



Fun & Games

Leader Manual

Group

LOVELAND, COLORADO
GROUP.COM/VBS

Groups Hometown Nazareth

Where Jesus was a Kid™

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.

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



Bible Content

Bible Point: Jesus had a family...we do too.

Key Verse: "For nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

Bible: Mary is chosen to be Jesus' mother. (Luke 1:26-38)

Celebration

- Learn the Day 1 Bible verse and motions.
- Meet Hometown Nazareth Tribes.
- Sing "God With Us," "Great Things," and "Nothing Is Impossible."

Hometown Huddle

Share an "impossible" trick to relate that God helps them do hard things.



Mary's House



Meet Mary, and hear about a time an angel gave her a surprising message.



Discover how Jesus was born, learn what his name means, and find out what their own names mean.

Fun & Games

Mix "chores" and playtime in Hometown Nazareth!



Play low-tech, high-fun games kids have loved for...well, centuries!



Marketplace Shops

Choose a few shops to visit each day:



Day 1



Day 2

Bible Point: Jesus had a name...we do too.

Key Verse: "I have called you by name; you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

Bible: Jesus is born and gets his name. (Luke 2:1-40)

- Discover God Sightings.
- Learn the Day 2 Bible verse and motions.
- Sing "What Child Is This?" and "Angels We Have Heard On High."

Get a fun ID Wristband, and remember that they are part of God's family.





Day 3

Bible Point: Jesus had a home...we do too.

Key Verse: "There is more than enough room in my Father's home."
(John 14:2)

Bible: Jesus' family escapes to Egypt.
(Matthew 2:13-14, 19-23)

- Talk about their daily mission in the Marketplace.
- Learn the Day 3 Bible verse and motions.
- Sing "Oh, How I Love Jesus" and "Must Be Done in Love."

Choose a special place in "My Father's House" to remind them there is room in God's heavenly home!



Smell frankincense and myrrh as Mary tells about important visitors and a hurried trip to Egypt.



Help Mary clean the house for Passover, and learn what happened when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem for Passover.

Creativity and imagination highlight these fun "home-builder" games.



Play travel games, Nazareth-style—by donkey, foot, or cart!



Day 5

Bible Point: Jesus served others...we do too.

Key Verse: "Serve one another in love."
(Galatians 5:13)

Bible: Jesus does a miracle in Cana.
(John 2:1-12)

- Sing favorite Hometown Nazareth songs.
- Learn the Day 5 Bible verse and motions.
- Hear Tribe cheers.
- Celebrate each person's contributions to the Operation Kid-to-Kid™ efforts at your VBS.

Use a "sticky hand" to grab cards that tell ways to serve others.



Enjoy a snack, discover what happens at most Bible-times weddings, and hear about the first miracle Jesus did.

These games get everyone laughing!



Daily Schedule

Bible Point: Jesus had a family...we do too.

➔ **Bible Story:** Mary is chosen to be Jesus' mother. (Luke 1:26-38)

GROUP A

GROUP B

GROUP C

GROUP D

Issachar

Gad

Joseph

Levi

Naphtali

Simeon

Zebulun

Reuben



Time

6:00-6:15

Celebration

Celebration

Celebration

Celebration

Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.

6:20-6:35

Hometown Huddle

Hometown Huddle

Hometown Huddle

Hometown Huddle

Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.

6:40-6:55

Mary's House

Fun & Games

Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.

Visit Marketplace

7:00-7:15

Fun & Games

Mary's House

Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.

7:20-7:35

Visit Marketplace

Mary's House

Fun & Games

Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.

7:40-7:55

Fun & Games

Mary's House

Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.

8:00-8:15

Hometown Huddle

Hometown Huddle

Hometown Huddle

Hometown Huddle

Allow 5 minutes to travel to the next station.

8:20-8:35

Celebration

Celebration

Celebration

Celebration

Today's Announcements:

Fun & Games Leader



As the Fun & Games Leader, you'll help kids and adults play games and discover more about life in ancient Nazareth. During VBS, one-quarter of the Tribes at a time will join you for 15 minutes of high-energy activities. (A Tribe is a group of up to 10 people led by a Tribe Leader and an Assistant Tribe Leader.)

Follow these tips to make Fun & Games something kids and adults look forward to every day!

- ➔ **Organize for the VBS week.** Work with the VBS Director to determine where Fun & Games will take place. Ideally, you'll want to meet in a large outdoor area free of rocks or other sharp objects. Work together to collect supplies.
- ➔ **Familiarize yourself with this manual.** Read each day's Bible background, Scripture, and games. You'll be able to convey your enthusiasm and excitement if you're familiar with each activity and how it's done. Practice several times so you don't have to use this manual while you're working with Tribes.
- ➔ **Learn (and use) names.** While you won't have the opportunity to spend one-on-one time with participants as the Tribe Leaders do, kids and adults *will* be wearing name badges. If you call on people, try to call them by name. What an easy way to make someone feel special!
- ➔ **Gather Tribes close to you while giving brief instructions.** Have participants huddle in as closely as possible while you talk. Then gather a few volunteers to demonstrate. Save your voice and ensure that everyone understands your directions clearly. And keep your instructions brief—remember, the object is to play!
- ➔ **Play a role!** You are a citizen of Nazareth, so instead of saying "Kids back in Bible times played these games," you'll say things like "Kids here in Nazareth love to play this game."

Most people in ancient Nazareth knew Jesus as the son of Mary and Joseph—*not* the Son of God. During VBS, participants will be encouraged to tell you (as well as the Marketplace shopkeepers and helpers) about Jesus—the *true* Son of God! Play along with the role, encouraging participants to tell you more about Jesus. Agree to come along with them to opening or closing Celebrations.

- ➔ **Have fun! Smile!** Make participants feel warmly welcomed at your games area. Don't just guide people in these unique experiences; you participate too! Have a blast with everyone as they experience ancient Nazareth.

Notes From Nazareth

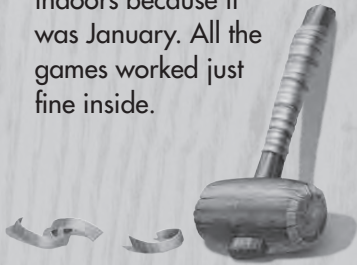
Be sure to wear a name badge, too, so people know *your* name.

Did You Know?

Nazareth most likely gets its name from the Hebrew word *netser*, meaning "a shoot" or "to blossom." Scholars have called Nazareth "the Flower of Galilee," in reference to the way the city sits in a high, hollow plateau encircled by rounded hills. The result looks like the petals of a flower.

Field Test Findings

We had our field test indoors because it was January. All the games worked just fine inside.



Costuming

Since you're playing the role of someone from Nazareth, wear a Bible-times costume. A simple robe or tunic, belt or sash, and sandals will suffice. (Remember, people in Bible-times *did* wear bright colors, so it's OK to wear something lively and cheery!)



Supplies



Day 1

- ➔ laundry basket
- ➔ paper (4 colors, 20 sheets each)
- ➔ 4 handheld whisk brooms
- ➔ bandannas or strips of cloth (1 per participant)
- ➔ rolled-up socks (1 for every 6 to 8 participants)
- ➔ inflated balloons (1 for every 6 to 8 participants)

Day 2

- ➔ bandannas or strips of cloth (1 per participant)
- ➔ jump-ropes, 20 to 36 feet long (1 rope for every 2 Tribes)
- ➔ plastic palm branches, available at craft stores (1 for every 8 to 10 participants)

Day 3

- ➔ broomsticks (6 per Tribe)
- ➔ Tribe blankets (2 per Tribe)
- ➔ pillows (1 per Tribe)
- ➔ *Celebration Music* CD or download*
- ➔ media player

Day 4

- ➔ variety of obstacles, such as ropes and rolled-up socks
- ➔ 4 inflated beach balls
- ➔ blindfold, such as a bandanna or a strip of cloth
- ➔ sponge sports finger glove (available at discount stores)
- ➔ blankets
- ➔ *Celebration Music* CD or download*
- ➔ media player

Day 5

- ➔ 4 stuffed animals
- ➔ balls, such as Nerf balls (1 per participant)
- ➔ 2 plastic wading pools of water
- ➔ water balloons (several per participant)
- ➔ several towels
- ➔ 2 tarps

* available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

Notes From Nazareth

Remember, you'll have only one-quarter of the Tribes at one time. Check with your Director to see how many people you can expect at each session.

Notes From Nazareth

You may want to play *Celebration Music* songs during the games rotation. Everyone will love having the fun music playing in the background.

DAY 1



Bible Point: Jesus had a family...we do too.

Why It Matters

You'll likely have a mix of two-parent families, single-parent families, blended families, foster families, adoptive families, and more at your VBS. God cares about every family—he placed his precious Son into one long, long ago. Use today's activities to help kids and adults realize that Jesus was part of an earthly family and that we can *all* belong to God's wonderful family.

Bible Story: Mary is chosen to be Jesus' mother. (Luke 1:26-38)

Read the Passage With This in Mind...

- ➔ The marriage betrothal in Bible times was more binding than an engagement today. Engaged couples took public vows and acted in many ways as a married couple except that they didn't live together as man and wife. But they *did* call each other husband and wife!
- ➔ In Bible times, girls could get engaged as young as age 12.
- ➔ The angel Gabriel told Mary five things about her son: Jesus would be great, be called the Son of the Most High, be given the throne of David, and reign over Israel forever, and his Kingdom would never end.
- ➔ Mary apparently trusted God completely. She didn't ask for a sign from the angel but merely asked how she could be with child, since she was a virgin.

Bible Verse:

"For nothing is impossible with God."
(Luke 1:37)



Day 1 Fun & Games



Before Tribes Arrive...

Gather the following supplies:

- ➔ laundry basket
- ➔ paper (4 colors, 20 sheets each)
- ➔ 4 handheld whisk brooms
- ➔ bandannas or strips of cloth (1 per participant)
- ➔ rolled-up socks (1 for every 6 to 8 participants)
- ➔ inflated balloons (1 for every 6 to 8 participants)

Wad the sheets of paper, and mix them in the laundry basket.

When Tribes Arrive...

1. Welcome the Tribes to Fun & Games, and introduce yourself. Ask:
① I haven't seen you here before in Nazareth. What hometown are you from?
2. Say: **Well, nice to meet all of you! Each day at Fun & Games, we'll play games so you can discover more about life in my hometown, Nazareth. We'll explore kids' games, family chores, traveling activities, and more! Here in Nazareth, kids imitate jobs their moms and dads do every day. So today we'll play games to show you what it's like to work as a family.**
3. Lead Tribes in the following games.
4. When you hear the timekeeper's signal, dismiss your group to its next activities.

Notes From Nazareth

When you introduce each day's games, be sure you don't give a long lecture. People come to Fun & Games to play and move!

Notes From **Nazareth**

These games are low-prop, low-prep, low-tech, and high-fun! Some of these games might seem basic to us, but they are simple games that kids have loved for...well, centuries!

Sheep Herding



1. Gather the Tribe members at one end of the playing field.
2. Say: **My hometown, Nazareth, is surrounded by rolling hills. On those hills are lots of sheep! One chore many families do is herd sheep and take care of them. Sheep have a mind of their own; they are always running away! Let's practice herding some sheep.** Choose a Tribe Leader to be the Shepherd, and have that person stand in the middle of the playing field. Everyone else will be Sheep.
3. Say: **When the Shepherd shouts "Herd 'em out," run across the field to the other side and try not to be tagged. If the Shepherd tags you, freeze in position until all the Sheep have reached the other side.**

Then the Shepherd will call out again. The frozen Sheep will unfreeze and help the Shepherd catch more sheep as they run to the other side. We'll keep playing until all the Sheep are caught.
4. See if anyone has questions. Then have the Shepherd call out "Herd 'em out," and play the game. Continue until all the Sheep are caught. The last Sheep caught becomes the next Shepherd.



No More Mess!

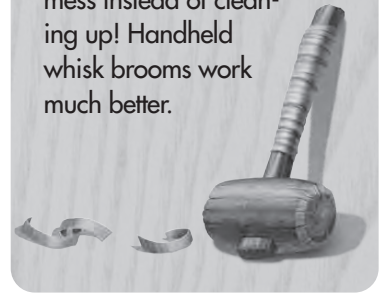


1. Set a basket of colored paper wads in the center of the playing area. Lay the bandanas and four whisk brooms next to the basket. Gather everyone near the basket.
2. Say: **Nazareth is a dusty little town, so dust gets inside homes and the floors need to be swept every day. Families keep their homes nice and clean—spick-and-span. Let's do a little cleaning!**
3. Form four teams, and assign each team a corner and a different color of paper wad. Give one person on each team a broom. Have the others use their bandannas as dusters. Dump the basket of paper wads in the center.
4. Say: **When I say "Sweep this mess," use the broom or your dusters to sweep your team's color of paper wads to your corner. Keep going until all the paper wads are in your corner. Ready? Sweep this mess!**

See which team gets its paper wad "mess" cleaned up first; then mix the paper wads and play again. This time, whoever cleans their mess first helps other teams. Keep playing until all teams have helped each other clean up their mess. Cleaning goes so much faster when families work together!

Field Test Findings

We tried to make authentic-looking brooms out of decorative sticks and branches from a craft store. The brooms quickly fell apart during the games. We ended up making a mess instead of cleaning up! Handheld whisk brooms work much better.



Notes From Nazareth

Try a variety of balls, such as beach balls, Nerf balls, and hacky sacks.

Notes From Nazareth

Save "Feet Ball" for the last game of each rotation. You can play it as long or as short as needed before it's time to rotate.

Feet Ball



1. Form groups of six to eight participants. Have each group stand in a separate circle.
2. Say: **Families have lots of chores to do every day in Nazareth. Sometimes parents like to work on their own, so they might say to their kids, "Go outside and play!" Nazareth kids like ball games of any kind—like you probably do too. Kids might play with a leather ball, one filled with seed, or one made from cloth—like this. Give each group a rolled-up sock. Here's one ball game kids like to play using only their feet!**
3. Have a person in each circle toss their ball in the air. All participants try to keep the ball in the air, using only their feet.
4. Let everyone play for awhile; then say: **Well, we might need a little more practice to keep the cloth ball in the air! Let's make it a bit easier and play with something else.** Give each team an inflated balloon, and let them play more!



Congratulations!

You're about to become the most fun person at VBS!

This leader manual will show you how.

You're the Fun & Games Leader at Hometown Nazareth VBS...so what do you do—and how do you do it?

As the Fun & Games Leader, you'll help kids play games and discover more about life when Jesus was a kid. These games are low-prop, low-prep, low-tech, and high-fun! Some of these games might seem basic to us, but they are simple games that kids have loved for...well, centuries!



Ready to change a kid's life?
Open up this leader manual and get started!

Questions?

Here's how to get answers:

- ? **First, check carefully through this book.** There's a LOT of helpful information tucked into these pages. The answer is probably already in your hands!
- ? **Connect with your VBS Director and leadership team.** Remember, you're not alone! You're part of a dynamic ministry team, so don't be afraid to take advantage of the people resources that surround you.
- ? **Network with Group's VBS Facebook page.** Connect with other Hometown Nazareth leaders nationwide. Share ideas, ask questions, or brainstorm!

Follow GroupVBS on



YouTube

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



Did you know?

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

2024 HOLY LAND ADVENTURE VBS



ISBN 978-1-4707-7478-3



9 781470 774783

Printed in the U.S.A. | VBS PROGRAMMING | group.com/vbs

Group