



VBS Toolkit

A guide for a successful VBS missions focus

Thank you for dedicating time during your VBS to share the ministry of the Missouri Baptist Children's Home (MBCH)! Here are some ideas for engaging children at VBS and ways they can support MBCH.

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VBS Toolkit

Ways to Engage During VBS

1. Pray

Have a time of prayer using the points below to guide you. We've included printable templates you can give to children at VBS that they can take home to remember to continue praying.

- Please pray for our Foster Parents as they work to help our kids who have been through unspeakable traumas.
- Please pray for parents who struggle with mental health and substance abuse issues
- Please be in prayer for our agency as we seek to find relatives to care for children/youth in state custody and as we seek to recruit foster parents to care for children/youth. These children are in desperate need of a home where they will find love and care. Please pray that God will help us find new ways to reach out to potential relative foster parents and foster parents.

You can find more prayer requests at mbch.org/campus-needs-and-prayer.

2. Serve

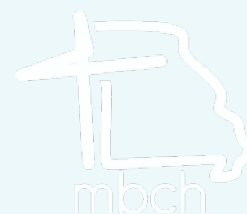
Explore our Mission Projects Booklet for inspiration on how your VBS can assist MBCH. Inside, you'll find a diverse range of collection suggestions, mini-events, and interactive ideas to help support MBCH.

3. Give

Whether it's financial giving or a collection of items there are several different ways that you can give to MBCH. Explore our Mission Projects Booklet to find ways how your group can give.

VBS Check List

- Request an MBCH Regional Representative to speak at your VBS
- Begin praying for the time that you will be sharing about foster care with the children at VBS and ways it can inspire them to make a difference in the lives of children from hard places.
- You can find all the resources mentioned in this toolkit at mbch.org/vbs.





VBS Toolkit

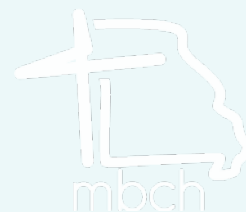
Introduction of the Missouri Baptist Children's Home

At the Missouri Baptist Children's Home (MBCH), we're all about making sure kids, youth, and families have the support they need. First and foremost, we work to find every child a loving, permanent home.

We also believe in God's design of the family. We help families learn how to function in healthy ways, so they can be strong and supportive for each other. And whenever possible, we help people transition into their communities, where they can connect with natural supports and really thrive.

Our faith is the heart of everything we do. We believe that Christ offers hope and healing for those who are hurting, and we want to share that hope.

Finally, we understand that many of the people we serve have experienced trauma. So, we provide care that acknowledges and addresses those experiences, helping them to heal and build a brighter future. We're here to help them navigate those difficult times and find healing.





Day 1

God Loves All Children

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

-Psalm 127:4-5

Key Point: God Loves All Children

Bible Text: Psalm 127:4-5; 1 Samuel 1:10-11, 20, 24-28; 2:18-21

Today, we'll explore the powerful idea that children are like arrows, vital for strengthening families, and how God's love extends to every child, regardless of their unique family story. We'll journey through Samuel's life, a story of a child raised in a nontraditional setting, and connect it to the diverse family structures of today. Discover how organizations like MBCH step in, offering support and care, ensuring that every child knows they are loved and seen. Join us as we uncover how God's unwavering love calls each child by name, reminding us that no one is ever forgotten.

Psalm 127:4-5

SAY "Imagine you've got a bow. A really good bow! What's the point of a bow without arrows, right? You need lots of arrows!"

Now, the Bible uses this idea of arrows to talk about kids. It says that children are like arrows, or even like weapons, that God gives to parents. Not weapons to fight people, but weapons to keep their families strong and safe. Think of it like this: your family is a team, and you, as a child, are a vital part of that team. You bring something special, something powerful.

Every single child is a blessing. That's what makes families strong. That's why every one of you is important. You're like those arrows, helping to build a strong and safe family!"

1 Samuel 1:10-11, 20, 24-28; 2:18-21

SAY "Let's talk about Hannah. She really wanted a child, and God heard her prayer and gave her Samuel. But God didn't stop there! He gave her three more sons and two daughters. Why so many? Because, plain and simple, God loves children!"

Now, Samuel's story is a little different. He only got to see his mom once a year. He grew up with Eli, the priest, who was like a stepfather to him. But here's the beautiful part: God blessed Samuel in a special way. He called Samuel by name. Imagine that! God knew Samuel, personally.

And even though Samuel didn't live with his birth parents, God became like a Father to him, too. He showed Samuel that no matter what, he was loved and cared for. God was there for him, just like He's there for all of us."

Notes:





Day 1

God Loves All Children

MBCH Connection

Tell kids about Samuel's unique family situation is similar to many kids today who live with stepparents, grandparents, or foster parents, and organizations like MBCH support these children, ensuring their well-being and making them feel cared for. This support reassures children that they are not alone or forgotten, reinforcing the idea that God loves all children, regardless of their family structure.

SAY "Think about Samuel for a moment. He had a unique family situation, right? Well, just like Samuel, lots of kids today have families that look different. Some live with their moms and dads, some with stepparents, some with grandparents, or aunts and uncles, or even foster parents. Some kids see their birth parents every now and then, like Samuel did. Others might have never met their birth parents, or maybe they used to live with them, but things changed.

Now, that's where organizations like MBCH come in. They're there to help kids who are going through big family changes, just like Samuel did when he went to live with Eli in the temple. They're kind of like Hannah, you know? Remember how she'd check on Samuel and bring him a new robe every year? Well, MBCH checks in on these kids, makes sure they're doing okay after moving to a new home or family. They make sure they have what they need to stay safe and feel cared for.

And you know what that does? It helps those kids know that no matter what happens, they're not alone. They're not forgotten. That's a powerful thing.

Because here's the truth: God loves all children, no matter what their family looks like. He knows each of them by name, and He's hoping they'll answer when He calls."

Prayer

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to the next activity.

SAY "Thank you, God, for always loving us no matter what our family looks like. Help us to be like Samuel and to answer when you call. Give us hearts that want to follow Your ways. Amen."

Notes:





Day 2

God Loves All Families

The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

-Psalm 145:9

Key Point: God Loves all Families

Bible Text: Exodus 1:22; 2:1-10

Moses's family, facing impossible odds, experiences God's miraculous care. We'll explore how God's love extends beyond one child, weaving together a 'double family' and demonstrating His desire to keep families connected. This narrative mirrors the work of organizations like MBCH, who, like God, strive to preserve family unity during challenging times. We'll delve into how they support relatives, equip parents, and prayerfully seek solutions, celebrating each reunited family as a testament to God's unwavering love and the power of family bonds.

Bible Text

Exodus 1:22; 2:1-10

SAY "Picture this: Moses and his family are in serious danger! But God, in His amazing way, stepped in. First, He gave Moses' mother a brilliant idea. Then, He kept that little basket safe as it floated down the river. And get this: He guided that basket straight to a woman who desperately wanted a baby. Talk about divine intervention!

But here's the thing: God didn't just love Moses. He loved his mother and sister too. He loved the whole family! He knew Moses' mother would be heartbroken to lose her baby, so He made a way for her to stay close, to be there for Moses, to help raise him.

You see, God cares deeply about keeping families together. Even though Moses was adopted by an Egyptian princess, God had a plan. He made sure Moses grew up knowing his own mother, sister, and brother. He gave Moses a 'double family' – an Egyptian family and his own birth family.

This shows us that God sees families in all their forms. He understands the longing to be together, and He works in incredible ways to make it happen."

Notes:





Day 2

God Loves All Families

MBCH Connection

Tell kids how MBCH helps families stay together during difficult times by supporting relatives or teaching parents new skills, mirroring God's care for Moses. They work closely with families through prayer to find the best solutions, celebrating reunifications as a testament to God's love.

SAY "When families face significant life changes, and parents struggle to provide adequate care for their children, organizations like MBCH work to maintain family unity wherever possible. Just as God ensured Moses remained connected to his birth family despite his adoption by an Egyptian woman, MBCH strives to keep families together.

In some situations, they provide support and training to grandparents or other relatives, enabling them to assume caregiving responsibilities. In other instances, they equip mothers and fathers with the necessary skills and resources to resume caring for their children.

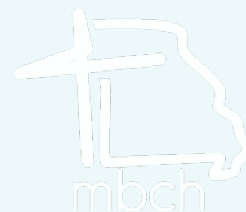
It's understood that each family's story is unique. MBCH case workers engage in prayerful collaboration with families, seeking guidance to determine the most suitable solution for each child's individual needs. When families are reunited, it's a reason to celebrate God's love!"

Prayer

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to the next activity.

SAY "Thank you, God, for taking care of families and for providing the care that we need. Whether it come from an adopted family or our birth family. Help us to seek your guidance as Moses' mother did. Give us the courage to follow your ways during difficult times. Amen."

Notes:





Day 3

God sends His people to help families in need

The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

-Matthew 25:40

Key Point: God sends His people to help families in need

Bible Text: 2 Kings 4:1-7

Imagine a family facing desperate times, on the brink of losing everything. We'll journey into a story of divine intervention, where God, through the prophet Elisha, performs a miracle to rescue a widow and her children from ruin. This story illuminates a powerful truth: God sees and cares for those who are struggling. We'll then explore how this story connects to the realities many children face today, experiencing loss and hardship. Discover how, as God's hands and feet, we are called to participate in His miracles, bringing hope and provision to families in need, and experiencing the profound joy of seeing lives transformed.

Bible Text

2 Kings 4:1-7

SAY "Think about a family in a really tough spot. Their father had passed away, and their mother was so poor she couldn't take care of them. They were in danger of being sold as slaves! That's a scary thought, right?"

But God saw their trouble. He cared deeply for this widow and her children. And because He cared, He sent the prophet Elisha. Now, Elisha did something amazing, a miracle! He made it so they had everything they needed.

Because of God's miracle, this family was able to stay together. They had food, they had what they needed to live. God made a way, just like He always does, to take care of those who are struggling."

Notes:





Day 3

God sends His people to help families in need

Notes:

MBCH Connection

When children experience the loss or absence of a parent, it creates significant hardships, but God uses people, like Elisha, and the church today, to provide support. Helping families in need is a way to participate in God's miracles and experience the joy of seeing lives transformed.

SAY "Sometimes, kids lose a parent, or maybe a parent has to go away for a while. That's super sad, and it can also make it hard to get things like food and a place to live. It's like trying to build a LEGO tower without all the right pieces!

Now, remember the story of the widow and the oil? God could have just made that oil multiply without anyone else, right? But He chose to use Elisha. He chose to work through someone. And that's where we come in.

As the church, we're like God's hands and feet. He loves to send His blessings to families who are struggling through us. We get to be part of those miracles.

And the best part? The reward we get is the joy of seeing people's needs met. Seeing families helped, seeing lives changed. It's the best feeling ever!"

Prayer

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to the next activity.

SAY "Thank you, God, for seeing us in our time of need. Help us to be like Elisha and to follow where you lead. May we always be ready to lend a helping hand to those around us. Give us the courage and compassion to act when others are in need, and let us be vessels of your love and kindness in the world. Amen."





Day 4

God adopts us as His children -Galatians 4:4-5

But when the set time had full come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Key Point: God adopts us as His children

Notes:

Bible Text: Matthew 1:20-21, 24-25; Galatians 4:4-7

Just like Joseph, a righteous man who deeply loved God, chose to adopt and love Jesus as his own son in a special family situation, God's love leads Him to adopt us into His family when we believe in Jesus, providing everything we need. This same love inspires us to care for children in the adoption process, which organizations like MBCH help with, mostly by finding forever families for kids in foster care. Remembering Joseph's example encourages us to show kindness and care to all children, making them feel welcomed and loved, just as God has welcomed us.

Bible Text

Matthew 1:20-21, 24-25

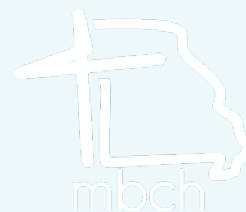
SAY "Let's talk about Joseph. God gave Joseph a very special and unusual job: to adopt Jesus as his own son. And Joseph said yes!

The Bible tells us Joseph was a righteous man. Now, what does that mean? It means he loved God very much. And it was that love, that deep love for God, that made him choose to love Jesus, to raise him as his own child.

Think about it: that was a pretty unique family situation! It wasn't the kind of family everyone expected. But Joseph's love for God was stronger than any of that. He understood that loving God meant loving Jesus, no matter what. He chose to love, even when it meant accepting something different."

Galatians 4:4-7

SAY "Just as Joseph's love for God led him to adopt Jesus, God's love for us leads Him to adopt us into His family when we believe in Jesus. He welcomes us, and invites us to call Him 'Father'."





Day 4

God adopts us as His children

Notes:

MBCH Connection

Because God has adopted us and generously given us everything we need with love, protection, and shelter, we are moved to offer the same care to children going through adoption. The example of Joseph, Jesus's stepfather, shows us the importance of caring for all children, not just our own family.

SAY "God loves us so much that He gives us everything we need – like yummy food, a safe place to sleep, and people who care for us. He's always looking out for us!"

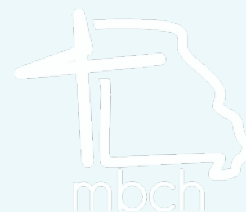
Just like Joseph loved and cared for Jesus, we can all love and care for kids going through the adoption process! MBCH, in some cases, helps facilitate adoptions. There are a few instances where they help new babies in finding forever families, but mostly, they help kids who are already in foster care find their forever homes with families who love them.

Looking at Joseph's choice to care for a baby that was not his own reminds us to take care of all children, not just the people within our own families. We can be nice to everyone, share our smiles, and be good friends. Because just like God welcomed us into His family, we can help make other kids feel welcome and loved too!"

Prayer

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to the next activity.

SAY "Thank you, God, for providing a way for us to be adopted into your family. Thank you that you see what we need to feel welcomed and loved as part of your large family. Help us to show love to our family members everyday. Amen."





Day 5

People in the church help one another

I have told you these things,
so that in me you may have
peace. In this world you will
have trouble. But take heart!
I have overcome the world.

-John 16:33

Key Point: People in the church help one another

Bible Text: 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 13-15; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; John 16:33

Just like a team where everyone helps each other, the church is a family that supports one another, sharing what we have and trusting we'll be there for each other in tough times, because everyone faces difficulties and we're all equal in needing God. The church actively shows God's love by helping those in need through various acts of service, and organizations like MBCH offer ways for everyone, young or old, to get involved in caring for children and making a difference.

Bible Text

2 Corinthians 8:1-5, 13-15

SAY "Imagine our church is like one big team! On a team, do you have some players who are super important and others who aren't? Nope! Everyone on the team helps each other, right?"

Well, it's kind of like that in our church family too! We don't have some people who have everything and others who have nothing. Instead, we all help each other out.

It means that when you have more toys than you can play with, maybe you can share some with someone who doesn't have as many. And guess what? When you need help with something, or maybe you're feeling a little sad, you can trust that the people in our church family will be there to help you too!

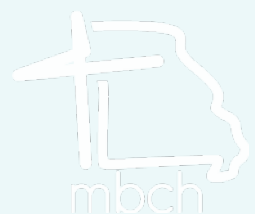
It's like we're all connected, and we take care of each other. When we have a lot, we give to others. And when we need a little help, we know our church family will be there for us. That's what it means to support each other – we're all on the same team!

2 Corinthians 12:7-10; John 16:33

SAY "Sometimes things can be a little tough, right? Maybe you have trouble with a game, or maybe you feel a little sad sometimes. Well, guess what? Everyone, even grown-ups, has times when things are hard. It's just part of life!"

Because we all have these tricky times, it means none of us is better than anyone else. It's not cool to think, 'Oh, I'm so much better than that person I'm helping.' Nope! The truth is, God lets everyone go through hard times. It helps us remember that we all need help sometimes. It keeps us humble, which means we remember we're not perfect and we need to trust God during those difficult times. So, when we help someone else, let's remember that we might need help someday too. We're all in this together. We all need God, and we're all equal in front of God."

Notes:





Day 5

People in the church help one another

MBCH Connection

Churches actively help people in many ways, like with finances, meals, and service projects, showing God's love through our actions. Caring for kids is a joy the whole church can share, and the MBCH Mission Projects booklet offers ideas for everyone to find their unique way to make a difference in children's lives.

SAY "Have you or your family received help from the church? Churches do lots of cool things to help people! Sometimes they give money to families who have big doctor bills. Sometimes they cook yummy food for moms who just had a new baby. And sometimes, everyone gets together for a special service day to help people in our community who need it most.

When we help each other out, it's like we're being the hands and feet of Jesus! All the good things we have come from God. He's the one who really gives the help! We just get to be part of it. It's rewarding to see God change lives and heal people as their joy becomes our own!

Caring for children is a joy and a blessing that MBCH doesn't want to keep to themselves. While MBCH provides special resources and support for children in need, the entire church is meant to actively invest in families' well-being.

It doesn't matter if you're super young or a grown-up, if you love being around people or you're a bit more quiet, or if you have lots of things or just enough – there's a way for everyone to help kids.

And to help everyone find their own special way to help, some ideas have been put together in their Mission Projects booklet. These ideas can help anyone, no matter their age or how they like to help, find their perfect spot in making a difference for kids in God's kingdom."

Prayer

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to the next activity.

SAY "Thank you, God, for providing ways for the church to help those in need. Guide us in using our talents and resources to be your hands and feet in helping children and families. Amen.

Notes:

