

The Littlest Dippers: Teaching Babies, Ones and Twos in VBS Conference

Purpose Statement

This 45 minute plan is designed to prepare leaders of babies, ones and twos leaders conducting VBS using LifeWay's *Galactic Starveyors* materials.

Resources to Collect, Prepare, & Copy

Resources to Collect

1. Welcome and Introduction
 - Enhanced CD from the *VBS 2017 Babies, 1s and 2s Leader Pack*
 - CD Player
2. Gazing at the Resources
 - VBS 2017 Babies-2s Leader Guide
 - VBS 2017 Babies-2s Leader Pack
 - VBS 2017 Preschool Keepsake Book
 - 11 pieces of white heavy weight paper
 - Permanent marker
 - Tape
 - Paper for printing items from the Enhanced CD
 - Binder
3. Journey Through the Activities
 - Painters' tape (or crepe paper streamers)
 - Ruler
 - Permanent marker
 - Supplies for 9 activities selected from the VBS 2017 Babies-2s leader guide
4. Conclusion
 - No supplies needed

Resources to Prepare

1. Welcome and Introduction
 - No preparation necessary.
2. Studying the Resources (20 min.)
 - Print and cut 9 copies of the star pattern (*item 1*) on heavy weight paper.
 - With a permanent marker, write each phrase below on a star:
 - Leader Guide
 - Teacher Tips
 - Bible Content
 - Theme Activities and Recreation
 - Music and Movement

- Leader Pack
 - Enhanced CD
 - Preschool Keepsake Book
 - Continue the Connection
 - Attach the stars to the focal wall with the words facing the wall (or blank side facing the group) in the design shown on the handout.
 - Print and cut out the two icons (*Item 2*) on heavy weight white paper.
 - Print items from the Enhanced CD and place in a binder.
3. Journey Through the Activities
- Select and prepare 9 activities from the leader guide and leader pack to show the conferees.
 - Cut 9 pieces of painters' tape in the following lengths: 5-6 inch pieces, 2-12 inch pieces and 2-18 inch pieces.
 - Write the name of one of the 9 selected activities on each piece painters' tape with a permanent marker.
4. Conclusion
- No preparation needed.

Resources to Copy

- Handout (one for each conferee)

Focal Wall Description

Attach the stars to the focal wall with tape in the design shown on the handout.

Room Setup Description

Set 2 long tables beside the focal wall and cover it with a VBS 2017 Tablecloth. Display the VBS resources, and activities prepared from the VBS 2017 Babies, 1s and 2s leader guide and leader pack.

Decoration Suggestions

Hang the *VBS 2017 Star Curtain* in the doorway. Place the *VBS 2017 Visual Pack*, *VBS 2017 Wall Art*, and *VBS 2017 Decoration Punch-outs* around the room on the walls and door.

Audio Visual Needs

- CD player

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome and Introduction (5 minutes)
 - Play music from the *VBS 2017 Babies, 1s and 2s Leader Pack* as conferees arrive.
 - Welcome the conferees and encourage them to think about why they feel VBS for babies, 1s and 2s is important. Ask them to share their thoughts with a person near them. Ask a couple to share their answers aloud with the group.
 - Remind them of the importance of teaching babies, ones and twos during VBS. We are doing much more than babysitting. Not only are spiritual foundations being laid, basic Bible truths taught, but families are being impacted through teachers. Share

with the conferees during the conference, we will examine tools to equip them as they teach the “Littlest Dippers” in *Galactic Starveyors* about the God of the universe.

2. Gazing at the Resources (20 min.)

Say, “Let’s go gaze through the resources to help us learn more about the resources we’ll use as we teach babies-2s.” As you discuss each topic, turn around the corresponding star on the focal wall, displaying the resource being discussed. Share the information under each point as time allows.

- Leader Guide
 - Demonstrate the “flip” aspect of the book and the ease of holding it in your hand or propping it up on a changing table or cabinet.
 - Each teacher needs a leader guide. They are available in print or digitally.
 - Show how the guide is broken down into 5 sections:
 - Teacher Tips
 - Bible Content
 - Theme Activities and Recreation
 - Music and Movement
 - Continue the Connection

Say, “Now let’s gaze at more stars and look at the different parts of the leader guide.”

- Teacher Tips
 - This section encourages the teacher to familiarize herself with the leader guide, pack, Preschool Keepsake Book and enhanced CD.
 - Helps teachers know how to plan, organize and teach.
 - This section includes: (briefly discuss each as time allows)
 - Tips on choosing activities-how many and how often.
 - a. Reassure the group not every activity has to be taught.
 - b. Help them know they need to choose with the kids in their classrooms in mind.
 - c. Remind them that flexibility is key with this age group. Sometimes, plans will change...even in the middle of an activity!
 - A sample schedule
 - a. Briefly discuss that for young babies, the schedule is determined by the needs of the child.
 - b. Remind conferees that if nothing is planned, then nothing will happen.
 - Safety and security tips
 - a. Stress the fact that even though the families of these young preschoolers in their classes are more than likely members of your church, security is still extremely important during VBS.
 - b. Whatever security system your church uses, use it faithfully and consistently.
 - c. Remind conferees to always have two adults (18 and older) in each classroom.
 - Hygiene tips
 - a. Inform the group that guidelines for hygiene can be found on the enhanced CD.
 - b. Briefly discuss other hygiene points listed in the guide.

- Snack tips
 - a. Remind conferees that snacks for this age group may be determined by what the parents send with their children (depending on each church's policy.)
 - b. Make sure teachers are aware of any allergies or possible choking hazards.
- Bible content
 - The overarching content is the same as the 3s through Kindergarten.
 - Emphasize the content is handled in an age-appropriate way for this age group.
 - Share that *Today's Point* on each day is the goal for the session. This is what we want kids to know at the end of the day.
 - Stress that the *Christ Connection* is for the teacher-not the preschoolers.
 - Note there are Bible story points for Babies-Younger 1s as well as a very short story for Older 1s and 2s.
 - There is also a page called "Bible Story Plus" that will give tips for telling the Bible story as well as some activities for an abbreviated group time for 2s.
 - Point out that Bible activities provided are designed to specifically go with each day's Bible story.
 - The Bible verse is age appropriate for babies-2s. It is shorter than 3s-kindergarten's verse.
 - Bible Verse: "God made everything." Colossians 1:15-16
 - The Bible story on Day 4 is different than the other ages.
 - If conferees have not been to an overview of the biblical content, share the five stories and daily points with the group.
 - Day 1:
 - Bible Story: In the Beginning (Genesis 1:1-2, 26-31; John 1:1,14)
 - Today's Point: God created me to love Him.
 - Day 2:
 - Bible Story: God Is Still in Charge (Genesis 3)
 - Today's Point: God will always love me, even when I make wrong choices.
 - Day 3:
 - Bible Story: God Sent Jesus (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 2:22-38)
 - Today's Point: God promised to send His Son, Jesus.
 - Day 4:
 - Bible Story: God Had a Plan for Jesus (Matthew 26:17-30)
 - Today's Point: God had a special plan for Jesus.
 - Day 5:
 - Bible Story: God Is Always with Us (John 21:1-19; Acts 1:4,8)

- Today's Point: God promises to help me.
 - Theme Activities and Recreation
 - Explain that these activities are used in addition to the Bible activities and can be incorporated into any day of the week.
 - Show the two icons printed. Also, show the icons in the leader guide: one indicates which activities might be repeated during the week and the other communicates the activity uses the Preschool Keepsake Book.
 - Show the Recreation Ideas page that will provide fun recreation activities suitable for this age group.
 - Music and Movement
 - This section includes words to the music on the CD as well as additional songs sung to familiar tunes.
 - As time allows, play one or two of the songs from the CD.
 - Option: Maybe sing one of the familiar tune songs.
- Share, "As we continue to gaze at stars, let's look at the leader pack."
- Leader Pack
 - Bible story pictures
 - Games
 - Puzzles
 - Each class needs a leader pack.
 - Before cutting an item, make sure to check both sides since some items are printed on the back of others.
 - Enhanced CD
 - The Enhanced CD comes in the leader pack
 - Remind the conferees the CD has music and documents.
 - The Teacher Devotions are on the Enhanced CD for Babies-2s
 - Refer to the notebook with the items on the CD printed. Show some of the documents to the group.
 - Pass around the binder with the CD documents for conferees to see.
 - Preschool Keepsake Book
 - The Keepsake Book is used as the Babies-2s learner piece.
 - Help preschoolers remember their adventure discovering the God of the universe.
 - The book provides young preschoolers with things to do each day to help them connect with the Bible content of the week while creating a precious memory book at the same time!
 - It makes a wonderful take-home item that families will treasure for years to come.
 - Each child needs a book. If unable to provide one for each child, provide one for each class.
 - Continue the Connection
 - Remind conferees the importance of what they are doing during VBS. Although most of their children will be leaders' kids, they may have some who are not. The kids may or may not attend church regularly.
 - Make note of the suggestions listed on this last page of the book. Stress the importance of the relationship they're building with the

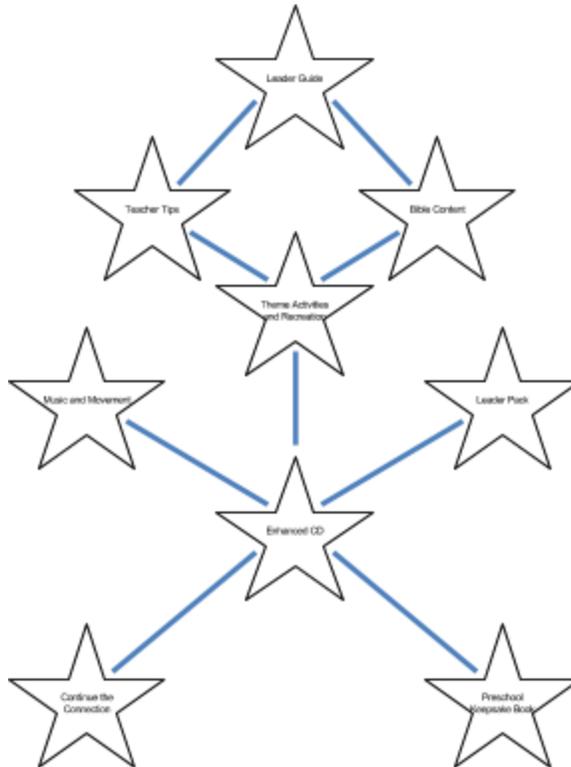
parent. Even a few words at the door each morning can make an impact.

- Send out the Parent Update each day. This could be the only way a parent will hear about what the child learned that day.
- Show the Preschool Keepsake book. Encourage the conferees to take the book on a home visit. Include the child's small group leader when you go. This will help make the transition to Sunday morning easier for the child and the parent.

Share, "We have looked at our resources to help us teach, now let's look at specific activities to help us teach through the week."

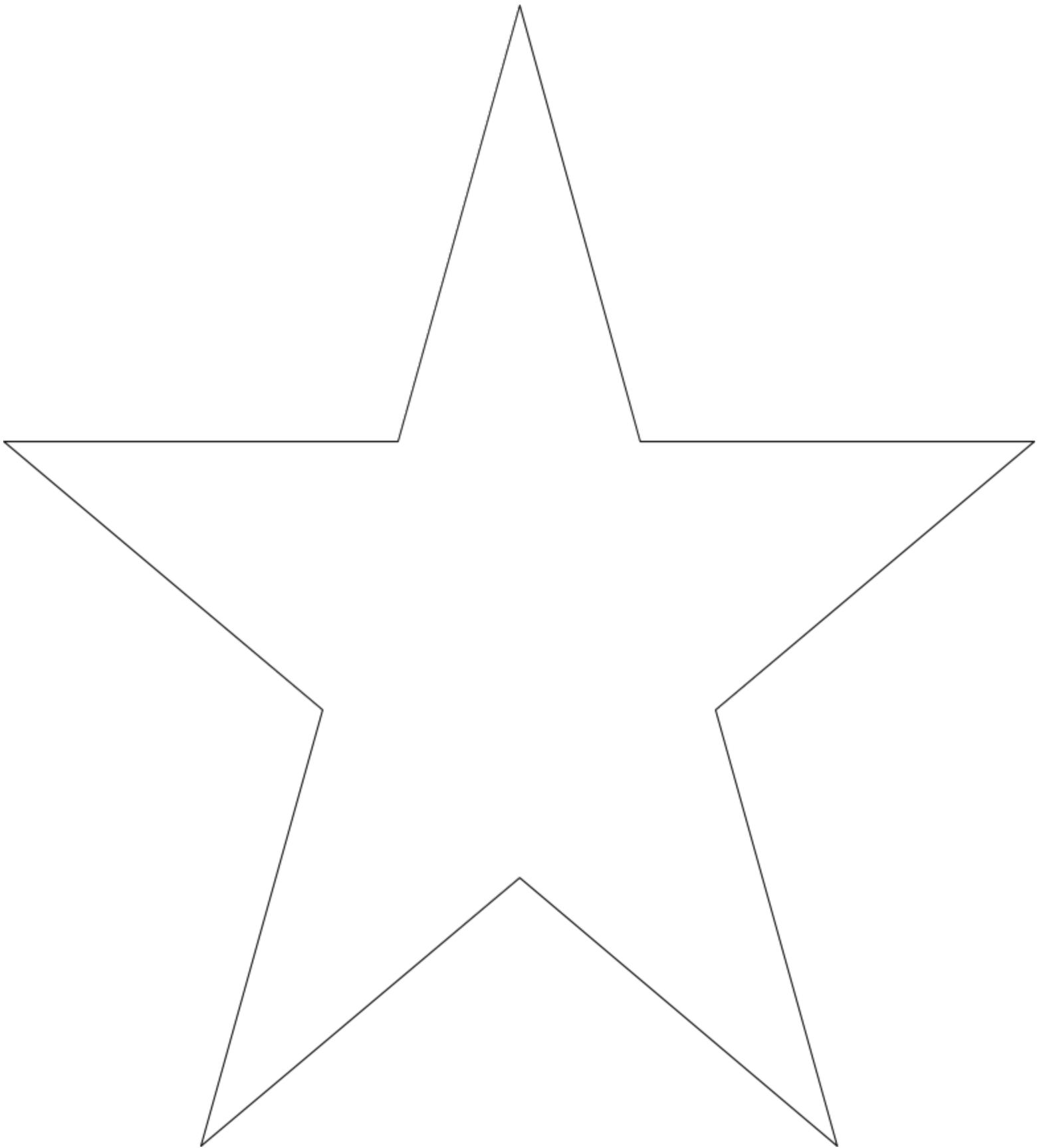
3. Journey Through the Activities (15 minutes)

- Discuss each of the prepared activities. Refer and identify the two icons (daily and keepsake) with each activity. As you show and discuss each prepared activity, place the piece of tape with the name of the activity connecting the stars as shown in the illustration.

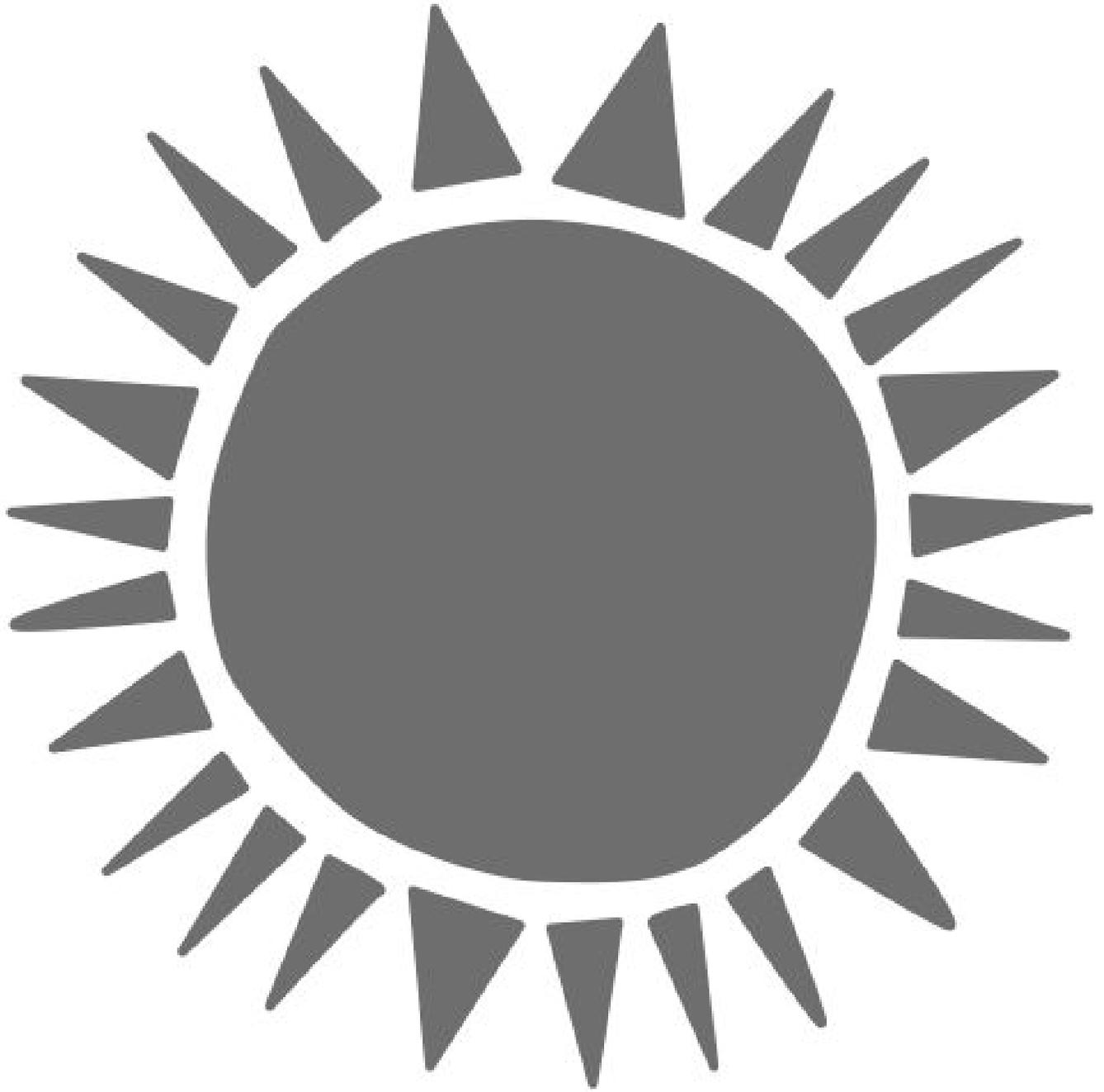


4. Conclusion (5 min.)

- Share, “When we began our star gazing adventure, we saw each of these as individual stars. Now that we’ve connected all of them, we see the bigger impact. It now resembles the outline of a child. When we use all our resources and activities, it makes a bigger impact and creates the best VBS for our preschoolers. VBS for babies, 1s and 2s more than babysitting. We are intentionally teaching the ‘the littlest dippers’ foundational truths about the God of the universe. You as the teacher make the connection to God for the boys and girl as you teach. Make sure to be available for God to use you during VBS to make an impact on the lives of babies, ones and twos.”
- Close in prayer. Ask God to use the teachers as they prepare, teach and continue the connection with babies, 1s and 2s during VBS.







The Littlest Dippers:

Teaching Babies, 1s, and 2s in VBS

