2021 DESTINATION DIG ADULT LEADER GUIDE

LifeWay VBS



GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

How can you know for sure your will spend an eternity in heaven with God? Here's what the Bible says.

GOD'S POWER

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16a) God is the power, source, and reward in salvation. Because we are powerless in our sin, God steps in to rescue us.

OUR PROBLEM

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Sin means missing the mark and falling short of perfection. Because of our imperfection, we cannot stand before a holy God.

OUR PUNISHMENT

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) Sin separates us from God and sentences us to death.

GOD'S PROVISION

"But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!" (Romans 5:8) Though we deserve eternal death, God has made a way for us to be rescued through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus.

WE RESPOND

"If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9) To confess Jesus as Lord means we agree with God about our sin and need for salvation. We must repent and trust only in the work of Jesus to save us.

Explain that receiving Christ is the beginning. Urge the adult to follow in believer's baptism, unite with a local church body, be faithful in Bible study, worship, and daily time with God.

PREPARE FOR THE DIG

USE THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO PREPARE YOURSELF TO LEAD ADULTS DURING VBS 2021.

SURVEY THE SITE

- Read the Bible passages for each day, the Bible studies in this guide, and the "*Biblical Illustrator* Articles" I for each session.
- Ask God to provide new insights and ways to apply the biblical content.
- Pray for adults who will attend your VBS.

USE THE RIGHT TOOLS

Use these curriculum pieces:

- This leader guide (one per teacher)—Copies can be printed by the purchasing church from the CD-ROM included in the kit.
- Leader Kit items—The kit items include a Promotional Poster, VBS Scripture Poster, 5 daily session posters, and other full color teaching items.
- Printable Items—Printable items are included on the CD-ROM in the leader kit, in the folders of the digital product, or for download using the redeemable code on this page.
- ❑ VBS 2021 Adult Learner Guide (005826455)— This book provides deeper study and tips to help adults engage in Bible study. (one per adult)

LAY OUT THE GRID

- Look at the Bible Study Schedule on page 4 to determine how to plan your schedule.
- Recruit assistant leaders for small groups, crafts, recreation, and snacks.
- Read through the daily sessions. Highlight what you plan to include.
- Meet with your other leaders to plan each daily session.
- Sort and assemble items from your leader kit. Instructions are printed on the bottom of each kit item.
- Print any printable items you plan to use. If you do not have access to a disc drive see the instructions below to download the printable resources.
- Gather the supplies you need.

TREASURE YOUR FINDS

- Make sure your church has correct contact information for each adult in your class.
- Use the suggestions on page 47 to continue the relationships built during VBS.
- Share contact information with your pastor and VBS director.

EXCAVATE AND DISCOVER

- Relax and enjoy the chance to build relationships with the adults you teach.
- Be flexible. Adjust your plans to make this the best experience possible for you and your participants.

MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES

The and cons in this guide are to help you quickly identify printable and PowerPoint[®] resources. You can find these resources on the CD-ROM in the Adult Leader Kit, in the printables folder of the digital product, or download them using the following instructions:

- 1. Go to my.lifeway.com/redeem and register or log in.
- 2. Enter this unique code to download all printable items:

7KIHTC9273

3. Follow the directions to download your resources on any compatible device. This code can be redeemed three times. For customer support, please call 866-627-8553.

AUDIO RESOURCES

The Dicons in this guide are to help you quickly identify audio resources. You can find these resources on the VBS 2021 Music for Kids CD (005826494) or purchase them individually from the VBS 2021 Music Album (005828595) at www.lifeway.com.



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VBS 2021 ADULT LEADER GUIDE

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Printed in the United States of America

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DESTINATION DIG[®]: UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS

At Destination Dig, adults will discover real-life archaeological finds that have helped to uncover the truth about Jesus. Stories from the Bible will leap off the pages as adults explore where Jesus walked and examine artifacts that bring the world of the Bible to life. Adults will study tangible pieces of the past to learn the truth about who Jesus is and why He came. Along the way they'll discover the truth of Jeremiah 29:13 that God reveals Himself to us when we seek and search for Him with all our hearts.

VBS SCRIPTURE

You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart. *Jeremiah 29:13* And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. *Jeremiah 29:13* (KJV)

SESSION 1 TRUTH: JESUS CAME AS GOD PROMISED-JESUS WAS BORN

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told prophets to write about His plan to send His Son to be our Savior. Many years later an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph. The angel told him Mary would have God's Son, and they were to name Him Jesus. Just as God promised, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. God promised He would send His Son, and He did. (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18–2:6)

SESSION 2 TRUTH: JESUS DEMONSTRATED GOD'S POWER-JESUS HEALED A BLIND MAN

Prophets wrote about what would happen when God's Son came to earth. They wrote about miracles He would perform such as healing people. When Jesus began His ministry, He did everything God said He would do. One day while in Jerusalem, Jesus passed a man who had been blind since birth. Jesus spat on the ground and made some mud. He spread the mud over the man's eyes and told the man to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man did as he was told, and he could see! The man told people what Jesus had done. Later, when the man saw Jesus, he worshiped Him. (Psalm 146:8; Isaiah 35:5-6a; John 9:1-41)

SESSION 3 TRUTH: JESUS WAS BETRAYED AND REJECTED-JESUS EXPERIENCED BETRAYAL AND REJECTION

Jesus shared one last special supper with His disciples. During the meal Jesus explained that one of the disciples would betray Him. Jesus knew His betrayal and death would fulfill God's plan. After the meal, Jesus and all the disciples except for Judas went to the garden in Gethsemane. While they were there, Judas brought the soldiers to arrest Jesus and take Him to the high priest to begin the trials the prophets had written about many years before. Pilate, the Roman governor, tried to find a way to release Jesus, but the crowd shouted, "Crucify Him!" Jesus remained silent just as the prophecy said He would. Finally, Pilate gave into the people's demands, and Jesus was handed over to the soldiers to be crucified. (Psalm 41:9; Isaiah 53:3,7; John 13; 18:1–19:16)

SESSION 4 TRUTH: JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN-JESUS IS ALIVE

God told prophets that Jesus would be born and that He would die for our sins. God also said that Jesus would die with the wicked, be buried with the rich, and be raised from the dead. Just as God said, Jesus was crucified between two criminals and Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy man, buried Jesus' body in Joseph's tomb. A stone was rolled in front of the tomb. On the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. The stone had been rolled away, and Jesus was gone. Peter and John came to the tomb and saw the burial clothes, but Jesus was not there. While Mary stood outside the tomb crying, a man she thought was a gardener appeared. The Man called her name and immediately Mary knew He was Jesus. She couldn't wait to tell the disciples that Jesus is alive! (Isaiah 53:5,9-11; John 19:17–20:18)

SESSION 5 TRUTH: THE BIBLE IS TRUE—PHILIP TOLD THE GOOD NEWS

While Philip was preaching in Samaria, an angel of the Lord told him to go south to the road that goes to Gaza. Philip obeyed the angel. Philip saw a man traveling in a chariot. The man was reading a copy of the Isaiah scroll. Philip asked the man if he understood what he was reading. The man said he did not and that he needed someone to explain it to him. Philip explained the good news about Jesus to the man. The man believed what Philip told him and believed in Jesus. Philip baptized the man, and the man went on his way rejoicing. (Isaiah 53:7-8; Acts 8:26-40)

NOTE: The (3) icon identifies an opportune time to share the gospel with adults as led by the Holy Spirit.

GETTING STARTED

Before the first session, run through the following checklist to prepare for VBS.

CHECKLIST

Read the Bible content for all five sessions.

Read the Bible backgrounds for each session (pages 7, 15, 23, 31, and 39).

Pray for yourself, other VBS leaders, and the adults whose lives you will touch.

Find out from your VBS director how long you will have each day for Bible study.

Read through each session. Make notes of any changes or adjustments you need to make.

SCHEDULE

Adult VBS is designed for five two-hour sessions, as indicated by this schedule:

REGISTRATION AND SNACKS	10 MINUTES
GET ACQUAINTED	20 MINUTES
CREATE INTEREST	10 MINUTES
BIBLE STUDY	50 MINUTES
APPLICATION	20 MINUTES
CLOSURE	10 MINUTES

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS

The most obvious time to schedule Adult VBS is during kids' VBS, however other times and options may work well for you church. See the tips below and the "Scheduling Helps" 1.

- Wednesday nights in January or February to prepare VBS leaders who will teach kids in the summer.
- Women's retreat or men's event.
- Present Adult VBS at a housing project or mission site.
- Plan a special event for college students or young adults.
- Host a daytime event for senior adults, either in your church or in a senior center.
- Use on Sunday nights or Wednesday nights prior to VBS. Or use a combination such as Sunday, Wednesday, Sunday, Wednesday, Sunday.

LEADER TIP

Keep your volunteer team all on the same page with posts on Remind[®], Messenger[®], or a similar medium. Include words of encouragement to keep spirits high.

PROMOTING ADULT VBS

Pack your bags and grab your gear, VBS 2021 is headed to present-day Israel where an epic adventure of discovery awaits. Discover long-hidden treasures, amazing finds, and exciting evidence that proves biblical events were not just stories. They really happened! Use these tips to get the adults in your church and community excited about attending VBS:

- □ Schedule a time to promote Adult VBS and include promotion in your VBS budget.
- Use the "Promotional Poster" (kit item 1) to promote within your church.
- Send out VBS 2021 Supersized Postcards (005829866) asking adults to save the date for VBS.
- □ Ask permission to display VBS 2021 Promotional Posters (005827013) at local businesses.
- Make scrolls from cardstock. Print your VBS information on each scroll. Roll the scrolls and tie with a piece of twine. Distribute the scrolls to invite Adults to join you for VBS and dig into God's Word through Bible study.
- Run a T-shirt campaign. Assign one day a week for one month (or even two) prior to VBS for all church members to wear their VBS shirts to promote VBS.
- Canvas neighborhoods and distribute door hangers, flyers, and invitations.
- See the "Promotional Ideas"
 for tips on using social media and other ideas for promoting Adult VBS.



DECORATING IDEAS

As you determine how to set up your Bible study, you may want to select one wall as your focal wall to display teaching items from the kit. Set up the room to allow for comfortable conversation in small group as well as large group activities. Keeping the focal wall simple with teaching items only will eliminate distractions while teaching biblical truths during VBS.

FOCAL WALL

- Place the "VBS Scripture Poster" (kit item 2), the "Motto Poster" (kit item 6), the "Plan of Salvation Poster" (kit item 3), the "Map of Israel" (kit item 4), and the daily Session Posters (kit items 7 and 9–12) on the focal wall in the room.
- Plan to add the remaining items as they are called for each day.



SMALL GROUP TABLES

- Provide tables and chairs for small group work.
- Cover the tables with tan tablecloths if you have round tables or use VBS 2021 Tablecloths (005826469) for long tables.
- Set a "Table Tent" on each table to identify small groups.

OTHER DECORATING IDEAS

- □ Display the VBS 2021 Supersized Backdrop (005826464) to fill the room with color and create the effect of being at a dig site.
- □ Place a VBS 2021 Bible Study Location Sign (005827004) at the entrance of the room.
- Set wooden crates or make crates from cardboard boxes and set them around the room. Use the crates to store supplies you need each day.
- Ark off areas of the floor with tape to resemble a grid you might find at a dig site.
- □ Hang the VBS 2021 Whirleys (005829865) from the ceiling.
- See VBS 2021 Decorating Made Easy (005826473) for more decorating ideas.







SESSION 1

TRUTH: JESUS CAME AS GOD PROMISED

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Was Born (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18-2:6)

TODAY'S POINT: Jesus is the Savior God promised.

TODAY'S PURPOSE: Leaders will use Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment to point adults to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah.

BONUS VERSE: Isaiah 9:6a

BIBLE BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

God spoke the universe into existence from nothing. (Hebrews 11:3) How incredible it would have been to witness the sun, moon, stars, and planets form and begin to function at His command! Even more incredible it would be to witness the life springing forth from the earth as God created plants, marine life, flying creatures, and animals that move all over the globe. As God made everything, He declared that it was good. (Genesis 1:25) Then, on the sixth day, God created humanity in His image and declared that it was "very good." (Genesis 1:31)

We cannot begin to fathom how beautiful and enriching it must have been to live in God's creation before sin entered humanity. Adam and Eve had an incredible experience with everything provided for them as they enjoyed dominion over the earth. We know they also enjoyed a close relationship with the Lord because His Word tells us that He came to walk with them "in the time of the evening breeze." (Genesis 3:8)

Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and chose to depart from God's plan. (Genesis 3:6) They chose their will over His, and sin's curse devastated both humanity and creation. Because they had departed from God's design, they had "fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) There was nothing they could do to save themselves; they were hopelessly lost. On top of that, every human descended from Adam and Eve has borne sin's curse. By default, every human is headed toward eternal destruction and desperately needs rescue.

Since God is infinite in His knowledge, power, and love, He had a plan from the beginning to rescue every person who would respond to His plan! His Son, Jesus, came to pay for our sin. He is the Promised Messiah. Even in the garden of Eden, God promised that He would send the Savior to redeem us. (Genesis 3:15) When Jesus was born as a baby 2,000 years ago, He came as the Messiah. His birth was the continuation of His earthly fulfillment of everything God promised to redeem us of our sin. This week, we are going to unearth evidence that shows us God's plan, including our salvation, has unfolded and will be completed according to His every purpose and timing.

THE MESSIAH PROMISED, "GOD WITH US" (ISAIAH 7:14)

God spoke throughout the Old Testament about the coming Messiah who would pay for our sins. Isaiah was used by God to foretell that Jesus would be born of a virgin. The virgin wasn't going to be someone who was divine; rather, she was to be a humble, obedient servant of God. Isaiah also foretold that Jesus' name would be *Immanuel*, meaning "God with us." God Himself would be in the form of a human baby when He was born. Jesus fulfilled every aspect of this prophetic promise when He was born to Mary.

THE PLACE OF JESUS' BIRTH FORETOLD (MICAH 5:2)

In Micah's prophecy, the place of Jesus' birth is foretold. God used Micah to point to Bethlehem. In Hebrew, Bethlehem means "house of bread." It was here that Ruth came with her mother-in-law Naomi and was married to Boaz. (Ruth 1) It was also the place where David was anointed Israel's King by Samuel. (1 Samuel 16) Throughout the Old Testament, we see the importance of this place that would ultimately serve as the place where God, Himself, came in human flesh as a virgin-born baby.

God gave Micah's prophecy specific detail to make it unmistakable that Jesus' birth in Bethlehem pointed to His being God. In this verse, God used Micah to help us understand that even though Jesus was born as a human baby in Bethlehem, He was also eternal and omnipotent (all-powerful). He has always been and will always be. (Revelation 22:13) He will also rule and reign forever. (Revelation 11:15)

JOSEPH BELIEVED THE OLD TESTAMENT AND GOD'S MESSAGE TO HIM (MATTHEW 1:18-25)

Jesus' birth occurred exactly as the Scripture foretold. It's easy for us to see Scripture's fulfillment 2,000 years later, but the experience of serving as Jesus' earthly father had to be challenging for Joseph. When his future wife became pregnant, he assumed that she had been with another man. However, God spoke to him and explained what was happening. Joseph chose to believe God and to wed Mary even though she was already pregnant. Joseph also obediently named this newborn baby Jesus. This took incredible faith, but it shows Joseph believed in God's Word and that it was important to him to obey God.

WISE MEN SOUGHT JESUS AND GOD STRENGTHENED THEIR FAITH THROUGH OBEDIENCE (MATTHEW 2:1-6)

As chapter two begins, we see the timeline move forward to when wise men came from the east to worship Jesus as they saw a beautiful star guiding them. When these wise men went to Jerusalem, King Herod was highly interested. He knew that if God raised up someone to rule over Israel, it would threaten his political power. Feigning a desire to worship Jesus, Herod had a far more sinister purpose in mind.

When Herod asked the chief priests and scribes where Jesus would be, they told him Bethlehem. The reason they could be so definitive about their answer was because the Old Testament is so direct and specific in its prophecy. Jesus' miraculous birth shows us that His Word is completely perfect! This also points to the perfect faithfulness of God to keep His every promise.

One tragic aspect to the situation described in this passage was the opportunity Herod missed. As the wise men (most likely Gentiles who chose to believe in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) went to announce that they were coming to worship the Hebrew Messiah foretold in Scripture, the political leader of the Hebrews completely missed the blessing under his nose. Jesus had arrived; Herod had the opportunity to honor Him and to experience eternal life through His forgiveness.

Herod was controlled by his selfish desire for control and luxury. Worried about losing his political power, He ordered the massacre of innocent male children age two and younger once the wise men from the east did not return to reveal Jesus' exact identity. (Matthew 2:16-18) Herod's power-hungry tirade was evidence that someone can know (and even intellectually believe) the truths of Scripture but miss the blessing of being "born again." (John 3:3)

SESSION 1: LESSON PLAN

TRUTH: JESUS CAME AS GOD PROMISED

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Was Born (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18–2:6)

TODAY'S POINT: Jesus is the Savior God promised.

TODAY'S PURPOSE: Leaders will use Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment to point adults to the truth that Jesus is the Messiah.

BONUS VERSE: Isaiah 9:6a

BEFORE THE SESSION

- Prepare your heart through prayer and personal study. Study the Bible Backgrounds (pages 7–9) and the "Session 1 Biblical Illustrator Articles" I.
- Recruit adults to serve as small group leaders and rotation leaders (registration, snacks, recreation, crafts) as needed to manage your Adult VBS Bible Study.
- Pray daily for the small group and rotation leaders and their ministry in Adult VBS. Pray each day for the adults who will attend VBS.
- Prepare all kit and printable items. Instructions for preparation can be found at the bottom of each item.
- Decorate the Adult VBS room as described on page 6.
- Be sure the "VBS Scripture Poster" (kit item 2), the "Plan of Salvation Poster" (kit item 3), the "Map of Israel" (kit item 4), the "Artifacts Poster" (kit item 5), "Motto Poster" (kit item 6), the "Session 1 Poster" (kit item 7), and the "Romans 10:13 Poster" (kit item 8) are on the focal wall.
- Plan to have music playing during arrival. OPTIONAL: Include a projector, computer, or TV for visual enhancements such as the "Biblical Content PowerPoint[®]" ^(C).
- Provide name tags for each Adult small group leader and adult attending VBS.
- Check with VBS Director for VBS registration guidelines and paperwork.
- Choose one of the theme-related refreshments from the VBS 2021 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards (005826459) each day of Adult VBS.
- Check with the VBS Director and church staff for announcements that should be made during the session.
- Provide Bibles, learner guides, and pens for each adult at every VBS Session.

MULTIMEDIA KEY
PRINTABLES
POWERPOINT®

FILES

AUDIO

SEE PAGE 1 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

REGISTRATION & SNACKS (10 MINUTES)

- Play "Destination Dig"
 as adults enter the room.
- Complete a "Registration Form" 🗈 and name tag for each participant.
- Encourage adults to get to know each other while sampling a prepared snack.
- Transition adults to the small group tables you set up when the session is ready to begin. Make sure each small group has an even mix of first time attenders with seasoned churchgoers so small groups remain a dynamic and positive learning environment.
- Explain that each group will explore the biblical content together all week. Give adults a few minutes to introduce themselves.

GET ACQUAINTED (20 MINUTES)

- Introduce yourself, the other small group leaders, and the Destination Dig theme and content.
- Call attention to the "VBS Scripture Poster" (kit item 2). See page 3 for the VBS Scripture. Explain that this is the key verse for the week.
- Read the verse aloud. Point out that this week, we are going to seek after God. God promises that when we seek after Him, we will find Him. It will be exciting to see what God reveals to us about Himself this week.
- Encourage adults to turn to page 3 in their learner guides and to find the "Meet the Archaeologists" activity. Give your group some time to go around the room and find one person who is able to write his or her name in one of the boxes. Have your group's members get as many names as possible before the time is up!
- Spend a few minutes going through the responses and getting to know one another.
- Share that the reason there were some Christmas-themed items in today's activity is that we are going to explore some facts about the birth of Jesus.
- Encourage your group that they've done a great job with this activity. Tell them that you will continue getting to know one another more as you work to unearth evidence about Jesus this week.

REGISTRATION & SNACKS PREP

- Printables
- "Registration Form"
- Snack items
- □ Name tags (1 per adult)
- Pens (1 per adult)

LEADER TIP

Collect each completed "Registration Form" (1) to gather each attendee's information for follow-up.

GET ACQUAINTED PREP

 Leader kit item 2
 VBS 2021 Adult Learner Guides (1 per adult)

Pens (1 per adult)

LEADER TIP

Use the information on page 3 to help you describe the theme and biblical content.

YOU WILL SEEI AND WHE SEAI AND YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND FIND ME, WHEN YE SHALL SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART. JEREMIAH 29:13 KJV

CREATE INTEREST PREP

 Leader kit item 7
 VBS 2021 Adult Learner Guides (1 per adult)

Pens (1 per adult)



BIBLE STUDY PREP

Leader kit items 3, 4, and 8

Printables

- "Isaiah's Messianic Prophecies"—*Biblical Illustrator Article*
- "Response Cards"

Bibles

UBS 2021 Adult Learner Guides (1 per adult)

Pens (1 per adult)

CREATE INTEREST (10 MINUTES)

- Ask adults to turn to page 6 in their learner guides.
- Direct groups to work together to summarize the truths in the Scriptures listed under "Our Problem" and "God's Promised Solution."
- Lead the groups to discuss their findings.
- Call attention to the "Session 1 Poster" (kit item 7) and read the session truth (Jesus came as God promised.) and point. (Jesus is the Savior God promised.)
- Say: "Today, we will see that the Old Testament foretold perfectly how Jesus would be born. The details we will unearth today in the New Testament Scripture will show us that it is unmistakable who Jesus is. He is the Messiah promised from the garden of Eden who would come to pay for our sin. He fulfilled every promise about His birth that we can find in Old Testament Scripture."

BIBLE STUDY (50 MINUTES)

Isaiah 7:14

- Distribute Bibles as needed and ask a volunteer to read Isaiah 7:14.
- Ask: "What name would the child be given according to this verse?" (Immanuel)
- Discuss their responses to knowing that Jesus is Immanuel and the significance of that name and the promise God makes in this verse. Adults can record their responses in the "Dig Site Discoveries" section of their learner guides on page 7.
- Provide additional details about Isaiah's prophecies using information from "Isaiah's Messianic Prophecies" and other names given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6.

Micah 5:2

- Ask the following questions before reading the Scripture.
 - ★ Why do you think God would want to pre-write history in a way that perfectly foretells where Jesus would be born?
 - ★ How does knowing that God told us where Jesus would be born help you know that the Bible is true?
- Ask another volunteer to read Micah 5:2. Lead adults to discuss the prophecy that is foretold in this verse.
- Share how in the midst of his harsh message to the Israelites, Micah

predicted the birth of one who would make an eternal difference. Ask: "From where would this person come?" (*Bethlehem*)

- Point out the location of Bethlehem on the "Map of Israel" (kit item 4).
- Ask adults to share their prior knowledge of Bethlehem. Then share these additional interesting facts about Bethlehem:
 - ★ The meaning of Bethlehem is "house of bread," and Jesus would be the Bread of Life.
 - ★ Bethlehem was the birthplace of David, and Jesus was of the lineage of David.
- Tell adults they will now look to a New Testament passage where God kept His promise of sending a Savior to His people.

Matthew 1:18-25

- Read Matthew 1:18-25 while adults record the promises God fulfilled in these verses on page 7 in their learner guides.
- Use the following questions to lead discussion of the passage.
 - ★ What was the significance of Mary being a virgin and the child being conceived by the Holy Spirit?
 - ★ How was Joseph described? What did the angel keep Joseph from doing?
 - ★ What was the child to be named? What did it mean? What would He do?
 - ★ How did Mary and Joseph remain faithful to God? As a result, how did they help further God's kingdom?

Matthew 2:1-6

- Read Matthew 2:1-6 and guide adults to answer the questions on page 7 of their learner guides for this passage.
- Remind adults that these events took place some time after Jesus' birth.
- Share with adults that even with the star directing the wise men's path, they had to be familiar with Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah like the ones from Isaiah and Micah.
- Point out that Herod tragically missed out on God's plan of salvation when he rejected Jesus. Share with adults that if they have not trusted Jesus as their Savior, they do not have to fear missing the gift of salvation offered through Jesus Christ.
- Call attention to the "Plan of Salvation Poster" (kit item 3) and the "Romans 10:13 Poster" (kit item 8). Walk through God's plan of salvation and emphasize Romans 10:13.
- Distribute "Response Cards" 🗐 and offer a time of response for your group.

LEADER TIPS

- Assure adults you will keep all "Response Cards" confidential.
- Be sure to have mature believers available to counsel any adult who has questions or is seeking guidance.
- The ficon identifies an opportune time to share the gospel with adults as led by the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION PREP

Leader kit item 5

Printables

- "Wisdom of the Messiah: The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Life Teachings of Jesus"—*Biblical Illustrator Article*
- UBS 2021 Adult Learner Guides (1 per adult)

Pens (1 per adult)

CLOSURE PREP

Printables

• "God's Promises Cards"

Church announcements

Pottery jar or basket to collect name tags, optional

LEADER TIP

Provide additional "God's Promises Cards" and challenge adults to share them with their family and friends.

APPLICATION (20 MINUTES).

- Say: "Today, we learned that just as God promised, Jesus would be born in Bethlehem to the virgin Mary. He would be named Immanuel and He would be the Messiah. Everything that was promised about Jesus' birth in the Old Testament was perfectly fulfilled in how He was born, proving that Jesus is the Savior God promised."
- Call attention to the "Artifact Poster" (kit item 5) and point out the Qumran Pottery.
- Provide details about the pottery using information from "Wisdom of the Messiah: The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Life and Teachings of Jesus" and the following information:
 - ★ Pottery vessels like this were found in the Qumran Caves, an archaeological site in the West Bank area of Israel where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. The scrolls contained all but one Old Testament Book of the Bible.
 - ★ The Dead Sea Scrolls, which contain the entire Book of Isaiah, are yet another indicator that Jesus is indeed the promised Messiah. These oldest copies of the Old Testament, discovered after being preserved for millennia inside Qumran pottery, provide additional evidence that the Bible is indeed the Word of God.



- Guide adults to turn to page 8 in their learner guides. Lead them to look up the Scriptures to discover what God says about promises in His Word.
- Remind adults that God always fulfills His promises just as He did when Jesus was born.

CLOSURE (10 MINUTES)

- Comment that God made many promises throughout the Bible and He fulfills every one of them.
- Give each adult one of the "God's Promises Cards." I Encourage adults to keep their cards with them as a reminder of the promises God has made.
- Make any announcements provided by the VBS Director or church staff.
- Ask adults to leave their name tags to use during the remaining sessions.
- Close the session with a prayer thanking God for perfectly fulfilling prophecy so that we know that Jesus is the One God promised.

VBS 2021 ADULT LEADER GUIDE

ACCOMPANYING RESOURCES VBS 2021 Adult Learner Guide (005826455)

> VBS SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 29:13

VBS MOTTO Seek Truth! Find Jesus!

VBS WEBSITE www.lifeway.com/vbs