



Juneau's Puppy Playhouse Ages 3 through Pre-K!

Closing Circle

Preschool Station Leader Manual

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.

Closing Circle Leader Manual

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Thanks to our talented team that points the way to Jesus! Laura Baldwin-Stout, Jody Brolsma, Stephen Caine, Lyndsay Gerwing, Charity Kauffman, Micaiah Lee, Laycie McClain, Mike Porter, Joani Schultz, Elisa Snell, Rodney Stewart, and Ali Thompson

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Thanks for joining the team!

True north is a fixed point on Earth's globe. Unlike magnetic north, *true north* is unmoving, unchanging, reliable, resolute.

If you're reading this manual, chances are that *Jesus* is your true north. You've trusted him to be a faithful friend when life's journey got lonely. You've relied on his unchanging love through life's ups and downs. You've turned to Jesus' comforting words of hope when the world felt cold and dark.

And you want to share *all* of that with kids in your community!

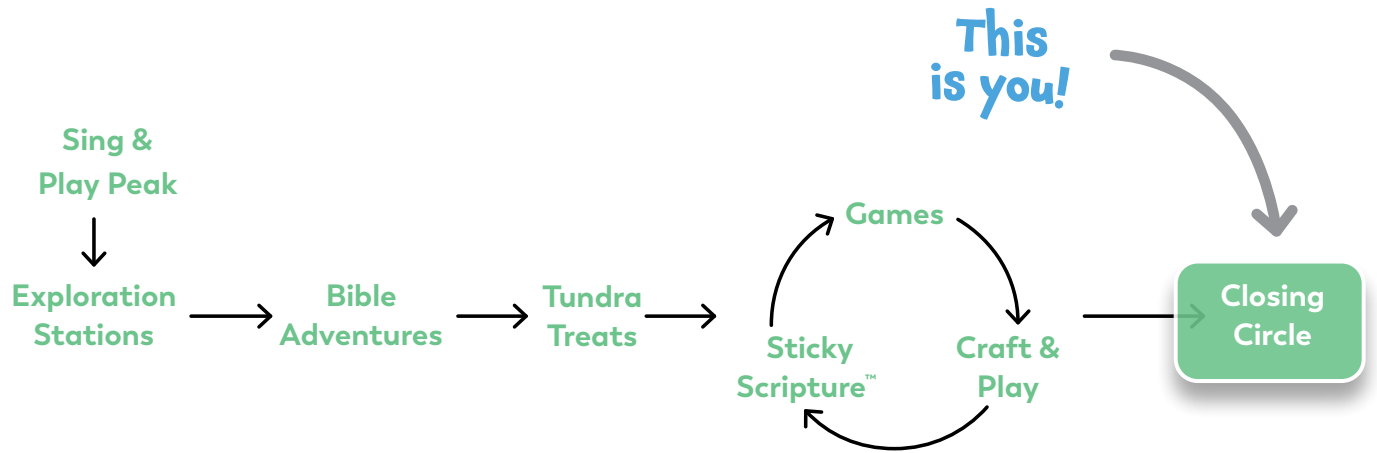
Like you, we love Jesus, and we love kids. We know that kids today may find their world untamed and wild. We understand that kids' source of truth may shift, depending on the latest news headline, trend, or social media influencer. We long for kids to boldly step out in faith, knowing that Jesus always points them in the right direction. He is *their* true north. Now...and for eternity!

That's why we're so glad you've joined this adventure! Think of our team as trail guides, going ahead to make sure the terrain is smooth and the trail is well-marked. We've tested these activities with kids, so you can make the most of every minute you have. And we're praying that God's vast love amazes and astounds you as you lead kids into the wonder of a friendship with Jesus.

It's hard to find your way in a world gone wild.

But we have Jesus—our true north!

Together, let's give kids a rock-solid foundation and point them to Jesus, their unmovable, unshakable friend forever.



Before True North



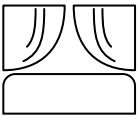
Pray for everyone who will attend True North.

Ask God to prepare your heart and the hearts of the kids and leaders who will be part of VBS.



Work with the VBS Director to collect necessary supplies.

Many supplies, like posters and the Sing & Play Peak Music CD, will likely already be in the room. Be sure to get the Juneau stickers from the Preschool Bible Packs.



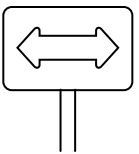
Set the stage to inspire imaginations.

Visit pinterest.com/groupvbs or view our online catalog at group.com/TrueNorth for decorating ideas.



Understand your role.

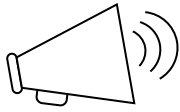
Closing Circle allows preschoolers to stay in their own preschool-friendly play space and have a shorter time that's designed specifically for little ones who are likely wearing down from a busy day at VBS.



Choose a room for Closing Circle.

Your room should be large enough to accommodate all preschoolers. Also, this is where parents and caregivers pick up their children. You may want to use the same room as Bible Adventures & Missions so the room is already decorated.

During True North



Use an attention-getting signal.

Attention-getting signals let kids know when it's time to stop what they're doing and look at you. Use the Wilderness Whistle (available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier) or another signal of your choice.



Repeat the daily Bible Point often.

Every activity focuses on one memorable Bible truth called the Bible Point. Repeating the Bible Point helps kids remember it and apply it to their lives after VBS. Each time kids hear the day's Bible Point, they finish it by pretending to pull a rope with both hands and saying, "Trust Jesus!"



Get Crew Leaders involved!

Guide Crew Leaders to participate right along with kids. When Crew Leaders listen, get involved, and have fun, kids do too! They're a great asset in helping worn-out little ones!

What's Closing Circle?

Closing Circle is a special time just for preschoolers! This allows preschoolers to stay in their own preschool-friendly play space (most likely your Bible Adventures area) and have a shorter time that's designed specifically for little ones who are likely wearing down from a busy day at VBS. While the elementary kids gather for a large-group wrap-up, you'll host this preschool-size, age-appropriate, 15-minute Closing Circle. (You'll see this idea modeled in *many* preschools as an easy way to review the day and send everyone off with a smile.) Preschoolers will review the Bible story and verse, talk about God Sightings®, participate in a prayer, sing along with the Sing & Play Peak Music DVD (so you don't have to learn all the motions), and get a Juneau sticker to remind them of their day at True North VBS!

Preschool Sample Schedule (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.)

If your Preschool Director decides to have preschoolers rotate through age-appropriate stations, you'll use a schedule similar to this one. (Note: Unless specifically indicated, these are *not* the same stations that elementary kids will visit.)



TIME	GROUP A Crews: <u>1-3</u>	GROUP B Crews: <u>4-6</u>	GROUP C Crews: <u>7-9</u>
9:00-9:25	Sing & Play Peak (with elementary kids) <i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>		
9:30-9:45	Exploration Stations <i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>		
9:50-10:15	Bible Adventures & Missions <i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>		
10:20-10:40	Tundra Treats (with elementary kids) <i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>		
10:45-11:00	Sticky Scripture	Games	Craft & Play
	<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>		
11:05-11:20	Craft & Play	Sticky Scripture	Games
	<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>		
11:25-11:40	Games	Craft & Play	Sticky Scripture
	<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>		
11:45-12:00	Closing Circle		

DAY 1

When we wonder, we can trust Jesus.



Bible Story: John prepares the way and baptizes Jesus. (Matthew 3; 11:1-6)

Bible Verse: "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise."
(Matthew 7:24)

Just for Day 1, preschoolers skip Sing & Play Peak and go straight to Juneau's Puppy Playhouse to meet their Crews and Crew Leaders.



Exploration Stations

- Bible Activity Page
- Wonder Wall
- Wild Life: Explore the Campsite
- River Crossing



Sticky Scripture™

Play "Wilderness Wise" as they explore Matthew 7:24 and discover what it means to have wisdom.



Tundra Treats



A (Northern) Light Snack



Blizzard in a Cup

Craft & Play

- Northern Lights Painting
- Snowflake Sun Catcher
- Floating Otter

Bible Adventures & Missions

Share the exciting news that Jesus is coming, just as John did!



Closing Circle

Review the day, learn about God Sightings, receive a Watch for God Wristband and Juneau sticker, and wrap up with prayer and music.



Games



Wonder Where

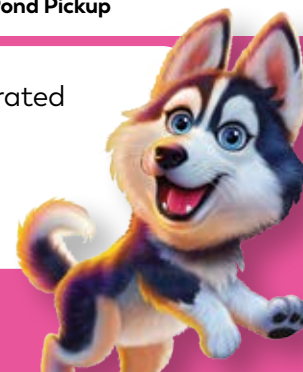


Pond Pickup



Wonder Who-la Hoop

At **True North**, the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each station's activities for unforgettable Bible learning. See how your station reinforces today's Bible Point.



We can Trust Jesus!

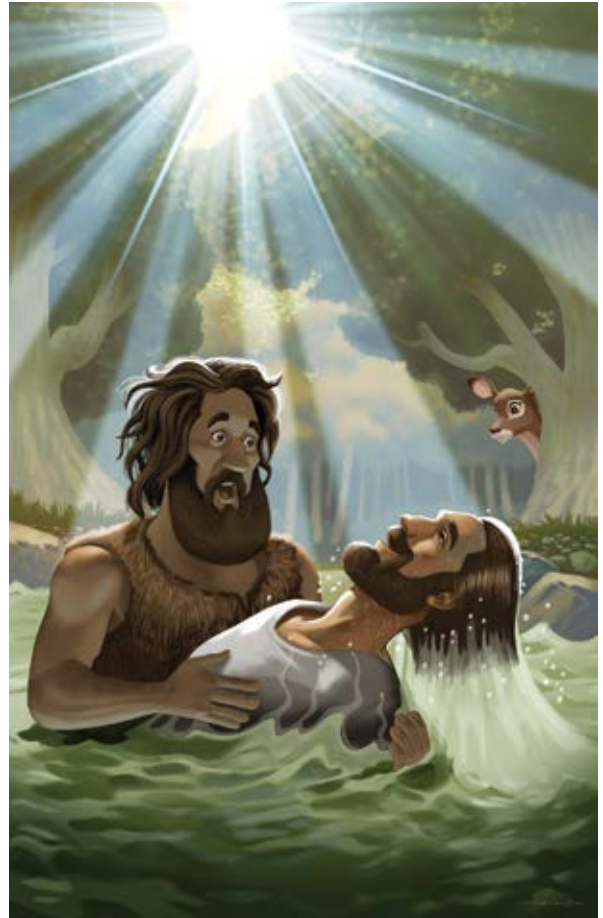
When we wonder, we can trust Jesus.

Bible Verse: “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise.” (Matthew 7:24)

Bible Story: John prepares the way and baptizes Jesus. (Matthew 3; 11:1-6)

Jesus’ cousin John came with unconventional clothes, a pauper’s diet, and a bold message: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.” Meaning? Jesus—the Messiah and fulfillment of God’s kingdom on earth—is *here!* John proclaimed Jesus’ power and authority. He resisted the very idea of baptizing Jesus, the one who would baptize with fire and the Holy Spirit! While John adamantly proclaimed Christ, even he had questions about Jesus. From prison, John sent a message to Jesus, asking, “Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?” John’s circumstances may have caused him to wonder if (and when) Jesus might take political action. Scholars ponder if John may have assumed the Messiah would be the one to rescue God’s people from Roman rule—as many Jews of the time anticipated. However, Jesus had a greater mission than anyone could comprehend. He came to save *the world* from sin. Such love and compassion go beyond anything we can understand or imagine!

Kids’ curiosity can be intimidating—and a bit wearying. They have so many questions, many of which we simply can’t answer. And when it comes to questions about Jesus, God, or the Bible, adults can *really* feel overwhelmed and underprepared. But we don’t have to have all the answers! Sometimes our wonderings can lead to true *wonder*, as we discover the mystery and marvel of God. Today, celebrate curiosity and questions. Point kids to Jesus, a trustworthy and true friend who will guide us as we seek to know and understand him better.



Pointing to Jesus

People (even John the Baptist) wondered about Jesus. This passage can encourage kids that it’s okay to ask questions about Jesus—he will always help us find the truth.

Supplies:



Day 1 Bible Story Poster* from the Bible Adventures station



Preschool Bible Pack Day 1 pages* from Exploration Stations, plus 1 for your sample



Day 1 Bible Point Poster* (optional)



Day 1 Juneau stickers from the Preschool Bible Pack*



Watch for God Wristbands* (1 per child and Crew Leader)



Sing & Play Peak Music DVD*

• TV/DVD player

*available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier

Before Kids Arrive...

Be sure you have all the Day 1 Bible Activity Pages from the Preschool Bible Pack that children worked on during Exploration Stations.

Hang the Day 1 Bible Story Poster near your Closing Circle area. (If you're gathering in the same place as Bible Adventures, the poster will already be there.)

Review the Bible Adventure

Gather children in one large circle; be sure Crews are sitting together.

SAY

It was so fun to explore God's amazing creation with you today! We made new friends and learned about what it means to trust Jesus!

In Bible Adventures, you heard about Jesus' friend John.

Point to the Bible Story Poster. John told people that Jesus is someone special. And when John wondered about who Jesus was, Jesus helped him know that when we wonder, we can... (trust Jesus!)

Open up a Day 1 Bible Activity Page. Show the colorful Bible story picture on the other side.

Every day, you'll get to take home a Bible picture to share the story with your family! You can show your family this picture and tell them how God told everyone that Jesus was his special Son! Wow!

COMPASS CLUE

At Exploration Stations, preschoolers get the chance to do the day's Bible Activity Page from the Preschool Bible Pack. Make sure you have enough extra activity pages for every child to have one to take home, even if they chose not to do the activity at Exploration Stations. The Bible Packs also include a special daily sticker to hand out in Closing Circle to encourage kids to share what they've learned.

Review the Bible Verse

SAY

The Bible tells us that we can trust Jesus! When we listen to Jesus, he says we're wise—that means we choose to do the right thing! Let's say the words of our Bible verse and do the motions all together!

Lead children in saying Matthew 7:24 a few times while doing the actions below.

COMPASS CLUE

Learning the daily Bible verse's accompanying actions is part of Sticky Scripture each day, so preschoolers have already learned the motions that go along with today's verse. Make sure to review the motions with them to help the Bible-learning stick!



"Anyone who listens to my teaching..."



"...and follows it..."



"...is wise."

Explain God Sightings®

SAY

God is doing amazing things all around us—we just have to look for them. We can look at and celebrate all the cool things God made in our world. They're everywhere! God filled our world with things like good-smelling flowers, shady trees, soft grass, and cool water. When we see something God made or did, it's called a God Sighting.

ASK

Call out some things that make you smile.

Give kids and leaders a minute to call out ideas.

SAY

God loves us! He puts things in our world that make us smile. Those are God Sightings because we see God's goodness to us. Your smiling faces make me smile!

We're going to look for God Sightings together this week. To help us remember, let's learn a special song.

Lead preschoolers in putting both hands up to their eyes, like binoculars.

They can do this motion as you sing the following song to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

Watch for God and you will see what he has done!

(Clap, clap)

Watch for God and you will see what he has done!

(Clap, clap)

Watch for God and you will see

All his love for you and me!

Watch for God and you will see what he has done.

(Clap, clap)

Have kids sing the song a few times.

SAY

I have one more thing to help you remember to look for ways God’s love is all around us. This is a present for each of you!

Hand each Crew Leader enough Watch for God Wristbands for everyone in the Crew, including the Crew Leader, to have one.

Tell children that the words on the wristband say “Watch for God.”

While Crew Leaders put a wristband on each child and themselves, sing the song a few more times.



Give Juneau Stickers and Close in Prayer

SAY

I have another special gift for you. Your Crew Leader will give each of you a fun sticker with our friend Juneau the puppy on it! When you head home today, your Juneau sticker can remind you that when we wonder, we can... *(trust Jesus!)*

Give Crew Leaders a Juneau sticker for every child in their Crews.

Encourage them to remind each child, by name, of the Bible Point as they hand out the stickers—for example, “You can trust Jesus with all your wonderings, Ella.”

When kids all have Juneau stickers, ask everyone to hold hands with the people next to them to make one large circle.

You got to explore True North, a place filled with mighty moose and growly grizzlies. In this wonderful place, we found out more about trusting Jesus. But your family and friends might not know that they can trust Jesus, too. When your friends and family see this sticker, tell them, “You can trust Jesus!” Let’s talk with our friend Jesus right now. We call that praying. When we pray, sometimes we close our eyes so we’re not looking at all our other friends. Let’s do that now.



PRAY

Jesus, we're glad you were with us today and that you go with us as we leave. We trust that you'll help us with our questions and love us no matter what. You're a true friend! In your special name we pray, amen.

Wrap Up With Music

Turn on the Sing & Play Peak Music DVD, and lead children in singing and doing the motions along with the DVD.

Lead kids in the theme song, "Let's Trust in Jesus," and invite parents and caregivers to come in.

COMPASS CLUE

As kids leave, remind them (and their parents) that they'll start off with the big kids in Sing & Play Peak tomorrow—and for the rest of the days of True North VBS.



Keep the music DVD playing as parents and caregivers get their children. Kids love the extra time to sing the fun songs, and parents love watching their preschoolers worshipping with so much joy!

Have Crew Leaders collect children's name badges and return them to the Crew bags for tomorrow.

Stand near the door to give hugs or high-fives. Be sure children take home their Bible Activity Pages and any craft items they made today.

Day 1



When we wonder, we can trust Jesus.

Review the day, learn about God Sightings, receive a Watch for God Wristband and Juneau sticker, and wrap up with prayer and music.

Day 2



When we feel alone, we can trust Jesus.

Review the day, talk about God Sightings, receive a Juneau sticker, and wrap up with prayer and music.


Day 3



When we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus.

Review the day, talk about God Sightings, receive a Juneau sticker, and wrap up with prayer and music.


Day 4



When we need hope, we can trust Jesus.

Review the day, talk about God Sightings, receive a Juneau sticker, and wrap up with prayer and music.

Day 5



When we need help, we can trust Jesus.

Review the day, talk about God Sightings, receive a Juneau sticker, and wrap up with prayer and music.



Questions:

group.com/TrueNorth
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VBS Programming



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