



Projects- With-a-Purpose[®]



STATION LEADER MANUAL



PROJECTS-WITH-A-PURPOSE[®]

LEADER MANUAL



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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.

Projects-With-a-Purpose® 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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Saddle Up for a Wild Weekend!

At Yee-Haw VBS, kids kick up their heels as they stampede through the wild frontier and celebrate God's good gifts! They'll round up a whole herd of friends and discover that Jesus is God's greatest gift. As the Projects-With-a-Purpose® Leader, you'll help kids reach out to others with the love of Jesus. All the while you'll stir up conversation, spur on friendships, and trailblaze kids toward deeper faith! Get ready for excitement, fun, and the joy of watching kids discover God's greatest gift of love.

Before you get started, here are a few things you should know:

- * **Everyone's on the mooove.** Check out the sample schedule on page 4 to get an idea of the flow of each day's activities and how Projects-With-a-Purpose fits in.
- * **Everyone's in a Crew.** At Yee-Haw, kids travel in small, mixed-age groups called Crews. Each Crew has up to five elementary-age kids and one adult or teenage leader. You'll have one-third of the total number of Crews report to each Projects-With-a-Purpose session. For example, if your VBS has nine Crews, you'll 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 VBS 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 kids hear "God gives good gifts," they'll 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 throughout this exciting event.
- * **Prepare your supplies.** Work with the VBS Director to collect necessary supplies. You may want to list the supplies in your church bulletin and ask church members to donate supplies based on the projects you choose.

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 project.** This is the easy part! Kids work on one project during their time at Yee-Haw...and we've given you three options to choose from. Determine where you'd like to serve—within your church or in your community. Then check out the projects in this manual to see which is the best fit for your VBS. If you decide on the Giddyup & Grow Chart project, consider donating to a local organization that supports new mothers or young families.

* **Prepare your wardrobe.** Ask your VBS Director what you should wear. Staff T-shirts, available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier, will quickly identify you as a staff member.

* **Prepare your room.** Determine where you'll meet, remembering that you'll need to accommodate one-third of the kids (and Crew Leaders) at one time. Since kids keep their projects in the room from day to day, it's a good idea to choose a spot that has wide open spaces where you can corral the crafts for a night. Remove chairs and tables so children can sit on the floor. If desired, cover your floor with a large paint tarp to protect it from unintended "artistic additions." Or have each Crew sit on a dollar-store tablecloth or shower curtain liner. That way, cleanup after each rotation is super easy! Have fun creating a riotous ranch full of crazy critters!



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			
Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.				
6:35–7:00	Bible Adventures	Projects-With-a-Purpose®	Saddle-Up Sports	Ponderosa Preschool
Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.				
7:05–7:30	Projects-With-a-Purpose®	Saddle-Up Sports	Bible Adventures	Ponderosa Preschool
Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.				
7:35–8:00	Saddle-Up Sports	Bible Adventures	Projects-With-a-Purpose®	Ponderosa Preschool
Allow 5 minutes to travel to your next station.				
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 2

Bible Point: God gives good gifts.

Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes back to life. (John 16–21)

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’s interesting symbolism to Jesus carrying his own cross outside the city. In Genesis 22, Isaac carried the wood that Abraham would use to sacrifice Isaac...until God provided the ram as a sacrifice. And Leviticus 16 commands the priests to take the sin offering outside the camp or city. Jesus—the Lamb of God—became *our* sin offering!
- ✧ Roman soldiers usually crucified only non-citizens, lower-class citizens, or those accused of high treason or desertion (in wartime). The accused died a shameful, disgraceful, and agonizing death.
- ✧ Continuing the shame and disgrace of crucifixion, soldiers usually tossed the body of the crucified person into a pit. And Jesus, being penniless, didn’t have the money to pay for a formal burial. Yet Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus—both members of the Sanhedrin—stepped in. They took Jesus’ body and prepared it for burial themselves.
- ✧ Scholars estimate that a typical stone that was rolled over the opening of a tomb cave weighed anywhere from 1 to 3 tons!
- ✧ Although we usually think of angels with halos and wings, most times angels appear in the Bible, people describe them as looking like men. When Mary saw two angels near the tomb, she didn’t even realize they were angels!

Why It Matters...

On the surface, it may seem odd that we call Good Friday “good.” Yet without Jesus’ death, there would be no payment for sin. And there wouldn’t have been the triumphant, joyful resurrection!

Kids—and adults—find it hard to imagine *anything* good in the midst of sad times. What good can come from a loved one dying? How can a child find any good in a bully? And what’s so good about being left out or alone? God never promises that this life will be pain-free. But he *does* promise to be near when we’re hurting. What a beautiful gift! And, more important, God gave the gift of hope and joy to come. Use today’s experiences to help kids explore the eternal gift of life God gave us through Jesus.

Day 1

Project: Giddyup & Grow Chart

Kids will make Giddyup & Grow Charts to help them grow closer to God as they grow physically. These fun charts are also a great way to introduce (and keep kids talking about) an outreach project that raises money to help moms and babies in your community. As kids collect money and pray for moms and children, they'll be sharing God's great gift of love in a practical, life-giving way!

Before Kids Arrive...

- * Decide which organization(s) will be the recipient of the donations. Consider donating to a local organization that supports new mothers or young families.
- * Make a completed sample Giddyup & Grow Chart. Color in a few pictures, showing how you might have depicted yourself as a child, then a simple drawing of yourself today
- * Bookmark a Bible at Romans 12:13 for each Crew.
- * Prepare a tray of supplies for each Crew. (You can restock between rotations.) Include Giddyup & Grow Charts (1 per person), business-size envelopes (1 for every 2 kids), and a Bible. Also include colorful fine-tip markers, scissors, curling ribbon, and tape for kids to share.

Welcome Crews

Welcome kids, and invite Crews to sit in knee-to-knee circles on the floor.

Say: **Welcome to Projects-With-a-Purpose! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you're here! At Yee-Haw VBS, we'll hang out**



General Supplies

- Bible
- Buckaroo Bell*
- Moo-sic & More CD* and CD player

Day 1 Supplies

- Giddyup & Grow Charts* (1 per person)
- scissors
- business-size envelopes (1 for every 2 kids)
- tape
- curling ribbon
- colorful, fine-tip markers
- Bibles (1 per Crew)
- Bible Memory Buddies* (1 per person)
- Yee-Haw Carabiners* (1 per person)
- trays for supplies (1 per Crew per rotation)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

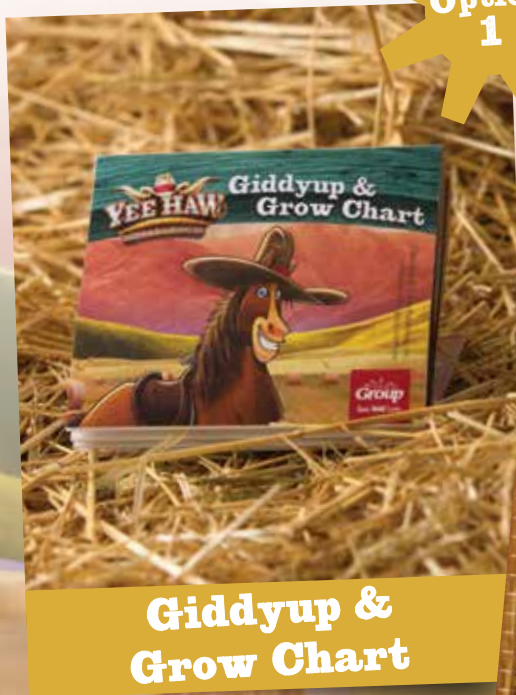
Projects-With-a-Purpose®

Get ready for a stampede of smiles!

We're so glad you joined the herd! You're in for a rip-roarin' time as you lead elementary kids in completing a special project they'll give to someone in your church or your community.

This manual includes complete supply lists, scripts, setup instructions, and insider tips.

Option
1



Giddyup & Grow Chart



Option
2



Heart-y Soup Mix

Option
3



Block-a-Roos

Questions?



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