

## VBS – “GOD’S PURPOSE

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## VBS Overview – “God’s Purpose”

The curriculum can be broken down for a church group to use a few lessons for a day or two all the way up to the full 5 day event. The days are scheduled for 2 hour sessions total. They can be done at any time of the day that is best for the church or host home.

### Suggested Format:

**10 min – Welcome, meet & Greet**

**20 min – Object Lesson with whole group**

\*\*\*\*\***(80 minutes: Can be rotating stations or follow the below format)**\*\*\*\*\*

\* **Crafts**

\* **Dream Station** (20 minutes for each station/Activity)

\* **Game**

\* **Snacks**

(Can have 4 groups to rotate for stations, or can combine stations and groups as needed based on the number of children and volunteers available. Groups can be simply divided or broken down by ages)

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**10 Minute Wrap-Up / Summary & Take-Home Flyers (Includes Suggested Family Activities & Discussion starters)**

### Materials List:

<b>Object Lessons</b>	<b>Crafts</b>	<b>Games</b>	<b>Snacks</b>
<b>M:</b> Orange	Water color paints Brushes & Paint paper	Items for hiding – plastic animals, play food, etc.	Orange slices or other fruit Punch or juice Cups & napkins
<b>T:</b> Fingerprints (Fingerprinting kit)	Ink for fingerprinting Drawing paper Colors, pencils, markers	Bucket of sand Treasure to bury – plastic toys, animals, etc.	Frosted animal crackers Punch or juice Cups & napkins
<b>W:</b> Vase, pots, pans	Modeling clay Shaping tools (sticks) Wax paper to work on	4 Buckets - 2 filled with water Cups or sponge for transporting water	Nacho Bowl chips & nacho cheese Punch or juice Cups & napkins
<b>Th:</b> Career Hats (police hat, fireman hat, farmer hat, cowboy hat, etc.)	Hat (fabric cap or plastic visor) Paint for hats (fabric or regular pints) & brushes	Dress up clothes for two teams – hats, glasses, work gloves, big shirts, pants, beads, etc.	Graham Crackers & Frosting tubes with tips Punch or juice Cups, spoons & napkins
<b>F:</b> Architecture plans (Library book of house design)	Craft sticks Markers Pictures of children	Water Balloons – enough for each child to have 4 balloons	Pretzel sticks & gum drops Punch or juice Cups & napkins

## Object Lessons

### **Monday: “Special Creation” Genesis 1 (Orange)**

\* Need an orange

Send the orange around the group and discuss how it is made and how wonderful oranges taste. Notice how as people touch the orange it smells more and more. This is a unique way that the orange was made – different from the other fruit.

Today we are going to read about creation and how we are all a part of God’s special creation. Read Genesis 1-2:2. God made all of nature and it was good. But He was most delighted in making man – that is you and me. We are a special part of creation!

### **Tuesday: “Uniquely Made” Psalm 139:14 & 16 (Fingerprints)**

\* Need to show a fingerprint (ideally use a fingerprinting kit)

Use ink to put your set of fingerprints on paper to show your fingerprints to the kids. It would be great if you could show a fingerprinting kit like criminal investigation units use. Discuss with the children how each person has a unique set of fingerprints and DNA. We are all different from each other. When the police try to solve a crime, they look for fingerprints so that they can find the person. If they have a suspect, they can match their fingerprints to prove that the person was at the scene of the crime.

Today we are going to read about how God made us each unique. He gave us all a special set of fingerprints and DNA that is different from others. Read Psalm 139:1-3, 13-16. God knew you before you were born and He had a special plan for you. You are uniquely made by God.

### **Wednesday: “Vessels of Purpose” Romans 9:21 (Vase, Pots, Pans)**

\* Need many vessels as objects (vases, jars, pots & pans)

Pass the vessels around and discuss how each one has a different purpose. Vases are used for flowers, jars for holding different kinds of items and pots & pans for cooking. Explain how even the different vessels can be used for different items. Some vases are plain for ordinary use, other flower vases are expensive and used for special occasions (Christmas, parties, etc). Different pots and pans are used to cook different kinds of foods. Jars will hold different kinds of things that have many different purposes – pickle jars verses a jar of face cream.

Today we are going to talk about how we are like clay vessels - vessels of purpose. Read Jeremiah 18:1-6, Romans 9:21, and 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. God made us

unique for a purpose. Sometimes we do not like how God made us, but that is not for us to say. Remember that God made you unique for a purpose. You are a vessel that is designed to be a vessel with Jesus inside. When Jesus is inside of you then you are a vessel of treasure that has a special purpose on this earth. You are a vessel of purpose! If you want to learn more about having Jesus inside of you, talk to one of our leaders (you may want to designate a leader who knows how to evangelize children or use children's evangelism tools to discuss the gospel with them and pray with the child).

#### **Thursday: "God Has a Plan for You" Jeremiah 1:5 (Career Hats)**

\* Need many hats that show different career types (fireman's hat, police hat, baseball hat, cowboy hat, farmer's hat, etc)

Pass around the different hats and discuss what different jobs use the different hats. The hats are all for special purposes to keep the sun out and represent a career field. Think of other reasons we would need a hat?

Today we are going to talk about special plans that God has for us. Jeremiah was a prophet of God that was called to be a prophet as a young teenager. God explained to Him that God was planning from his birth that Jeremiah would be a great prophet to the nation of Israel. Read Jeremiah 1:5-7. Just as God had a special plan for Jeremiah, He also has a plan for you.

#### **Friday: "Great Future" Jeremiah 29:11 (Architect Plans)**

\* Need architecture plans of a building (May want to check out a book from the library with many house plans)

Show the architectural designs and discuss the great details for each area to be built. Explain that architects design these plans so that when the builders begin their work, everyone knows what to do. We also have plans when we go on vacations. The plans are needed to make sure that we have everything we need to enjoy the trip.

Today we are talking about how God has great plans for our futures! Read Jeremiah 29:11 and talk about how God had a plan for Israel's future. God has a good plan for our lives. Read Genesis 12:1-3 and discuss the plans God had for Abraham. God's plan is that we will be blessed so that we can be a blessing to others. God has a great plan for our future! May we all follow the plans so that we will be blessed and so will others around us!

## Crafts

### Monday: Nature Painting

- \* Drawing Paper or poster pieces
- \* Water color Paint & brushes
- \* Paint shirts to cover (old big t-shirts will work)

Have the children paint a nature scene with water colors. Talk about creation and all of the amazing things that God has made in the world....(mountains, rivers, animals, etc). Let each child discuss their special creations of watercolor pictures. Discuss how the Lord specially created nature, animals and people just as each child has specially painted their artwork. Discuss the joys of looking at a completed work. God was happy with what He created – He made you special!

### Tuesday: Fingerprint Art

- \* Ink for fingerprinting (Different ink pad colors are best)
- \* Drawing Paper
- \* Crayons, markers, pencils

Have the children press their fingers on the ink pads and then put their fingerprints on the paper in such a way to make special pictures. They can use markers and crayons to add to their pictures. Discuss the differences of each child's fingerprints. God made each of us unique – different. No one has the same fingerprint. Have the children explain their special artwork and notice how each artwork is different. Each one is unique, just like people!

### Wednesday: Modeling Clay Art

- \* Modeling Clay
- \* Sticks or tools for shaping

Give each child a lump of modeling clay and allow them shape it anyway to make their own “vessels.” Discuss how each one can be used for a different purpose when it dries. It may hold different things. Talk about clay pots and how they were made for different uses – cups, water pots, dishes, etc. In Bible times, people used clay to make different kinds of “vessels.” We can be compared to vessels – we are vessels created by God for a purpose! What is your purpose?

### **Thursday: Hat Painting**

- \* Hats or visors to paint
- \* Fabric paint for fabric hats, or regular paint for plastic visors
- \* Paint brushes & Paint shirts

Allow the children to design their own hats or visors by painting them special. Discuss how different hats are used for different careers – what do different career hats look like? (Police, fireman, painter, cowboy, etc.) Discuss what each hat is used for and why they are needed. God has a plan for our lives and He made us special for certain careers.

### **Friday: Picture Frames**

- \* Craft Sticks
- \* Wood glue
- \* Markers
- \* Pictures of children (Instant pictures today or take pictures earlier & print for this craft)

Take pictures of each child and print them out or develop them in time to make picture frames. Allow the children to make picture frames using the craft sticks to frame the pictures. Tape the pictures to the back of the frames. Have the children decorate their picture frames. Discuss how their future is great! God has a vision and a plan for their lives – follow Him and live out your dreams – the dreams that God has given you.

### **Friday: Building for the Future**

- \* Craft Sticks (various sizes)
- \* Wood glue

Give the older children different size craft sticks to build their own building or bridge. Discuss how plans are used by architects to build great objects like buildings or bridges. At first we just see the plans, but in the future we will see the real thing. Discuss how their future is great! God has a vision and a plan for their lives – follow Him and live out your dreams – the dreams that God has given you.

## **Dream Station**

This station is one where the children will get the opportunity to dream big. Have paper, pencils, and crayons available for the children to write or draw their answers to each day's dreaming questions/statements. Have them complete the below thoughts and really explain each in detail. Allow time for the children to discuss their answers with each other (some children are more verbal and will prefer to answer the question out loud and talk through it rather than writing or drawing – this is fine also). Collect each day's dreaming picture or journal entry (loose leaf writing paper) in their brad folders to take home on Friday. The drawing paper will need to be hole-punched to place in the folders. The first day the children can decorate their brad folders and label them "My Dream Notebook."

- \* Brad Folders & hole punch
- \* Writing paper
- \* Drawing paper
- \* Pencils & pens
- \* Colors & or markers

### **Monday: "My favorite day looks like...."**

Have the children describe their favorite day in writing or drawing. First have them picture it in their mind before writing or drawing it out. Give a chance for each child to describe their favorite day to the group. Have them walk through their favorite day with all of their favorite activities. God has given us each day to rejoice in Him. Our favorite days bring joy to our lives just as we brought joy to God when He created us.

### **Tuesday: "What makes me different from my friends..."**

Have the children think about what makes them different from their friends. What do you like? What are you good at? What are you not so good at? Write or draw the answers to show how God made you different from your friends. He made each one of us unique for a purpose. We were all made differently and our differences make us unique. Wouldn't it be silly if we were all the same? Allow each child to discuss their answers.

**Wednesday: “If I could do anything, I would...”**

Have the child picture what they would want to do in their minds. If there was nothing holding them back, what would they do? Let them dream a little before writing it down or drawing the picture. Have them discuss their dreams – you may give examples of what you would like to do. Let each child express their dreams and discuss how the Lord made each of us for a purpose – we were uniquely for a purpose – to do something special for God. What is that dream that God has given you that you would like to do?

**Thursday: “I want to be a \_\_\_\_\_ when I grow up...(and why)”**

Have the children dream of what they want to be when they grow up. Have them picture themselves in that career. Let them write it out or draw themselves in that career and then discuss it with the group. What would you do in that career? Discuss how God has a plan for our lives from when we were first born. He knows what type of careers we will enjoy and what areas He has prepared for us. God has a plan for you – and it is a great one that you will enjoy because you were uniquely made to follow the plan!

**Friday: “If I could help anyone, I would...”**

Have the children think about ways they would like to help others – what would you do, who would you help? Have them picture themselves helping someone. Write or draw it out and then have each child tell about it. Discuss the importance of helping others and how God has made us each unique so that we may fulfill our purposes and bless others. Our future is great because we follow God’s plans and help others.



## Games

### Monday: Hunting For God's Creation

\* Creation items to hide: plastic animals, play food, etc.

Make a list of the creation items that you will use in the game so that when they are being hunted you will know what is still missing. Hide the items around the yard or room and have each group find the creation items. Have the children search for creation items. After each item is found, discuss how God made these amazing items. God made the world for us! And best of all, we are God's special creation!

### Monday: God's Creation Scavenger Hunt

\* Scavenger Hunt list and paper bags for teams

For older children, offer this in the form of a scavenger hunt. Give them a list of items found in nature for teams of 3 or 4 kids to find together and place in a paper bag. Give a designated area for the search outdoors and a specific time limit for when to return. The team that finds the most items wins. (Example of items: Red leaf, pine cone, stick shaped like a fork, bug, something green, an interesting rock, etc.) After the hunt, discuss how God made things in nature for our enjoyment. Discuss the amazing kinds of nature scenes like mountains and rivers – some are part of the Seven Wonders of the World (like the Great Barrier Reef). But of all the amazing things God has made, we are the crown of creation! Discuss the amazing way we are made – we are complicated and unique!

### Tuesday: Buried Treasure

\* Bucket of sand

\* Different items to bury in the sand – ex: coins, plastic toys, spoons, etc.

Bury the different items in a sand bucket so that they are not visible. Have each child take a turn placing their hand in the sand and feeling around for an item. Ask them to describe what they feel and tell us what they think the item is before pulling it out of the bucket. See if their guesses were correct. Discuss how God made our hands so that we can touch and feel. Discuss how each person's hands are unique because we all have different fingerprints. God made each of us special!

**Wednesday: Water Cup Relays**

- \* 4 Buckets (2 filled with water)
- \* 2 Cups (small)

Divide the children into two teams for a water relay. Have a bucket of water on one side of the teams and at the back of the team lines have an empty bucket of water. This is best done with small cups so that it will take a while to fill the buckets. Have the team pass the water using the small cup from the water bucket to the empty bucket. The object of the race is to see which team gets the most water in the empty bucket. You may want to give them a certain amount of time before stopping and seeing who has the most, or determine the team who fills their bucket up first is the winner.

Discuss how the small cup was vessel used to pass the water from one bucket to the next. The buckets were another type of vessel. Each vessel had a purpose, just like each of us are vessels of purpose. God made us for a purpose.

**Thursday: Career Clothes Relay**

- \* Dress up clothes for 2 teams – career hats, sun glasses, big shirts, pants, work gloves, etc.

It is best to have two of everything for the relays. The hats, glasses, shirts, etc may look different; but each team needs to have the same number and type of items to dress up in. Have the two piles of dress up clothes and one end of the room or yard and line the two teams up at the other end. Have the children run to the clothes, dress up in all of them and then run back to the team. The child then takes off the clothes and passes them to the next child in the team to dress up. When the child is dressed, he runs to the other end of the room/yard and takes the items off to run back to the team and tag the next person. The next person then runs to the pile of clothes to get dressed and the cycle continues from above until each child on the team has had a chance to dress up. Have the children sit down at the end of the line when they finished their chance to dress up.

After the relay is finished, discuss the types of clothing and what career may use them for what purpose. Each item has a purpose and so do you. God has a plan for your life! He knows what career you will enjoy and what activity He wants you to do!

## Friday: Water Balloon Tosses & Relays

\* Enough water balloons for each child to have 4 water balloons

**Water Balloon Toss:** Have the children pair up with a person and have them face each other. Give each pair a water balloon. Have the pairs toss the balloons to each other and then step back one step after each toss. As balloons burst, have the pairs sit down until the one pair is left with a balloon. This pair is the winner!

**Water Balloon Relays:** Have the children divide into teams for water balloon relays. The first relay can be having the children run to a plastic chair and *sit on their water balloons* until they pop before running back to tag the next player. Another relay option is to have the children *pass water balloons* from one area to another and see how many balloons make it to the second area before popping. Another relay is the *over-under*: as they pass the balloons they can pass them over and under – over head of the first child, second child passes under his legs, the next over and the following under, repeating the pattern until they finish. When the child at the end of the line receives the balloon, he runs to the front and passes it overhead with the over under pattern continuing until the team has the person who started in front is at the back of the line. Then have them all sit down and see which team finishes first.

When finished with the balloon fun, discuss how much fun they had. God has a great future that will bring fun and joy as they follow Him!

## **Snacks**

### **Monday: Fruit/Oranges**

- \* Orange slices or other fruit
- \* Punch or juice
- \* Cups & napkins

As the children are eating their fruit, have them talk about their favorite fruit. Discuss the amazing foods that God has made through creation for us – plants, vegetables and fruits (all the things that grow are made by God for us to eat). Discuss how God's creation is good. God made these things for us and we are the crown of His creation! We were made special by God!

### **Tuesday: Frosted Animal Cookies**

- \* Frosted Animal cookies
- \* Punch or juice
- \* Cups & napkins

As the children eat the frosted animal cookies, have them label each animal they are eating. Talk about how the animals are all made unique and different by God. Have the children name their favorite animals in creation. Discuss how we are all uniquely made by God. Even the animals who look alike all have different personalities – anyone with a pet knows that one dog or cat has a different personality or character than another that looks just like it! We are made special!

### **Wednesday: Nacho Bowl Chips & Nacho Cheese**

- \* Nacho Bowl Chips (The ones shaped like a bowl to hold dips)
- \* Nacho cheese in a bowl
- \* Punch or juice
- \* Cups, spoons & napkins

As the children dip their chips in the nacho cheese and eat, discuss the unique chips that hold the dips. These chips are acting like a special vessel to hold the nacho cheese. They are unique in that this vessel is eatable! Doesn't it taste good? Discuss the different purposes for different types of vessels – cups hold liquid, plates are for food, vases are for flowers, etc.

**Thursday: Frosting & Graham Crackers**

- \* Graham Crackers
- \* Many tubes of frosting with tips to frost crackers
- \* Punch or juice
- \* Cups & napkins

Tell the children they are bakers for today and they will be designing their own crackers. Discuss the unique designs each baker is creating on their graham crackers before eating them. Baking is one type of career that we all enjoy – when bakers bake, we eat tasty treats! God has a plan for each of us, whether it is to be a baker or some other career. God has a plan for your life!

**Friday: Pretzel Stick Buildings**

- \* Pretzel Sticks (Straight ones)
- \* Gum Drops
- \* Punch or juice
- \* Cups & napkins

Have the children use the pretzel sticks and gum drops to design their own building, just like the architecture plans. Discuss the designs before eating. God not only has a plan for our lives, but it is a great one that gives us a wonderful future with Him! We have a great future when we follow God's plans!

## **Wrap Up Session**

This session is designed for the small groups to sit down and discuss what they have learned for the day. It may work out for the groups to do their wrap up at the last station they attend, or to meet with a small group leader in a different area. Groups that were not small enough to go to stations, but did all the activities together can also discuss the questions together.

- 1) What was your favorite activity?
- 2) What did we learn today?
- 3) Is there anything we can pray about for you?

### **Monday: “Special Creation”**

What is your favorite part of creation?

Focus on the idea that God made the universe special for us and that we are his special creation!

### **Tuesday: “Uniquely Made”**

What would it be like if we were all robots and were exactly the same?

Focus on the idea that we are all unique. God made us different and that is good.

### **Wednesday: “Vessels of Purpose”**

What kinds of vessels and their uses can you think of? (let the children each name a different vessel and its use).

Focus on the idea that different vessels have different purposes and that each person is made different for a purpose.

### **Thursday: “God Has a Plan for You”**

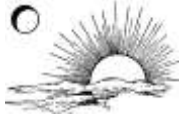
What different careers are there? (Allow each child to name a different career)

Focus on how God has a plan for each person (Careers).

### **Friday: “Great Future”**

What different ways can we help in our community? (Allow each child to mention activities).

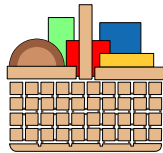
Focus on how God made us for a purpose and we need to remember to help others so that we all will have a great future!



### “Special Creation”

God made nature and we are His special creation in this world (Genesis 1). You are a special creation!

**Dream Question:** My favorite day looks like...



**Family Activity:** Outdoor Picnic

Eat outdoors and discuss the joy of nature. Discuss your favorite nature scenes and family activities outside.



### “Uniquely Made”

God made each of us unique (Psalm 139:13-16). Look at our different fingerprints. You are unique!

**Dream Question:** What makes me different from my friends?



**Family Activity:** Barefoot Nature Walk

Take a nature walk in your backyard or outdoors somewhere in the grass where you can stop and compare each others hands and feet – discuss how you are each unique!

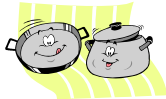


### “Vessels of Purpose”

God made us vessels of purpose (Jeremiah 18:1-4, Romans 29:1, 2 Corinthians 2:7-12). We are designed to carry the treasure of Jesus inside. God has a purpose for you!

**Dream Question:** If I could do anything, I would...

**Family Activity:** Family Cooking



Make a family meal together. Talk about the different “vessels” used and their purposes – pots, pans, cups, dishes, etc.



### “God Has a Plan for You”

God has a plan for your life (Jeremiah 1:5).

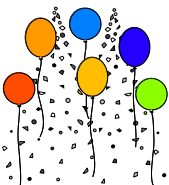
**Dream Question:** I want to be a \_\_\_\_\_ when I grow up.

**Family Activity:** Baby Photo Memories



Pull out your child's baby photos and discuss your first memories of your child when he was a baby. What did you picture for your child to be?

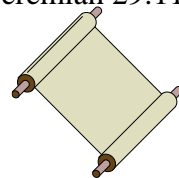
### “Great Future”



God has a great future for you – one that will bless you (Jeremiah 29:11).

**Dream Question:** If I could help anyone, I would...

**Family Activity:** Community Project / Family Work Project



Decide together as a family what community project or family work project you can work on together. Discuss the joys of working together for a purpose to help someone else. (Suggestions: collect can foods, find a service project, help a neighbor with their yard work, etc.)