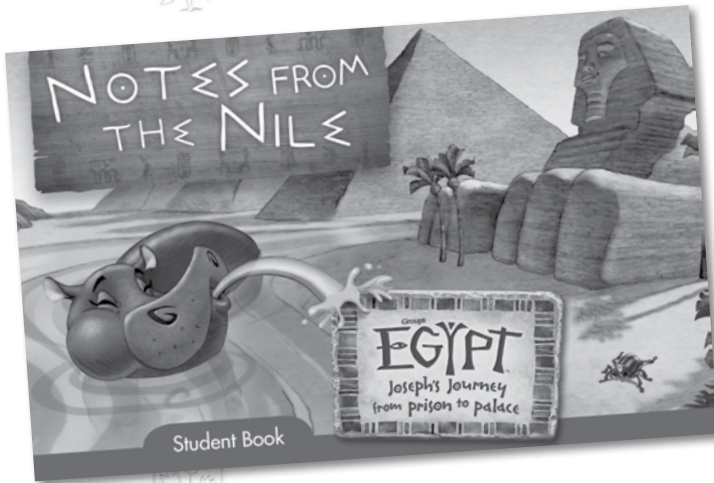
Family Time is the most life-changing and thought-provoking time of the program, so make sure each Family is equipped with a Family Time Teaching Kit, filled with eye-popping, kid-friendly items your leaders will love using to teach.



Notes From the Nile Student Books and unique Marketplace projects bring Bible times alive and provide fun comparisons to life today. Make sure to purchase one for each participant. They make a huge impact on the quality and excitement of your program.

Another "must-have" item is the Bible Memory Makers. Each person will receive a set throughout the week. These serve as

lifelong treasures—items kids will hang on to *long* after VBS ends. Make sure to give each participant a set to remind them of their special time at Egypt.





- **Can craft projects be purchased individually, or are they only sold in packages?**

Crafts, as well as a number of other resources, are sold only in packages. Because processing individual units is complex and time-consuming, packaging crafts in quantity brings down the cost for you. We have reduced most package counts to 10 units to reduce the number of “extra” units you may encounter.

- **Can I return open packages of product for partial credit?**

Because we receive product prepackaged from our vendors, we are unable to process returns of open or partially used packages. If you do find yourself with a few extras, use them as special gift surprises for Sunday school, for siblings of students, or for those who couldn’t attend VBS.

- **Why do I have to pay for each music CD, streaming card, or download card? Why can’t I just make copies of the music?**

- When you purchase an Egypt kit, music CD, or music DVD, Group grants you permission to use the audio recordings, music videos, and lyrics included to conduct an in-person event/program for your church or organization.
- You do not have permission to post or share the music or media online, but you can use the media in a live-streamed church service related to your VBS, such as a VBS kickoff or wrap-up church service.
- Unauthorized copying, public performance, and online use of the songs/videos/lyrics is prohibited by law. It is also unlawful to upload the songs/videos/lyrics, or your own recording of the song/video/lyrics, to public facing websites such as YouTube, Facebook, and Vimeo.
- Making your own copies of the songs/videos—even to use at your church—is against the law, which is a fact many people don’t know. Thanks for demonstrating integrity to the people you serve in how you use this ministry resource.

- **What Bible translation does Egypt use?**

We’ve chosen to use the New Living Translation (NLT) because it’s kid-friendly and easy to understand. Check out Group’s *Hands-On Bible*®, specially created to involve kids in Bible learning with specific activities, fun facts, and Jesus Connections.







# ultimate director go-to guide®



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