



# Bible Adventures



STATION LEADER MANUAL



# **BIBLE ADVENTURES**

LEADER MANUAL



LOVELAND, COLORADO  
GROUP.COM

**Group**



## 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.

## Bible Adventures Leader Manual

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**Thanks to the herd who rounded up this VBS!** Laura Baldwin-Stout, Jody Brolsma, Stephen Caine, Shelly Dillon, Jan Kershner, Lyndsay Gerwing, Laycie McClain, Mike Porter, Joani Schultz, Rodney Stewart, and Gabriele Woolever.

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ISBN 978-1-4707-7802-6

Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 27 26 25

# Saddle Up for a Wild Weekend!

At Yee-Haw VBS, kids kick up their heels as they stampede through the wild frontier and celebrate the greatest truth of all—that God is good! They'll round up a whole herd of friends and discover that Jesus is God's greatest gift.

- \* **Everyone's on the move.** Check out the sample schedule on page 4 to get an idea of the flow of each day's activities and how Bible Adventures fits in.
- \* **Everyone's in a Crew.** At Yee-Haw VBS, kids travel in small, mixed-age groups called Crews. Each Crew has up to five elementary-age kids and one adult or teenage leader. Mixed-age Crews are a fresh, incredible way to reach kids! You'll see older kids help younger ones with challenging tasks. Younger kids seek to emulate the older, "cool" kids in their Crews. And discipline problems are almost nonexistent.

You'll have one-third of the total number of Crews report to each Bible Adventures session. For example, if your VBS has nine Crews, you'd be working with three Crews (approximately 15 kids and three adult or teen leaders) during each session.

- \* **Everyone's learning one key truth.** Every activity at Yee-Haw VBS reinforces one simple Bible truth called a Bible Point. It's important to use the Bible Point as it's written since it's integrated into the experiences and activities throughout the entire VBS. Yee-Haw is intentionally designed so that some stations focus more on the key Bible verse (John 3:16) and some focus on the Bible story passage. However, every station connects to the Bible Point, so kids come away with an easy-to-apply scriptural truth.

Kids will be listening for the Bible Point, which is **GOD GIVES GOOD GIFTS**. After they hear the Point, kids will shout "Yee-haw!" Each time kids shout the response, they'll raise a fist in celebration.

## A Weekend of Western Wow

- \* **Prepare your heart.** Pray for the kids who will come to Yee-Haw, for the parents who will be reached, and for the other volunteers on your team. Ask God to guide and encourage your VBS Director through this exciting event.
- \* **Prepare your supplies.** Work with the Yee-Haw Director to collect necessary supplies. You may want to list the supplies in your church bulletin and ask church members to lend or donate items such as plastic greenery, boxes, blankets, fake rocks, and a free-standing cross.

### HAVE YOU HERD?

During Yee-Haw, you'll use an attention-getter to get everyone focused on you for more fun. A Buckaroo Bell (available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier) or other attention-getter saves time and is *heaps* better than lots of shushing or shouting.



Buckaroo Bell



"Yee-haw!"



- \* **Prepare your lessons.** This is the easy part! Each lesson has been tested with real kids by real volunteers, so you know it works. You don't have to memorize the script, but be familiar enough that you aren't just reading it. Use emotion, energy, and excitement as you lead kids through these incredible and true Bible stories.
- \* **Prepare your wardrobe.** Ask the Yee-Haw Director what you should wear. Staff T-shirts (available from Group Publishing or your Group VSB supplier) will quickly and easily identify you as a staff member.
- \* **Prepare your room.** Determine where you'll meet, keeping in mind that you'll need to accommodate one-third of the kids (and Crew Leaders) at one time. For Day 1, you'll give kids insight into God's amazing love as he sends his Son to earth. Create a simple stable with a cardboard-box manger, and you have a whole new—and easy—environment. On Day 2, use a wooden cross to help you lead kids through Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Simple yet super impactful and memorable for kids. Creating settings to help immerse kids in the Bible stories results in real and lasting Bible learning!

### Sample Yee-Haw Schedule

6:00–8:30 p.m.

Time	GROUP A CREWS <i>1-3</i>	GROUP B CREWS <i>4-6</i>	GROUP C CREWS <i>7-9</i>	Ponderosa Preschool
6:00–6:30	Moo-sic & More			
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>				
6:35–7:00	Bible Adventures	Projects-With- a-Purpose®	Saddle-Up Sports	Ponderosa Preschool
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>				
7:05–7:30	Projects-With- a-Purpose®	Saddle-Up Sports	Bible Adventures	Ponderosa Preschool
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>				
7:35–8:00	Saddle-Up Sports	Bible Adventures	Projects-With- a-Purpose®	Ponderosa Preschool
<i>Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.</i>				
8:05–8:30	Closing Corral			

# Day 1

**Bible Point:** God gives good gifts.

**Bible Story:** God sends Jesus to earth. (Luke 2:1-20)

**Bible Verse:** “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

## Consider This...

- ✦ There are dozens of prophecies in the Old Testament surrounding the birth of the Messiah, and Jesus fulfills every one!
  - Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem fulfills Micah 5:2: “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.”
  - Jesus’ virgin birth was foretold in Isaiah 7:14: “The Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.”
- ✦ After Jesus’ birth, Mary wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger. Mangers held food for animals, giving them sustenance and life. Jesus called himself the Bread of Life, and he is what gives us strength, nourishment, and everlasting life.
- ✦ The shepherds were the first people to hear the good news of Jesus’ birth. Shepherds were among the lowest of the low in their society and considered unclean. Because the angel told these men about Jesus’ birth first, God showed that his love and the gift of Jesus are for everyone.

## Why It Matters...

Kids love receiving gifts—especially at Christmastime! Yet presents like bicycles and toys break. Kids outgrow new clothes, just as they grow from wanting skates to wanting smartphones. But God’s gift of Jesus is the *perfect* gift—one size fits all! As you share the Christmas story in today’s lesson, you’ll have the opportunity to help kids discover that Jesus is God’s most precious gift...for *all* of us, every day! Use today’s experiences to help kids understand *why* Jesus is a good gift, one that will be with them for eternity!

## Day 1 Supplies

- Buckaroo Bell\*
- Bible
- Big Blue Sky Fabric Wall Hanging\*
- large slabs of foam painted to look like stone (optional)
- cardboard box for a manger
- burlap to place in box
- hay or straw to fill box
- small, soft blankets (1 per Crew per rotation)
- accent pillows (1 per Crew per rotation)
- plates of freshly baked chocolate chip cookies (1 per Crew per rotation)
- aluminum foil
- plates or baskets of brown, yucky bananas (1 per Crew per rotation)
- rope lights (optional)
- music and sound effects downloaded from [group.com/vbsTools](http://group.com/vbsTools) onto a laptop or a CD
- CD player (if using a CD)

\*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

## Before Kids Arrive

Hang the Big Blue Sky Fabric Wall Hanging on the walls. (You'll leave it up for both days.) Build a stable in a corner of your room. We leaned three slabs of painted foam together to form three sides of a rectangle and then laid another slab on top for a roof. (You could also use plastic or heavy cardboard.) Create a manger by placing burlap so it spills out of a cardboard box. Then fill the box with hay or straw.

If you can't dim the lights in your room, place rope lights around the perimeter of the room. You'll want it to seem like night but will need a little light.

Ask a helper to bake a batch of ready-to-bake chocolate chip cookies. Place cookies on paper plates, and cover them with foil so they stay warm. You'll need one plate of cookies for each Crew per rotation. (Kids won't get to eat them.)

Place the yucky bananas on plates or in baskets. Again, you'll need one plate of bananas per Crew at each rotation. (Kids *really* won't want to eat these!)

Download "Reflective Music," "Town Sounds," "Away in a Manger," and "The Hallelujah Chorus" from [group.com/vbsTools](http://group.com/vbsTools).



### FIELD TEST FINDING

We considered using packaged cookies but were so glad we didn't! The smell of yummy, warm cookies turned out to be important for the Bible experience. Ask a volunteer to bake a batch of ready-to-bake cookies just before VBS starts today. It's so worth it!



### FIELD TEST FINDING

For the stable walls and roof, we used 2" insulating foam sheets, available at building supply stores. We cut them to the desired size to fit our area. Then we painted them gray to look like stone. Really, they've been one of the best investments we ever made! Now it takes no time to create a building or tomb. Or we just lean them against the walls for Bible-times atmosphere. So easy and effective!



# Bible Adventures

## Get ready for a stampede of smiles!

We're so glad you joined the herd! You're in for an incredible time as you lead elementary kids in Bible Adventures that help everyone build a friendship with Jesus. Kids have a blast exploring the Bible with all five senses, making God's Word unforgettable and applicable.

This manual includes tons of Bible fun, setup instructions, and insider tips.



Celebrate God's good gift of being able to live with Jesus forever!



Explore what brings us comfort, and discover that Jesus left heaven to show us God's love.



Give sins to Jesus, and learn of his amazing love and forgiveness.

Questions?



[group.com/YeeHaw](http://group.com/YeeHaw)



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ISBN 978-1-4707-7802-6



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Printed in the U.S.A.

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# **THIS IS A SAMPLE**

**The number of pages is limited.**

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