

A MET VBS ADVENTURE MANUAL

CREW CHIEF



CROSSCUT CREEK

LESSONS

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TEACHER MANUAL

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CALENDAR

DAY 1

DAY 2

DAILY THEME

CREATED

PLANTED

BIBLE LESSON

THE FIRST TREES

Genesis 2-3

KNOCK, KNOCK!

Luke 18

**CROSS SECTIONS
(VERSES)**

Ephesians 6:1

Colossians 4:2

WOODLAND CREATURE



Beaver



woodpecker

CHARACTER TRAITS

OBEDIENCE

Quickly and cheerfully
completing a task

PERSEVERANCE

Not giving up,
even if it's hard

**CUTTING EDGE
(CRAFTS)**

Chipper the Beaver



"Fir the Birds"



**LIMBER LUMBER YARD
(GAMES)**

Tree-Toppin' Time

Acorn Hunt

**TREETOP TREATS
(SNACKS)**



Chipper's Home



Forest Floor

CHIP'S TIPS

I.D. Tag

Leaf Picture

NDAR



DAY 3

ROOTED

THE FIRE FELLER

1 Kings 18

Jeremiah 17:7

DAY 4

WATERED

THE LIVING WATER

John 7

Psalm 37:7

DAY 5

PRUNED

PRISON PRAISE

Acts 16

John 15:2



Flying squirrel



Black bear



Wood frog

CONFIDENCE

Trusting in someone or something

PATIENCE

Waiting without losing hope

RESILIENCE

Recovering quickly from difficulty

Forest Friends



Let's Get Growing!



Nature Bookmark



Log Pile

Millrace Mayhem

Logger Frogger



Stumps & Wood Chips



Timber Treats



Leafy Delights

Clad in Plaid

Make a Waterwheel

Team Color

LET'S GET GROWING! (JER. 17:8)

however, due to circumstances, facilities, and timing, some items may change slightly.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Join us on a log-rolling, axe-throwing, heart-pounding adventure as we discover how to grow in God at...



DAILY THEMES



DAY #1 | CREATED

Wow! We're created in God's image! Our goal is to bring Him glory! Long ago, the first man and woman disobeyed God and ate fruit from the Tree of Knowledge, changing the course of history! All actions, whether good or bad, have consequences. The first step toward spiritual growth is recognizing that we're sinners in need of a Savior.



DAY #2 | PLANTED

"Knock, knock!" You don't have to wonder, "Who's there?" when you pray, because prayer is the life-line of communication that flows between us and God. Jesus's story about the persistent widow teaches us to pray without giving up! Just like a mighty tree grows from a tiny seed, God planted you where you are for a special purpose!



DAY #3 | ROOTED

The ultimate showdown between Elijah and the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel illustrates the importance of trusting in the one true God! We must know what we believe and stand firm in the faith, even when we stand alone! Hang on to your hard hats, because this is one top-thrill competition you won't want to miss!



DAY #4 | WATERED

Just like trees need water to survive and thrive, we need Jesus, the Living Water, to nourish our souls so we can grow spiritually! It takes a long time for a tree to grow. In times of waiting, we can trust that God's plan is best!



DAY #5 | PRUNED

In their groundbreaking Prison Praise concert, Paul and Silas sang a song that literally brought the house down! This dynamic duo faced one trial after another, but that didn't stop them from praising God and sharing the gospel with others! Sometimes the pruning process hurts, but it produces abundant spiritual fruit in the end.

A DAY AT VBS

From the moment Loggers arrive at CROSSCUT CREEK, they are immersed in an incredible VBS experience overflowing with excitement and adventure!

SUN-UP RALLY

The high-energy Sun-Up Rally is loaded with lively, Scripture-based songs, dramatized Bible stories, a true-life hero story, character trait highlights, hilarious skits, and more! After this rally, the Loggers get chip-chopping into their Jobsite Rotation at CROSSCUT CREEK!

JOBSITE ROTATION

CUTTING EDGE (CRAFTS)

Creativity is in full bloom at Cutting Edge where Loggers use their God-given imaginations to create fancy woodpeckers, whimsical forest friends, beautiful nature bookmarks, and more!

LIMBER LUMBER YARD (GAMES)

Speed and agility are put to the test at the Limber Lumber Yard! It's non-stop motion as Loggers team up to clear log jams and race to cross the creek in time for the award ceremony. Oh! Be sure to watch out for flying squirrels!

SHARPENING SESSION (CLASS)

Here, Loggers discover how to apply to their daily lives what they've learned about growing in God. Interactive review games reinforce the daily memory verse, and everyone is given an opportunity to respond to the gospel message.

TREETOP TREATS (SNACKS)

Mm-mmm! Do you smell that delicious aroma?! A fresh batch of Leafy Delights just came out of the oven! At Treetop Treats, hungry Loggers fill their bellies with delicious Pepperoni Stumps, Wood Chips, and Trail Mix from the Forest Floor! There's plenty for everyone, so grab another hot cookie before you tackle the next tree!

TIMBER TIME (MERRILL TEAM)

During Timber Time, Loggers learn toe-tapping tunes that reinforce Biblical themes, put lumberjack skills to the test while playing review games, and discover new ways to grow in God!

SUN-DOWN RALLY

During the closing Sun-Down Rally, Loggers are rewarded for a job well done! But, be on the lookout for those pesky night-prowlers causing mayhem at the lumber mill! Don't get stuck clinging to a dead limb! Find out how you can grow in God at CROSSCUT CREEK!

WHY THIS PROGRAM?

People all around us are withering away from a lack of spiritual nourishment. Prayer, Bible reading, and church attendance—essential elements for spiritual growth—are sadly neglected in many homes and nearly non-existent in secular schools.

Developing a thriving relationship with God at an early age is invaluable! Paul told Timothy, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:15)

We've got a lot of work to do!

LET'S
GET
GROWING!



PERSONAL PREPARATION

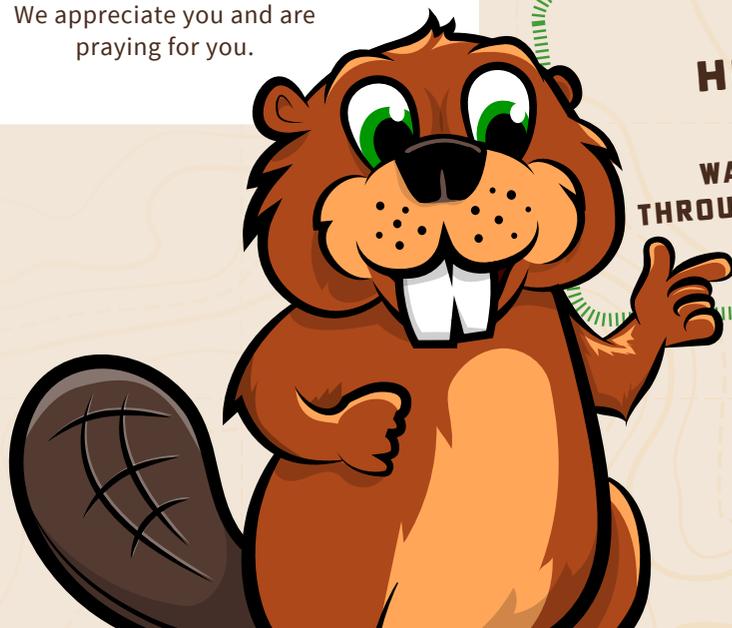
AS A
CROSSCUT CREEK
CREW CHIEF, YOU...

- Are a Logger trainer!
- Have a special desire to see children learn God's Word.
- Strive to be an example of Christ in word, thought, and deed.
- Are responsible for organizing and maintaining an efficient class. (This includes collecting supplies, organizing your Assistants, attending pre-VBS meetings and Crew Chief Meetings with Foreman Merrill, etc.)
- Realize there may be some unexpected events along the way, but plan ahead to avoid them.
- Work hard and inspire your fellow staff to do the same, knowing the reward is a heavenly one.
- Understand that, ultimately, God is in control of all things.

THANK YOU!

Thank you in advance for your hard work, preparation, and willingness to serve.

We appreciate you and are praying for you.



GET READY

Preparation matters! Remember, God promises to bless those that seek after Him with their whole heart (Psalm 119:2).

PREPARE YOUR HEART

A good logger makes sure he or she has the right equipment to be prepared for any situation. Don't let poor planning or dull Christianity hinder your ministry. Immerse yourself in God's Word.

The Bible tells us Nehemiah wept over his sin and the sin of his people. Ask God for insight and a tender heart. Amazing things happen when God's people pray!

Please pray for your Assistants and potential VBS attendees. Pray fervently for souls to be saved and lives to be changed. Investigate and remove any sin that would hinder your ministry. Pray for God to work in your own life. Then, pray for every student daily by name and need.

(A helpful resource on prayer is located at www.merrillministries.com.)

HEY THERE!
I'M CHIP!
WATCH FOR MY TIPS
THROUGHOUT THIS MANUAL!



INTRODUCTION

Place a mirror on a table (or ask an Assistant to hold it up) at the doorway and invite kids to look at themselves quickly as they enter the room and take their seats. Open in prayer once everyone is seated.

When you looked in the mirror, what did you see? **Take answers.** A reflection, right? It isn't the real you. It's just your reflection.

Has anyone ever told you, "You look just like your dad!" or, "You have your mom's eyes!"? Sometimes these similarities go beyond the way you look. You might have similar mannerisms—like sleeping with an arm above your head like your dad, or crinkling your nose like your mom when you laugh. **Take examples from students if time permits.**

Just like you may resemble your family members, man was created in God's image. That means that we reflect God's character. We can show love, be kind, be creative, etc.. But, that reflection isn't perfect. Something happened long ago that changed everything!

BIBLE LESSON REVIEW

THE FIRST TREES

The Bible says in Genesis 1:1 (quote it with me if you know it), "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." God created everything—including you—for a special purpose! Let's find out how He did it!

On the third day of creation, God created plants and fruit-bearing trees. **See Logger Tip.** Trees are very important! We'll be learning fun facts about trees all this week.

On days five and six of creation, God simply spoke, and birds, fish, and all sorts of animals came to life! **Read Genesis 1:20-25 if time permits.** I wonder what it sounded like to hear all those creatures singing for the first time!

CREATED FOR A PURPOSE

Did you notice that everything God created was created after "it's own kind"? That means, apple trees don't produce peaches, and horses don't have baby frogs. People certainly don't come from apes, as you may have heard at school. We are created in God's image and we are created for a special purpose—to bring Him glory.



LOGGER TIP
Did you know?
Fruit-bearing trees are called angiosperms!

God saw that everything He created was very good! But God saved His extra-special creations for last. Let's find out what He created next. **Read (or have a student read) Genesis 1:26-27 and Genesis 2:7.**

Wow! God formed man out of the dust of the ground, breathed life into him, and "man became a living soul"! A soul is what separates humans from animals and plants. Animals, plants, and trees are living things, but they don't have souls. Only humans have souls.

Our soul is sometimes called our mind or our heart. It isn't something you can touch (like your physical brain), but it is what makes us who we are.



LOGGER TIP

Did you know?

It is important for us to take care of our environment as well. Plants and trees provide food (fruit, nuts, etc.), clothing (cotton, linen, etc.), and shelter (timber for homes)—three necessities of life. Trees also provide beauty, shade, shelter, food, clean air, etc. By taking care of our environment, we honor God and also help people in the future!

Our soul is eternal, which means it lasts forever, even after our bodies die.

The Bible says God created man in His own image! Do you know the name of the first man God created? **Adam**. That's right! God created people to be either male or female. That's God's perfect design.

Then, God created a beautiful garden. **Read Genesis 2:8-9**. In this garden, called the Garden of Eden, God made all sorts of beautiful, vibrant plants and trees. Adam had the important job of taking care of the garden and naming the animals. **See Logger Tip**.

Out of all the trees in the garden, there were two very special trees that God planted right in the middle—the

Tree of Life and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. The fruit of the Tree of Knowledge would make whoever ate it be able to know the difference between good and evil (or, right and wrong). And eating fruit from the Tree of Life, would let you live forever! You'd be invincible!

God gave very specific instructions to Adam. **Read Genesis 2:16**. The fruit from all the other trees was available to eat except for the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge.

Adam had a lot of things to do to keep him busy, but God knew it wasn't good for Adam to be alone, so He created the first woman. Adam named her Eve. God designed one man and one woman to be married for life. That's His perfect plan!

Adam tended the garden and walked and talked with God in the cool of the day. But, the sneaky serpent, the Devil, tricked Eve into eating the fruit that God had said not to eat. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God.

All actions, whether good or bad, have consequences. As a consequence for not obeying God, Adam and Eve were sent out of the beautiful Garden of Eden. Instead of the lush, fertile soil, Adam had to till the hard ground by the sweat of his brow. God cursed the ground, and thorns and thistles sprang up. God told Eve she would have pain and sorrow when having children.

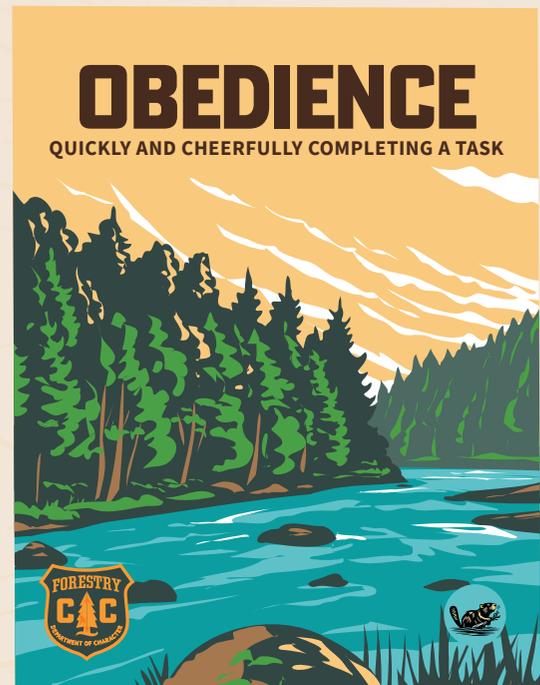
CHARACTER TRAIT | OBEDIENCE

Disobedience is the opposite of obedience, which is today's character trait. **Show Character Poster**. Obedience means "quickly (**quickly slide your hand together**) and cheerfully (**smile and trace a pretend smile on your face with your pointer finger**) completing a task (**give a thumbs up**)". Stand and try doing that with me! **Use hand motions to review**. Each day this week we will be looking for someone to honor who demonstrates the daily character trait.

VERSE | EPHESIANS 6:1

You might be thinking, "But Adam and Eve lived a long time ago! I don't have to obey today."

Actually, there are examples about the importance of obedience all throughout the Bible! Have you ever heard about a man named Jonah? He disobeyed God and ended up in the belly of a big fish! Another man named Abraham obeyed God's instructions even though it was hard, and God rewarded him by making his family become a great nation!



But, obedience isn't just for adults, it's for kids too! Ephesians 6:1 tells us that it's important for children to obey their parents. Stand and let's try that verse together, beginning and ending with the reference. **Show Verse Poster.**



Teach the verse using one of the suggestions on page 15, or (for older classes) consider writing the verse reference and words on jumbo craft sticks and placing them in a basket. Students take turns pulling sticks out of a basket and putting them in the correct order. Repeat the verse as needed.

REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

FRUIT BOWL | Pick up an orange, toss it in the air, and catch it. Remember, fruit trees were created on Day 3! Let's play some "Fruit Bowl" and see what you've learned! See Fruit Bowl box.

APPLICATION

TALKING POINT #1

THINK & DISCUSS | How can you help take care of the world that God created? **By studying plants and animals so you can better take care of them, picking up trash, planting seeds, etc.**

ACTION STEP | Thank God for the opportunity to have a part in His creation. Have you thanked Him for creating you? If not, this is a great time to do it!



FRUIT BOWL

ADVANCE PREP

See materials list and prep info on page 19.

INSTRUCTIONS

Raise your hand to answer a question. If you answer correctly, you will earn 1,000 points for your team (or a small prize) and get the opportunity to earn an extra 1,000 points for your team by rolling a piece of fruit down the table and trying to make it land in the bowl. **Demonstrate.**

QUESTIONS:

1. In Ephesians 6:1, what are children instructed to do?
Answer: Obey their parents
2. On what day of Creation did God create trees?
Answer: Day 3
3. Did Adam and Eve obey God?
Answer: No
4. Who tricked Eve into eating the fruit?
Answer: Snake, serpent, devil, Satan
5. What is one consequence of Adam and Eve's sin?
Answers: Pain, thorns, removed from the garden, lost fellowship with God, etc.
6. Name today's character quality.
Answer: Obedience
7. Why should we be good caretakers of God's creation?
Answer: It honors God and helps people in the future.





DIG DEEPER
**USE THE TALKING POINTS
TO LEAD STUDENTS TO A
POINT OF DECISION.**

INVITATION

God created this world and everything in it for His glory! **Revelation 4:11** It was a perfect creation. There wasn't any sin—that means people didn't do bad things—and there wasn't any death. But when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, sin entered God's perfect creation and so did death. **Roman 5:12** Sin hurts our relationship with God and others.

Remember that mirror we talked about earlier? Even though we are made in God's image, sin has broken that clear reflection. **Show "broken" mirror.** As sinners, we deserve to die. But, I have good news! **Read Romans 6:23.**

We don't deserve God's forgiveness, but God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sin!

Jesus came to Earth and lived a perfect life, but wicked men convinced the leaders to kill Him. Jesus paid the price for our sins by dying on a cross, one of the most horrible ways to die, but He did it because He loves you and He loves me.

But, Jesus didn't stay in the grave! On the third day, Jesus rose again!

God wants all of us to be saved so we can live forever with Him. All we have to do is believe in Jesus and accept His free gift of salvation.

The first step toward spiritual growth is recognizing that we're sinners in need of a Savior. If you would like to talk with us about how you can accept Jesus as your Savior, we would love to talk with you!

Close in prayer. Call to action ideas: salvation, forgiveness for sin, committing to obey, etc.

If time permits, review the character quality and verse.

REMEMBER | Practice your team cheer!

TALKING POINT #2

THINK & DISCUSS | How can you demonstrate obedience? **Give examples: following your teacher's instructions, cleaning up your room when asked to do so, obeying playground rules, etc.**

ACTION STEP | (Use hand motions review the definition of obedience.) Today, commit to "quickly and cheerfully completing a task".

TALKING POINT #3

THINK & DISCUSS | We bring glory to God when we obey God's Word and confess our sin.

- **OLDER STUDENTS |** What if someone in authority does something wrong (says bad words, is mean, etc.). Should you still obey them? **Use age-appropriate examples and guide the conversation.** All of us are sinners. No parent or authority figure is perfect, but God still instructs us to obey them as long as it does not go against the Bible.

ACTION STEP | Ask the Lord to forgive you for any unconfessed sins and to help you obey even when it is hard.

SAMPLE SINNER'S PRAYER

"Heavenly Father, I am a sinner. I deserve to be in Hell forever, but I believe what the Bible says. I believe that You died on the cross for me, that You were buried, and that You rose again three days later. I'm sorry for my sin. Please forgive me. Clean my heart and mind. Make me Your child. In Jesus's name I pray. Amen."

