

# elementary crew leader guide



# what's a crew leader?

If you've been asked to be a Crew Leader, you've met two important qualifications: You love the Lord, and you love children. During Scuba, you'll visit different activities with a group of three to five children. *You're not in charge of preparing or teaching activities; you just get to be there and help kids enjoy them as you shepherd the members of your Crew.* Because your Crew is small, you'll get to know and affirm each member by asking questions, really listening, and being encouraging.



## What We Found

This isn't from our field test but from a VBS director who frequents our online forum. She reminds the Crew Leaders that some of the kids at VBS might not ever hear a kind or affirming word. She encourages her Crew Leaders to speak God's love to *each child*. This director says it makes a huge difference in the way Crew Leaders treat and speak to the kids. Wonderful idea!



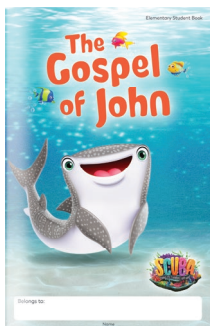


# make it memorable

## Bible Memory Buddies®

During each day's Sticky Scripture™, you'll give every kid in your Crew a Scuba Bible Memory Buddy that kids can drop into their Buddy Packs. (Be sure to help kids write their names on their Buddy Packs.) Each Buddy has the day's Bible verse written on the bottom, too!

At the end of each day, kids will leave their Buddy Packs and Bible Memory Buddies in the Crew bag. This will ensure kids aren't without their Buddy Packs and collection of Bible Buddies each day at VBS.



## Gospel of John Bible Books

Many kids who come to VBS may not have a Bible at home...and those who do may not feel comfortable using such a big, grown-up book. That's why this kid-sized bite of the Bible is *perfect!* During Sticky Scripture, you'll guide kids in practical

Bible skills, reading one easy passage from the Gospel of John each day. And at the end of the week, kids have a bit of Scripture to take home and continue reading.

## who's who in the crew

During their first Sing & Play Splash station, kids will choose Crew jobs. Each child will have one of the jobs listed in the chart. If children can't agree on who should perform each of the jobs, assign jobs to kids for Day 1; then rotate jobs each day so that by the end of the week, all children in the Crew have had an opportunity to do each job. The name badges also list these Crew roles on the back. If your Crew has fewer than five kids, some kids may have more than one job. Kids are excited about having special jobs. Encourage them to fulfill their roles, and provide lots of opportunities for them to do so.

### ★ SCUBA CLUE ★

It can be a challenge to get take-homes to actually make it home throughout the week. So with that in mind, we've suggested the Gospel of John Bible Books go home on the last day of VBS. Your Director may choose to distribute them differently, but no matter the approach, excitedly encourage kids to take the books home and *use them!* Your enthusiasm will help kids know these books were designed especially for them, have value, and are a way to keep the VBS fun going at home.

#### ○ Guide

chooses action ideas for traveling through Scuba (such as "swimming" or tiptoeing to avoid a big shark!)

#### ○ Kit Carrier

distributes and collects supplies and helps carry the Crew's bag

#### ○ Prayer Person

leads or opens prayer times

#### ○ Schedule Supervisor

helps monitor the daily schedule to let the Crew know what's coming next

#### ○ Thank You-er

leads the Crew in thanking Station Leaders each day

# the crew family

Every member of your mixed-age Crew adds something to every activity!

**I've just completed kindergarten.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I have a great imagination. I can help my Crew dive into each awesome Bible adventure!



**I've just completed first grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be the best. I can help encourage my Crew to be the best it can be.



**I've just completed second grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I want everything to be fair. I can help make sure we all take turns and treat one another fairly.



**I've just completed third grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be challenged. I can help younger members of my Crew with challenging projects.



**I've just completed fourth grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to ask questions. I can help my Crew ask questions to make sure we understand what we're learning.



**I've just completed fifth grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to make choices. I can help younger Crew members with tasks and help the Crew Leader guide everyone in showing God's love.



# top 4 crew leader tips

## 1 Participate!

- ~ Sing the songs and do the motions.
- ~ Play the games.
- ~ Be curious in Imagination Station.
- ~ Use your imagination in Bible Adventures to interact with each day's story.
- ~ Share your own God Sightings.
- ~ Give your own insights during Sticky Scripture.

## 3 Lavish your attention on the kids.

- ~ Turn off your cellphone—you can contact your friends *after* VBS!
- ~ Use kids' names in kind and loving ways.
- ~ Use eye-to-eye contact.
- ~ Be a tuned-in, affirming listener during discussions. Paraphrase kids' answers in a response back to them to show that you've heard and understood what they've said.
- ~ Give hugs or high-fives throughout the day.
- ~ Be there for the kids as they arrive. Get there early. Check with your VBS Director to see when he or she would like you to arrive each day.

## 2 Support the Station Leaders.

- ~ Quickly sit in knee-to-knee circles for Crew discussions.
- ~ Listen to each Station Leader, and encourage kids to listen too.
- ~ Put the Crew bag (and other distracting items) out of the way during activities.
- ~ Be enthusiastic.

## 4 Be positive.

- ~ Model the behavior that you want kids to have.
- ~ Positively acknowledge kids' answers to questions. Rather than saying "No, that's the wrong answer," say "Thanks for sharing. Anyone else have thoughts?"
- ~ Smile! Have fun!



### Use Positive Words Like These:

- ~ Let's keep moving so we can do as many fun activities as possible.
- ~ Listen carefully so you'll know what to do next.
- ~ Stay with the Crew; we need your help in this activity!
- ~ That's a unique way of doing things! How did you think of that? Let's try it this way.
- ~ It's important that we all follow the instructions and work together as a team.
- ~ Please move over here so you can see better.
- ~ Let's all sit in a circle so we can see and hear one another better.
- ~ Those Buddies sure are cool! Let's keep them put away so we can hear about this next activity.

# what to do if...

Most of the time, things will go smoothly, but every once in a while, you may run into a dilemma. Here's some advice on how to handle different challenges.



## If my Crew won't stay together...

Encourage your Guide to come up with creative ways to travel. Or work with your Thank You-er to come up with cheers to say as you travel.

## If I have a clique in my Crew...

Encourage friendships among all Crew members by pairing kids with partners they don't know very well during games and other activities. Offer reminders when needed that they're all superstars and that means caring for each other and that no one is left out.

## If older kids are unhappy being grouped with mixed ages...

Highlight their helping role. Encourage them to help younger kids find Bible passages and other activities. Acknowledge them by telling younger kids, "[Name of older child] is really good at that. Why don't you ask him [or her] to help?"



## If a Crew member won't participate...

Help shy children feel welcome by calling them by name and asking them questions directly. Respond to their questions with a smile and a statement such as "That's really interesting!" Also try giving children special jobs, such as finding a place for your Crew to sit at each station.

If someone *really* doesn't want to participate in Reef Rec games, that's okay. Scuba can be tiring! Let kids rest until they're ready to participate.

## If people in my Crew don't get along...

Quietly take the children aside. Tell them you've noticed that they're not getting along. Let them know that although they don't have to be best friends, they do have to be together all week, so things will be a lot more fun if they can at least be kind to one another. (Use the daily Bible Points for these teachable moments!)

## If I have an overly active child...

Pair this child with yourself for partner activities, and suggest that he or she sit with you during quiet times. Or give him or her a focused role of helping you keep the Crew on task and setting an example for everyone else. Or, ask your Director if you could have an assistant Crew Leader to help the child focus and participate.

## If my Crew is out of control and unruly...

You can be direct in calling out behavior, but maintain the fun in your voice and language. It'll help you avoid setting a pace for a battle of wills. Use these fun Scuba puns to call attention to behaviors that need to stop:

- Cheating in games or other activities: "We have to follow the dive rules; let's get back to following directions!"
- Not paying attention to Station Leaders: "Swim back here and tune it. We need to listen."
- Distracted by side conversations or horse play: "Okay, crazy clownfish! Fins down at your sides. Catch a bubble in your mouth and hold it there while we listen."
- Complaining about activities at stations: "Let's show all our leaders *they're* our friends by showing respect. You may not love everything we do, but if you don't participate, you might miss out on something you didn't expect to be *amazing*."

If by midweek there are two or more kids in your Crew who just won't listen no matter what you try, it might be necessary to move a child or two to a different Crew. Talk to your Director about making a few Crew roster adjustments to help make sure each child gets the most out of the time at Scuba VBS.

## If my Crew gets too big...

Scuba VBS is oceans of fun, so it's likely that kids will want to bring friends. However, Scuba activities are designed to work with a mixed-age Crew of no more than five kids. If you have a small Crew, welcome a few additional friends into your Crew family. But if your Crew grows past five kids talk with your Director as soon as possible. He or she will need to form a new Crew so kids can have the best experience possible.





# what do i do at each station?

**Sing & Play Splash** is where kids worship by singing upbeat action songs. Your job at Sing & Play Splash is to

- ~ greet your Crew members in your designated seating area.
- ~ follow the motions and sing out loud.
- ~ help kids quiet down between songs so they can hear the Sing & Play Splash Leader.

**Imagination Station** is where kids experiment, play, and discover as they use amazing sciency-fun items from the Crew Teaching Kit. At Imagination Station

- ~ listen carefully to the instructions because you may need to repeat them for Crew members.
- ~ use your imagination and share your curiosity as kids explore!
- ~ help kids complete activities (when they need help).
- ~ help clean up your area before leaving.

**Sticky Scripture** is where kids dig into the day's Bible verse—with a fun video and their Gospel of John Bible Books. Here you'll

- ~ encourage kids to tune in and participate along with the video.
- ~ give kids their special Bible Memory Buddies in the way the leader explains.
- ~ lead kids in discussion when it's called for.
- ~ help kids find the daily Scripture in their Gospel of John Bible Books.

Many stations engage kids in discussions about real life and some of the struggles or challenges we face.

If a child brings up a serious issue, such as indicators of neglect, abuse, or violence he or she has experienced, say, "Thank you for telling me about that. It's very important, and we need to talk about it with our VBS Director [or children's minister if he or she isn't the VBS Director] to give you a chance to say everything you need to say—and help you with your feelings." Involve the appropriate person at your church who can follow through with necessary steps after the conversation, as there is not only a moral but a legal obligation to report circumstances where a child might be in danger.

**Tidal Treats** is where Crews come for a tasty snack. At Tidal Treats you'll

- ~ gather your Crew in a designated area.
- ~ help your Crew focus on the Tidal Treats Leader as he or she explains the way snack time will work.
- ~ use snack time to get to know kids...and be sure to see if anyone needs to use the restroom.
- ~ help kids clean up your area before leaving.

**Reef Rec** is where kids play team-building games and learn about Operation Kid-to-Kid. Your job at Reef Rec is to

- ~ listen carefully to the instructions so you can help your Crew members follow them.
- ~ participate in each activity, and cheer on your Crew members as they participate.
- ~ participate during one day's game time in a "photo shoot" for the day's Spotlight VBS slideshow (a customized slideshow)!

**Deep Bible Adventures** is where kids experience the Bible story. Be sure to

- ~ gather with your Crew outside the door.
- ~ listen carefully to hear how Crew Leaders should help out that day.
- ~ encourage Crew members to participate.
- ~ share your own discoveries during discussion times and your excitement during each Bible adventure.

**Fin-tastic Finale** is where kids experience an exciting review of the day's lesson. Your role at Fin-tastic Finale is to

- ~ lead kids to your assigned seating area.
- ~ participate in singing and other activities.
- ~ remind your Crew to participate without being rowdy or disruptive.
- ~ collect Crew members' name badges and Bible Memory Buddies and store them in your Crew bag until the last day of VBS.

# God is a friend who's real.

**Bible Story:** God shows himself to Elijah through ups and downs. (1 Kings 18–19)

**Bible Verse:** “We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:69)

## Diving Into the Bible

A harsh drought plagued Israel for years due to the wicked deeds of idol-worshipping King Ahab. Finally, to show God's existence, God's prophet Elijah summoned 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah to Mount Carmel. The prophets built an altar, then prayed to their false god, Baal, for fire. For hours the hundreds of prophets prayed, shouted, and even cut themselves. But no one answered. Then Elijah built a simple stone altar and dug a trench around it. Servants poured water on his altar again and again. Elijah prayed, “O Lord, answer me...so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God.” Instantly fire came from heaven and burned up Elijah's sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the soil! God—the only true God—answered.

Yet Elijah's triumph soon turned to terror as Queen Jezebel swore she'd have Elijah killed. The prophet fled into the wilderness, where hunger and depression wore him down. God appeared, not in a flash of fire but in a gentle whisper. The one true God answered again.

## Connecting With Kids

Like Elijah, kids swim in a culture increasingly resistant to any one source of truth. Today's kids doubt the integrity of the Bible. They're dubious about the church. And many view the idea of one *true* God as judgmental and exclusive. The kids at your VBS really *can* understand what Elijah faced—living in a world that embraced countless false gods and warred against God's truth! Fundamentally, when we believe God is *real*, the existence of God gives us hope. Belief in one *true* God grounds us, providing stability and firm footing through life's ups and downs. Today, root kids in the truth that the one amazing, powerful God really and truly desires a friendship with them!



## Why It Matters

Elijah experienced the reality of God through fire, and later in a whisper. This passage can help kids who are questioning the truth of a God they can't see or hear.





## day 1

Bible Point:  
**God is a friend who's real.**



### God Sightings®

Every day at Scuba, kids and leaders will share evidence they've seen of God. We call these *God Sightings*, and they're an easy, practical, and powerful way to help kids realize that God is still active in our everyday lives. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

Today help kids talk about times it's hard to remember that God is real. Here are a few examples:

- ~ Talk candidly about times you've relied on God's presence. Kids will appreciate your transparency, showing that even grown-ups struggle.
- ~ Suggest Bible verses and songs that offer examples of ways we can "see" God at work around us.
- ~ Point out ways you see evidence of God around you—right at VBS!

### ★ SCUBA CLUE ★

Sit in knee-to-knee circles for discussions. Call on kids by their Crew roles. For example, say, "I'd like to hear our Guide's and our Prayer Person's answers."

### ★ SCUBA CLUE ★

A God Sighting is *not* "I see God in that tree." A God Sighting is "I see God's creativity and power because only God can make a tree." God Sightings are seeing things that God has created, allowed, provided, done, or revealed to us.

## wrap-up questions: Off the Hook

**ASK** How did you feel when you had a friend right by your side in the game?

When do you most need your friend God by your side?

Crew Leader, share an example of your own, then let each person share an example.

**SAY** We may not see or experience God with us the same way we do our Crew friends. But God never leaves us! He's really here, a best friend by your side!

### Scuba Clues From Your Director

# God is a friend who loves.

**Bible Story:** God shows compassion to the people of Nineveh. (Jonah 1–3)

**Bible Verse:** “Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.” (John 13:34)

## Diving Into the Bible

When God told Jonah to go preach to the people of Nineveh, Jonah jumped on the first ship...headed in the *opposite* direction! He'd likely heard of the Ninevites' reputation for cruelty. In Jonah's estimation, these people didn't deserve to hear about—or experience—God's love. But God had other plans. He sent a big fish to swallow the reluctant prophet. Deep inside the fish's belly, Jonah finally submitted to God's will. God forgave Jonah, then used him to deliver a warning to the people of Nineveh. As soon as the people heard Jonah's message, they stopped their evil deeds and asked for God's forgiveness. God lovingly forgave an undeserving people, demonstrating his heart of mercy for *all*.

## Connecting With Kids

Jonah seems to have viewed the Ninevites as unredeemable—so sinful that they were unworthy of God's salvation. When do you first remember a feeling of shame or unworthiness? For many of us, the sense of being unlovable came as a child when we'd disobeyed, been caught in a lie, or disappointed an adult. Perhaps caring friends or family members demonstrated Christ-like forgiveness, modeling unconditional love! Unfortunately, plenty of kids who come to your VBS won't have experienced genuine love and forgiveness. Today is a great day to immerse kids in God's overwhelming love for *all* people. Joyfully share the truth that a friendship with God means we are loved—and so are those we don't think are lovable.



## Why It Matters

Jonah didn't think the people of Nineveh deserved God's mercy. Jonah's attitude can challenge kids to think about who *they* may doubt God could love.



## day 2

Bible Point:  
**God is a friend who loves.**



### God Sightings®

God Sightings are a great way to help kids see that God is active all around us. Remember, the more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

As a Crew Leader, you are the chief God Sightings encourager! Have fun with your Crew members as you look for God in action each day.

Today help Crew members identify people who've shown them God's love. Here are a couple of examples:

- Thank God for loving parents and caregivers.
- Keep watch for ways your church staff demonstrates God's love to kids and to each other. Point these out as demonstrations of how people can pass along God's loving friendship to others!

## wrap-up questions: Pass the Pearl

**ASK** What words describe how you had to move as you carried the pearl?

Let each Crew member say one word.

**ASK** How do you feel when someone treats you [say some of the words kids shared, such as gently or slowly or takes their time]?

Invite several responses.

**SAY** Today we're exploring that **God is a friend who loves.** (Thanks, God!) **Loving people means we treat them gently—with kindness and care.** Jesus said it this way in the book of John, chapter 13, verse 34: "Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." We can treat each other with the same loving kindness that God shows us!

### Scuba Clues From Your Director



# god is a friend we can trust.

**Bible Story:** Jesus calms a storm. (Mark 4:35-41)

**Bible Verse:** “I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart.” (John 14:27)

## Diving Into the Bible

After a long day of teaching along the Sea of Galilee, Jesus gave his followers instructions to cross to the other side of the water. The disciples put their backs into rowing, while Jesus, weary from the long day, quickly fell asleep. Before long, a sudden storm blew in. Gale-force winds stirred up powerful waves that broke over the side of the boat. Jesus’ friends panicked! What if the wind tipped the boat over? What if the boat filled up with water and sank? How could Jesus sleep through all this? In terror, the disciples woke Jesus up. Jesus commanded the wind and waves to be silent and still...and they obeyed! An immediate calm settled over the waters.

## Connecting With Kids

What storms are kids at your VBS facing? Divorcing parents? Loneliness? Bullying? Food insecurity? A child may even be trying to navigate relationships with *others* who are facing challenges. At times, kids may feel like Jesus’ disciples, asking where Jesus is when hardships swell into a tidal wave of fear, uncertainty, and doubt. What a comfort to know we have a trustworthy friend nearby! God is a friend we can trust to comfort, guide, listen, and love us. Today, bring peace (just like Jesus did!) as you explore with kids what it means to have a trustworthy friend in God.



## Why It Matters

Jesus commanded wild wind *and* waves to be still, showing his power and his ability to bring peace. This passage shows kids they can trust God when life’s troubles crash around them.



## day 3

Bible Point:  
**God is a friend we can trust.**



### God Sightings®

Keep looking for evidence of God all around you. Find God's creativity, joy, and comfort in kids' words or the words of Station Leaders...then point it out!

Throughout the day, look for opportunities to encourage kids to lean on God, even when life feels stormy or uncertain. Encourage kids to...

- ~ identify people around them who might need a comforting reminder that they can trust God.
- ~ release worry and accept God's peace and comfort.
- ~ sing boldly as a celebration of God's power in our world.



## wrap-up questions: Bubble Trouble

**SAY** We had to work together to move inside the bubbles.

**ASK** How did we show we trusted each other as we worked together?

**SAY** Trust is important in our friendships. It helps us get along and work together. **God is a friend we can trust.** (Thanks, God!) Think of a hard task you have to do. Crew Leader, share your own example. You might think of telling someone about Jesus or taking care of a small child at home. (Kids won't share, but your example shows them that even grown-ups have to trust God through challenges.)

**ASK** What would it feel like to trust God with that hard thing in your life?

**SAY** God is a friend we can trust. (Thanks, God!) You can trust God's guidance and help, no matter what.

### Scuba Clues From Your Director

# god is a friend forever.

**Bible Story:** Jesus dies and comes back to life. (John 18–20)

**Bible Verse:** “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.” (John 11:25)

## Diving Into the Bible

Betrayed by a friend, accused by religious leaders, and arrested by the Temple guards, Jesus’ future seemed grim. The religious leaders saw Jesus as a threat, a liar, and a blasphemer...and apparently the crowds demanding his crucifixion agreed. His hurried trial ended in a death sentence—one usually reserved for criminals. Jesus died on a cross, under a sign mocking him as King of the Jews. His fearful friends scattered, leaving two men who’d followed Jesus from afar to prepare his body for burial. Jesus’ lifeless body lay in a borrowed tomb, sealed behind a heavy gravestone. It seemed like the end...but was it?

Three days later, Jesus’ friends discovered the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty! Jesus’ body hadn’t been stolen or moved—Jesus appeared repeatedly to his followers! They saw him, felt his breath, and touched the wounds on his hands! Jesus turned the *end* into *eternity*!

## Connecting With Kids

Jesus’ followers felt they’d lost their closest friend forever. Kids have felt that, too. Friends come and go. They move away, discover new interests, make new friends, or sometimes just abandon us. The idea of “forever” seems impossible. Yet God had something surprising in store! Jesus’ death wasn’t the end—it was just the beginning of a friendship that will last into eternity! God always has been and always will be—he is forever! And even better, his love for us is forever, too! Things like sadness, loneliness, and worry won’t last forever. Today, share the exciting news that a friendship with God is one that will never ever end!



## Why It Matters

Jesus died on a cross, paying the price for the sins of the world once and for all. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, kids can have a forever friendship with God.





## day 4

Bible Point:  
**God is a friend forever.**



### Helping Children Follow Jesus

During the week, if you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to believe in Jesus, give this simple explanation:

**God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. When we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.**

Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s).



### God Sightings®

Today help your Crew members think of God Sightings that are reminders of God's unending love.

- ~ Point out things in nature that come back every year, such as flowers or the leaves on trees.
- ~ God gives us joy in worship. Point out how light our hearts feel when we celebrate and praise God.

## wrap-up questions: Whale of a Tale

**SAY** Let's finish this sentence: **Racing with the pillowcase made me...** (Kids might say things like slower, clumsy, tired, tangled up.) Let each person answer.

**SAY** The pillowcase made it hard to be our best—to move the way we're meant to!

**ASK** Now think about a time you did something you knew you weren't supposed to. Crew Leader, share your own example, such as taking something that wasn't yours or calling someone a mean name.

**SAY** Things like that are called sin—and we all sin! The Bible tells us that sin tangles us up. Sin is a little like that fish tail—it keeps us from joyfully doing all the things God made us to do.

Today we're learning that **God is a friend forever.** (Thanks, God!) That means God forgives those sins, freeing us to have friendship with him forever!

Lead kids in cheering "Thank you, God!"

### Scuba Clues From Your Director

# god is a friend for everyone.

**Bible Story:** Lydia believes in Jesus.  
(Acts 16:11-15)

**Bible Verse:** “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

## Diving Into the Bible

After Jesus returned to heaven, his followers knew they couldn’t keep the amazing news of God’s Son to themselves! A man named Paul devoted himself to traveling throughout the Mediterranean and Asia to let *everyone* know about Jesus. Paul wanted the world to know that Jesus—God’s Son—had died, risen, and would give eternal life to all who believed. This good news meant life for Jews, non-Jews, people who believed in false gods—*everyone*! During his first missionary journey, Paul met a group of women gathered near a river for prayer. These women believed in the one true God, but they hadn’t heard about Jesus. Paul’s words had a profound impact on one woman in particular—Lydia. This businesswoman insisted that she *and* her entire household get baptized! Because of Paul’s message, she became the first Christian in Europe, and her home became one of the first churches.

## Connecting With Kids

So much seems set out to divide us today. Kids hear adults compartmentalize people by race, political party, church denomination, “pro” or “anti” this-and-that—the list is endless. As a result, kids may view people in groups—groups they are (or aren’t) part of. And too often, people view Christians as exclusive, seeking to keep people out. Yet God loves *everyone*! Jesus died for *everyone*! A friendship with God is a possibility for *everyone*! No one is left out or excluded from a friendship with God! How freeing...and unifying! Wrap up your week at Scuba VBS by challenging kids to view people in their world as those God dearly and desperately loves.



## Why It Matters

Paul sailed to new lands to be sure *everyone*—including a businesswoman named Lydia—knew the good news of Jesus! This story can help kids understand that *no one* should be left out of God’s loving friendship.



## day 5

Bible Point:

**God is a friend for everyone.**



### God Sightings®

Today help your Crew members reflect on the whole week and how a friendship with God changes how we look at things.

Offer very personal affirmations of character strengths you've seen in your Crew members as you've learned more about them this week. Point out that God can use us to do great things in his name!

### Thank You to You!

Thanks for all you've done to model God's loving friendship to kids!

## wrap-up questions: Feeding Frenzy

**ASK** Did you like it better when there was a feeding frenzy or when it was just a few people? Tell why.

In real life, what things are more fun when lots of people do them? Crew Leaders, share your own example, such as playing a board game or singing. Then let each person in the Crew share.

**SAY** Today we're exploring that **God is a friend for everyone!** (Thanks, God!) **No one has to sit on the sidelines or be "out" of God's family. God's love is big enough for everyone!**

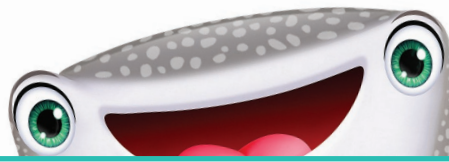
### ★ SCUBA CLUE ★

- Find out if the kids in your Crew have age-appropriate Bibles or Christian music at home. Talk with your VBS Director about providing these basic resources for kids.
- Continue building friendships long after VBS is over. Fill out the "All About My Crew" information on each Crew member. After VBS, you'll be able to send postcards and birthday cards and greet kids who attend your church.
- Give each child his or her Bible Memory Buddies and other fun goodies from Scuba.
- Thank your VBS Director for all he or she has done to bring Scuba to your community to help kids celebrate friendship with God.

### Scuba Clues From Your Director



# all about my crew



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite things: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite things: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite things: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite things: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Family members: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite things: \_\_\_\_\_