

## VBS 2021 BABIES–2s BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

### Purpose Statement

This 90-minute teaching plan is designed to train and equip teachers of infants, 1s, and 2-year-olds to use LifeWay's 2021 Destination Dig™ Babies–2s materials.

### Needed Resources

- *VBS 2021 Babies–2s Leader Guide*
- *VBS 2021 Babies–2s Leader Pack*
  - Pack Item 3 “Bible Story Picture”
  - Pack Item 17: “Jesus Grew Cards” — Cut apart and place each set in a separate gift bag.
  - Pack Item 19: “Adult Jesus”
  - Pack Item 20: “Bible People Pictures” — Cut apart and tape several pictures to an inflated beach ball. Tape other pictures to an empty oatmeal container.
  - Pack Item 22: “Verse Markers” — Place marker in Bible at Luke 2:38.
  - Pack Item 32: “Column Word Rings” — Cut apart. Tape the ends of each strip together to make a circle (with words facing out).
- *VBS 2021 Music for Babies–2s CD* (included in Leader Pack)
- *VBS 2021 Keepsake Book*
- Item 1. “Daily Scrolls” — Photocopy onto tan paper and cut out scroll shape. Roll and tie with twine.
- Item 2. “Continue the Connection” — Photocopy on tan paper and cut to fit bottom of plastic container (Dig Site Kit).
- Item 3. “Days 1–5 Signs” — Photocopy on cardstock and arrange on the display table (in order) using curriculum stands to help them stand up. Place a few pieces of double-sided tape in the center of each. Lead conferees to tape their daily scrolls to these signs as each one is read.
- Clay pot (large enough to break into 5 pieces) — Break, then print one word on each piece from the Babies–2's Bible Verse: “Thank You, God, for Jesus.” *Luke 2:38*
- 5 plastic containers with lids — Prepare Dig Site Kits (for individuals or teams) as follows:
  - Tape one page of Item 2 (Continue the Connection) to the inside bottom of each container with packing tape. Then cover with an inch of play sand.
  - Add a “Daily Scroll” (Item 1) and clay pot fragment with Bible verse word.
  - Seal container with lid.
- Play sand — Use to cover bottoms of the plastic containers.
- 5 plastic shovels
- 5 kid's magnifying glasses — Label each with one schedule component: *CHECK-IN, ACTIVITY TIME, RECREATION, SNACK TIME, REST.*
- 5 small paintbrushes (1- or 1½-inch width)
- 5 kid's tweezers (such as *Learning Resources Jumbo Tweezers*)
- Assorted pop beads, pails, and bowls
- Small plastic bottle with lid; oil — Prepare using instructions from the “Explore Oil Bottles” activity on page 15 of the leader guide.
- Fill-and-dump toy
- Free-standing paper towel holder
- Wooden puzzles

- Sandpaper
- Laundry basket — Prepare using instructions from the “Excavate Toys” activity on page 28 of the leader guide, but instead of the toys and kit item, fill with bags of the items needed for the following five daily activities:
  - Day 1: GATHER BEADS — Pop beads, pail, bowls (p. 8).
  - Day 2: ROLL PICTURES — Beach ball, oatmeal container with pictures (p. 11).
  - Day 3: EXPLORE OIL BOTTLES — Oil bottle, “Bible Story Picture 3,” Fill-and-dump toy (p. 15).
  - Day 4: WORK PUZZLES — “Jesus Grew Cards” (pack item 17) in bags, “Column Word Rings” (pack item 32), free-standing paper towel holder, wooden puzzles (p. 20).
  - Day 5: FEEL SANDPAPER — Sandpaper, “Adult Jesus” (pack item 19), tape (p. 26).

### Room Setup

Use any variety of decorations to create a focal wall. Example: *VBS 2021 Supersized Backdrop*; *VBS 2021 Visual Pack posters*; or *VBS 2021 Wall Art*. Enhance the room by using *VBS 2021 Whirleys*; *VBS 2021 String Flags*; and/or *VBS 2021 Tablecloths*; shovels; buckets; pots and other items seen at a dig site. Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the focal area. Cover table with tablecloth and display the curriculum items. Place “Day 1-5 Signs” (Item 3) where conferees can attach scrolls during Teaching Step 3.

### Teaching Steps

#### 1. Welcome and Theme Overview (5 minutes)

- Play the *VBS 2021 Music for Babies–2s CD* as conferees enter. Welcome them and invite them to find a seat.
- Explain that during Destination Dig, older kids will become junior archaeologists and study tangible pieces of the past to learn about who Jesus is and why He came. They’ll uncover the truth of Jeremiah 29:13 that God reveals Himself to us when we seek and search for Him with all our hearts. Comment: “With Babies–2s, we will be talking about Bible stories that are more foundational about God and who He is.”
- Distribute Dig Site Kits to individuals, pairs, or groups (depending on the number of conferees) along with one of each tool—tweezers, shovel, brush, and magnifying glass.
- Open in prayer.

#### 2. Learn the Bible Verse (5 minutes)

- Encourage each individual (or group) to open his or her Dig Site Kit and use the tweezers to remove a piece of an artifact (shard of pottery).
- Once all of the fragments have been found, allow a volunteer to reassemble the pieces and read aloud the Babies–2’s Bible verse: “Thank You, God, for Jesus. *Luke 2:38*”
- Remind conferees that the Babies–2s verse is a paraphrase of the scripture in order to help toddlers understand it better.
- Lead the group to say the Bible verse together.

#### 3. Dig into the Bible Stories and Truths for Each Day (15 minutes)

- Explain that archeologists work carefully at their dig sites. They use several types of tools. Say: “Now we are going to dig into finding the daily Bible stories and truths boys and girls will discover from God’s Word.”
- Instruct conferees to use their shovels to find a scroll buried in their Dig Site Kits.

- Ask each person (or team) to place his or her scroll on the appropriate daily sign on the display table and to read that day's Bible story title, scripture, and Today's Point to the group:
  - Day 1: Ruth's Family (Ruth 1:22, 2:1-23, & 4:13-17) — Today's Point: God will take care of me.
  - Day 2: Samuel Helped at the Temple (Church) (1 Samuel 1:20-28, 2:11,18-21,26; 3:1-2,15,19) — Today's Point: People at church teach me about God.
  - Day 3: God Chose David to Become King (1 Samuel 16) — Today's Point: God has a plan for me.
  - Day 4: Simeon and Anna Saw Baby Jesus (Luke 2:21-40) — Today's Point: I can thank God for Jesus.
  - Day 5: Jesus Went to the Temple (Church) (Luke 2:40-52) — Today's Point: I can learn about God at church.
- Remind conferees that these stories and truths come from both Old and New Testament and are foundational to knowing God and his plan.

#### 4. Preparation of Activities (20 minutes)

- Point out that no qualified archaeologist begins a dig without a plan. Talk about the preparation required for VBS. (Hint: It's much more than decorating!) Remind conferees that every volunteer who works with babies–2s during VBS is a TEACHER, not a babysitter. Comment: "Your role is very important! You get to introduce children and their families to Jesus and lay a foundation of lifelong spiritual development. If that sounds like more than you signed up for, don't worry! There are many resources available to make you successful as a teacher!"
- Overview each of the following resources available to Babies–2s leaders. Explain the key features and how to use them in preparation and in teaching.
  - *VBS 2021 Babies–2s Leader Guide* (1 per teacher) — Point out the key features (separate ideas for babies–younger 1s and older 1s–2s; spiral bound to make it easy to reference while holding a baby; sections for Bible activities, theme activities, music, games, and so forth; ideas for a short "group time" experience for older 2s/younger 3s).
  - *VBS 2021 Babies–2s Leader Pack* (1 per room) — Demonstrate how to locate items in the pack by number and how they are referenced in the leader guide. Open the pack and show various items.
  - *Music for Babies CD* (included in the leader pack) — Talk about the importance of music in a younger preschool room. Point out there are songs for teaching, songs for movement, and songs for resting.
  - Printable resources online ([vbs.lifeway.com/downloads](http://vbs.lifeway.com/downloads)) — Download and print the items ahead of time and display them as you talk about them with conferees.
  - *VBS 2021 Keepsake Book* (1 per child) — This is the "take home" piece for this age group. Teachers will help boys and girls complete the activities inside during the course of the week of VBS as referenced in the leader guide. Parents will enjoy saving this keepsake as a souvenir of their child's first VBS.
- Suggest that preparation includes preparing kit items, printing online resources, choosing activities (several for each day), and gathering resources.
- Pass the laundry basket with the "Excavate Activities" for Days 1–5. Allow Dig Site teams to each select a bag from the basket. Point out that this activity is adapted from the leader guide.

- Allow a few minutes for the Dig Site teams to familiarize themselves with the items in their bag and the activity they use the items with from the leader guide.
- Lead teams to explain their activity to the rest of the group, including the connection to the Bible story or theme.
  - Day 1: GATHER BEADS (p. 8)
  - Day 2: ROLL PICTURES (p. 11)
  - Day 3: EXPLORE OIL BOTTLES: (p. 15)
  - Day 4: WORK PUZZLES (p. 20)
  - Day 5: FEEL SANDPAPER (p. 26)

### **5. Preparation of the Environment (15 minutes)**

- Compare the need archaeologists have to plan for safety, security, and hygiene in the field to the needs of teachers of Babies–2s.
- Remind conferees that there are tips and forms that can be downloaded online and in the leader guide.
- Use the following talking points to cover important ideas on preparation of the environment.
  - Familiarize yourself with your church's policies and procedures. Plan to observe all safety and security procedures. These may include things such as:
    - Personal references and background checks.
    - Teacher/child ratios (1 teacher for every 3 children with a maximum of 12 total children in a room).
    - A minimum of two adult (over 18) teachers at all times.
  - Remove all potential safety and choking hazards.
    - Cover outlets.
    - Place all cords out of reach.
    - Watch for sharp edges, protruding bolts, and loose items.
    - Install safety latches on all cabinets within a child's reach.
  - Plan for cleanliness.
    - Review (and follow) the guidelines for changing diapers, washing hands, cleaning and disinfecting.
    - Prepare fresh disinfecting solution each day (4 cups water + 1 TBSP chlorine bleach). Pour into a spray bottle (clearly labeled). Keep out of reach of children. Use this solution to disinfect all toys and surfaces before AND after each session.
    - Wash hands (vigorously for at least 20 seconds):
      1. Before feeding a child.
      2. Before and after treating a cut, scrape, or nosebleed.
      3. After assisting a child with toileting or changing a diaper.
      4. After wiping a child's nose or mouth (or your own).
    - Plan for cleaning materials:
      1. Clean toys after each use. Every time a child touches or mouths a toy, remove it from the play area until it is cleaned.
      2. Wash toys in a dishpan of warm, soapy water; spray them with disinfecting solution; and rinse them in clear water. Allow to air dry before returning them to use.
  - Prepare any theme decorations that are age appropriate. Remember that decorations are for the benefit of the teacher and the parents (young children don't care about decorations) and should be limited to:
    - Focal displays.

- Doorway decorations.

## 6. Exploring Schedule Components (10 minutes)

- Ask each Dig Site team to take out its magnifying glass and identify the components of the daily schedule.
- Use these talking points to discuss:
  - CHECK-IN:
    - Follow your church's sign-in procedures.
    - Obtain a completed "Child Information Sheet" (especially an emergency phone number in case a parent needs to be contacted during VBS).
    - Be aware of any special needs/allergy information. This may include more than just food allergies.
  - ACTIVITY TIME:
    - Provide activities for children to enjoy each day. Choose a mixture of Bible-related and theme-related activities. It is not necessary to include tons of activities each day since young preschoolers love repetition. Simply put something away for a while, then bring it back out and it will feel like a brand-new experience to children this age.
    - Point out the Bible Story Plus suggestions included in the leader guide and mention that a short group-time experience is available for older 2s. (Though not all children or groups of children will be ready for this kind of group experience.)
  - RECREATION:
    - Insist that children hold the teachers' hands (or a buddy rope) when traveling to a new location.
    - Assign one teacher to every 2 to 3 children.
    - Keep an accurate daily attendance list with you as you travel.
  - SNACK TIME:
    - Use foods provided specifically for the child by his or her parents.
    - Use caution when allowing children to taste foods not provided by the parent. Always have those foods approved by parents using an allergy alert procedure (poster).
    - Foods to avoid:
      - Apples (unless peeled and cut into wafer-thin slices)
      - Grapes (can block a child's upper airway when served whole)
      - Hard candy and "gummy" candy
      - Hot dogs
      - Marshmallows
      - Nuts (common allergen)
      - Oranges (seeds and pulp can present choking hazards)
      - Peanut butter (common allergen)
      - Popcorn
      - Pretzels
      - Raisins
      - Sunflower & watermelon seeds
  - REST TIME: Follow these safety precautions:
    - Clean cribs before AND after each session. Wipe crib rails, sides, and mattresses with warm, soapy water and spray with disinfecting solution. Wash and dry all crib linens, then put clean sheets on mattresses.

- Place babies on their backs to sleep unless directed otherwise by a parent.

### **7. Continuing the Connection at Home (10 minutes)**

- Instruct the Dig Site team to use the brushes to brush away sand in order to read the hidden message at bottom of their Dig Site Kits.
- Invite them to share their information with the other conferees. Discuss the following as each is read:
  - Most of the babies–2s who attend your VBS will be children whose parents are working in VBS. But it is still important to be prepared to share the gospel with parents. There is a downloadable guide calling “Sharing God’s Plan with Parents” that can be helpful.
  - Greet parents at the door each day when they come to pick up their child. Share a positive word about their child’s VBS experience. Invite parents to your church’s VBS celebration and other church activities.
  - Send home a “Parent Update” each day, along with the child’s personal items. This will help parents know what their children learned about during VBS.
  - Complete a Keepsake Book for each child and send it home (or personally deliver it to the child’s home) at the end of VBS as a souvenir of his VBS experience.
  - Send postcards and make personal visits to families, especially those who visited your church during VBS.

### **8. Conclude (5 minutes)**

- Allow conferees to ask any additional questions they may have about teaching babies–2s in VBS.
- Remind conferees that teaching babies–2s is an important job! Say: “Many leaders in other age groups will depend on you to teach and care for their children as they teach older boys and girls. Remember, you are not a babysitter but someone who is uniquely called to introduce God to our youngest boys and girls!”
- Close in prayer.

A hand-drawn scroll with a light gray outline. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area with text. The ends of the scroll are rolled up into circular shapes. The text is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font.

Day 1

Ruth's Family

Ruth 1:22, 2:1-23, & 4:13-17

God will take care of me.



## Day 2

### Samuel Helped at the Temple

1 Samuel 1:20-28, 2:11,18-21,26;  
3:1-2,15,19

People at church teach  
me about God.





Day 3

God Chose David to  
Become King

1 Samuel 16

God has a plan for me.



Day 4

Simeon and Anna  
Saw Baby Jesus

Luke 2:21-40

I can thank God for Jesus.



# Day 5

Jesus Went to the  
Temple (Church)

Luke 2:40-52

I can learn about  
God at church.

Most of the babies–2s who attend your VBS will be children whose parents are working in VBS. But it is still important to be prepared to share the gospel with parents!

Use the downloadable guide,  
“Sharing God’s Plan  
with Parents.”

Greet parents at the door each day when they come to pick up their child. Share a positive word about their child's VBS experience. Invite parents to your church's VBS celebration and other church activities.

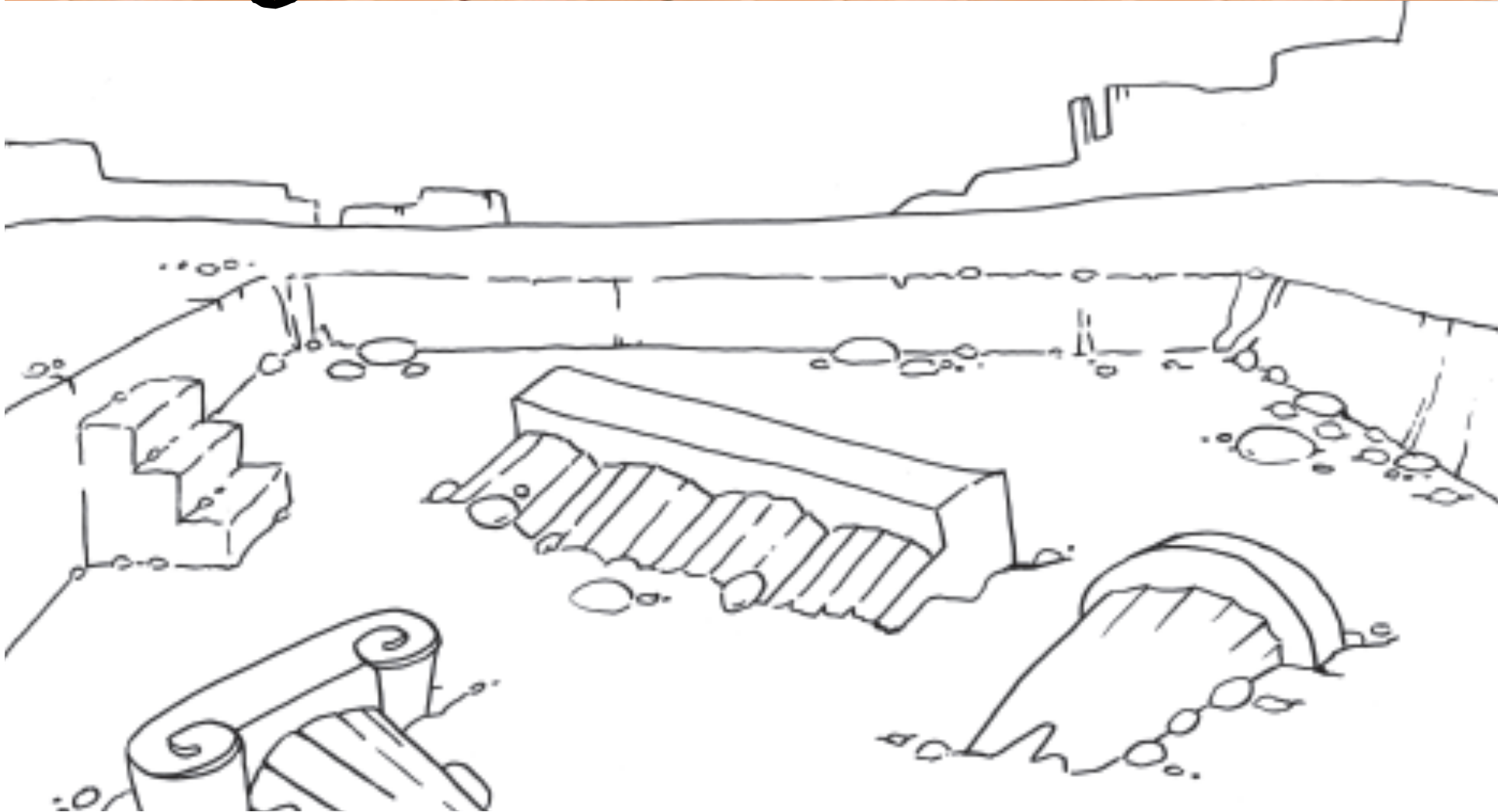
Send home a “Parent Update” each day, along with the child’s personal items. This will help parents know what their children learned about during VBS.

Complete a Keepsake Book  
for each child and send it  
home (or personally deliver  
it to the child's home)  
at the end of VBS as  
a souvenir of his  
VBS experience.

Send postcards and make personal visits to families, especially those who visited your church during VBS.

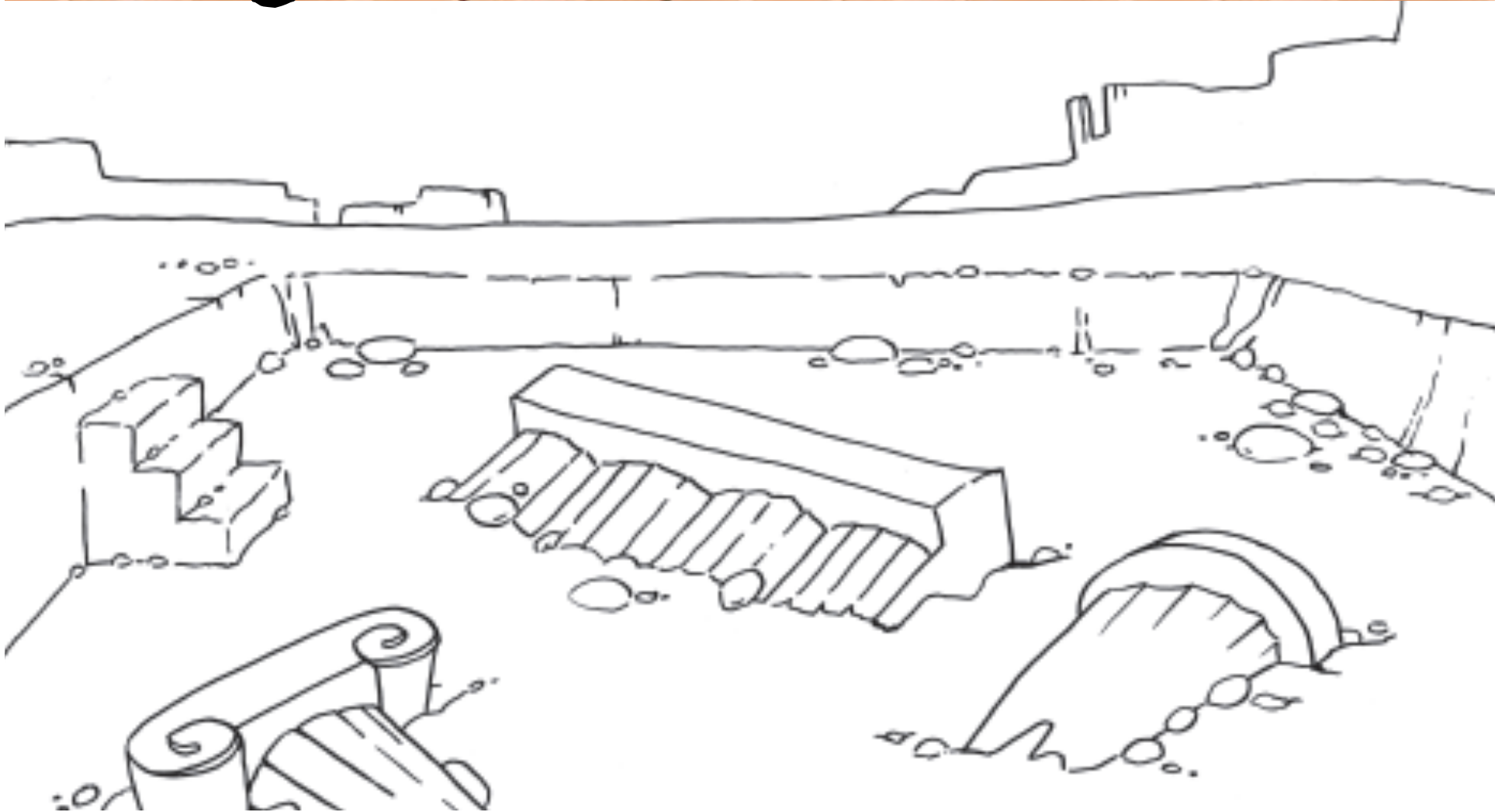


# Day 1



Item 3. Days 1–5 Signs

# Day 2



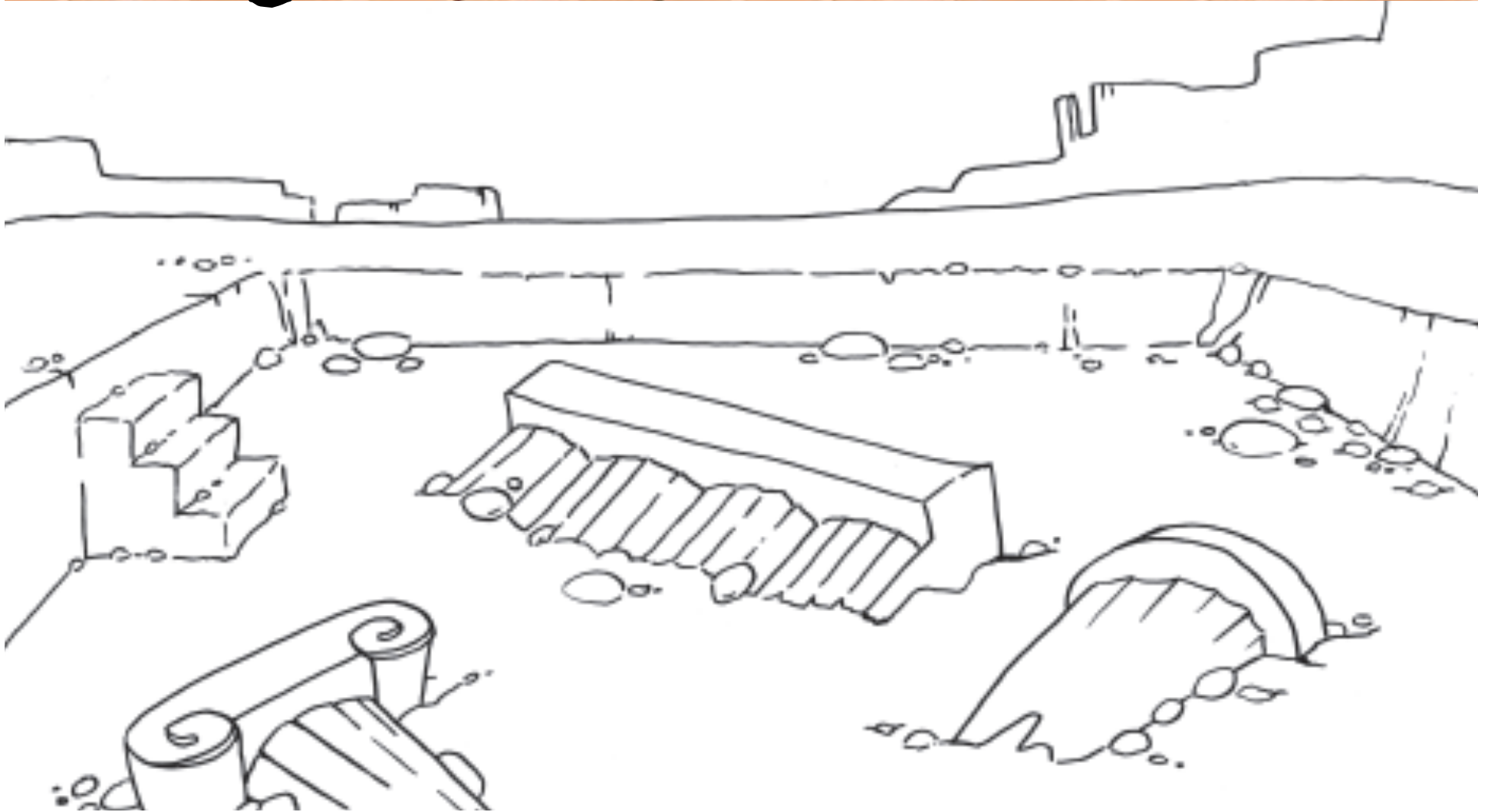
Item 3. Days 1–5 Signs

# Day 3



Item 3. Days 1–5 Signs

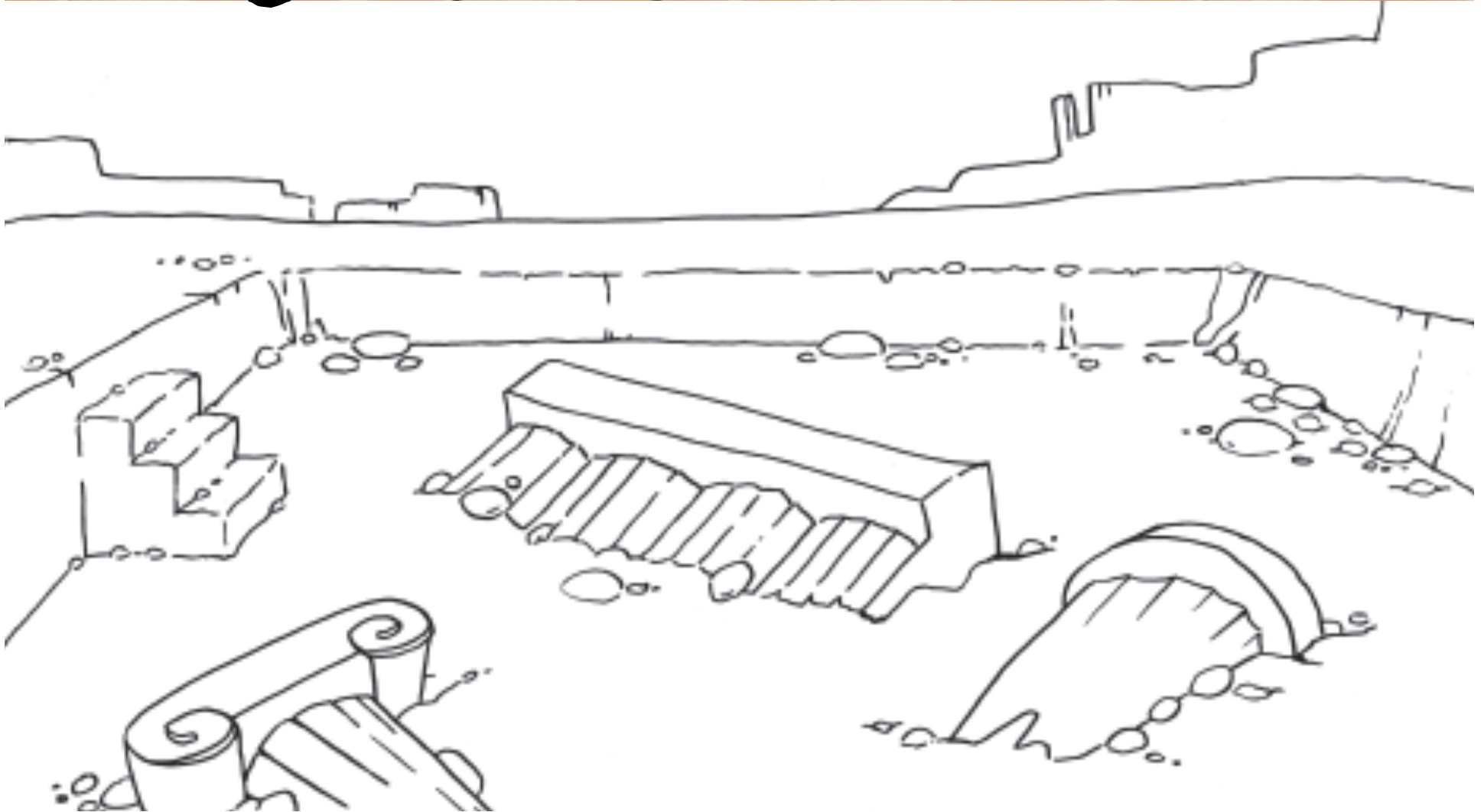
# Day 4



Item 3. Days 1–5 Signs



# Day 5



Item 3. Days 1-5 Signs