

SESSION 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

MISSION:
DEEP SEA

THE BIG IDEA

My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.

THE BIBLE

Jesus and the Salvation Story:
Philippians 2:5-11

SMALL GROUP TIME

Wait for cues from your VBS leader throughout the day about when you will be breaking off into small groups for the activities listed below. We suggest you have a designated area where you can keep your group's crafts and other personal items so that they can collect them all at once when it's time to leave.

ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Bounce

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Bounce the ball around your group, occasionally stopping when a kid catches it. When the ball is in someone's hand, ask them the question their hand lands closest to. Ask if they know the answer. If they do not, read them the answers listed below:
- **What is the difference between a sea and an ocean?** A sea is partially enclosed by land.
- **How can plants grow in the ocean without sunlight?** Sunlight can actually reach 600 feet underwater.
- **What is the deepest ocean in the world?** The Pacific Ocean. It has a known depth of 36,198 feet in the Mariana Islands.
- **Why is the ocean blue?** Believe it or not, no one is really sure why the ocean is blue!
- **What is the most dangerous creature in the ocean?** The box jellyfish.

ACTIVITY | Sunken Treasure

- **What are some ways we can spend time with God?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Work together to come up with a list of ways they can spend time with God. They'll write one way they can spend time with God on each of the spots on the treasure map.

DISCUSSION

- **What separates us from God?** Sin.
- **God loves us and wants a relationship with us. Who did God send to rescue us from sin?** Jesus.

- Is it always easy to choose what is right instead of sinning?
- Read 1 Peter 1:15-16. What does “holy” mean? What are some ways we can be holy?
- Why does spending time with God make our faith grow deeper?
- Why do you think God chose to rescue us from sin by sending Jesus to Earth?
- How does knowing God loves us so much change how we live?

REFLECTION | Water Beads

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Pour a handful of water beads into a shallow bowl or dish and cover with water.*
- Pretend like this water bead is you. You probably know who God is. But there is so much more to know about God! Just like the water makes the water beads grow bigger, spending time with God helps our faith grow bigger.

REFLECTION | Seashells

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Provide a large seashell for each group and let the kids pass it around. Ask them to hold it up to their ears and listen. Ask what they hear.*
- Some people say it is possible to hear the ocean in a seashell. You have to be really still and quiet to hear it.
- Spending time with God can be like trying to hear the ocean in a seashell – we have to be still and listen for God.

MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The kids have to recite the memory verse from one end of the room to the other, one word at a time, while blowing bubbles. Give each kid their own mini bottle of bubbles. Tell the kids to line up, say a word of the memory verse, blow a bubble, and take a step forward. Then, they'll say the next word in the verse, blow a bubble, then take another step forward.*

ACTIVITY | Deep Sea Coral Painting Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using the end of their straw, kids dip it in the paint. Tap the end of the straw on the printout where you want your coral to start. Now, gently blow through the other end of the straw. Hold the straw at a low angle so the paint goes out in one direction rather than splattering.*

MEMORY VERSE FOR MISSION: DEEP SEA: Ephesians 3:18 (NIV)

“Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”

Looking for sign language? Go to growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18
and get memorizing!