

VBS 2024 BACKYARD KIDS CLUB CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute plan is designed to train and equip VBS directors and pastors to conduct Lifeway's *Breaker Rock Beach* Backyard Kids Club.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2024 Backyard Club Directors Guide* (005846940)
- (4) *VBS 2024 Backyard Club Kit* (005846939)
- *VBS 2024 Orca Clip Craft Packs* (005847337)
- *VBS 2024 Suncatcher Kite Craft Packs* (005847338)
- *VBS 2024 Camel Craft Packs* (005847339)
- *VBS 2024 Treasure Bag Craft Packs* (005847340)
- *VBS 2024 Tide Pool Book Craft Packs* (005847341)
- *VBS 2024 Lip Balm Holder Craft Packs* (005847342)
- *VBS 2024 Supersized Backdrop* (005847616)
- *VBS 2024 Music for Kids CD* (005846976)
- *VBS 2024 Music for Preschoolers CD* (005846977)
- *VBS 2024 Visual Pack* (005845725)
- 4 *VBS 2024 String Flags* (005846824)
- *VBS 2024 Floor Prints* (005846827)
- *VBS 2024 Giant Inflatable Orca* (005847242)
- *VBS 2024 Inflatable Sea Lion* (005847243)
- *VBS 2024 Theme Flying Banner with Stand* (005846830)
- *VBS 2024 Whirleys* (005846821)
- *VBS 2024 Tablecloths* (005846832)
- *VBS 2024 Cups Pkg 5* (005846481)
- *VBS 2024 Beach Bag* (005847239)
- (4) *VBS 2024 Backpack* (005846801)
- *VBS Sticker Name Tags* (005846491)
- *VBS 2024 Gospel Guide* (005846982)
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* (005567177)
- Item 1. "Before, During, and After Cards" — Photocopy onto cardstock (3 sets). Place each set in a separate *VBS 2024 Backpack* along with the "Sorting Cards." For use in Step 2.
- Item 2. "Sorting Cards" — Photocopy onto cardstock and cut apart (3 sets). Place each set in a separate *VBS 2024 Backpack*. Use in Step 2.
- Item 3. "Bible Content" — Copy onto copy paper (red if available). Wad each page and place all in the *VBS 2024 Beach Bag*. Use in Step 3.
- 5 Beach balls (use in Step 1)
- 5 Red oven mitts (use in Step 3)
- 5 Sand pails — Label the pails with numbers 1–5. (use in Step 3)
- CD player or Bluetooth speaker

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Cover the focal wall with a *VBS 2024 Supersized Backdrop*. Cover a table with a *VBS 2024 Tablecloth* and arrange the curriculum alongside other themed tabletop decorations, such as seashells, buckets, etc. Display the *VBS 2024 Giant Inflatable Orca* and the

VBS 2024 Inflatable Sea Lion. Drape VBS 2024 String Flags, or VBS 2024 Whirllys across the doorway.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (8 minutes)

- Welcome conferees and lead them to play “Wave Breaker Game.”
 - Invite conferees to stand in a circle.
 - Say: “I am so glad you are here at Breaker Rock Beach. One of my favorite things to do at the beach is play games with a beach ball. Let’s get to know each other as we play a beach ball game!”
 - Depending on the number of people, ask the group to form 3–5 smaller circles. Give each group an inflated beach ball.
 - Instruct conferees to toss the beach ball to each other within each circle. Encourage them to introduce themselves when they catch the ball. Ask them to mention something they’ve heard people say that wasn’t quite true.
- Introduce Breaker Rock Beach. Share the following: “Welcome to Breaker Rock Beach! Our prayer is that kids will learn to recognize the difference between what the world says is true and what God says is true. Kids hear people say things every day that sound right, but dangerously miss the truth found in God’s Word. We want kids to know that God’s truth never changes—even when it’s radically different from what some people say.”

2. Before, During, and After (25 minutes)

Some people say: “Backyard VBS is overwhelming.”

BKC says: “We have help!” (Director’s Guide)

- Direct conferees to form three teams. Comment that each team will be “planning” a BKC. Explain that like VBS, Backyard Kids Club requires investing time beyond the actual time spent with kids. Distribute one *VBS 2024 Backpack* filled with a set of cards (Items 1 and 2) to each group. (If there are fewer than 6 conferees, guide them to work together to complete the assignment using only one set of cards.)
- Guide teams to sort the cards into three categories: *Before*, *During*, or *After*. Review the information found on the cards. As leadership roles are discussed, call attention to the individual folders in the kit that are provided for the various members of the BKC team.
- Remark that one of the first steps is deciding on a location. Ask each group to take time to discuss possibilities. Ask the groups for answers. Below are some suggestions:
 - Park
 - Church members’ homes
 - Mission location
 - HOA clubhouse
 - Recreation center
 - Parking lot
 - Restaurant
 - Daycare center
 - Mobile home park
 - Government housing
 - With other churches
- An essential step in the process is getting the word out about BKC. Ask the group to briefly share ways they have promoted their BKC. Offer the following if not mentioned:
 - Social media (include suggestions such as links to registration on church’s website, QR codes, etc.)

- Fliers in the neighborhood
- Place posters in common areas of nearby apartments
- Reminder cards to previous attendees
- Enlist kids to get the word out. Parents and kids respond well to other kids in the neighborhood.
- Banners, yard signs, etc.

3. Team Folders (40 minutes)

Some people say: "I'm too busy to do all this!"

BKC says: "It takes a team!"

- Assign someone (or ask for a volunteer) in each group to be a BKC Director to distribute the folders to various people in the group. Discuss the roles and responsibilities of each. Refer to the DVD-ROM documents outlining each position/responsibility.
 - **Host/Team Leader:**
 - The Host/Team Leader is the onsite director. Provides the location and leadership for the BKC.
 - Main duties: Publicity, registration, snacks, security, follow-up, communicating details back to the church staff.
 - The host also provides the snacks. (Show the *VBS 2024 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards* included in the *Backyard Kids Club Kit*.)
 - Ideally the host does not have any teaching responsibilities, so he/she is available for any needs that arise.
 - Host works with the team to set the date, schedule, and any kickoff or celebration dates.
 - Show the top of the first page in the folder and review the difference between a host and a team leader. Explain that the host can also be the team leader, or the team leader can be another person on the BKC team.
 - Mention that the host must have the gift of hospitality—making people feel welcomed and loved. Someone who cares more about her flowerbeds than kids is not a good host choice.
 - Whenever possible, recruit hosts that are open to a 2–3-year commitment. It takes time to develop relationships. In some cases, it may take families 2–3 years of participating in a BKC before making a visit to the host church.
 - Draw attention to page 11 of the Directors Guide for great tips about safety.
 - Share the following snack tips.
 - Plan for snacks to last 10 minutes.
 - Keep in mind that many children have food allergies. Plan for allergen free snacks (or alternatives).
 - Consider only serving water since BKC is usually outside. Watch for warning signs that children are overheated or dehydrated.
 - Be sure to think through trash pickup. Tie a large bag to a tree or bring a large trashcan outside.
 - Involve other church members by asking them to provide snacks for the teams. Adults who may not be able to participate the week of BKC might love to shop, prepare, and deliver snacks to the host ahead of time.
 - Remember to take every opportunity to teach. Snack time is a great time to review the Bible Stories and/or applications from Bible Study.
 - **Bible Study Leader**
 - Point out that Bible Study lasts 30 minutes.

- Share the need to recruit Bible Study leaders for both preschool and children’s Bible studies. (Show the Preschool and Children’s Bible Study folders.)
- Explain that the daily Bible stories and applications are the same for BKC as the main VBS curriculum. Activities and games have been adapted to fit a broadly graded group of children and are easily portable and done outside.
- Pull out the Day 1 teaching plans for both children and preschool. Show that they are the same Bible story, but use different activities based on comprehension levels and capabilities.
- Point out that the Preschool teaching plan includes an abbreviated Bible verse (paraphrase) and coloring sheet option on the back. There is also a separate preschool music CD with songs that are incorporated into the lesson.
- Mention that the children’s teaching plans have an “Explore Deeper” activity (usually a game or craft option) to extend the time if needed.
- Show the kit items (teaching pictures) and activity books (learner pieces) for both preschool and children.
- Share the following tips for Bible Study:
 - Think through sun versus shade. You do not want kids staring into the sun as they look at the leader.
 - Provide clear physical boundaries. A flat sheet or blanket not only gives them something to sit on but also provides a visual boundary.
 - Provide a cooler for the leader to sit on. Store supplies inside to prevent them from blowing away (other options include a large box, basket, or bag nearby).
 - Ask other team members (Music, Rec, Crafts, etc.) to sit with the children during Bible Study time to assist the Bible Study leader and to help the children stay focused.
 - Be spiritually and mentally prepared for distractions. Do not be surprised if a neighbor decides to mow the lawn or a hot air balloon goes overhead during Bible Study time.
- Introduce the Bible Content by using the following game.
 - Say: “At Breaker Rock Beach, you might see live crabs or their empty shells. Crabs use their large front claws to gather and tear apart their food.”
 - Ask for 5 volunteers. Give each one a red oven mitt to wear on one hand as a “crab claw.” Explain that their free hands must always stay behind their backs.
 - Set five buckets near the front of the teaching area. Designate one bucket for each daily session. Scatter the paper wads on the ground.
 - Direct the players to open the wads as they open them and place them in the correct day’s bucket. (Remind them that they can use only one hand!)
- Briefly review the Bible content discovered during the game. Remind the group that all leaders involved in BKC need to know the Bible content.
 - Day 1
 - **Session Title:** Truth Comes from God
 - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** Satan Tricked Adam and Eve (Genesis 2–3)

- **Some People Say:** Truth can be different for different people.
- **God Says:** Truth comes from Me.
- **Today's Point:** Truth comes from God.
- Day 2
 - **Session Title:** God's Plan Is Best
 - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** Daniel Chose God's Way (Daniel 1)
 - **Some People Say:** Do what makes you happy.
 - **God Says:** My plan for you is even better.
 - **Today's Point:** God's plan is best.
- Day 3
 - **Session Title:** Everyone Needs Jesus
 - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-27)
 - **Some People Say:** Being a good person gets you into heaven.
 - **God Says:** Everyone sins and needs a Savior.
 - **Today's Point:** Everyone needs Jesus.
- Day 4
 - **Session Title:** Jesus Is the Only Way (Preschool: The Bible Is True)
 - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** John Wrote about Jesus (John 14:1-6; 18-20; Acts 1:9-12)
 - **Some People Say:** There are many ways to get to heaven. (Preschool: Is the Bible really true?)
 - **God Says:** Jesus is the only way to get to heaven. (Preschool: The Bible is true!)
 - **Today's Point:** Jesus is the only way. (Preschool: The Bible is true!)
- Day 5
 - **Session Title:** Speak the Truth in Love
 - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** Paul Encouraged the Ephesians (Acts 9:1-6; 19:1-10,21-31; 20:1; Ephesians 3:14-4:16)
 - **Some People Say:** If you don't agree with me, you don't love me.
 - **God Says:** Speak the truth in love.
 - **Today's Point:** Speak the truth in love.
- **Crafts Leader**
 - Leads crafts for 25 minutes. (Show the Craft folder and the sample craft packs.)
 - Explain that the BKC crafts are chosen for their suitability for outdoor use. Additional craft ideas are available in the *VBS 2024 Crafts Rotation Leader Guide*.
 - Mention that Lifeway craft packs are great options because they come in kits that are easy to distribute.
 - Share the following tips for BKC Crafts:

- Lead kids to stand around tables instead of sitting in chairs. (12 kids can stand around a table where only 6 chairs would fit.)
- Plan ahead for wind! Place small items/crayons/markers in heavier bowls or cups to keep them from blowing away or rolling off the table.
- Provide hand wipes nearby if doing a messy craft. This will give children a place to clean their hands rather than needing to go inside to find a sink.
- Keep extra copies of the preschool Bible Study coloring pages on hand for children who finish early. Or have the Recreation Leader to stand-by ready to play a favorite game again as kids finish their craft.
- Lead kids to place their finished craft near the pick-up area so they do not forget them when they leave.
- **Recreation Leader:**
 - Leads recreation for 25 minutes.
 - Determines early arrival activities 15–20 minutes before starting BKC. (Show the preschool and children’s recreation rotation leader cards included in the BKC Kit. Explain that the recreation cards for BKC are identical to the cards for VBS.)
 - Instruct leaders to be very familiar with the playing area. Watch for tree roots, little ditches, or other items that might be hazardous or cause safety concerns.
 - Give very clear boundaries on how far kids may go during games.
 - Consider stationing extra adults or student leaders at those boundaries.
 - Determine in advance with the BKC team if recreation can include water or messy games.
 - Select 3–4 games per day. It is better to have more prepared to fill extra time.
 - Share the following tips for BKC recreation:
 - End a game before the kids lose interest. You can always bring it back as an opening or closing game during drop off/pick up the next day.
 - Evenly disperse younger and older children on each team when forming teams with broadly graded ages. For relay games, place the youngest children at the front of the line and older children at the back. This will help ensure that kids compete against others their own age.
 - Give teams theme related names such as “Sand Dollars” and “Orcas.”
- **Music/Worship Leader:**
 - Leads Opening Rally for 15 minutes and leads Closing Rally for 15 minutes. (Show Music Folder, CDs, and Choreography DVD.)
 - Explain that the Music Folder gives an outline for daily opening and closing rallies. A two-character skit is also provided. This helps tie in the theme each day and sets up Bible study. Consider asking older children or middle school/high school students to perform the skits.
 - Choose leaders with high levels of enthusiasm and energy. The music/worship leader should be familiar enough with the songs and movements to teach them to the children each day.

- If technology is available at a BKC site, the music/worship leader may choose to show the performance videos on the DVD while leading songs. Review the music from Opening Rally, the motto, and the memory verse.
- Use the Connection Questions included on the Closing Rally card to review the lesson. This can have a huge impact. Often parents arrive a little early. By reviewing everything at the end, parents can listen in on what their children learned. Parents who are already believers can continue the conversation with their child as they go home. Parents who are not believers will hopefully ask their children to explain what they learned!

4. Follow Up (15 minutes)

*Some people say: "The kids won't come to church afterward. We only see them one week a year."
BKC says: "Make connections and they'll return."*

- Ask conferees to articulate what it is they are trying to connect families to.
- Ask the group their thoughts about why follow up is important. Discuss their answers.
- Suggestions to add:
 - Sponsor a tent or booth at a community festival
 - Support church kids at the ball field or basketball court
 - Coffee station at the church before or after the service
 - Host Family Nights or Days
 - BKC Family Experience
 - Family Retreat or Camp
 - Parenting Seminar (Adult VBS Printable)
 - Provide parent devotional literature
 - CSB Outreach Bible for Kids
 - Learn and use guests' names
 - Send texts to guests thanking them for coming to BKC
 - Send handwritten notes to parents
 - Invite guests to upcoming events at church
 - *VBS 2024 Parent Guides* (005846983)
 - Send short notes using the *VBS 2024 Note Cards* (005846489)
- Encourage attendees to set a goal of reaching a certain number of families within a week after BKC.
- Remind the group that families need to feel the value of things they are investing time and energy into. Add that many times a meaningful connection can begin with one simple gesture that shows people they are genuinely cared about. Most people are both looking for and longing for a place to belong. Add that we should help those families find that with our local body of believers.
- Advise the group to resist discouragement—Some people may never engage; others may engage briefly then disappear. Remember that keeping people connected is a long-term commitment with eternal rewards.

5. Closing (2 minutes)

- Thank attendees for attending. Ask them to share with each other at least one thing they learned or will try from the conference.
- Encourage them to continue the excitement as they return to their homes.
- Pray for God's blessing on their BKC's and for the kids and families that will be impacted.



Item 1. Before, During, and After Cards



**Secure one
Backyard Kids Club
Kit for each club.**

**Organize leadership
teams for each
location. Do
background checks
on each team
member.**

**Select locations
for Backyard Kids
Clubs that are safe
for children and
have easy access to
restrooms.**

**Determine the dates
for Backyard Kids
Club and the daily
schedule.**

Establish a plan for drop off and pick up that verifies who is and is not allowed to pick up a child.

Walk through the BKC site, looking for hazards like ant hills, bee hives, and other potential dangers.

Make sure all team members are aware of safety issues and the location of the first aid kit.

Train leaders in how to lead a child to Christ.

Develop a contingency plan in case of unexpected numbers, weather, or distractions.

Promote Backyard Kids Club in the neighborhood or in the area around the venue where you'll be holding BKC.

Conduct a BKC Kickoff Event to pre-enroll neighborhood kids and to build excitement for BKC.

Pray for children and families to come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Lead kids on the expedition of a lifetime as they journey through exciting Music, Bible Study, Recreation, Snacks, and Crafts!

Lead early arrivers in games that easily include kids as they arrive.

Know the number of kids attending your BKC and count them often!

Build relationships with children and their families.

**Share lots of smiles
and high fives!**

**Take pictures or videos
and put together
a presentation or
short video to show
at the Family Night
Celebration.**

Host a BKC

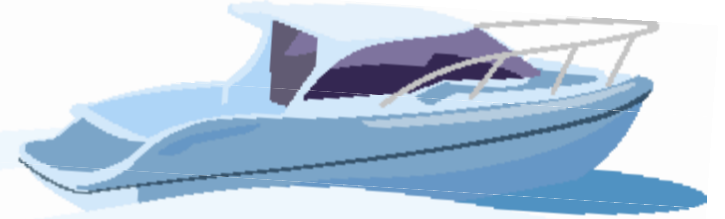
**Celebration to provide
an opportunity for
parents to share
the excitement of
Backyard Kids Club.**

**Plan one or more
simple events during
the year.**

**Connect with
kids who made a
decision to accept
Christ**

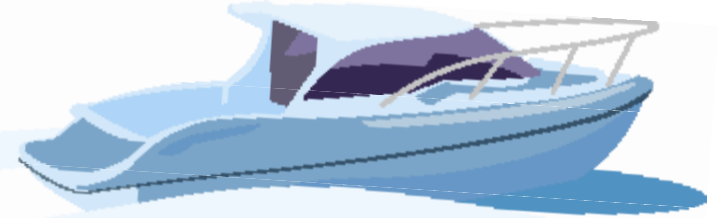
**Follow up with kids
and their families,
sharing information
about your church,
including upcoming
events.**

SESSION TITLE



**TRUTH COMES
FROM GOD**

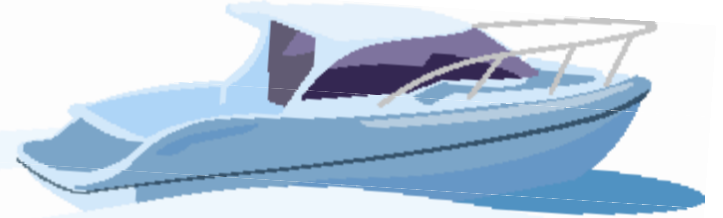
BIBLE STORY



SATAN TRICKED ADAM AND EVE

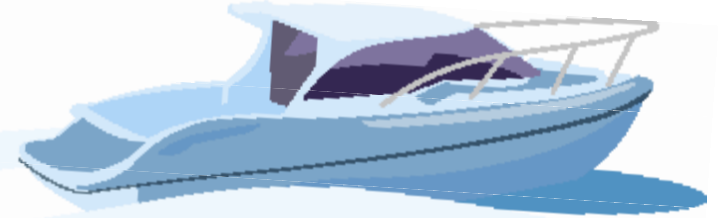
GENESIS 2-3

SOME PEOPLE SAY:



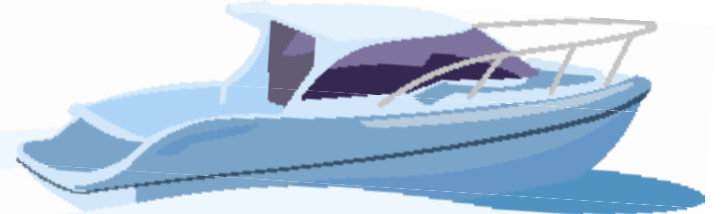
**TRUTH CAN BE
DIFFERENT FOR
DIFFERENT PEOPLE**

GOD SAYS:



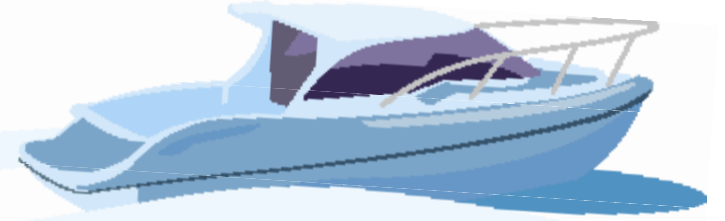
**TRUTH
COMES
FROM ME**

TODAY'S POINT:



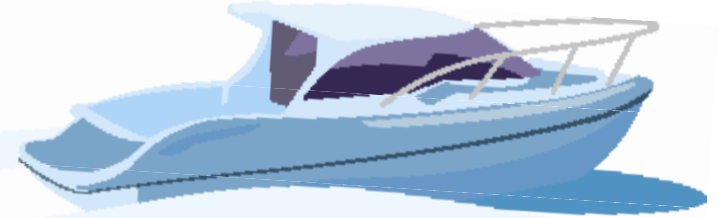
**TRUTH COMES
FROM GOD**

SESSION TITLE



**GOD'S PLAN
IS BEST**

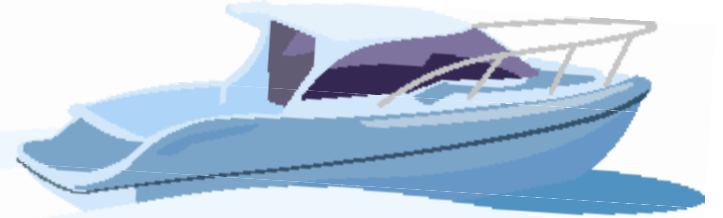
BIBLE STORY



DANIEL CHOSE GOD'S WAY

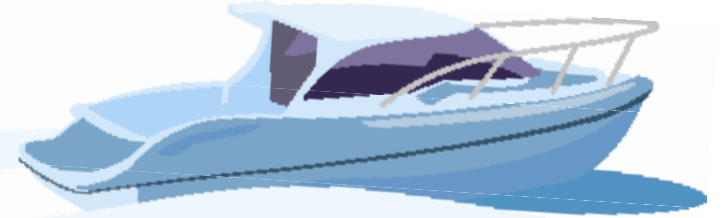
DANIEL 1

SOME PEOPLE SAY:



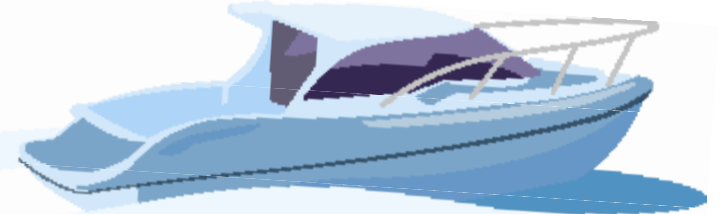
**DO WHAT
MAKES YOU
HAPPY**

GOD SAYS:



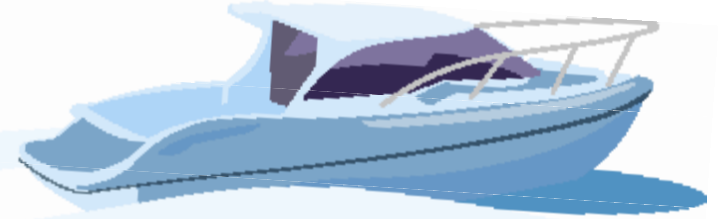
**MY PLAN FOR
YOU IS EVEN
BETTER**

TODAY'S POINT:



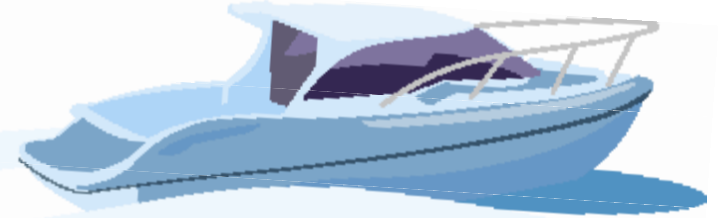
**GOD'S PLAN
IS BEST**

SESSION TITLE



**EVERYONE
NEEDS JESUS**

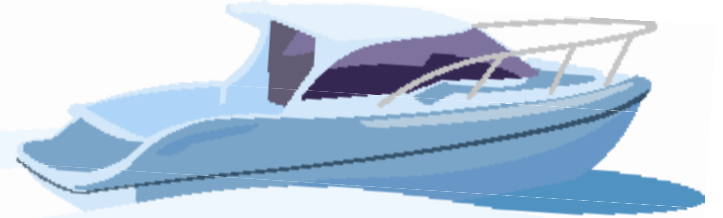
BIBLE STORY



THE RICH YOUNG RULER

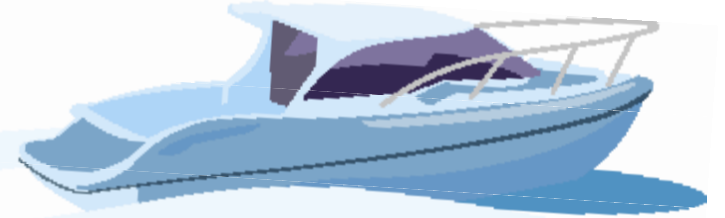
MARK 10:17-27

SOME PEOPLE SAY:



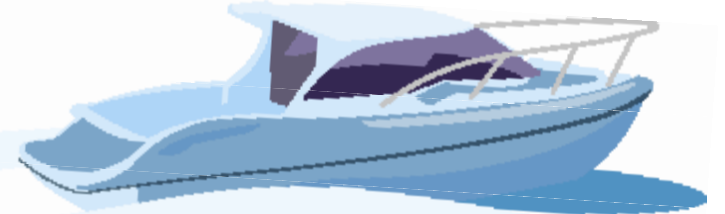
**BEING A GOOD
PERSON GETS YOU
INTO HEAVEN**

GOD SAYS:



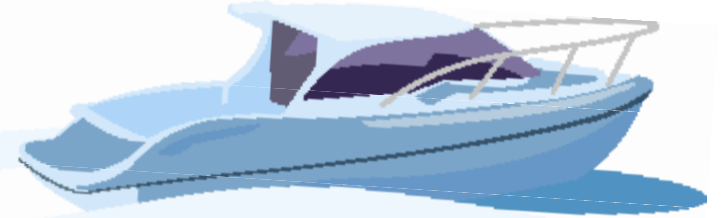
**EVERYONE SINS
AND NEEDS A
SAVIOR**

TODAY'S POINT:



**EVERYONE
NEEDS JESUS**

SESSION TITLE



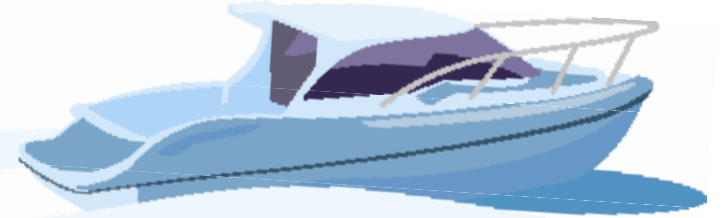
KIDS

**JESUS IS
THE ONLY WAY**

PRESCHOOL

THE BIBLE IS TRUE

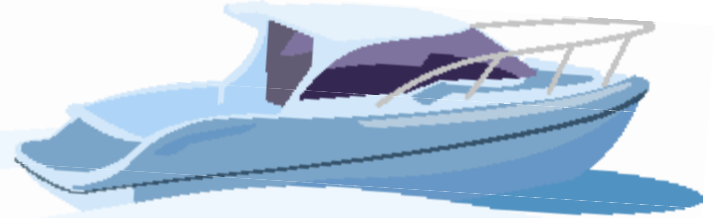
BIBLE STORY



JOHN WROTE ABOUT JESUS

JOHN 14:1-6; 18-20; ACTS 1:9-12

SOME PEOPLE SAY:



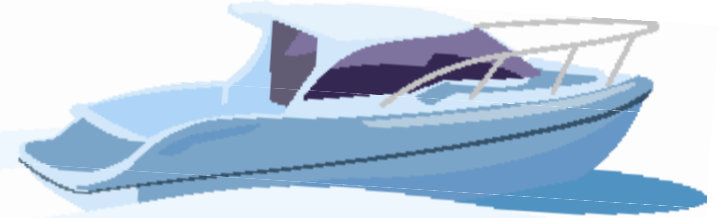
KIDS

**THERE ARE MANY WAYS
TO GET TO HEAVEN**

PRESCHOOL

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

GOD SAYS:



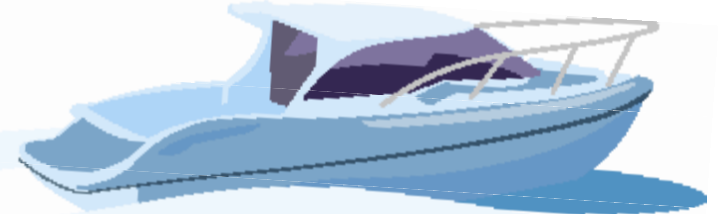
KIDS

**JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY
TO GET TO HEAVEN**

PRESCHOOL

THE BIBLE IS TRUE!

TODAY'S POINT:



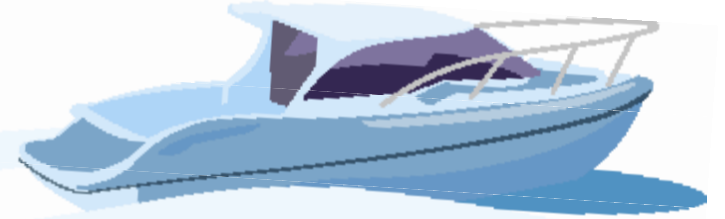
KIDS

**JESUS IS THE
ONLY WAY**

PRESCHOOL

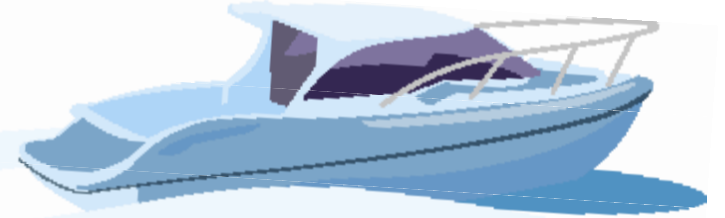
THE BIBLE IS TRUE!

SESSION TITLE



**SPEAK THE
TRUTH IN LOVE**

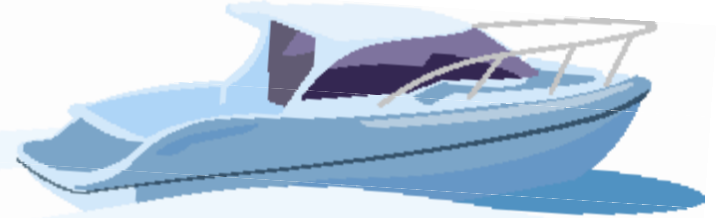
BIBLE STORY



PAUL ENCOURAGED THE EPHESIANS

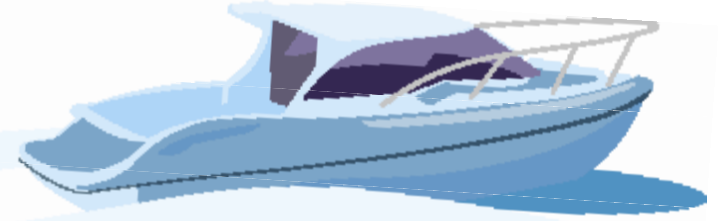
ACTS 9:1-6; 19:1-10;21-31; 20:1;
EPHESIANS 3:14;4:16

SOME PEOPLE SAY:



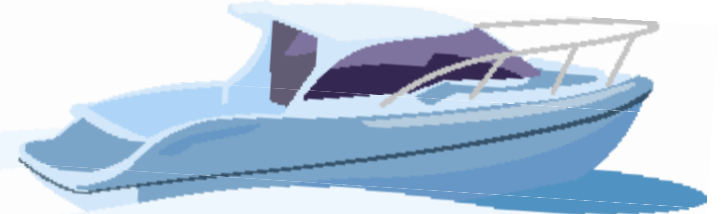
**IF YOU DON'T AGREE
WITH ME, YOU
DON'T LOVE ME**

GOD SAYS:



**SPEAK
THE TRUTH
IN LOVE**

TODAY'S POINT:



**SPEAK THE
TRUTH IN LOVE**