

Word of God Lutheran Church

Fish Stix

MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MANUAL FOR

DIFFERENTLY-ABLED ADULTS



**Written by: Andi Laaker, Linda Peterson, Lynn Fletcher, Linda Williams,
MaryAnn Crofton, Jennifer Griffin, Marianne Roth, Sue Burnett**

Copyright © 2024 By Andi Laaker and Word of God Lutheran Church. All rights reserved.

4486 Highway 34 East
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
www.woglutheran.org

Permission is hereby granted to church staff to re-print or photocopy in program quantities the pages found in this work that carry a copyright notice, provided each copy made it shows the copyright notice. Such copies may not be sold, and further distribution is expressly prohibited. Except as authorized above, prior written permission must be obtained from the publisher to reproduce or transmit this work or portions thereof in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy or any information storage and retrieval system.

Printed in the United States of America

Fish Stix Vacation Bible School (VBS) Manual

Contents

History	3
Welcome and Introduction	4
Managing the VBS	5
Curriculum.....	5
Arrival and Opening.....	5
Skit/Bible Buddies.....	7
Crafts.....	9
Service Projects.....	13
Recreation.....	14
Quiet Room and Snacks.....	19
Schedule.....	20
Financial Information.....	21
Volunteers.....	21
Recruiting	
Volunteer Jobs	
Orientation	
Appendix.....	23
Medical Form for Participants (two-page document).....	24
Medical Form for Volunteers.....	26
At-a-Glance Medical Form.....	27
Fish Stix VBS Registration Form 2024.....	28
Fish Stix Code of Conduct (two-page document).....	29
Past Fish Stix VBS Theme Ideas.....	31
Sample VBS Skit.....	32
Word of God Lutheran Church Fish Stix Ministry Programs.....	37



Fish Stix Ministry History



The Fish Stix Ministry had a humble beginning in 2010 at Word of God Lutheran Church in Sharpsburg, Georgia. Starting as a Sunday School class, it began with two adults: one young-adult participant with special needs and one typical-adult who saw the need for a Sunday School class for the vibrant young-adult. Both participants loved music and movement. What started as a crazy idea, has led to the creation of a beautiful and meaningful ministry, thanks to the Holy Spirit's guidance. We started small. We want to encourage you and your church to start small, too. Kurt Kaiser wrote a hymn in 1969 called, "Pass it On." The hymn begins with the lyrics, "It only takes a spark to get a fire going..." This is what we believe happened with the Fish Stix Ministry. A small spark happened in 2010, and fourteen years later we are still working to "spread His love to everyone; you (we) want to pass it on."

We started by using contemporary Christian songs to teach choreographed movements using dowel rods as props. The focus of this Sunday School class was and continues to be to serve special needs adults. This ministry is a beautiful and meaningful way to interpret songs and Biblical teachings through music and movement. It is also a wonderful worship skill that helps the participants learn about God and to share His love with others.

In 2014, the ministry extended its outreach to adult members of the special needs community at large to join them. The Ministry has continued to grow and currently serves over 40 differently abled adults and families in the Coweta and Fayette County areas in Georgia. The Fish Stix Ministry is currently implementing seven programs for our participants: Sunday School Classes, Monthly Large Group Rehearsals, Friday Night Fun Night, Pathways 2 Bible Study, Fish Stix VBS, a theatre class and Joy in the Morning Jam (a new xylophone and hand-chime ensemble). Most of the programs meet once a month.

To be completely transparent, we started our VBS program (and our other programs) with a small number of participants. Not only have our numbers grown, but also our confidence to provide more comprehensive programming. We have slowly added one component of the ministry one program at a time to build worship skills and confidence in our participants and volunteers.

As the Fish Stix path has grown and changed over the years, the one thing that has not changed is the knowledge that every member is part of The Great Commission – to be disciples and tell others about Jesus. The group was inspired to name themselves the Fish Stix after hearing the Gospel of Matthew 4:18-20 where Jesus Calls His First Disciples:

Matthew 4:18-20 ¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

This ministry allows each of us – who are all differently abled – to learn a worship skill and share our love of Jesus with others. It has been such a joy for our volunteer leaders to support the participants and help them grow in their confidence and in their faith. May God bless you and your journey into ministry with individuals with unique and special needs.

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the Fish Stix Ministry and Fish Stix Vacation Bible School (VBS) Training. Our team is a group of passionate volunteers who are excited to share our ministry and programming with you. Through this training and information, we hope to encourage you to prayerfully follow the nudge of the Holy Spirit and reach out to your community of adult individuals with unique and special abilities.

This demographic group of adults is often overlooked for their capabilities. We want to encourage you to start supporting this population and work toward building relationships and getting to know these individuals, their gifts, and their unique perspectives of the world. Most of the time, you will find great faith, love, and hope in these individuals. Once you invest in this community, you will find an abundance of joy that will only benefit your community for years to come.

Fish Stix Vacation Bible School is a four evening not-so-traditional VBS model. This VBS is geared toward adults with special and unique needs. The program works to create volunteer led, age-appropriate (yet developmentally appropriate) activities and build relationships with the participants. We teach Bible stories and biblical themes through music, performing arts, craft projects, games, and service projects.

The Fish Stix VBS is led by the Fish Stix Coordinator for Word of God Lutheran Church in Sharpsburg, GA. However, the program could not be successful without our Pastor and the abilities of the 50+ volunteers that not only chaperone and participate in the four evening VBS, but also write and create the curriculum used.

Our participants and their families love this VBS. It is a well-run and well-organized four-night event. For ten years, the community has supported this VBS and its ability to offer faith-based teaching and activities during the summer.

We have put together this manual to share how we run our Fish Stix VBS. We have also included other components of the ministry programs. Please, use this manual as a guide or a “menu” from which to pick and choose for your congregational needs. We look forward to talking with your community and congregation about our programs.

Managing the VBS

Curriculum

Choosing the curriculum starts in January of each year. We gather our volunteer team and a few advisory participants together to begin the discussion of the Bible Story possibilities. We try to alternate each year between Old Testament and New Testament stories.

Once the Bible story has been chosen, the Planning Team meets one more time to discuss and choose a Bible memory verse and nightly themes. Once the memory verse and nightly themes have been chosen, each individual Team (Crafts, Service Projects, Recreation, Welcome, and Snacks) will meet, as needed, to plan their specific activities/projects. Each team gathers and purchases their own supplies.

When choosing the Bible memory verse, we use the NIRV Bible. This Bible is written with clear, concise language on a third-grade reading level. It works well with our group.

T-shirts are another integral part of VBS for both participants and volunteers. The t-shirts are designed by a member of our congregation specifically for our VBS Bible story. The \$15 registration fee helps offset the t-shirt cost for participants. The volunteer shirts are free and EVERYONE wears their shirt nightly.

Arrival and Welcome

Arrival and Welcome Guide for Fish Stix VBS Written by Linda Peterson

Guidelines for Name Tags –

- Make name tags for participants and volunteers. Not all volunteers will know each other. We use Avery name tags, and they have online templates that make it easy.
- On the name tag itself, we include the VBS t-shirt picture/logo for that year, as well as the person's name and the colored star for their group. We use red, blue, and green stars stickers.
- On the first night, the T-Shirt are bundled with the participant's name tag which makes for a smoother and easier arrival. We have the participants go into another room to put on their VBS shirt or some may just slip it on over the shirt they are wearing.
- We have found lanyard nametags holders are easier than clip-on or magnetic clear plastic holders. They are expensive but they can be reused yearly.
- Have EVERYONE (Participants and Volunteers) leave their name tags at the church EVERY night. This way, nobody forgets it or loses it, and you have the plastic holders and lanyards for next year.
- When participants are divided into groups, we put colored star stickers on the paper name tag (not the plastic holder). This way, if people in the original group get changed to a different group, the new colored star can easily be placed over the old star. Even

though we try to group the Participants according to personalities, etc., they do sometimes get changed during VBS.

- At the entrance, there should be a person in charge of checking everyone in – participants as well as volunteers. It helps to have a list already printed with names and the days as people check in. We have found it easier to have separate lists for volunteers and participants. We have discovered that it is easier to have the names alphabetized by first name, too.
- Someone should be stationed at the main entrance door at all times throughout the night. This is a safety precaution.

Sample Check In Sheet:

Name	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday

Opening

We are blessed with amazing pastoral involvement and leadership. Our Senior Pastor and our Pastor Emeritus lead the VBS Opening each night. The nightly themes are illustrated through concrete visual cues, storytelling, and videos. The videos are readily available on YouTube and other websites. The pastors use costumes, props, and role play to reinforce and illustrate the nightly themes. The participants love this time to see our Pastors use humor and storytelling techniques to build relationships with them and help the participants understand the Bible story and its themes.

See Appendix for 2024 VBS Nightly Themes

Skit/Bible Buddies

An important part of our VBS experience is our Bible Buddies skit. This is a skit that has been written specifically for our group. Our participants get to act out the Bible story in costume. Each participant (or small group) is paired with a Bible Buddy. The Bible Buddy assists the participant (or small group) with the script, reading, and moving on and off the performance area.

When writing a script, we use simple and clear language by using short sentences, active voice, and concrete words. We work to avoid complex vocabulary, idioms, and figurative language. We have use visual aids, small white boards, and pictures to help our non-verbal and quieter participants. Everyone has a role in the Bible Buddy skit.

We often make use of a "Greek Chorus" role. This "Greek Chorus" gets a repetitive chant or poem to say during the skit. We also incorporate non-pitched rhythm instruments (drum, maraca, rhythm sticks, etc.) for participants to use. This "chorus" supports our less confident speakers and participants that are shy. They can still participate without having to stand out or increase their anxiety. We try to keep this experience fun and lighthearted. The goal is the process of living and learning the Bible story. The goal is NOT to produce a perfect and polished theater production. Positive feedback and encouragement is so important during this "rehearsal" time. For most participants, this is their first time on stage and reading dialogue in front of an audience.

Depending on the length of the script, we break up learning the skit over a few nights. Sometimes, we just learn the entire skit in one night and review it subsequent evenings. We like to give the participants different opportunities to participate by assigning different roles to different individuals each evening.

Costumes

- Specialty costumes have been more cost effective to purchase (Pharaoh, Wise Men capes, King robe)
- Costumes for VBS have been made from sheets, pillowcases, pillow shams, scraps of fabric, striped broadcloth (can usually get on clearance sales), extra trim, seam binding, and thread donated from the congregation, curtains and valences from the thrift store.
- Costumes can be made to fit almost anyone regardless of height or weight. Some can be considered unisex. All costumes are worn over street clothing.
- We have found that our participants don't like costumes that must be pulled over their heads.
- The costumes need to be able to go on and off quickly. The best pattern has been a panel with opening for the head and ties at the side. Costumes that open in the back and tie also work.
- A pillowcase (full or queen size) will make two men's head pieces (see pattern). A 15-inch panel with casing sewed on one end with a plastic headband (from the Dollar store) works for a woman's head scarf.
- Rope style belts, fabric belts, easy sashes
- Sheets are much sturdier than cheap cotton fabric.



Sets

The Bible story setting can be as simple or as elaborate as your imagination can muster. Backdrops work well to create an instant “feel” for Bible Times. Over the years, we have collected several pieces of large Styrofoam insulation sheets that can be cut and painted to make rock walls and entrances to buildings, caves, or fiery furnaces. We also have palm trees that were created using long, sturdy cardboard tubes. In the top of the tube, we insert umbrellas (fabric removed and replace with felt pieces cut into leaves.) We also have “rocks” that have been formed and painted using expanding foam insulation.



Skit

See Appendix for 2024 “Joshua and the Wall of Jericho” Skit.

Crafts

Craft Projects Guide for Fish Stix VBS

Written by Lynn Fletcher, MaryAnn Crofton, and Linda Williams

Crafts provide a time for fun, self-expression, and small group interaction. Throughout the week, the time in crafts is a valuable way to reinforce the story by creating opportunities to use a variety of senses. It's important that the planning team be knowledgeable about crafts AND also willing to search for creative ways to adapt them to the cognitive levels, physical abilities, and interests of the participants.

Things To Think About Before Selecting the Crafts

Over the past ten years, we have had a planning team comprised of 3-4 volunteers each year who all enjoy and have some experience leading crafts for children or adults. We have never used a ready-made purchased craft without adaptations due to the wide variety of interests and abilities of our participants. Instead, we use many resources for ideas (such as Pinterest, Oriental Trading Company, and Christian Book Distributors), but then adapt them to our situation after we know the year's theme.

Checklist:

- ___ What is the story/theme for VBS?
- ___ How many participants are there?
- ___ Who are the participants?
- ___ What interests and abilities do they have?
- ___ What physical limitations need to be considered?
- ___ Are there any allergies that need to be considered such as food dye or latex?
- ___ How much time is being scheduled for crafts each night? How many nights?
- ___ How many breakout rooms may be used for crafts?

Choosing the Crafts

When choosing the crafts, try to relate the crafts to the theme (See examples) and be as multi-sensory as possible. Know your participants! This will guide your choices based on their interests and abilities. Our participants are adults, so strive for projects that are interesting and age appropriate. Often crafts will need to be adapted if a participant has limited vision or limited mobility with their fingers. Also, try to choose one craft which incorporates a photo of the person or group.

Timing

Knowing how much time is allowed for crafts and how many days are scheduled for your VBS will determine a lot of craft choices. At Word of God Lutheran Church, we have 30 minutes allowed for crafts for each subgroup with three separate groups rotating into each room every evening for a total of three nights. Every craft has to be able to be completed from start to finish in 30 minutes. Try them out first! You will be surprised at how many projects require more time or multiple steps which are complicated and difficult for participants to accomplish independently

in the amount of time allowed. TIP: if drying time is needed, schedule the project for the first or second night to have time for the project to dry.

Staffing

During VBS, we have found that it is best to do crafts in small groups of only 4-5 to foster conversation and friendship in a quieter, more personalized environment. The actual number of people in each small group needs to be determined by the size of the room and need for volunteer assistants. Each small group should have at least one lead volunteer from the crafts planning team and one assistant. However, some participants might also need individual assistance. Knowing the participants is important to plan for possible extra staff.

Getting Ready

For crafts to be fun and manageable, preparation is the key! Prior to the start of VBS, each subgroup room needs to be equipped with two six-foot tables, at least one large table for drying space, chairs for participants and chairs for each person to have a helper if needed. With four participants, each room would have eight chairs.

The craft team meets a day or two before the start of VBS to organize the materials. Each day's craft materials need to be separated into boxes and put in each room, so they are easy to access each night when one small group leaves and another group immediately rotates into the room. Be sure supplies include cleanup materials such as table covers, wipes for hands, and paper towels.

Prior to the beginning of VBS, the color groups of 12 participants are broken down into smaller groups of four. There are three separate classrooms of the same craft project. This allows for small group instruction and assistance. The names of the participants are posted outside each classroom door. This helps the participants and the volunteers know where each person is assigned.

It is enormously important to print out detailed instructions for each craft to guide in preparation and help the many volunteers know the process for the project. Think about every item that will be needed for the room or individual projects, and the exact steps that need to be taken for the craft to be accomplished. It helps the craft go smoothly if the instructions are consistent from group to group.

Lastly, to keep the finished crafts organized and easy to take home, it is very helpful to provide a large brown grocery bag labeled with each person's name. The bags should be kept in each subgroup room and as crafts are completed, they can be put in the person's bag. On the final night, the participants will take their bags home. TIP: Grocery stores such as Aldi or Publix will often donate these for VBS.

Final Tips

To get you started here are a few examples of techniques and projects done at Word of God Lutheran Church through the years. Have fun! We know you will be blessed and inspired as we have, by getting to know these very special people!

Some Examples of Techniques Used at VBS:

- - Shaving cream marbling on paper to make notecards or mobiles
 - - Painting with foam balls instead of brushes on canvas
 - - Wax-resist painting
 - - Painting with foam stamps on cups, plates and bowls (using Porcelain Paint which is dishwasher safe)
 - - Stickers/self-stick jewels on felt hands or picture frames
 - - Mosaics
-
- - Gluing with glue sticks and/or liquid glue applied with Q-Tips on paper or wood
 - - Filling containers with beans, rice or glitter using funnels (rain stick, Christmas ornaments)
-
- - Stencil painting on fabric bags or canvas
 - - Painting with large brushes (NOT watercolor paint or brushes)
 - - Beading (Use beads with large holes)
 - - Hammer painting
 - - Scratch art

Some Sample Crafts and Related Themes:

Theme: "Faith in the Fiery Furnace" (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego)



Theme: "Jesus Feeds 5,000"



Theme: "Shine Like the Stars" (Christmas)



Theme: "The Great Commandment" Individual Projects and Total Group Banner



Service Projects

Service Projects Guide for Fish Stix VBS **Written by Jennifer Griffin and Pam Davis**

An integral part of our Fish Stix VBS is Service Projects. We find that the participants love to be helpers and give back to the community. One of our 25-minute Group Rotations includes completing different service projects each night.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

- We have done a different project each night of VBS.
- The projects do not specifically relate to the theme.
- Volunteers are a huge part of this segment of the evening. Volunteers assist the participants with all aspects of the assembly and projects.
- Assembly goes quickly. Our challenge has always been to have enough to do for the time allowed. If you have extra time, practice the memory verse and ask questions about the Bible story.
- We've done most projects for two consecutive years. Our participants like to be challenged and prefer variety rather than the same thing every year.
- Many of our service projects require a partnership with local and national organizations. The organization supplies the materials needed for their specific project. All projects are completed at the church during VBS.
- Donations can come from the congregation (i.e.: one project used cookbooks that were donated by church members)
- Our church provides the funds for "NALC Disaster Relief Kits." The church who maintains the warehouse picks up the completed kits, so we don't have to pay to ship them.
- Projects that have been most successful involve assembly. Teams of two participants with one to two volunteers are most successful for assembly of larger projects.

Examples of Disaster Relief Projects (see North American Lutheran Church (NALC) Disaster Relief kits www.thenalc.org)

1. Towel/hygiene products
2. Kitchen items
3. School backpacks
4. Fleece quilts

Additional projects

1. "Tools for Empowerment"
Hand-tools are prepared for overseas shipping (website: www.asapempowers.org)
2. Bags with hygiene projects, either donated or purchased. Bags were given to a local mental health organization for homeless clients
3. Applied labels on food bags for Midwest Food Bank (Website: www.midwestfoodbank.org)

NALC Kitchen Kits



Tools for Empowerment



NALC Quilts



Projects that were not successful with our group:

1. Coloring placemats for a senior citizen center
2. Coloring animals stenciled on cloth backpacks
3. Coloring projects were not well received by the participants.

Recreation

Recreation Guide for Fish Stix VBS

Written by Sue Burnett and Marianne Roth

An essential piece to working with differently abled adults is knowing each individual: their interests, strengths, weaknesses and physical limitations. Knowing the characteristics of each participant will help the volunteers organize and execute appropriate games. A spreadsheet of this information is distributed to each volunteer during the volunteer orientation meeting prior to VBS.

VOLUNTEER STAFF

This portion of VBS consists of two co-leaders who work as a team. After a VBS theme is selected, the co-leaders arrange several meetings to brainstorm ideas that coordinate with that year's theme and use activities that have been successful in previous years and most importantly FUN!! Multiple games are planned each night during VBS, in case a game or games selected were not successful. Each night during VBS, we also work with five to six volunteers to support the 12 participants during this portion of the evening.

TIME

We have three 25-minute blocks of time dedicated to recreation during VBS. If at all possible, we coordinate the games/activities to the VBS theme. Depending upon the theme, some themes are easier to plan activities for than others. Some years recreation is just a time for the participants to play games, have fellowship, and always have FUN!!

There are three nights of recreation. Usually, the introduction to the parachute and other games takes a little longer the first night of VBS. The co-leaders and volunteers assess after the first evening which activities worked and which ones that did not. If there were games that the

participants were not very enthusiastic about, we adjust and add a different activity in its place the next night. On the second evening, we spend less time with the parachute and spend more time at additional, self-directed games. By the third evening, we may shorten the parachute time or play a new parachute game. The final night is reserved for relay games.

CHALLENGES

Our biggest challenge is finding games and activities that consider the participants' abilities and limitations. We have discovered that activities using a large parachute appeals to most of the participants and works well with all of their abilities. We create other choices across all skill and ability levels (i.e. a participant who is blind).

We are also aware of certain situations or pieces of equipment that may not be suitable for participants. An example: We do not use balloons. There are participants who are frightened by the potential of the balloon popping or the noise made when popped. There may be other participants, who tire easily and may need to sit out. Chairs are arranged outside of the recreation area and bottled water is always available. There are other participants who do not want to actively participate in the activities and that is perfectly fine. They may sit out and watch or they may want to sit with a volunteer (or another participant) at a table and play board games (i.e. checkers, UNO, dominos, Jenga, etc.). One last point, recreation can be very loud at times. There may also be some participants sensitive to noise and may want to go to The Quiet Room during this time.

ORGANIZATION OF RECREATION

Recreation is broken down into the following:

1. Main Activity - Parachute games between 10 and 12 minutes
2. The remainder of the time is spent with the participants choosing self-directed game(s) of their choosing (cornhole, modified bowling game, etc.)

PARACHUTE

A large parachute is a piece of equipment that we have used over the years that is very successful and involves a large group. The parachute has handles that the participants can hold onto. Our volunteers spread out evenly between the participants around the parachute. We do have participants who have a disability with grasping the handle. A volunteer assists and helps hold it for them. We begin with the Bible verse of the week (we recite the verse a couple of times), then continue with more active games. There are various activities executed that the participants enjoy.

Suggested Activities with the Parachute

1. **Bible Verse** – To help the participants learn the Bible memory verse, we stand (holding the parachute in our hand) around the parachute and recite half the Bible Verse walking to the right. Then we reverse the direction, and we recite the other half of the Bible verse walking to the left. Finally, together as a group, we lift the parachute high with arms straight and recite the book of the Bible and verse (i.e. John 1:16). We do this activity several times. This is a low energy activity.

2. **Color Exchange** – While standing, each participant is arranged evenly along the outside of the parachute holding onto a color. In preparation movement, the leader selects a color and tells the group the color. On the count of “3” everyone holding the parachute lifts the parachute high over their heads, arms straight, so the parachute fills with air. The leader calls the color again and those participants holding that color, run to an available space under the uplifted parachute. Continue this game until all colors are called. This is a minimally active game.

3. **Shakers and Chasers** - The group is divided in half. Half of the group is designated as the Shakers. This group is positioned evenly around the parachute holding it waist high. The remaining group is called the Chasers. They are positioned evenly around the outside of the parachute. An assortment of balls of varying sizes are placed onto the parachute. When the volunteer says, "GO," the Shakers try to "pop" (making big and small waves up and down motions) the balls off the parachute. The Chasers, gather as many balls as they can to put/toss/throw back onto the parachute. The allowed time for the Shakers to "pop" all the balls off the parachute is 1 minute. After one minute, if no balls remain on the parachute the Shakers win. If there are balls remaining on the parachute after one minute the Chasers win. This is a very active game.

Example of VBS Moses Theme Using The Parachute

1. **Bible verse** - "Teach me your ways Lord that I may rely on your faithfulness." Psalm 86:11
 - a. Walk to the right - "Teach me your ways Lord,
 - b. Walk to the left - that I may rely on your faithfulness."
 - c. Everyone lifts the parachute high over their heads, slowly lowers and repeats, Psalm 86:11.
2. **Make a big cloud** - Imagine we are traveling with Moses to the Red Sea and a big cloud comes over us sent by God to show us the way to go.
 - a. Everyone raise your arms high to fill the parachute with air, then count 1, 2, 3, walk towards the center, count 1, 2, 3, step back to your original place.
 - b. Color exchange game also works with this theme.
 - c. Everyone raises their arms high to fill the parachute. Once the parachute is completely filled with air on the count of 3 everyone lets go of the parachute at the same time to allow the parachute to float away.
3. **Making waves** - Imagine Pharaoh's army approaching Moses and the Israelites. The participants make smaller to bigger waves with the parachute.
4. **Popping Balls**
 - a. Add white balls to the parachute to symbolize the waves on the Red Sea.
 - b. Add fish (soft/foam like), to the parachute we see fish as the Red Sea parts.
 - c. Add colored balls to the parachute symbolize the crashing waves.
 - d. Continue the above on the second night, add manna (soft foam bread).
 - e. Continue the above on the third night, add Mt. Sinai (Styrofoam rocks)
 - f. The finale is making lots and lots of big and small waves to "pop" all the objects off the parachute.
 - g. Dollar Tree has inexpensive laundry baskets which make collecting the objects very easy.

ADDITIONAL GAME IDEAS AFTER PARACHUTE ACTIVITY

Corn Hole

Equipment

Corn Hole platforms, bean bags, masking/painter's tape

Method

1. Two corn hole platforms are placed side-by-side.
2. Painter's tape is used on the carpeting to create a "Stand Here" line from which to toss the bean bags.
3. Each participant gets three bean bags.
4. Scoring is optional.
5. Cheering is encouraged!
6. The participants can play as long as they like.

7. We do not keep score. This group is highly competitive, and it is best to emphasize just having fun together.

Bowling

Equipment

Plastic bowling set. (We have recently purchased an inflatable bowling set to use.)

Method

1. We arrange two crates/boxes one on top of the other. This is to protect the walls.
2. Place five bowling pins inside the top crate and the remaining five pins inside the lower crate.
3. Place painter's tape on the carpet for a line to toss from.
5. Give each player two to three tries to knock the pins down.

Fishing Game

Equipment

One round table covered in a blue/aquatic tablecloth, laminated fish shapes with magnets, attributes written on one side, fishing poles with magnets at the end of the line, large portable or wall mounted dry erase board.

Method

We used this game with the VBS theme "The Good Samaritan."

- a. Each fish had a trait of a "Good Samaritan."
- b. On the dry erase board columns were arranged to list the various traits (i.e. kind, good, loving, caring, helpful, etc.).
- c. Each time a participant "hooked" a fish (the trait was on the downside of the fish), the player placed the fish on the board under the appropriate trait.
- d. Keep fishing until all the fish are "caught."

Ring Toss

Equipment

Dollar Store hula hoops, inflatable object (example: tree, snowman, etc.) to ring or another object to ring (could even be a stool or a chair).

A smaller version of this game could be placed on a table with pool rings to toss over 2-liter plastic drink bottles.

Pong Bounce

Equipment

Two rectangular tables placed side-by-side, four pool noodles, four buckets, sixty ping pong balls

Set Up

The pool noodles are taped (packing tape) on the long sides of both tables.

A bucket is taped at each end of both tables.

Method

1. Sixty ping pong balls (two colors, one for each team/table) placed in the starting buckets (30 each).
2. Group is divided into two lines. Each line is in front of their table.
3. On the signal, "GO," each participant gets **one** ping pong ball and tries to make a "bucket," at the end of their table. They can roll, toss or bounce the ping pong ball. After their turn, they go to the end of the line. The game goes fast!
4. When all the balls have been tossed, the team that has the most balls in their bucket wins.

5. This game can also be played individually or with a smaller group to see if they can get five ping pong balls in their bucket.
6. This is a very fast paced game.

Bean Bag Relay Over/Under - Pass the Manna

Equipment

Twelve bean bags, three laundry baskets

Method

1. The group of twelve is divided into three groups of four.
2. Each group of four creates a line, one behind each other.
3. A player who needs assistance is placed at the front of the line with a volunteer to assist them.
4. A laundry basket is placed at the end of each line.
5. When the leader says, "GO!" the first person in line hands the person behind them a bean bag over their head.
6. The next person in line hands the bean bag between their legs to the person behind them. And so on.
7. The team that gets all their bean bags in their laundry basket first wins!
8. This relay can be modified, by having each participant just hands the bean bag to the person behind them.

Bean Bag Relay with Bean Bag on Head - Race to the Bread Basket

Equipment

Bean bags, laundry baskets

1. Another variation is to have the laundry basket placed at a reasonable distance in front of each line.
2. Painter's tape is used to create a starting point.
3. Each participant has a bean bag and when the leader says, "GO!" the participant places the bean bag on their head and walks over to their basket.
4. Once the player gets close to their basket, they lean over their laundry basket to drop their bean bag off their head into the basket.
5. Then they run to the end of their line.
6. The team that drops all their bean bags in the basket wins!

Both these bean bag games were played during a Moses themed VBS. The bean bags were a tan/brownish color to symbolize manna.



The Quiet Room

For some participants, excessive noise and stimulation is overwhelming. The Quiet Room is staffed by a nurturing volunteer. The Quiet Room has lamps and comfortable seating. There are also quiet games, puzzles, coloring books, and pencils available. Participants are allowed to spend as much time as they need in the room.

Snacks

Our snacks have evolved over the years. When we started, we used to put together a full spread of appetizers and sweets treats. We have learned, once again, that smaller is better. We currently offer one choice of snack on the way out the door with a small bottle of water.

Water is offered at different "stations" found throughout the church. We have a large supply of small, 4-ounce, water bottles. Most participants do not want to have cold water. Room temperature water is desired.

A few of our participants need to use straws or hard cups to drink. This is not a problem. We let the group leaders and key volunteers know where to find the necessary items so that it doesn't disrupt the flow of the evening for the participants.

Nightly Schedules

Nightly schedules, group lists, and Bible Memory verse passages are posted throughout the building.

Schedule Night 1, 2, & 3 (Sample)

5:00-5:30	Volunteer Arrival	Volunteer Sign In		
5:30-6:00	Participants Arrive	Participant Sign In		
6:00-6:15	Music	ALL		
6:15-6:35	Bible Study, Video			
6:35-7:30	Skit			
		SERVICE	CRAFT	RECREATION
7:30-7:55	Small Group Rotation	GREEN TEAM	BLUE TEAM	RED TEAM
7:55-8:20	Small Group Rotation	BLUE TEAM	RED TEAM	GREEN TEAM
8:20-8:40	Small Group Rotation	RED TEAM	GREEN TEAM	BLUE TEAM
8:40-9:00	Music, Bible Study Review, Blessing	ALL		

Schedule Night 4 (Sample)

5:00-5:30	Volunteer Arrival	Volunteer Sign In	
5:30-6:00	Participants Arrive	Participant Sign In	
6:00-6:15	Music	ALL	
6:15-6:35	Bible Study, Memory Verse, Video Review		
6:35-7:45	Skit (Rehearse, Present)		
7:45-7:50	Craft Highlights		
7:50-7:55	Service Highlights		
7:55-8:00	Recreation Highlights		
8:00-8:15	Pins, Blessing		
8:15-9:00	ICE CREAM SOCIAL	FELLOWSHIP HALL - ALL	

Financial Information

Our volunteer team loves frugality! Recently, our budget for VBS has run about \$3500 for 36 participants. Some people like to donate their VBS supplies. They are still asked to submit their contributions so that a true picture of the expenses can be noted which assists with planning for the budgeting.

Our largest expense comes from the t-shirts. Last year our T-shirt cost was almost \$1400. We do charge a nominal registration fee of \$15 to cover the cost of the participants' t-shirts. However, our volunteers love the t-shirts, too. We do not charge our volunteers for their shirts; it is a gift to them for their time.

Volunteers

Recruiting volunteers

Volunteer recruiting starts in May. We utilize sign up posters, verbal announcements, newsletter, and bulletin announcements to let volunteers know when they are needed.

Volunteer Jobs – *Volunteers are not signing up for leadership positions. All leadership positions are filled by the VBS Leadership Team.*

Welcoming and Arrival – This volunteer welcomes participants and their parents and caregivers and creates the nametags.

Security – These volunteers stand near the entry doors.

Small Group Escorts – These volunteers lead the groups from activity to activity. Ideally, six needed would help with this.

Service Project Activity – These volunteers add extra hands to assist with the assembling the projects. (6 needed)

Craft Projects Activity – These volunteers add extra hands to assist with the craft projects (3-5 needed)

Recreation – These volunteers add extra hands to assist with the games and activities (6 needed)

Snack Team – These volunteers work together to gather & assembling snacks (1-2 needed)

Decorating Team – These volunteers help make our Sanctuary space look festive for the skit and Bible theme. (All hands on-deck.)

Costumers – These volunteers assist with aiding the participants put on and take off the costumes for the skit. (6-8 needed)

Music Leaders - These volunteers help choose music and lead the music and song movements. (1-2 needed)

Bible Buddies – These volunteers “shadow” each participant and assist with reading the skit and moving around the stage. production (10+ needed, all hands on-deck!)

Quiet Room – This volunteer monitors the Quiet Room and offers a quiet space for self-regulation for the participants.

Nurse - This volunteer is a qualified medical person. They are available for first aid and assist if any special medical needs arise.

Volunteer Coordinator – This volunteer assists volunteers with feeling involved and part of the VBS Team. They are “cheerleaders” for the volunteers and make sure everyone is feeling included and useful during VBS.

Volunteer Orientation

The Sunday before VBS starts, we begin our set-up immediately following our Worship Service. We host a lunch (pizza or sandwiches) for our volunteers and have our Orientation that day. The Orientation usually lasts about an hour. This is the time to share the nightly themes, schedule, groupings, participants' special needs (confidentiality is emphasized), and any other information needed. Volunteer t-shirts are handed out at this time.

Planning Timeline

Late January – VBS Leadership Team meets to begin planning

March, April – VBS Leadership Team meets to finalize plans

April-May – Individual teams meet to discuss and create their projects and gather/purchase materials

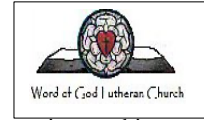
May - Participant Registration and Volunteer sign-ups begin

June – Final Plans (order t-shirts, gather supplies, tie-up last minute loose ends)

**Appendix –
Forms and Information**

Medical Forms for Participants

Word of God Lutheran Church
Fish Stix Health History and Activity Consent Form



The Fish Stix staff, volunteer group leaders, and nurse will ensure that the information on this form remains as confidential as possible. Forms will be securely shredded at the conclusion of program year or at the request of the participant or guardian. You may provide a photocopy of your insurance card.

PARTICIPANT

Full Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____
(Name) (Relationship) (Phone)

Birth Date: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Participant Email: _____
(If different from the above)

Participant Phone: _____
(If different from the above)

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS (Please provide as much information as possible)

What situations/food/activities may cause the participant to become upset or stressed? _____

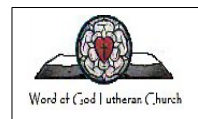
What behaviors will the participant demonstrate when they are upset or stressed? _____

What will calm the participant when they are upset or stressed? _____

Additional information about behaviors to assist our volunteers when working with the Fish Stix Participant: _____

_____ Form Review by parent/guardian (Fall, 2024) Revised August, 2023

Word of God Lutheran Church
Fish Stix Health History and Activity Consent Form



HEALTH

Physician:

_____ (Name) _____ (Phone)

Food Allergies/Sensitivities: _____

Drug Allergies: _____

Physical Limitations: _____

List existing diagnoses, medical conditions, or illnesses (including heart conditions, asthma diabetes, epilepsy, etc.) and treatment for each:

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT (Please Read):

I understand that participation in the activity involves a certain degree of risk. I have carefully considered the risk involved and have given consent for the participant to participate in the activity. I understand that participation in the activity is entirely voluntary and requires participants to abide by applicable rules and standards of conduct. I release word of God Lutheran Church, Sharpsburg, Georgia, the activity coordinator(s), and all employees, volunteers, and related parties from all claims or liability arising out of this participation. In case of emergency involving the participant, I understand every effort will be made to contact me or my designated emergency contact. In the event I cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to the medical providers, selected by the adult leader in charge, to secure proper treatment - including hospitalization, anesthesia, surgery, or injections of medication for my child. Medical providers are authorized to disclose to the adult in charge examination findings, test results, and treatment provided for purposes of medical evaluation of the participant and communication with the participants parents or guardian, and or determination of the participants liability to continue in the program activities.

Participant's name _____
(printed)

Participants signature _____

Parent/guardian's name _____
(printed)

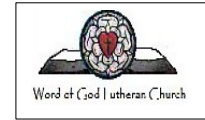
Parent/guardian signature _____

_____ Form Review by parent/guardian (Fall, 2024)

Revised August, 2023

Medical Forms for Volunteers

Word of God Lutheran Church
VOLUNTEER, 2024



Fish Stix Health History and Activity Consent Form

The Fish Stix staff and nurse will ensure that the information on this form remains as confidential as possible. PLEASE PLACE THIS FORM IN A SEALED ENVELOPE LABELED WITH YOUR NAME & BRING IT WITH YOU ON THE FIRST DAY OF VBS.

You may provide a photocopy of your insurance card.

VOLUNTEER

Full Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

(Name) (Relationship) (Phone)

Birth Date: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

HEALTH

Physician:

(Name) (Phone)

Food Allergies/Sensitivities: _____

Drug Allergies: _____

Physical Limitations: _____

List existing diagnoses, medical conditions, or illnesses (including heart conditions, asthma diabetes, epilepsy, etc.) and treatment for each:

—

At-a-Glance Medical Form

VBS Participant Quick Reference Guide

Fish Stix 2024

Name	Diagnosis	Allergy	Meds	Special Info	Ways to Sooth

VBS Registration Form



Word of God Lutheran Church
Invites you to our 10th Annual Fish Stix Vacation Bible School
“Joshua and the Wall of Jericho”

Come explore the Old Testament story of Joshua and the Wall of Jericho with us. We will be exploring the themes of courage, obedience, and faith.

There will be Bible lessons, skit rehearsals, music, crafts, recreation fun, service projects, fellowship, and snacks!

Date: July 9-12, 2024 (Tuesday – Friday)

(Friends and family are invited to join us on Friday for our skit presentation, weekly wrap-up, and ice cream social.)

Time: 6:00 – 9:00 pm (drop off as early as 5:45 pm) **Location & Mailing Address:**

Word of God Lutheran Church
4486 Hwy 34 E, Sharpsburg, Ga 30277

Cost: \$15 per person (includes a t-shirt & supplies)

Please make checks payable to

Word of God Lutheran Church (drop off or mail) OR pay online at www.woglutheran.org. You can find the GIVE button on the top of homepage. On the “give” page, find the Fish Stix/Pathways2 photo and click on that and follow the prompts to pay your registration fee. Sign up ASAP! There are only 36 spots to be filled.

Registration Form:

Name of Participant _____ Age _____

Adult t-shirt size (circle one) S – M – L – XL – XXL

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Contact phone _____

_____ Email _____

Contact: Andi Laaker, Fish Stix Coordinator (Fishstix@woglutheran.org) (678) 857-8991 (call or text) or Colleen Oakes (WOG Administrator wogadmin@woglutheran.org) (770) 897-4508

Please return **THIS FORM & fee (\$15.00/person)** to Word of God Lutheran Church no later than **June 1, 2024**. *Current Medical Forms on file from FISHSTIX will be used & will be treated as confidential. New Fish Stix participants must complete the Medical form (to be provided after registration). Current Fish Stix participants: Please advise us of health updates and/or new information that will assist us with your Participant’s experience.

Code of Conduct Form

Fish Stix Ministry Behavior Policy

All Fish Stix Participants and Volunteers agree to the following:

Citizenship at Events

I will practice good citizenship. (Example: showing kindness and gentleness)
I will act in ways that bring respect to me, volunteers, and staff of the Fish Stix Ministry.
I will use kind words.
I will not swear or insult other people.
I will not fight with others.
I will not harm myself and/or others (participants, volunteers, or staff).
Cell phones will be used for emergencies only.

Citizenship at Rehearsals

I will do my best to learn at each rehearsal, ask questions, and ask for help.
I will listen to the staff and volunteers and ask questions when I do not understand.
I will always try my best during rehearsals and presentations.
Cell phones will be used for emergencies only.

Responsibility for My Actions

While representing the WOG Lutheran Church (WoGLC) Fish Stix Ministry in the community,

I will not participate in PDA (Public Displays of Affection);
I will not drink alcohol, smoke, vape, or take illegal drugs;
I will obey all laws of my city, county, and country.

Sequence of Consequences:

1st Offense: The Participant will be removed from the situation and leadership will be notified.
There will be a discussion with the Participant, the Parent/Guardian, Program/Event Leader, and the Pastor of Word of God Lutheran Church. *

2nd Offense: The Participant will be removed from the situation and leadership will be notified.
There will be a discussion with the Participant, the Parent/Guardian, Program/Event Leader, and the Pastor of Word of God Lutheran Church. *
There will be a one time event suspension from the program.

3rd Offense: The Participant will be removed from the situation and leadership will be notified.
There will be a discussion with the Participant, the Parent/Guardian, Program/Event Leader, and the Pastor of Word of God Lutheran Church.
Following the previous discussions/decisions, there will be an extended period of suspension from the programming (or possible expulsion) as determined by Word of God Lutheran Church Staff and Volunteer Leaders.

***In the event of dangerous or harmful behavior, leadership will move to the 3rd Consequence.**

PLEASE RETURN PAGE 2 WITH YOUR VBS REGISTRATION.

Fish Stix Ministry 2024-2025

Code of Conduct Form page 2

**PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET WITH THE
FISH STIX VBS REGISTRATION**

I have read the WoGLC Fish Stix Behavior Policy and understand that if I do not obey this Behavior Policy, my ability to participate in the Fish Ministry will be modified and/or prohibited. See the aforementioned **Sequence of Consequences**.

Please sign to show that you have read and understand the Behavior Policy.

NAME (printed) _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (printed) _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE RETURN PAGE 2 WITH YOUR VBS REGISTRATION.

Fish Stix Ministry 2024-2025

Past VBS Themes

Bible Story Scripts Available

- 2015 - Journey with Daniel
- 2016 - Jesus Calls the First Disciples
- 2017 - Faith in the Fiery Furnace
- 2018 - Jesus Feeds the 5,000
- 2019 - Noah
- 2020 - Jesus Calms the Storm
- 2021 - Christmas in July (Shine Like the Stars)
- 2022 - Exodus and the 10 Commandments
- 2023 - The Good Samaritan
- 2024 - Joshua and the Walls of Jericho

Fish Stix VBS Skit

“Welcome to the Promised Land: Joshua and the Walls of Jericho” VBS Skit 2024

Cast: (11 speaking roles)

God	Priest # 3
Man	Priest # 4
Joshua	Priest # 5
Spy # 1	Priest # 6
Spy # 2	Priest # 7
Priest # 1	Army/God's People (Israelites) Greek Chorus
Priest # 2	Israelite (in the Greek Chorus)

Narrator: In 2022, our Fish Stix VBS was focused on Moses and the 10 Commandments. Raise your hand if you remember that story? (*raise hands*)

Well, this year, we are continuing the Israelites journey in the Old Testament. Sadly, after wandering in the desert for 40 years, Moses doesn't get to continue with the Israelites. Moses has died, and a new leader has been chosen by God. This man is named Joshua.

(GOD IS ON THE S.R. ALTAR, JOSHUA IS S.R. ON THE FLOOR)

God: Moses is gone. I will dry up the Jordan River so you can take the Israelites into the Promised Land. Get ready!

Joshua: Yes, God. I will obey.

God: Just as I was with Moses, I will be with you. I will not leave you. Be strong and brave. Go!

Joshua: Yes, God. I will obey.

Narrator: With God's help, Joshua led the Israelites to the Promised Land to a city called Jericho. The city was protected by high, thick walls. The walls were so thick that there were houses built inside of them. The Israelites couldn't go over them or dig under them or even go through them.

Greek Chorus: (Chant Style: Going on a Bear Hunt – steady beat, call and response)

We're going to the Promised Land. (*We're going to the Promised Land.*)

We're going to obey God. (*We're going to obey God.*)

We're not scared! (*We're not scared!*)

We've got faith! (*We've got faith!*)

Israelite: Uh-oh! A wall!
A really big wall!

Greek Chorus:

Can't go over it. (*Can't go over it.*)

Can't go under it. (*Can't dig under it.*)

Can't go through it. (*Can't go through it.*)

Israelite: What are we going to do?

(Joshua thinks...<long pause>...)

Narrator: Joshua had an idea. He sent some spies into the city to check it out. **(ENTER SPIES – FROM SL – THEY LOOK AT THE WALL AS THEY WALK BY IT AND CROSS TO JOSHUA)**

Joshua: Well, what do you think of the city?

Spy #1: The walls are really high and really thick.

Spy #2: Really high and really thick.

Spy #1: The people that live there are NOT very nice.

Spy #2: NOT very nice at all.

Spy #1: Some people wanted to kill us.

Spy #2: Yeah, kill us.

Joshua: Well, that isn't a shock. People don't want us here.

Spy #1: There was a really nice lady.

Spy #2: A really nice lady.

Spy #1: Her name was Rahab.

Spy #2: Rahab.

Spy #1: When the king of Jericho came after us, she helped protect us.

Spy #2: Yes, she did.

Spy #1: We told her that we would protect her.

Joshua: That sounds like a good plan.

(SPIES EXIT TO ARMY – S.R. – IN FELLOWSHIP HALL)

Narrator: After the people of Israel celebrated Passover and their prayers were finished, Joshua lifted his eyes and saw a man standing near him with his sword drawn. Joshua asked:

(JOSHUA MOVES S.L., MAN ENTERS S.L.)

Joshua: Are you on our side or on our enemies' side?

Man: I am on God's side. You are standing on God's Holy Ground.

Joshua: (*falling to the ground in prayer*) What does God want me to do? I will obey Him.

Man: You must march around the city one time each day for 6 days. Seven priests will play instruments.

Joshua: Is that all? That sounds easy.

Man: On the seventh day, you will march around the city 7 times playing instruments. When everyone hears the sound of the horn, all the people will shout, and the walls of the city will fall down flat.

Joshua: I will go tell God's people what you have said. We can do this!

Narrator: So, Joshua went to the Israelites and told them the plan.

(JOSHUA GOES S.R. AND OPENS THE FELLOWSHIP HALL DOORS)

(PRIESTS ARE IN FRONT OF THE ARMY OF GOD'S PEOPLE- THEY MOVE INTO THE SANCTUARY FROM S.R.- ARMY FOLLOWS)

Joshua: Ok, everyone! Listen Up! God is with us. He has given us a plan! We must be strong and brave!

God's Army, line up. *(Army lines up)*

God's Priests, line up. *(Priests line up)*

God's people, line up. *(God's people line up)*

Here is the plan. We are going to march around the city one time each day for 6 days.

Priest #1: Did you say 6 times a day?

Joshua: No. I said one time each day for 6 days.

Priest #1: Ok. Thank you for clarifying. That sounds easy.

Joshua: But wait, there's more.

Priest #2: More? How much more?

Joshua: Each time we march around the city, we have to play instruments.

Priest #2: Instruments? I didn't bring mine.

Priest #3: I forgot mine, too.

Joshua: Don't worry. I have one for you. *(Everyone gets out their kazoo)* There is **ONE** important detail you can't forget. We cannot talk while we are walking.

Priest #4: What? We can't talk? Are you sure?

Joshua: That is correct. We can only play the instruments.

Priest #5: Ok, if you say so. Did you hear that, people. Joshua said we can't talk.

Joshua: I didn't say so. God told me to tell you.

Priest #5: I guess we can do that. Can you all be quiet?

(People respond nodding their heads "yes")

Joshua: Are you ready to hear the rest of the plan?

Priest #6: Wait! There's more?

Joshua: Yes, there's more. On the 7th day, we have to march around the city 7 times. On the 7th time, we have to play our instruments and when the horn blows EVERYONE must shout.

Priest #6: A horn? What horn?

Joshua: It is a special horn called a SHOFAR.

Priest #7: We have to shout, too? What are we supposed to shout?

Joshua: I don't know. I guess we could say, "God is with us."

Priest #7: Ok, everyone. Let's practice.

Joshua: SHHH! NO PRACTICE NEEDED! Not yet. Not until the 7th day.

Narrator: So the people prepared for their mission. They wanted to be strong and brave, and they wanted to obey God.

Greek Chorus: (Chant Style: Going on a Bear Hunt – steady beat, call and response)

We're going to the Promised Land. (*We're going to the Promised Land.*)

We're going to obey God. (*We're going to obey God.*)

We're not scared! (*We're not scared!*)

We've got faith! (*We've got faith!*)

Israelite: Uh-oh! A wall!

A really big wall!

Greek Chorus:

Can't go over it. (*Can't go over it.*)

Can't go under it. (*Can't dig under it.*)

Can't go through it. (*Can't go through it.*)

We have to march around it (*We have to march around it*)

And blow our horns. (*And blow our horns.*)

We're going to the Promised Land. (*We're going to the Promised Land.*)

We're going to obey God. (*We're going to obey God.*)

We're not scared! (*We're not scared!*)

We've got faith! (*We've got faith!*)

We've got faith! (*We've got faith!*)

(THE PRIESTS AND THE ARMY BEGIN MARCHING AROUND THE WALL.)

Narrator: On the 7th day, God's army started marching around Jericho. (**Everyone starts marching, blowing their kazoo**) On the 7th time around, the horn blew loud and long (**Trumpet blows**). Everyone shouted:

ALL: God is with us!

Narrator: Then the walls of Jericho came crashing down flat. The Israelites army rushed in and took over the city. The spies kept their promise and Rahab and her family were saved.

Joshua and God's people showed **that they were BRAVE** by **OBEYING** God and having **FAITH** in His promise. This story is a great reminder that we need to trust in God; He always fulfills His promises.

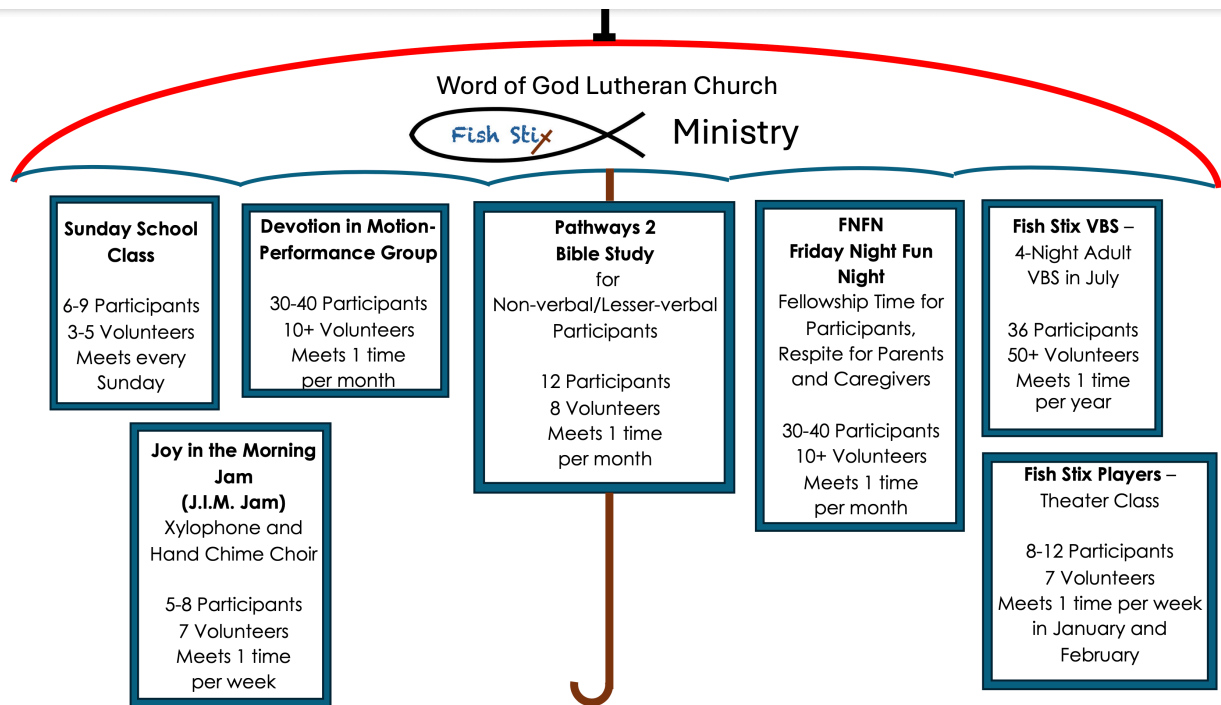
We are reminded of this in our Bible memory verse:

Joshua 1:9 "This is what I am commanding you to do: Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid; do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God, I will be with you everywhere you go."
Amen.

.....
Props Needed:

- Kazoos
- Shofar or trumpet (Jennifer G. has a shofar (animal horn) to use for the skit, Pastor Jason has a trumpet)
- Boxes to make the wall
- Rhythm instruments
- Sign: WELCOME TO THE PROMISE LAND

Fish Stix Ministry Programs



Friday Nite Fun Night

Outdoor games (basketball, corn hole, Badminton, volleyball, lawn darts, Frisbee, bocce, lawn bowling)

- Music to allow for dancing
- Table with board games
- Smores – fire pit for melting marshmallows and graham cracker cookies with chocolate on underside and drizzle on top. We get the gluten free cookies. Melt the marshmallows and smash between 2 cookies. Minimal mess. No one likes to be sticky all night! No other snacks are needed. We also provide only water to drink.
- Everyone sits around the fire at the end of the session for campfire songs and stories
- Allow participants to play the games they want to play, as unstructured as possible. Some participants will need direction and/or a buddy for the entire night.

Indoor games and suggested activities

- Karaoke (send in songs ahead of time)
- Talent show
- Bingo with simple prizes (small bags of popcorn, chips, cookies)
- Board games
- Dancing, dance class
- Movie night

Samaritans' Purse Christmas Boxes

- Requested donations from the congregation, designating which age groups (we usually pack boxes for the 10-14 age group) and giving suggestions for items
- We purchase deflated soccer balls and a ball pump for the bulk of our boxes

- Set up in an assembly line format with plenty of space between each different type of item. Minimizes confusion about which items go in each box. Separate assembly tables for boys and girls
- Label boxes with boys and girls ahead of time
- Give simple instructions. We have found that our participants prefer to know exactly which items per box rather than deciding which items per box
- Some will need one on one help, sometimes teams of 2 can work. Some participants really like to help others and can team up with a less dexterous participant. Good supervision of each group is very important
- Encourage volunteers to help participants pack the boxes without doing it for them



Fish Stix: Devotion in Motion

- This is our large group that learns choreography to songs (with and without dowel rods).
- This group meets once a month for 1.5 hours to rehearse the movements.
- This group shares this worship skill in the community by visiting churches and events in the local area.

Pathways 2 Bible Study

- This is a small group (maximum 12 participants) of our lesser verbal and nonverbal participants that meets once a month.
- This group is a Bible study group that utilizes different techniques and modalities to communicate the Bible story through videos, songs, crafts, and Bible story retelling with pictures.

If you have questions or would like more information about our Fish Stix Programs, please reach out to Andi Laaker, Fish Stix Ministry Coordinator at wogfishstix@gmail.com