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To MARS AND BEYOND: Explore Where God’s Power Can Take You!

Introduction to Toddler Twos

The Countdown Begins!
Thank you for accepting the task to teach toddlers and two-year-olds!

Get ready to roll!
Welcome to To Mars and Beyond, VBS Toddler Twos Leader! This resource is designed to provide the tips and tools you need to make To Mars and Beyond an exciting and powerful learning environment for your youngest Voyagers.

Be Prepared
Becoming familiar with the materials is the most important step in successfully navigating VBS with your Toddler Twos Voyagers. Don’t try to “wing it!” Read through this book in its entirety, and practice the activities ahead of time with your volunteers. Familiarize yourself with each session’s Bible story and where your activities reinforce the narrative!

Gather Supplies Early
Collect all decorations and supplies for each session well in advance. Get your congregation involved by publicizing a list of supplies they can donate! If you need To Mars and Beyond supplies, order them from CokesburyVBS.com about 4-6 months in advance to ensure availability!

How They Learn
A two-year-old’s most basic need is for a safe, loving environment that enhances positive feelings. Two-year-olds respond well to a schedule that is consistent from day to day with a wide range of active and quiet activities. Most two-year-olds are not mature enough to work in large groups, so work with Voyagers one-on-one or in small groups. Here are some tips for navigating To Mars and Beyond with Toddler Twos:

Before Class—Welcome
Greet Voyagers with a smile. Kneel at their eye level and say, “I’m happy you came today!” Tell each child your name, show your nametag, and invite the child to wear a nametag, too. (You may use a piece of tape with child’s name and stick it to the front or back of the child’s clothing.)

Bible Story Time
Toddlers/twos listen best individually or in groups of 2-3. They need to see/touch the Bible and be close to you.

Music Time
Twos may sing together for short periods of time or listen to recorded music. Singing along with the To Mars and Beyond Complete Music CD is a great way to do this! Twos also enjoy rhythm instruments and creative music, especially when you repeat the same activities each day. Use scarves and strips of lightweight drapery fabric for creative movement.

Guided Play
Create large blocks of time with many choices. Each child’s interest will dictate what will engage him/her.

Active Play
Twos need big-muscle play outdoors. They need the freedom to play on their own, but should be well supervised so that toys and equipment are used correctly and other Voyagers are not hurt. Help Voyagers share toys and take turns.
Health and Safety

Health Concerns

1. Are tissues available?
2. Are toilet and hand-washing facilities nearby or in the room?
3. Do Voyagers and adults wash hands before eating, after blowing noses, and after toilet times or diaper changes?
4. Are first-aid supplies nearby?
5. Do adults wear disposable gloves when handling food, changing diapers, and cleaning wounds?
6. Are paper products and soap at hand?
7. Is the diapering area sanitized and supplied with diapers, baby wipes, plastic bags, disposable paper pad sheets, and a covered, plastic-lined can for soiled diapers?
8. If you have received information sheets on the Voyagers, post information about any allergies where teachers can see it. If you have not received this information, be prepared to check with adults who bring Voyagers to class.
9. Post necessary phone numbers for each child.
10. Have you documented any food allergies for Voyagers attending VBS?

Safety Indoors

1. Do you have a minimum of two adults in the room at all times?
2. Have all broken/damaged toys or equipment been removed?
3. Are all toys and equipment in good repair?
4. Has everything been cleaned and air-dried?
5. Have dress-up clothes and stuffed animals been washed?
6. Have all the distractions been removed?
7. Are hazardous materials stored away from Voyagers, preferably locked up?
8. Do you have an up-to-date list of emergency contact names and phone numbers?
9. Have you reviewed the fire regulations?
10. Are the electrical outlets covered?
11. Have you knelt on the floor and surveyed the room from a child’s point of view?
12. Are there any top-heavy items a child could pull over?
13. Is there a place to put dangerous items, such as adult scissors, out of Voyagers’s reach?
14. Make sure play area is safe and ready for play.

Safety Outdoors

1. Is the play area separate from the older Voyagers’s play area?
2. Is the equipment in good repair and appropriate for twos?
3. Is the foot traffic area defined to keep Voyagers from playing in congested areas?
Bible Story

Daniel loved God. Day by day, Daniel would sit by his window and pray to God. Daniel prayed to God each day. One day, the leader of all the land made a new rule. All the people were to pray to the leader and not God. Daniel had faith and trust in God. Daniel kept on praying. Daniel was told if he kept on praying to God, he would be put in a small place called a den with lions. Daniel kept on praying to God. Because he prayed to God, he was put in the den with the lions...but God kept Daniel safe!

Music Activity

Daniel Prayed to God

Tune: “The Farmer in the Dell”

Yes, Daniel prayed to God,
Yes, Daniel prayed to God.
They tossed him in the lions’ den
Since he prayed to God.

Oh, Daniel had faith in God,
Oh, Daniel had faith in God,
Even in the lions’ den
And God kept Daniel safe.

Bible Activity - Lion Puppets

1. Gather materials.
2. Cut construction paper into one-inch strips about 4” in length.
3. Roll strips toward to make them curly. Tip! Strips can be rolled around pencils.
4. Write the child’s name on the bag.
5. Assist Voyagers with attaching the manes (construction paper) on their puppets.
6. Assist Voyagers as needed to glue the strips of curly construction paper to their bags.
7. Voyagers can use markers to create a face on their puppet.
8. Allow puppets to dry.
9. If desired, play the song, “Even When the Lions Roar” (see page 14 for lyrics).
Activity Stations

Imagination Station
Act Out the Bible Story

Invite Voyagers to use their lion puppets and reenact the Bible story. Remind Voyagers how Daniel prayed to God while in the lions’ den, and he was safe.

Discovery Station
Create the Color of Mars

Before the activity, label bags with Voyagers’ names. Invite each Voyager to hold the bag open while you squirt some shaving cream in the bag. Add a few drops of food coloring. Seal the bag. Voyagers will squeeze the bag to discover the color of Mars. Talk about the color of Mars. Show them a picture of Mars.

Color Fun
Exploring Red

Have a container filled with red items. Show them a picture of the planet Mars. Talk about its red color. Encourage Voyagers to select an item from the container and talk about it. Call attention to other red items in the room.

Building Station
Building Time

Set out large cardboard boxes.

Option One
Invite Voyagers to build a spaceship and pretend to travel to Mars and Beyond. Repeat the Vector Verse as they build.

Option Two
Invite Voyagers to build a lion’s den. Remind them of the Bible story as they build.

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

Power Launcher
Go Beyond with Faith!

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 (CEB)

Materials

Imagination Station
-xl Lion puppets, see page 4 for directions

Discovery Station
-xl resealable quart-sized plastic bags
-xl shaving cream
-xl yellow and red food colors
-xl markers (teachers’ use)

Color Fun
-xl container filled red items, such as a ball, book, folder, cup, etc.

Building Station
-xl large cardboard boxes
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 (CEB)

Materials
Bible Activity
Galactic Stampers Set
Foil Stickers, Craft Theme
Stickers, and/or Stay-Put Stickers
Crown template (page 16)
crayons
construction paper
scissors
stickers
washi tape
markers (teachers’ use)
masking tape

Music Activity
Queen Esther's Song
Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”

 Invite Voyagers to make crown shapes over their heads or to wear crowns and march as they sing.

Oh, Queen Esther, Oh, Queen Esther
She was so bold, she was so bold.
She helped her people, she helped her people
Oh, Queen Esther, Oh, Queen Esther.
**Activity Stations**

**Imagination Station**  
**Party Time**

Encourage Voyagers to set a table for a party. Remind them of the Bible story and how Queen Esther talked to the king at a special party.

**SAY:** How do you think Queen Esther felt while she was at the special party? How was she bold?

**Discovery Station**  
**Small and Large Items**

Encourage Voyagers to differentiate between large and small items. For example, have large and small plastic cups, large and small blocks, and large and small star shapes. Encourage Voyagers to explore the items. Also find large and small items in your room. Remind them of the Vector Verse. Repeat it several times.

**Color Fun**  
**Exploring Yellow**

Have a container filled with yellow items. Show Voyagers pictures of stars and the sun. Talk about ways the color yellow is seen in them. Encourage Voyagers to select an item from the container and talk about it. Call attention to other yellow items in the room.

**Building Station**  
**Building Time**

Voyagers use blocks to build a palace perhaps like one Queen Esther might have lived in. Encourage Voyagers to be creative in their designs and structures. Praise their efforts.

**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 (CEB)

**Materials**

- **Imagination Station**  
  - paper or plastic plates  
  - paper party hats  
  - play food  
  - plastic dishes

- **Color Fun**  
  - container filled with yellow items

- **Building Station**  
  - large cardboard blocks

- **Discovery Station**  
  - variety of large and small items such as plastic cups, blocks, star shapes
Bible Story
The Good Samaritan Helps a Fellow Traveler
Luke ten: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 (CEB)

Materials
Bible Activity
- a variety of fruits and vegetables
- small tub
- vegetable brush
- hand towels
- smocks
- 1 basket or box
- ribbon
- 1 card

Bible Story
One day, a hurt man was on the side of the road. He hoped someone would help him. Perhaps he said, “Help me. Help me.” Repeat those words with me as I tell the story. “Help me. Help me.”
(Voyagers repeat.)

Soon a priest came by. He did not help the hurt man. “Help me. Help me,” said the hurt man.
(Voyagers repeat.)

Later a helper from the church came by. That person did not help him. “Help me. Help me,” said the hurt man.
(Voyagers repeat.)

Then came someone who showed kindness. We call him the Good Samaritan. This kind man gave the hurt man water to drink. He washed the dirt off his body. He put bandages on his hurt places. Next, he took him to town to an inn and found others who helped him get well. The kind man paid the others who helped care for the hurt man. Soon the hurt man was well again.

Music Activity
K-I-N-D

Spell out the word K-I-N-D.
Clap out each letter K-I-N-D.
Stomp out each letter K-I-N-D.
Hop out each letter K-I-N-D.
Shout out each letter K-I-N-D.
Whisper out each letter K-I-N-D.

Bible Activity
Before VBS, make arrangements for someone to receive a food basket/box gift.

Show Voyagers how to wash the fruits and vegetables. When dry, assemble the produce in the basket/box and adorn with the card and ribbon. Talk about ways they are helping others. Remind them of their Bible lesson and ways the Good Samaritan helped one another. Talk about ways they are showing kindness through these actions.
Activity Stations

Imagination Station
Helping Others

Voyagers will imagine being a medical helper. Display play doctor kits, bandages and stuffed animals. Remind Voyagers of the Bible story and how the Good Samaritan showed kindness.

Discovery Station
Acts of Kindness

Set out folded construction paper, crayons and stickers. Encourage Voyagers to create cards for others as desired using stampers, stickers, and crayons.

Color Fun
Exploring Green

Have a container filled with green items. Show them a picture of the planet earth. Talk about how much green can be seen in this planet. Encourage Voyagers to select an item from the container and talk about it. Call attention to other green items in the room.

Building Station
Building Time

Voyagers use blocks to build an inn. Remind Voyagers of the Bible story and how the kind man took the hurt man to an inn or a hotel to get care and rest.

Bible Story
The Good Samaritan Helps a Fellow Traveler
Luke ten: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 (CEB)

Materials

Imagination Station
- play doctor kits
- bandages
- stuffed animals

Discovery Station
- Galactic Stampers Set
- Foil Stickers, Craft Theme
- Stickers, and/or Stay-Put Stickers
- construction paper, folded to make cards
- crayons

Color Fun
- container filled with green items

Building Station
- large cardboard blocks
Bible Story

One day, Jesus went to the city of Jerusalem. As Jesus walked, he saw 10 people with hurt places on their bodies called lepers. They called out to Jesus, “Jesus, please help us!” Jesus agreed to help them and said, “Leave at once and go see the priest!”

Walk. Walk. Walk went the 10 lepers to see the priest. They wanted to be well. As they walked, they looked at their arms. No more hurt places! They looked at their legs. No more hurt places! The 10 said, “Let’s go to town and show everyone we are well!”

One healed man looked back to Jesus. He knew Jesus had made him well. Run. Run. Run went the healed man. He ran until he reached Jesus and said, “Thank you, Jesus, for making me well!” Jesus was glad the man came back to thank him.

Music Activity

Have Voyagers stand and stomp their feet as they count. Next, have them clap.

One time! Six times!
Two times! Seven times!
Three times! Eight times!
Four times! Nine times!
Five times! 10 times!

Jesus healed 10 people. Only one came back to say Thank You!
Activity Stations

Imagination Station
Role Play

Invite Voyagers to act out the Bible story. Have one child be Jesus and the others run away. Designate one child to come back and tell Jesus, “Thank You.” Play several times until all children had have a turn to play the role of Jesus.

Discovery Station
Exploration Box

Before Voyagers arrive, cut a hole in the side of the box large enough for Voyagers’ hands and items to fit through. Place items in the box and seal/cover with the lid.

Invite Voyagers one at a time to place their hands in the box and choose an item. What words would they use to describe the item? Hard, soft, big, small?

Color Fun
Exploring Purple

Have a container filled with purple items. Show them a picture of space with nebula and other purple tints. Encourage Voyagers to select an item from the container and talk about it. Call attention to other purple items in the room.

Building Station
Building Time

Voyagers use blocks to build a city. Remind Voyagers of the Bible story and how Jesus was traveling on the road to a city.

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 (CEB)

Materials
Discovery Station
1 box with lid
a variety of items in different sizes, shapes, and textures

Color Fun
container filled with purple items

Building Station
large cardboard blocks
Bible Story

Jesus Comforts Friends on the Way to Emmaus

Bible Story Time

Walk. Walk. Walk. Two friends of Jesus were walking down a road. They were on their way to a place called Emmaus.

Step. Step. Step went their feet as they walked along the dusty road. As they were walking, a man they did not recognize began walking with them. The friends talked about Jesus. They said, “Jesus told us all about God’s love.” They hoped they would see him again.

As they walked along the road, this man started talking about God. When they arrived, they invited him to join them for a meal. They said a prayer to God before they ate. The visitor held a loaf of bread and divided it into several pieces. The friends suddenly realized this visitor was Jesus! They were so happy to see him again.

Bible Activity

Invite Voyagers to pretend they are marching on a road as they listen and sing along to the VBS Preschool song, “Music for My Lord” (see page 14 for lyrics.)

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 (CEB)

Power Launcher
Go Beyond with Hope!

Materials
Music Activity
“Music for My Lord” track from the Complete Music CD or MP3 tracks

Bible Activity

a variety of blocks

Music Activity

Invite Voyagers to pretend they are marching on a road as they listen and sing along to the VBS Preschool song, “Music for My Lord” (see page 14 for lyrics.)
Activity Stations

Imagination Station
Helping Others

Invite Voyagers to imagine they are getting ready for company. Suggest they pretend they are cooking dinner and setting the table for a meal with Jesus. Remind children of the Bible story as they pretend to prepare dinner for Jesus.

Discovery Station
Hands of Hope

Before Voyagers arrive, write the words Go Beyond with Hope and the Voyager’s name around the edge of each plate. Cover area of the plate with waxed paper. Place a ball of play dough on top of the plate.

Show Voyagers how to flatten out the clay. Assist each Voyager as needed to press one hand firmly into the clay. Handprint will be a reminder of their special time at VBS.

Place the handprint in the zipped bag for transport home.

Color Fun
Exploring Blue

Have a container filled with blue items. Show them a picture of the blue sky on Earth, as well as any blue planets or moons. Talk about the beautiful sky and atmosphere. Encourage Voyagers to select an item from the container and talk about it. Call attention to other blue items in the room.

Building Station
Building Time

Voyagers use blocks to build a house. Remind them of the Bible story and how the two men invited Jesus to dinner at their house.

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 (CEB)

Materials

Imagination Station
- table and toy kitchen area
- play food and dishes

Discovery Station
- modeling or other clay
- sturdy paper plates
- large zipped bags
- waxed paper
- markers (teachers’ use)

Color Fun
- container filled with blue items

Building Station
- large cardboard blocks
Music Time

Session 1
Daniel Prayed to God
*Tune: “The Farmer in the Dell”*

Yes, Daniel prayed to God,
Yes, Daniel prayed to God.
They tossed him in the lions’ den
Since he prayed to God.

Oh, Daniel had faith in God,
Oh, Daniel had faith in God,
Even in the lions’ den
And God kept Daniel safe.

Session 2
Queen Esther’s Song
*Tune: “Are You Sleeping?”*

Oh, Queen Esther, Oh, Queen Esther
She was so bold, she was so bold.
She helped her people, she helped her people
Oh, Queen Esther, Oh, Queen Esther.

Session 3
K-I-N-D

Spell out the word K-I-N-D.
Clap out each letter K-I-N-D.
Stomp out each letter K-I-N-D.
Hop out each letter K-I-N-D.
Shout out each letter K-I-N-D.
Whisper out each letter K-I-N-D.

Session 4
One to ten!

One time!
Two times!
Three times!
Four times!
Five times!
Six times!
Seven times!
Eight times!
Nine times!
10 times!
Jesus healed 10 people!
Only one came back to say Thank You!

Session 5
Music for My Lord
*(Preschool Song)*

See page 15 for lyrics.
Music for My Lord  
(Preschool Song)  
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Chorus  
I love makin’ music!  
I love makin’ music!  
I love makin’ music  
Music for my Lord!  
We’re singin’  
I love makin’ music!  
I love makin’ music!  
I love makin’ music!  
Music for my Lord!

Verse 1  
Tell me, can you dance like this?  
Tell me, can you dance like this?  
Tell me, tell me  
Tell me, can you dance like this?  
Tell me, can you dance like this?

(Repeat Chorus)

Verse 2  
Tell me, can you stomp like this?  
Tell me, can you stomp like this?  
Tell me, tell me  
Tell me, can you stomp like this?  
Tell me, can you stomp like this?

(Repeat Chorus)

Verse 3  
Tell me, can you clap like this?  
Tell me, can you clap like this?  
Tell me, tell me  
Tell me, can you clap like this?  
Tell me, can you clap like this?

(Repeat Chorus)

Even When the Lions Roar  
©2018 Andrew Wilson

Verse 1  
When I’m surrounded I will not be overcome.  
The battle rages, but the victory is won.  
There’s no safer place than where you are.  
You defend me, so I trust you with my heart.

Chorus  
I will not be shaken.  
I will not be moved.  
All my hope is in you, is in you.  
I will not be shaken.  
I will not be moved.  
All my hope is in you  
Even when the lions roar! (2x)

Verse 2  
There is no power that can ever separate.  
Jesus is faithful and will never turn away.  
There’s no safer place than where you are.  
You defend me, so I trust you with my heart.

(Repeat Chorus)

Even when the lions roar! (3x)