MISSION LEADER

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## Music

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### Science
- Balloon Starships
- Film Canister Rockets
- Slime Time
- Doodle Bots!
- Galaxy in a Bottle
- Light-Benders
- Olympus Mons... with Glitter!
- Static Surprises
- Defying Gravity
- STEM Space Landers

**BONUS:** Lava “Lamps”

### Recreation
- Mission to Mars
- Planet Finder
- Giants, Suns, and Pulsars
- **Bonus:** Matching Game!
- Snowball Toss
- Pin the Tail on the Comet
- Mighty Messages
- Vector Verse Mission
- Moving Mars
- Carrying Kindness
- Flying Saucers!
- Starship Tag
- Power Up
- Emmaus Relay Race
- Asteroid Clean-Up!

### Snacks
- Lion Face Crackers
- Veggies & Hummus Lion
- DIY Astronaut Ice Cream
- Astro Zone Fruit Mix
- Crown Cookies
- Fresh Fruit Crowns
- Build-a-Robot Snacks
- All-in-One Robots
- Helping Hands
- Kindness Cups
- Crispy Space Shapes
- Shooting Star Ice Pops
- Cornucopia Cones
- Horns of Plenty
- Mini Mars Pies
- Supernova Fruit Plate
- Friendly Trail Mix
- Friendship Fruit Salad
- OOTW Brownies
- Watermelon Space Cakes
- Prayers of Hope

### Mission
- Robot Bank
- Stellar Bookmarks
- Galaxy of Gratitude Cards
- Shining Star Wand
- Thankful Placemats

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**GLORY TO GOD, WHO IS ABLE TO DO FAR BEYOND ALL THAT WE COULD ASK OR IMAGINE BY HIS POWER AT WORK WITHIN US! - Ephesians 3:20**
Mission: Launching into Service

Blast Off into Missions!

Launching into Service is a collection of To Mars and Beyond-themed mission activities designed to help Voyagers explore where God’s power can take them! Voyagers want to make a difference and have a positive impact in their community. Voyagers want to learn, give back and share God’s love.

Your Mission Time
Let this leader guide be an inspiration to assist you with helping your Voyagers learn the value of service and the importance of praying for others. Choose the Mission: Launching into Service activities that best fit your congregation size, budget, and interest...or create your own local service opportunity. If your church chooses not to have a dedicated Mission Station as one of their rotation activity centers, consider working mission moments into the Snack Station or Assembly Time.

Propel Your Church
Weeklong Mission Projects are the best way to get your whole congregation involved in supporting your Voyagers and your VBS Mission. Initiate publicity for your mission project early—even before VBS begins. Let the congregation know your vision and plans, what you will need, and how they can help. Post daily updates on your project’s progress, and be sure to send special thanks when the project is successfully completed!

Mission Leader
This guidebook is filled with To Mars and Beyond-themed mission activities to help Voyagers explore where God’s power can take them when they develop a heart for service. Each daily session has a quick outline of the Bible story, Power Launcher, main idea, Flight Control and directions for the daily project. The Flight Control section is a brief overview of the project and the connecting point to the theme of the day.
Mission:
Launching into Service

Countdown Checklist

Select the session mission projects and a weeklong project for your VBS at least 3 months prior to the event.

Determine the number and amounts of materials you will need for your project(s).

Several weeks before VBS, publicize your mission project needs in your church bulletin and/or social media pages. Send e-mails to your congregation casting vision for your project, inviting them to contribute any items needed, and thanking them in advance for donations.

Ask Voyagers to pray for those who will benefit from the mission projects.

Post public updates—both on site and on social media—on how your project is going. If you have permission, take and post pictures of projects-in-progress on appropriate media.

As part of your Community Celebration, present your project’s results to the group. Remember again to express appreciation to everyone who made these efforts possible.

Share the good news and results of your mission projects with your congregation and community. Remember to post special thanks to everyone for their hard work and keep praying for your projects’ recipients.

Your mission as a leader is to provide a foundation for faith development for your Voyagers. As students serve others, they are also serving God!
Weeklong Mission Project
Read for the Stars

Books change lives. They build brain power by developing attentiveness, thinking skills, vocabulary, writing skills, and creativity. **Read for the Stars** is a book drive where children donate gently used books their family and friends no longer need and help them find a new home.

**Before VBS**

**Step 1:** Start planning a couple of months in advance. Work with your church staff/VBS leaders to gain support and public interest for the project.

**Step 2:** Find an organization to be the recipient of your VBS book drive. Some possibilities include:

1. local public schools, especially schools in lower income areas
2. homeless agencies and shelters
3. domestic violence shelters
4. children’s hospitals

Contact the organization and explain your VBS mission project to see if there is a need for gently used books.

**Step 3:** Set realistic goals for how many books you think your VBS can collect. Make a strategy for meeting your goal.

**Step 4:** Get the word out. Notify Voyagers, parents, and your community about drive through flyers, e-mails, posters, bulletins, social media, and other communication networks available at your church.

**During VBS**

Use your Mission Moments to educate Voyagers about the need for books for others. Collect books at each session. Provide and publicize regular updates and challenges.

**After VBS**

Arrange for Voyagers and leaders to pack up the donations and deliver them.

**TIPS!**

Be sure to stress that you are collecting gently used children’s books, not textbooks, magazines or encyclopedias.

Think about logistics. When and where do families and the community drop off their books? Drop off locations should be placed where they are most visible with containers strong enough to hold books.

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**Vector Verse**

Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!

-Ephesians 3:20

**Mission Moment**

Weeklong mission projects rally your congregation to a single cause while highlighting the benefits of children’s ministry. All of us can serve others by caring for one another. Besides gathering books, how else can we care for the people in our community?
Session-by-Session Breakdown

**Session 1**

**Bible Story**
Daniel Trusts God in the Lions’ Den
Daniel 6  

**Power Launcher**
Go Beyond with Faith!  
Voyagers make posters to distribute in the community and around the church to share the word about the Read for the Stars! Mission Project. They can also help decorate more collection boxes/bags keeping with the space theme.

**Session 2**

**Bible Story**
Queen Esther Takes a Stand
Esther 4-9  

**Power Launcher**
Go Beyond with Boldness!  
Voyagers create Stellar Bookmarks (pages 8-9) to donate along with the books!

**Session 3**

**Bible Story**
The Good Samaritan Helps a Fellow Traveler
Luke 10:25-37  

**Power Launcher**
Go Beyond with Kindness!  
Voyagers help sort books into piles based on reading levels. This is also a good time to screen the books to make sure they aren’t ripped or marked up.

**Session 4**

**Bible Story**
Jesus Heals 10 Lepers
Luke 17:11-19  

**Power Launcher**
Go Beyond with Thankfulness!  
The books are sorted and ready to be counted, boxed and a homemade bookmark inserted into each book.

**Session 5**

**Bible Story**
Jesus Comforts Friends on the Way to Emmaus

**Power Launcher**
Go Beyond with Hope!  
Celebrate your success! Have the children guess how many books they think they collected? Pray over the boxes and all the new homes/places where the books will be used. As time allows have children take turns reading their favorite children’s book to one another.
Any Day Mission Craft
Robot Bank

Purpose
Voyagers will create a mission-minded craft activity.

Ages
Appropriate for all ages. Younger Voyagers may need extra help.

Preparation
1. Cover tables with tablecloth.
2. Set out supplies.

Directions

Step 1: Voyagers decorate the bank as desired, using a variety of craft supplies.

Step 2: Fold the sides together.

Step 3: Glue or tape the sides in place.

Materials
- To Mars and Beyond Tablecloth
- Robot Bank Mission Craft
- Assortment of craft items to decorate banks, such as colorful tape, stickers, glitter glue, etc.
- Washable markers, colored pencils, and/or crayons
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glue
- Tape

Bible Tie-in
While at VBS we are discovering ways we can explore where God’s power can take us. We will find ways we can help others in need. As we decorate this bank, think of ways we can help others. Our banks will equip us to be mindful of serving others.

Vector Verse
Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!
-Ephesians 3:20
Step 4: Glue or tape the wheels on the bank.

Step 5: Voyagers can collect mission monies.
Mission Craft
Stellar Bookmarks

Purpose
No matter our circumstances, we can have faith that God will help us in amazing ways!

Flight Control
Just as Daniel faced the lions without fear, we can face our daily challenges without fear knowing that God is with us. Let this bookmark be a reminder that we can have faith that God will help us in amazing ways to do amazing things!

Prayer
Dear God,
You are my strength. With you, there is nothing to fear. Help me remember that you, God, will help me in amazing ways to do amazing things! Amen.

Preparation
1. Leaders gather the supplies.
2. Pre-cut ribbon into 10” in length.
3. Punch a hole in the top of the paint chip sample.

Directions
1. Have Voyagers choose a precut ribbon to complement paint chips.
2. Fold ribbon in half, then thread doubled ribbon through hole in the top of the paint chip.
3. Take both ends of ribbon and thread through loop, securing it to the paint chip. Pull tight.
Mission Craft

Galaxy of Gratitude Cards

**Purpose**
Because of our faith, we can be bold to stand up for God, for others, and for ourselves!

**Flight Control**
In our Bible story, we learn about Queen Esther and her boldness to stand up for others who are less fortunate and who had no power. Today we will be making cards to show our appreciation and prayers to individuals who have shown boldness.

Talk with Voyagers about boldness, and about jobs that require boldness.

**Prayer**
Dear God,
We thank you for the many people who go beyond with boldness in order to help others. We are grateful for their brave actions and deeds. Amen.

**Preparation**
1. Leaders gather the supplies.
2. Assist children as needed.
3. Make arrangements for others to receive the cards.

**Directions**
1. Encourage Voyagers to use a variety of craft supplies to create cards for others.
2. Assist Voyagers to write messages of gratitude to others who have shown boldness.

**Materials**
- Stay-Put Stickers
- Space Stencil Set
- Foil Stickers
- markers and crayons
- colorful construction paper

**Teacher Tip**
Many organizations welcome letters and cards made by children to mail to our troops. Another idea is to focus on members of your own church and community who have served. Children are encouraged to make cards for anyone who has shown boldness through their actions.

**Bible Story**
Queen Esther Takes a Stand
Esther 4–9

**Power Launcher**
Go Beyond with Boldness!

**Vector Verse**
Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!
-Ephesians 3:20
Mission Craft

Shining Star Wand

Purpose
Because of our faith, we can share God’s love with others through our words and actions.

Flight Control
In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus teaches us about kindness, generosity, and love. We are going to create shiny star wands that will be left in schools, homes, churches, and in the community. Each wand will ask the recipient to perform two acts of kindness and place the Shining Star Wand in a new place, so the kindness can be passed along!

Prayer
Dear God,
Thank you for teaching us through this Bible lesson. Help us to be kind, loving, and generous, not only to our friends but also those that have been unkind to us. Amen.

Preparation
1. Leaders gather the supplies.
2. Pre-cut star shapes from cardboard or tagboard. Two stars are needed per wand.
3. Once Voyagers have finished making two star wands, encourage them to take wands home then share them with others in the community.

Directions
1. Have Voyagers choose their fabric and additional craft supplies.
2. Voyagers decorate both sides of their star shapes.
3. Once Voyagers have completed all decorating, help them glue the inside sections of the stars together. Make sure an opening is left at the bottom of the star.
4. Add a little glue to the end of the stick then slide it through the open section.
5. Punch a hole in one side of the star.
6. Punch a hole in the left side of the Shining Star Poem.
7. Slide a ribbon through the poem and the star.

Materials
- sticks of any size (straws, chop sticks, etc.), enough for each Voyager to make two wands.
- cardboard or tagboard
- ribbon
- colored embroidery thread
- string
- long narrow pieces of fabric
- buttons
- washi tape
- stickers
- markers and crayons
- classroom glue or dot adhesives
- Shining Star Poem template (page 13)
- star pattern (page 18)
- hole punch

Bible Story
The Good Samaritan
Helps a Fellow Traveler
Luke 10:25-37

Power Launcher
Go Beyond with Kindness!

Vector Verse
Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!
-Ephesians 3:20
Shining Star Poem

You are a star!
This star has found you.

Your mission is to go beyond
And perform two acts of kindness!
Allow God's love to shine through!

When you are finished shining your light,
Pass on this star to another so acts of kindness
can continue to shine on!

Bible Story
The Good Samaritan
Helps a Fellow Traveler
Luke 10:25-37

Power Launcher
Go Beyond with Kindness!

Vector Verse
Glory to God, who is able to
do far beyond all that we could
ask or imagine by his power at
work within us!
-Ephesians 3:20

Teacher Tip
On the back of your poem,
print a short explanation about
this mission project. Make
sure others know it is a VBS
mission project, and include
the name and address of your
church.
Mission Craft

Thankful Placemats

Purpose
Because of our faith, we can make the world a better place by giving thanks in powerful ways.

Flight Control
Today we are reading from the gospel of Luke and hearing the Bible story of Jesus and the 10 lepers. One of these men returned and thanked Jesus for healing him, but the other nine did not.

Prayer
Dear God,
Thank you for this time at To Mars and Beyond. We are thankful for all the ways you show your amazing grace to us. Let us remember to give thanks to you and be like the one leper who came back to say thank you.
Amen.

Materials
- cardboard tubes
- rubber bands
- paint (various colors)
- white placemat or large white construction paper
- newsprint
- bowls

Teacher Tips
- Tempera paint works better than acrylic paint.
- On the back of your placemat, write that this is a mission project from VBS and the name and address of your church.

Preparation
1. Leaders gather the supplies.
2. Before the Voyagers arrive, prepare the tubes for the children to use.
3. Start by creasing one end of the cardboard tube. This process will create an indentation that forms the top of a heart shape.
4. Cover the tables with newsprint.
5. Pour paint into bowls.

Bible Story
Jesus Heals 10 Lepers
Luke 17:11-19

Power Launcher
Go Beyond with Thankfulness!

Vector Verse
Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!
-Ephesians 3:20
Directions

1. Have Voyagers dip the heart-shaped end into the paint.
2. Next, show them how to press the heart shape onto the paper.
   **Tip!** Show children how to “rock” or move the tube back and forth to get a detailed impression of the heart shape.
3. As children are stamping the heart shapes onto the paper, ask them to share some of their blessings.
4. Set aside to dry.
Mission Craft

Prayers of Hope

School Age Adaptation

Bible Story
Jesus Comforts Friends on the Way to Emmaus

Power Launcher
Go Beyond with Hope!

Vector Verse
Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!
-Ephesians 3:20

Materials
- markers
- balloons (1 per 2-4 Voyagers)
- tissue paper strips (various sizes and colors)
- small towels
- scissors

Purpose
Because of our faith, we can have hope as we walk with Jesus...at VBS and beyond!

Flight Control
Exposing and teaching children to pray is a key component to building and strengthening faith. Take time to engage children in a conversation about prayer. Ask them to share different ways to pray.

We can pray out loud, we can pray by ourselves, with our family, at church, and in our community. Right now we are going to have an activity called Static Prayers or Prayers of Hope.

Prayer
Dear God,
Thank you God for prayer which is my special time to talk with you. Help us to remember to trust you and never lose hope. We are thankful that Jesus is with us in all the places we go.
Amen.

Preparation
1. Leaders gather the supplies.
2. Before the children arrive, cut colorful craft tissue paper into various sizes.
3. Blow up the balloons.
4. Divide Voyagers into groups of 4 or less.
5. Have children think of prayer requests.

Directions
1. Voyagers will write or draw their prayer of hope on the piece of tissue paper.
2. To create static, run a small towel over the balloon.
3. Voyagers can hold the tissue prayer strips close to the balloon and watch as the paper is pulled onto the balloon and sticks.
4. Ask Voyagers to pray that, as the paper sticks to the balloon, God will hold our prayers and we will see where God’s power can take them.
Mission Craft
Prayers of Hope

Preschool Adaptation

Purpose
Because of our faith, we can have hope as we walk with Jesus...at VBS and beyond!

Flight Control
Exposing and teaching children to pray is a key component to building and strengthening faith. Take time to engage children in a conversation about prayer. Ask them to share different ways to pray.

**Butterflies help us to think of hope! We are going to create a butterfly prayer to share with someone else.**

Prayer
Dear God,
Thank you God for prayer which is our special time to talk with you. Help us to remember to trust you and never lose hope. We are thankful that Jesus is with us in all the places we go.

Amen.

Preparation
1. Leaders gather the supplies.
2. Leaders make copies of the message.
3. Leaders trace the butterfly shapes.

Directions
1. Voyagers cut out butterfly shapes.
2. Voyagers add a label that shares the message to the back of the butterfly shape.
3. Next, place a dab of paint on just one side of the butterfly wings. Fold over the paper butterfly and rub it to smear to the paint. Have the children say, “I am going beyond with hope with God as I pray for others.”

Materials
- small mailing labels
- tempera paint
- butterfly template (page 18)
- construction paper
- scissors

Bible Story
Jesus Comforts Friends on the Way to Emmaus

Power Launcher
Go Beyond with Hope!

Vector Verse
Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!
-Ephesians 3:20