

## VBS 2026 MISSIONS ROTATION CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

### Purpose Statement

This 90-minute outline is designed to help conference leaders equip VBS missions rotation leaders to teach Lifeway's Illumination Station® missions rotation at VBS.

### Needed Resources

- (2) *VBS 2026 Missions Rotation Leader Guide with DVD* (005853424) — One leader guide for the conference leader and another (optional) leader guide for conferees to view.
- *VBS 2026 Decorating Made Easy* (005853432)
- *VBS 2026 Parent Guides Pkg. 10* (005853631)
- *VBS 2026 Music for Kids CD Pkg 5* (005853488)
- *VBS 2026 Rotation Signs (Pkg. 8)* (005853618) — Pull the “Glow-in-the Dark Missions” sign and display at the entrance to the room.
- *VBS 2026 Wall Art* (005853616)
- *VBS 2026 Visual Pack* (005853615)
- *VBS 2026 String Flags* (005853579)
- *VBS 2026 Glitter Beach Balls (3 pack)* (005853774) — Put five strips of tape on one of the beach balls. Write one of the following on each piece of tape: *Prepare your heart, Plan, Teach, Prepare, and Continue the Connection*. (NOTE: Using pieces of tape allows the tape to be removed and the ball to be used again.)
- *VBS 2026 Supersized Backdrop* (005853613)
- *VBS 2026 Tablecloths* (005853575)
- *VBS 2026 Gospel Wristbands Pkg. 10* (005853582)
- *VBS 2026 Gospel Guide Pkg. 20* (005853630)
- Mission Insert Item 1: “Kenya Missions Poster” — Print in color on cardstock.
- Mission Insert Item 2: “Wyoming Missions Poster” — Print in color on cardstock.
- Mission Insert Item 6b: “Day 3 Review Questions” — Copy onto cardstock and cut apart along the dotted lines.
- Mission Insert Item 8: “If a Goat Can Do It” — Copy onto cardstock and cut apart along the dotted lines. Place the cards in a ziplock bag.
- Mission Insert Item 10: “The Gospel Mini Book” — Copy 1 per conferee onto office paper. Alternatively, print “The Gospel God’s Plan for Us” poster onto cardstock from [https://assets.lifeway.com/image/upload/GOSPEL\\_Gods\\_Plan\\_for\\_Us.pdf](https://assets.lifeway.com/image/upload/GOSPEL_Gods_Plan_for_Us.pdf).
- Item 1: “Flashlights” — Copy onto neon cardstock and cut apart. Tape to the backs of five random chairs in the conferee seating area.
- Item 2: “Handout” — Print 1 per conferee. Place in each chair ahead of time.
- Small- to medium-sized map of the United States
- Small- to medium-sized world map
- Painter’s tape, Mavalus® Tape, or Frog Tape®
- (3) Ziplock bags (sandwich or quart-size)
- Star stickers (1 per conferee) — Place a star sticker on Kenya (world map) and Wyoming (U.S. map). Put the remaining stickers in a ziplock bag and place the bag near the room entrance.
- Scissors (enough for conferees to share)
- Colored pencils (enough for conferees to share)
- (2) Rubber bands

- Yarn — Cut 10 pieces, each approximately 18-inches in length. Tie one end of each of five strands to a single rubber band where the knots are spaced evenly along the band's perimeter. (See the illustration on p. 20 of the *VBS 2026 Missions Rotation Leader Guide*.) Repeat with the second set of five pieces of yarn and an additional rubber band. This will give you one to use and one backup in case the rubber band breaks.
- (6) Plastic cups — Place in a line on the display table.
- Permanent marker
- (20) Adhesive floor dots (14 stickers need to be one color and 6 another color) — Place randomly around the front of the room, but not under chairs.
- (4) Toy cars
- Brown paper grocery bag — Place the activity supplies (“If a Goat Can Do It” cards, toy cars, scissors, rubber bands, colored pencils, etc.) in the bag.
- Extension cord
- CD player or other music source
- TV/DVD player or other video source

### Room Setup

Arrange chairs in rows with a center aisle facing the front of the room. Hang the *VBS 2026 Supersized* and the *VBS 2026 Visual Pack* on the focal wall. Hang the world and US maps next to each other near the entrance. Hang the “Kenya Missions Poster” (item 1) and the “Wyoming Missions Poster (item 2) on a free wall. Decorate the room with the remaining VBS 2026 decorations. Cover display tables with the *VBS 2026 Tablecloths* and display the curriculum and conference materials. Arrange the TV and DVD player so it is visible for everyone.

### Teaching Steps

#### 1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play “Illumination Station” music as conferees arrive.
- Greet guests, welcoming them to Glow-in-the Dark Missions. Say “Jambo” and “Howdy” which are common greetings from Kenya and Wyoming. Give them each a star sticker.
- Direct attendees to put their stickers on either map (U.S. or World) to indicate a place they have been on a mission trip, would like to go on a mission trip, or have prayed for missionaries serving there.
- Introduce yourself. Point out a few of the countries or states that were “starred.”
- Say: “As you can see, we all represent a lot of places around the world. I love that our Bible Verse and Motto this year talk about Jesus being the Light of the WORLD. Grab your bags, because today we are headed around the world to Kenya and Wyoming.”

#### 2. Illuminate the Motto and Scripture (10 minutes)

- Say: “We will get started with our VBS Motto and Scripture. This is the foundation of what this year’s VBS is all about.”
- Point to the motto poster (Visual Pack) on the wall and read it aloud.
- Help the group memorize the motto by doing a motion for different words. Teach them the following motions:
  - Jesus: Touch middle finger to one palm, then repeat to other palm (ASL for *Jesus*).
  - Is: Point up with both index fingers.
  - The Light: Trace the shape of the rounded globe with both hands, starting below your chin and moving your hands out and down to your hips.
  - The World: Make an O shape with your arms.

- Practice two times with the group. For fun, speed up on the second time to see how fast you can sign and say the motto.
- Point to the VBS Scripture poster (Visual Pack) and ask a volunteer to read it aloud. (Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.” *John 8:12*)
- Ask the group: “How does this verse encourage you? How does this verse get you excited for VBS?” Allow responses.

### 3. Daily Biblical Content—The 5 Ps (5 minutes)

- Direct conferees to look on the backs of their chairs for paper “Flashlights” (Item 1). Say: “If you have a flashlight near you, grab it and hold on to it. The flashlights are going to help us know the daily points.”
- Continue: “We are going to be searching for the 5 Ps (Promised, Perfect, Powerful, Proven, and Plan).”
- Encourage conferees to fill in the blanks on their handouts as you talk about each one.
- Lead the conferees holding flashlights to take turns reading what is on their lights. Collect each flashlight after it has been read and tape it to the focal wall.
  - Day 1: Jesus Is God’s Promised Son
    - Bible Story: Jesus Asked Who People Thought He Was (*Matthew 16:13-20*)
    - Spotlight Question: Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Messiah, the promised Son of God.
  - Day 2: Jesus Is God’s Perfect Son
    - Bible Story: The Baptism of Jesus (*Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; John 1:29-34*)
    - Spotlight Question: Was Jesus just an ordinary man? Jesus is the perfect Son of God who came to be the Savior of the world.
  - Day 3: Jesus Is the Powerful Son of God
    - Bible Story: Jesus Performed Miracles (*Matthew 15:29-39*)
    - Spotlight Question: Was Jesus just a teacher? Everything Jesus said and did showed that He is the powerful Son of God.
  - Day 4: Jesus Is the Proven Son of God
    - Bible Story: Jesus Died and Rose to Life (*Mark 14:43–16:7*)
    - Spotlight Question: Was Jesus just someone who lived a long time ago? Jesus lived, died, and rose to life again to be our Savior, now and forever.
  - Day 5: Jesus Is God’s Plan for Forgiveness
    - Bible Story: Peter Preached About Jesus (*Acts 2*)
    - Spotlight Question: Why do I need to respond to Jesus? Jesus is the only way to receive God’s forgiveness.
- Remind conferees of the importance of being familiar with the Bible study content each day. Encourage them to connect the missions rotation content to the Bible story, the daily points, and spotlight question each day.

### 4. How to use the Missions Resources (5 minutes)

- Let conferees know the following five tips are on their handouts. Give them time to fill in the blanks as you go.
- Throw the prepared glitter ball to someone who hasn’t yet participated. Ask him to read the strip of tape that is closest to his thumb. Discuss the following, then throw the ball to

someone new. Thank each participant before directing him to toss the ball to someone new.

- **Prepare your heart:** Read the Scripture passages for each day from your Bible and pray that God will speak to you through His Word.
- **Plan:** Know how many children to plan for, decide what supplies you will need, gather the supplies, know your missions rotation location, and find out how long you have for the missions rotation.
- **Teach:** Read through the teaching materials thoroughly, highlight key points to remember, build relationships with the children, and be flexible.
- **Prepare:** The activities in the guide are designed to reinforce the Bible story and truths as well as enhance the overall VBS experience.
- **Continue the Connection:** Keep the connection alive by looking for ways to stay connected with the kids you taught. Participate in your church's follow-up events.
- Briefly explain the materials needed to teach the missions rotation.
- Hold up the missions leader guide and talk through the key parts of the guide (including the disc and insert). Help conferees know how to locate all of the items referenced in the guide.
- Explain how to use the redemption code to access the digital downloads, the DVD, and the inserts in the leader guide.
- Ask conferees to raise their hands if they have ever been to either Kenya or Wyoming. Explain that this summer children will learn about two missionary families. The Steelman family serve with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (IMB) and live in Kenya. The Martin family serve with the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention (NAMB) and live in Wyoming.

##### 5. The Steelman Family (IMB) (20 minutes)

- Say: "In Glow-in-the-dark Missions, we will learn about the Steelman family who are missionaries in Kenya. Kenya is a country along the equator and on the eastern coast of Africa. The Steelmans moved to Kenya to tell people that Jesus wants to be the light of their life."
- Locate Kenya on the world map and show the conferees where Kenya is located.
- Play "Welcome to Kenya" Day 1 video.
- Say: "We are going to play a game of True or False: Kenya Edition (Missions Rotation Leader Guide pg. 7 and Kenya Poster). Give me a thumbs up if you think the answer is "true." Give me a thumbs down if you think the answer is false."
  - *Jambo rafiki* means *help friend* in Swahili. (*False, it means "hello friend."*)
  - Kenya has been an independent country for 60 years. (*True.*)
  - Nairobi is a small village. (*False, it is a large city.*)
  - Popular foods in Kenya are corn-based *ugali*, grilled meat, and a fried sweet bread called *mandazi*. (*True.*)
  - People in Kenya usually eat *ugali* with forks and spoons. (*False, they eat it with their hands.*)
  - Kenyans love sports—soccer, rugby, and long-distance running. (*True.*)
  - Kenya is home to many types of wildlife. (*True.*)
  - People in Kenya don't need to hear about Jesus. (*False, all people need to hear that Jesus is the Light of the world.*)
- Say: "Excellent job, everyone! Now we are going to play a game called 'Move Like a Goat' which is found on page 13 of the Missions Rotation Leader Guide."

- Guide conferees to stand up. Explain that you will pull a card out of the bag, and everyone will do the motion on the card. Suggest conferees do these motions with a partner or in a group. (Motions include: make a silly face, hide, pretend to faint, stretch, reach up high, pretend to climb a tree, sneeze, and balance.)
- Play the game. At the end, say: "That felt good to stretch! You can have a seat. We are now going to watch the IMB Day 3 video, 'The Goat Project,' to give you an idea of why we played a game about goats."
- Play the video.
- Say: "No matter how silly goats seem to be, they are helpful to families in Kenya. The Steelmans' kindness gives hope to families. Jesus gives people hope, and the gift of goats can help show people that Jesus is the Light of the world."
- Show conferees the story summaries in the Missions Rotation Leader Guide on pages 22–24 as supplements or alternatives to the videos. Say: "You will love learning more about the Steelman family throughout VBS."

#### 6. The Martin Family (NAMB) (20 minutes)

- Say: "In Glow-in-the-dark Missions, we will also be hearing from the Martin family. They are a missionary family who live in the state of Wyoming. When Tyler and Ashley learned how few churches there are in Wyoming, they prayed and asked God how they could help."
- Locate Wyoming on the U.S. map and show the conferees where Wyoming is located.
- Play the NAMB Day 1 video "Jesus Is God's Promised Son."
- Ask for four volunteers to play "Find a Church" (Missions Rotation Leader Guide p. 8).
- Give each volunteer a toy car. Say: "Imagine that the floor in front of you is a map of a section of the state of Wyoming. Let's pretend each of these dots is a town. When I say go, you will send your vehicle across the floor, aiming for your car to stop on a 'town.'"
- Play additional rounds if more conferees want to try. Thank them for playing.
- Ask: "Did you notice there are 14 dots in one color and 6 dots in another color? For almost every 20 towns in Wyoming, there are no churches in 6 of those towns. No churches. Zero. That's why the work that Tyler Martin does is so important."
- Play the NAMB Day 3 video "Jesus Is the Powerful Son of God."
- Say: "Let's pray for more people in Wyoming to experience the power of Jesus like Tyler has!"
- Pick a few review questions from "Day 3 Review Questions" (item 6b) to ask the conferees. Allow time for responses.
- Say: "With so many towns where there are no churches at all, Tyler Martin and a team of men from his church figured out a way to work together to start churches in several hard-to-reach places."
- Ask for 5 volunteers to play "Work Together" according to the instructions on page 20 of the leader guide.
- Lead the volunteers to work together to stretch the rubber band around each cup, pick it up, and stack the cups in a 3-by-2-by-1 tower formation.
- Play the *VBS 2026 Music for Kids CD* while they work. Thank them for participating.
- Say: "That took communication and planning just like Tyler and Outfitter Church must communicate and plan as they start new churches in Wyoming."
- Invite a volunteer to pray for both Steelman family and the Martin family. Say: "You can pray as the Lord leads you or use the prayer prompts on your handout."

**7. The Gospel Mini Book Mission Project (10 minutes)**

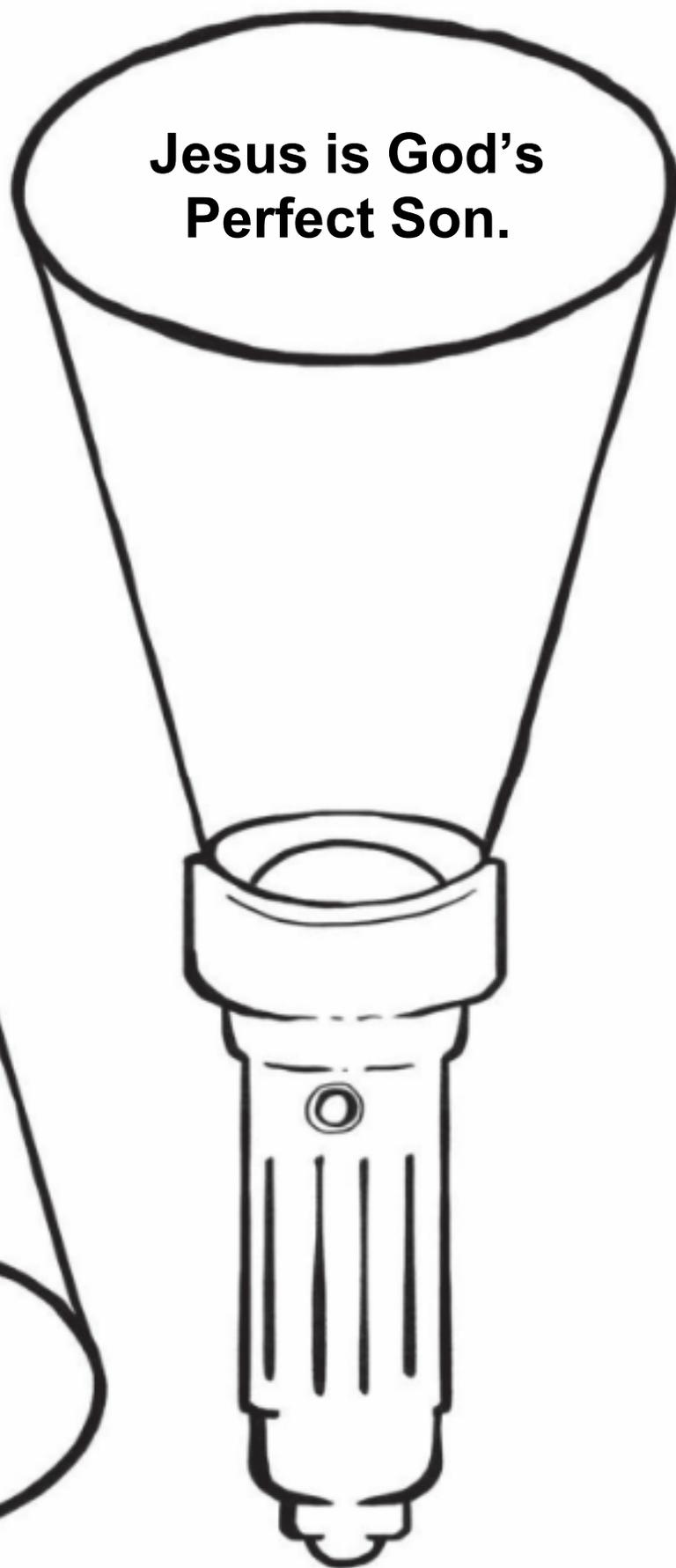
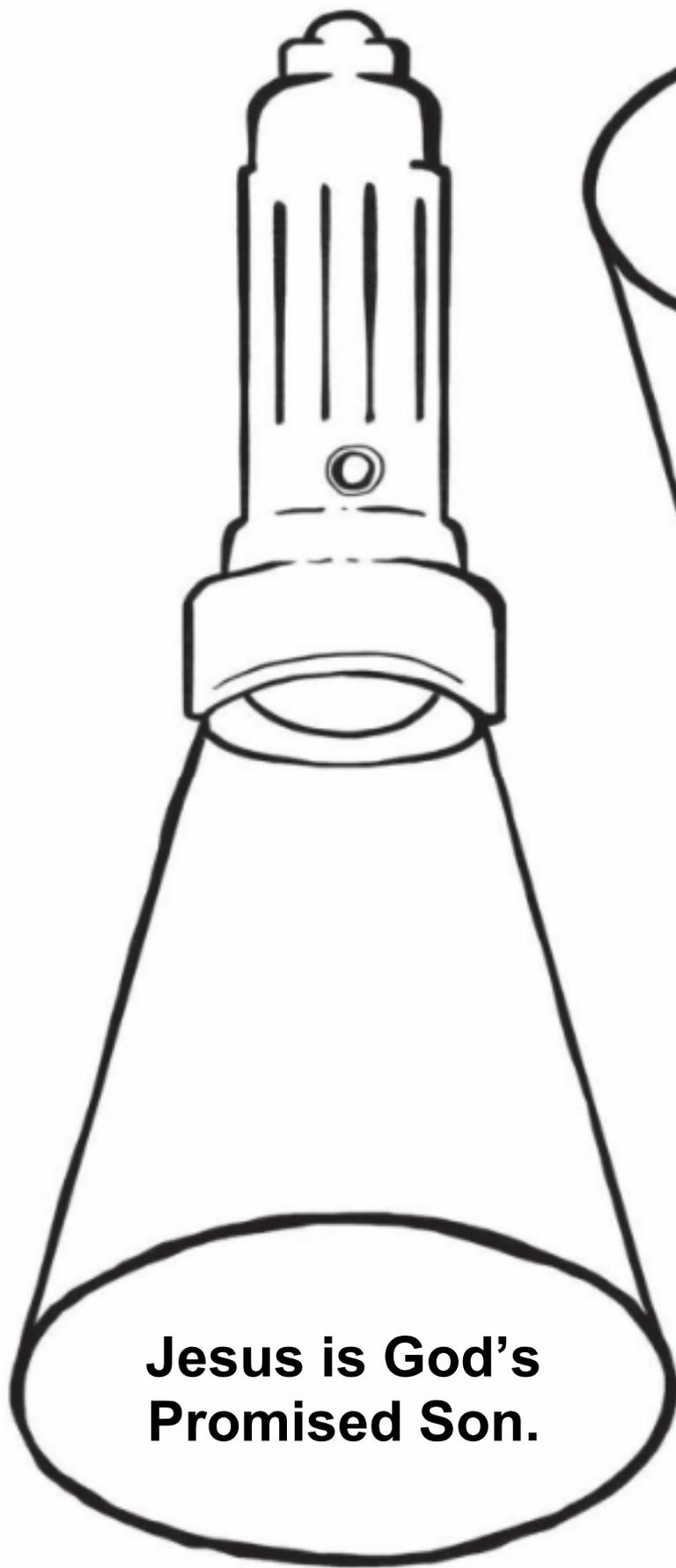
- Ask for a volunteer(s) to give each conferee a “Gospel Mini Book” (Missions Insert Item 10). Ask another volunteer to help distribute scissors and colored pencils for conferees to share.
- Say: “We are going to make something to help us learn what the Steelmans help people in Kenya discover. A person’s greatest need is Jesus. Everyone needs Jesus.”
- Demonstrate how and lead conferees to make “The Gospel Mini Book” using the instructions on page 20 of the leader guide:
  - Trim off instructional copy.
  - Fold the paper in half longways with text on the outside, then open.
  - Fold in half shortways, then fold in half again the same way.
  - Unfold completely, then fold shortways again.
  - Cut along the dashed lines on the center fold.
  - Unfold, then fold longways again, push ends toward the center.
  - Fold into a booklet.
  - Then color the booklets.
- Briefly walk through the gospel presentation found in the Mini Book.
- Remind conferees that their VBS will have children in many different stages of faith. They will encounter children who do not know who Jesus is and kids who are strong believers. Be ready for questions. Encourage them to ask questions. Be ready to share the gospel with children, potential volunteers, and families.

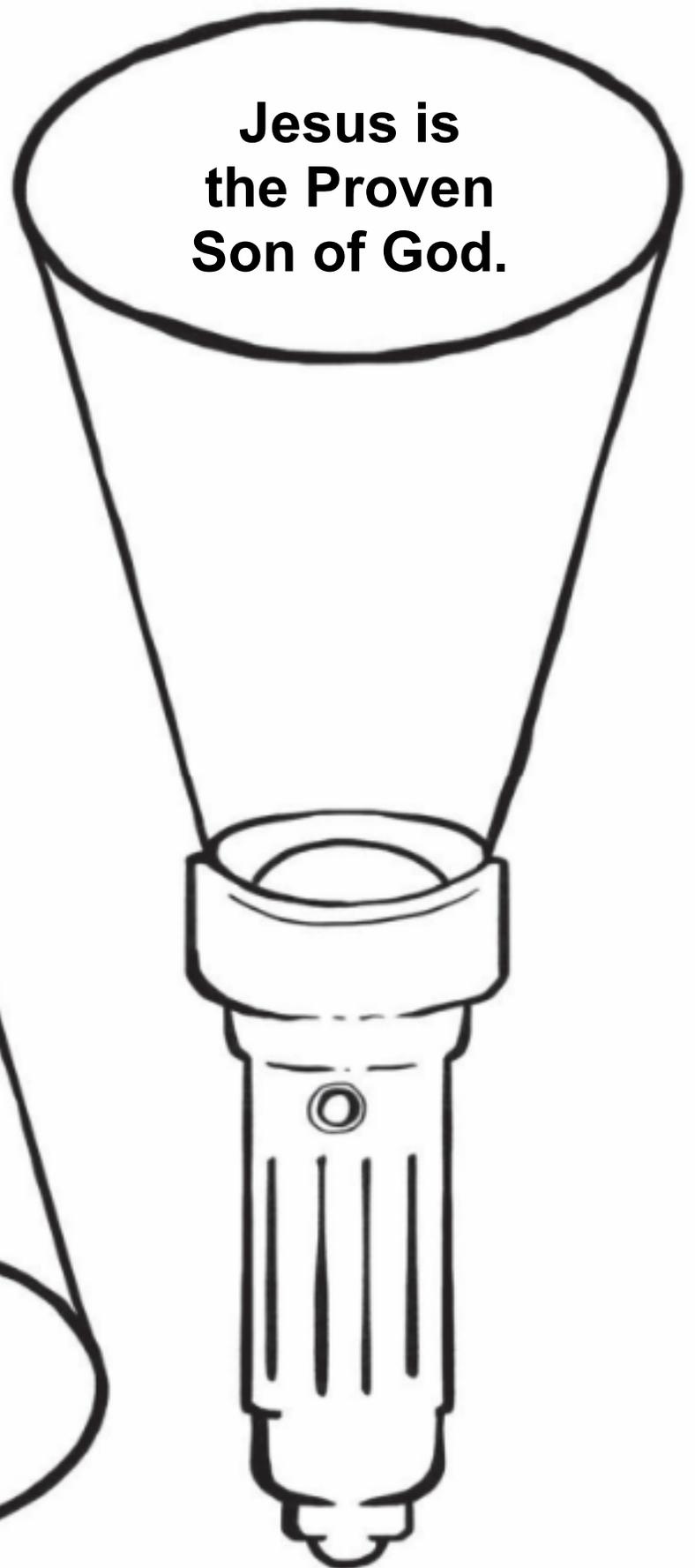
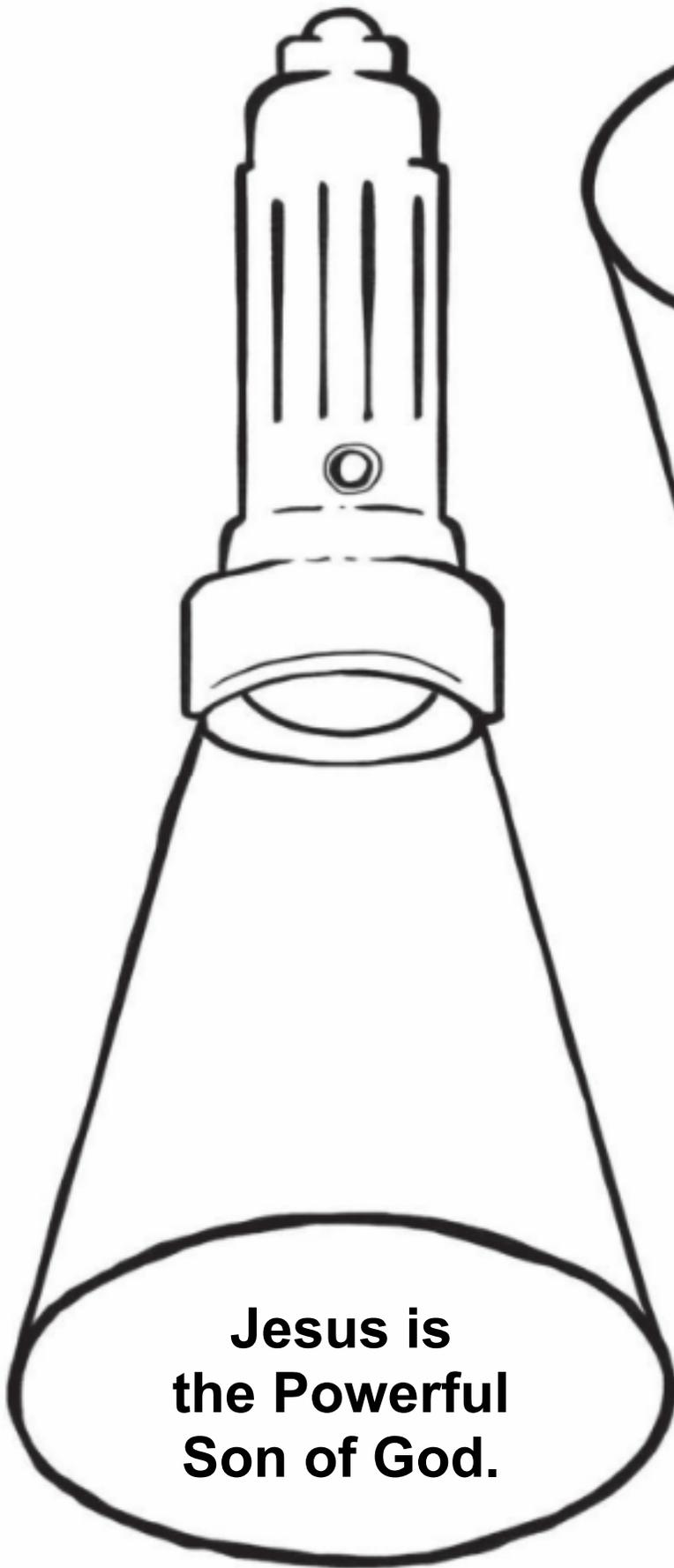
**8. Continue the Connection and Idea Sharing (10 minutes)**

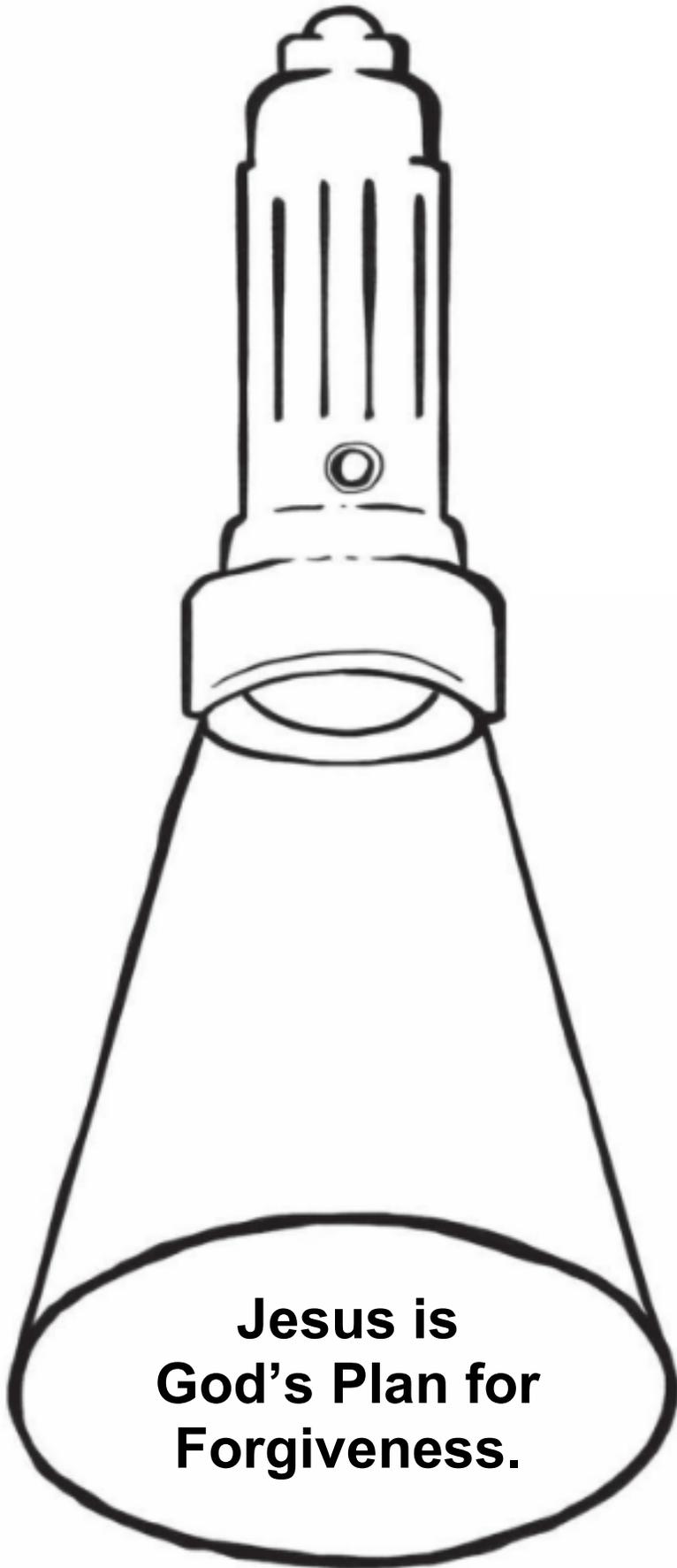
- Ask conferees to share how they incorporate missions into their VBS schedule. Allow responses. For those with tight schedules, suggest they incorporate missions as part of the Worship Rally, combine missions with snack rotation, or shorten the length of the missions rotation to fit into their schedules. If there is time, share some ways you have incorporated missions at your VBS.
- Ask conferees how they stay connected with kids and families after VBS. How do they follow up? Give time for a few answers.
- Point out the Lifeway resources that can help them continue to conversations (Parent Guide, Gospel Wristbands, and Gospel Guides). If there is time, share some ways you have followed up at your VBS.
- Leave time for any questions about the missions rotation and the teaching resources.

**9. Closing (5 minutes)**

- Ask conferees to write down their prayer requests for VBS on their handouts. Play *VBS 2026 Music for Kids CD* while conferees are writing them down.
- Close in prayer.
- Thank conferees for attending.







**Jesus is  
God's Plan for  
Forgiveness.**



## VBS 2026 MISSIONS ROTATION



**Motto:** Jesus is the Light of the world.

**Scripture:** Jesus spoke to them again: “I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life.” *John 8:12*

### Daily Biblical Content:

Day 1: Jesus Is God’s \_\_\_\_\_ Son

- Bible Story: Jesus Asked Who People Thought He Was (*Matthew 16:13-20*)
- Spotlight Question: Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Messiah, the promised Son of God.

Day 2: Jesus Is God’s \_\_\_\_\_ Son

- Bible Story: The Baptism of Jesus (*Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; John 1:29-34*)
- Spotlight Question: Was Jesus just an ordinary man? Jesus is the perfect Son of God who came to be the Savior of the world.

Day 3: Jesus Is the \_\_\_\_\_ Son of God

- Bible Story: Jesus Performed Miracles (*Matthew 15:29-39*)
- Spotlight Question: Was Jesus just a teacher? Everything Jesus said and did showed that He is the powerful Son of God.

Day 4: Jesus Is the \_\_\_\_\_ Son of God

- Bible Story: Jesus Died and Rose to Life (*Mark 14:43–16:7*)
- Spotlight Question: Was Jesus just someone who lived a long time ago? Jesus lived, died, and rose to life again to be our Savior, now and forever.

Day 5: Jesus Is God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for Forgiveness

- Bible Story: Peter Preached About Jesus (*Acts 2*)
- Spotlight Question: Why do I need to respond to Jesus? Jesus is the only way to receive God’s forgiveness.

### Five Tips to Getting Started

1. \_\_\_\_\_ — Read the Scripture passages for each day from your Bible and pray that God will speak to you through His Word.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ — Know how many children to plan for, decide what supplies you will need, gather the supplies, know your missions rotation location, and find out how long you have for the missions rotation.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ — Read through the teaching materials thoroughly, highlight key points to remember, build relationships with the children, and be flexible.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ — The activities in the guide are designed to reinforce the Bible story and truths as well as enhance the overall VBS experience.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ — Keep the connection alive by looking for ways to stay connected with the kids you taught. Participate in your church’s follow-up events.

**Missionaries:**

Kenya — The Steelman Family (IMB)

Wyoming — The Martin Family (NAMB)

**Prayer Requests:**

- Pray for the missionaries as they work to shine the light of Jesus in Kenya and in Wyoming. Ask God to help them discover creative ways to tell others about Jesus.
- Ask God to help the missionaries in Kenya think of ways to lead the people to realize that their greatest problem is sin and that the only solution is Jesus.
- Thank God for the faithful church planters in Wyoming. Ask God to give them the energy to keep starting churches where there aren't any.
- Write down your prayer requests for VBS \_\_\_\_\_

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**Notes/New Ideas:**

