

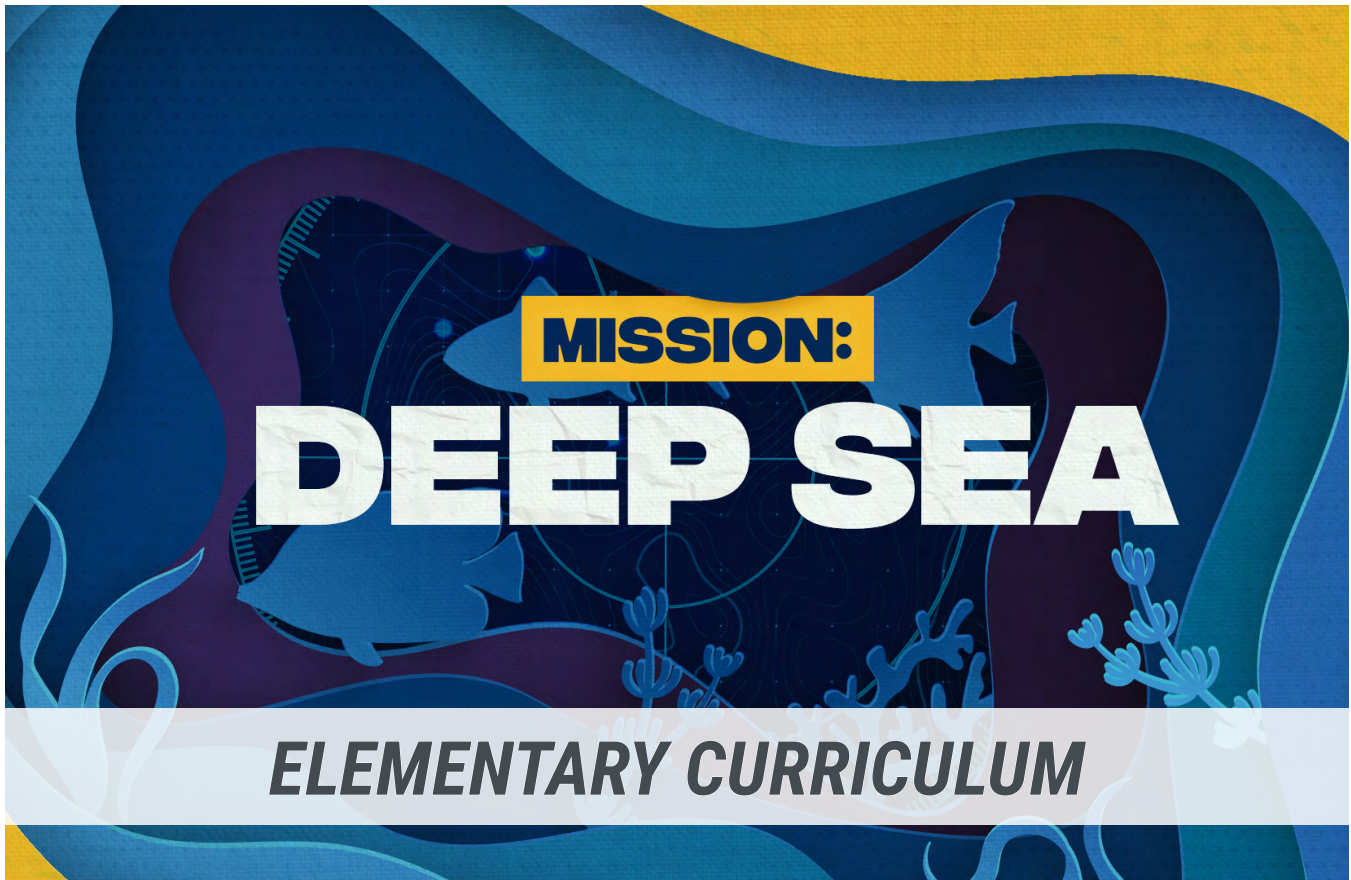


A 4-DAY VBS SERIES FROM THE BIBLE ON

# SPIRITUAL HABITS

FROM OUR ANNUAL *TEACHING STRATEGY*

BY LINDA MOON & KELLE GENTRY



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# ELEMENTARY SERIES OVERVIEW

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

## STUFF FOR THIS SESSION

### THIS SERIES

- ▶ [About This Series](#)
- ▶ [How to Prepare for This Series](#)
- ▶ [About the Author](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)
- ▶ [Preteen Hacks & Special Needs Hacks & Preschool Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Play Stations](#)
- ▶ [Optional Session 5](#)

### PARENTS & VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ [Volunteer Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Parent Emails](#)
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## STUFF FOR EACH SESSION

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- ▶ [How to Prepare](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Outline](#)
- ▶ [Preteen Hacks](#)
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- ▶ [Lesson Outline](#)
- ▶ [Preteen Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Special Needs Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Preschool Hacks](#)
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- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
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## ABOUT THIS SERIES

Whether your kids have been attending church regularly or they're brand new to the church scene, their faith is still very young. As a grown-up who's been following Jesus for a while, you've probably figured out a few ways to grow spiritually. The kids you're leading, on the other hand, aren't grown-ups, so they might need a little help from you to figure out how, exactly, to grow spiritually. So, what should spiritual growth look like for a kid? We like to think about it in terms of four spiritual habits. To help a kid's faith grow deeper, encourage them to **spend time with God, spend time with others, use their gifts, and share their story.**

### SESSION 1

At Mission: Day 1, kids hear about how even when everyone was afraid, **Moses trusted God would rescue them at the Red Sea.**

- **THE BIG IDEA:** People can help my faith grow.
- **THE BIBLE:** Exodus 14

### SESSION 2

At Mission: Day 2, kids hear about **how Jesus used a kid's lunch of bread and fish to feed a huge crowd!**

- **THE BIG IDEA:** My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.
- **THE BIBLE:** John 6:1-13

### SESSION 3

At Mission: Day 3, kids hear about **the story of Jesus and what He did to save us.**

- **THE BIG IDEA:** My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.
- **THE BIBLE:** Philippians 2:5-11

### SESSION 4

At Mission: Day 4, kids hear about how, after a few detours, **Jonah went to Nineveh to tell the people about God.**

- **THE BIG IDEA:** My faith grows deeper when I share my story.
- **THE BIBLE:** Jonah 1-3

## 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 memory verse sign language you can share with your families and volunteers?  
Go to [growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18](http://growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18) and share away!

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS SERIES



## DECORATE

This month's decorating theme is **oceans** because we're talking about **the gifts God has given us!** You can find decorating ideas, a [Spotify playlist](#), posters, and graphics in this month's [Programming folder](#).



## DESIGN

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics folder](#) & [Video folder](#).



## SHOP

We made a **list** of everything you'll need to buy, borrow, or dig out of your storage closet in order to make this series happen. Get your editable shopping list [right here](#).



## PREP

We made **lists** of everything you'll need to print, cut, glue, build, or make in order to make this series happen. Get your prep lists [right here](#).



## CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you'll probably want make some tweaks to the lessons.** You can do that by editing the Word documents in your series downloads.



## HACK

Get the **Preteen Hacks** for the entire series [right here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for the entire series [right here](#) and the **Preschool Hacks** for the entire series [right here](#) Or . . .

- ▶ **SESSION 1:**  
[Preteen & Special Needs & Preschool](#)
- ▶ **SESSION 2:**  
[Preteen & Special Needs & Preschool](#)
- ▶ **SESSION 3:**  
[Preteen & Special Needs & Preschool](#)
- ▶ **SESSION 4:**  
[Preteen & Special Needs & Preschool](#)






## COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and parents are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Volunteer Emails](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

# LINDA MOON & KELLEEE GENTRY

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Linda is the Lead Editor of Children’s Ministry Resources for Stuff You Can Use and also the Director of Education at her church in La Cañada, California. She has been a children’s pastor for over 12 years, but has served in kidmin ever since the 7th grade! As such, she has experience in nearly everything from leading Bible Study to volunteer training to even worship song choreography! Her passion is teaching and developing next gen leaders. She adamantly believes in lifelong learning and fostering meaningful relationships at all levels.

Kellee serves at Stuff You Can Use as the Grow Kids Ministry Strategist. She loves helping churches brainstorm, problem solve, and implement Grow curriculum and strategy into their ministry. She has 12 years of experience in both multi-site and portable churches, serving families in various roles. Currently she is serving as the Director of Family Ministries at High Hill Christian Church in Missouri. Kellee co-hosts the Kids Ministry Answers podcast.

If you’d like to connect with Linda or Kellee about any of the above (or anything at all!), you can reach out to them via email, social media, and the Stuff You can Use Facebook group!

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# MEMORY VERSE

## SIGN LANGUAGE

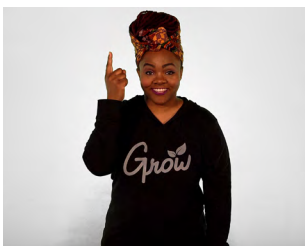
MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

BY SUNNY BROWN

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

Looking for memory verse sign language you can share with your families and volunteers?  
Go to [growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18](http://growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18) and share away!

We all know that strategic hand motions help kids remember what they're learning, but what if you could accomplish *even more* than simply helping kids remember Scripture? Every Grow Kids memory verse is provided in age-appropriate signs, using a combination of SEE and ASL. Encouraging kids to learn each memory verse in this way will better **include kids and families impacted by hearing impairment**, and will **promote awareness and inclusion** for the rest of your kids and families!



**GRASP**



**HOW**



**WIDE**



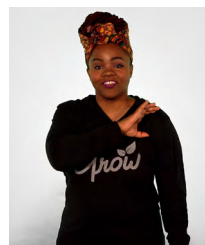
**AND LONG**



**AND HIGH**



**AND DEEP**



**IS THE LOVE OF CHRIST.**





# SESSION 1

## OVERVIEW

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### THE BIG IDEA

People can help my  
faith grow.

### THE BIBLE

Moses and the Red Sea:  
Exodus 14

#### STUFF FOR THIS SESSION

### TEACHING – SESSION 1

- ▶ How to Prepare
  - ▶ [Shopping List](#)
  - ▶ [Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Outline](#)
- ▶ [Preteen Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Special Needs Hacks](#)
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- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
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#### HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS SESSION



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## CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you'll probably want make some tweaks** to this lesson. You can do that by editing the Word document in your series downloads.



## HACK

If you're using Grow for your toddlers, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for Session 1 [here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for Session 1 [here](#) and the **Preschool Hacks** for Session 1 [here](#).



## COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and parents are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Session 1 Volunteer Email](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Monthly Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)



# SESSION 1

## WEEKDAY LESSON OUTLINE

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### **THE BIG IDEA**

People can help my  
faith grow.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Moses and the Red Sea:**  
Exodus 14

#### *THIS SESSION AT A GLANCE*

- **VIDEO** | Morning Intro 1
- **MUSIC** | Waves of Worship
- **ACTIVITY** | S.E.A. Agent Badge
- **ACTIVITY** | Sticky Toes
- **ACTIVITY** | DEEP SEA HQ Skit
- **ACTIVITY** | Crossing the Sea
- **SCRIPTURE** | Exodus 14
- **THE BIG IDEA** | People can help my faith grow.
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Parting of the Red Sea
- **PRAYER**
- **SNACK** | Snack of the Sea
- **DISCUSSION**
  - Who were Moses and the Israelites running from?
  - When Pharaoh's army was getting closer to them, what did the Israelites ask Moses?
  - What did God tell Moses to do that made the water part?
  - Read Exodus 14:13-14. Why did Moses tell the people they need only to "be still"?
  - Have you ever been in a situation where you thought you had no way out? What happened?
  - What do you think it means to grow your faith?
  - Who is someone that has helped your faith grow? How?
- **ACTIVITY** | Play Stations
- **VIDEO** | Afternoon Countdown 1
- **REFLECTION** | Tentacles of Faith
- **ACTIVITY** | Red Sea Sprint
- **ACTIVITY** | Fish Key Chain Craft
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Ephesians 3:18



# SESSION 1

## EVENING LESSON OUTLINE

**MISSION:**  
**DEEP SEA**

### **THE BIG IDEA**

People can help my  
faith grow.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Moses and the Red Sea:**  
Exodus 14

### *THIS SESSION AT A GLANCE*

- **VIDEO** | S.E.A. Agent Training, Level 1
- **MUSIC** | Waves of Worship
- **ACTIVITY** | S.E.A. Agent Badge
- **ACTIVITY** | Crossing the Sea
- **SCRIPTURE** | Exodus 14
- **THE BIG IDEA** | People can help my faith grow.
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Parting of the Red Sea
- **PRAYER**
- **SNACK** | Snack of the Sea

#### ■ **DISCUSSION**

- Who were Moses and the Israelites running from?
- When Pharaoh's army was getting closer to them, what did the Israelites ask Moses?
- What did God tell Moses to do that made the water part?
- Read Exodus 14:13-14. Why did Moses tell the people they need only to "be still"?
- Have you ever been in a situation where you thought you had no way out? What happened?
- What do you think it means for your faith to grow?
- Who is someone that has helped your faith grow? How?

- **VIDEO** | Countdown Video
- **REFLECTION** | Tentacles of Faith
- **ACTIVITY** | Fish Key Chain Craft
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Ephesians 3:18



# SESSION 1

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY MIKE SHELEY**

### HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR PRETEENS

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but preteens tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preteens more engaged.

#### GENERAL TIPS FOR ALL SESSIONS

**Worship time.** Unless you have a large enough preteen group to do a separate worship with slightly more "preteen" songs, the best hack here is to involve them in leading worship. Some will be good at actually singing, whether or not you mic them. Others can be really good with leading motions. And then others can be dispersed among the younger kids, leading the others in worship by example.

**Bible story time.** Preteens would be more engaged if you have them help act out the story or if you have them read it while others are acting it out. Try to bring in props during the storytelling, such as a can of sardines for Jesus Feeds the Crowd, or a mist bottle to spray the kids while telling the Moses or Jonah stories.

#### ACTIVITY | S.E.A. Agent Badge

Make your preteen badges a little different, perhaps adding in a stripe or a different color. Or you could give them a specific color of yarn not available to the other kids. Also allow them to help younger kids make their badges.

#### ACTIVITY | Crossing the Sea

If your small groups have mixed ages, have preteens let the younger kids go first. This is similar to how some people run an Easter Egg hunt. Only let the preteens go after the younger children have gone so they don't take all the shells. And have preteens "[crab walk](#)" through this activity. . . if

anyone's going to enjoy a good challenge of picking up shells while crab walking, it will be your preteens!  
\*Bonus: If you have any gymnastics preteens, they are probably good at crab walking and can teach the others!

**REFLECTION | Tentacles of Faith**

- In addition to making the tentacle, have some purple paper they can use to write a little thank you note or note of encouragement to that person. Challenge them to take the note home and have their parents help them mail it to the person.



# SESSION 1

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY KIMBERLY DORPENYO**

### *HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS*

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

#### **GENERAL TIPS FOR ALL SESSIONS**

**Worship time.** Use simple, repetitive actions for kids with special needs. If they cannot do the actions, have them jump up and down. Movement always helps memory and senses. Have noise-cancelling headphones available for kids sensitive to loud sounds. For kids using wheelchairs, have someone "dance" them during fast songs and hold up their hands during slow ones.

**Bible story time.** Many friends are visual learners. Provide a print out of pictures for them to follow, or provide a coloring page for them to color while you tell the story. If they need to move, provide their own action figures in the back of the room by the visual pictures so they can re-enact the story themselves.

#### **ACTIVITY | S.E.A. Agent Badge**

Have the badge pre-printed on a larger label so there is more space to create on. Many friends write bigger letters than other students. Have an older student or one-on-one partner put the child's hand on top of his hand and spell the name out loud while they write it together.

Additionally, some friends may need to give a high five or fist bump to connect with the other kids that they are meeting. Give them a chance to say each name alone. When they are done, have the crew celebrate.

**ACTIVITY | Sticky Toes**

Have baggies filled with blue hair gel and sea creatures. Make sure they are duct-taped shut, allowing the kids to play with these during this activity. Have them point out different creatures and squish them through the ocean gel.

**ACTIVITY | Crossing the Sea**

Have kids buddy up with a peer and walk through together. Wheelchair friends can be wheeled through while other kids hand them seashells. You can also modify this activity by placing the shells on blankets that volunteers are holding up instead of putting them on the ground, so that kids can reach them easily.

**THE BIG IDEA | People can help my faith grow.**

Provide hand motions to help them remember the Big Idea. Example: People (point to different people in the room around you) can help (raise your hands) my faith (hands to heart) grow (move a hand from the ground up in levels to demonstrate something growing taller).

**OBJECT LESSON | Parting of the Red Sea**

Provide a buddy with whom they can create this craft. You may also want provide a gatorade bottle instead of a water bottle so the lid is wider and easier for them to pour things into. Have a few bottles pre-made in case they are unable to make them so they can still play and take one home.

**REFLECTION | Tentacles of Faith**

Have an adult or peer help write and attach the strips of paper together. Supply stickers or pre-cut pictures of people they can choose from, like an image of a woman that has the word “mom” under it (also dad, grandma, grandpa, teacher, pastor, aunt, etc.). Also consider providing a squishy, [koosh ball](#) for them to squeeze during this activity. They will match the octopus, have tentacles, and provide movement and stress relief!

**ACTIVITY | Red Sea Sprint**

Allow friends to go back and forth in between different lines to the side if a race is too difficult for them. Wheelchairs can be wheeled in this game. If you are concerned about balloons being popped and getting wet causing stress, provide foam balls instead.

**MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18**

Have friends wave the “seaweed” while saying the verse to them. Shorten the verse if needed.



# SESSION 1

## HACKS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY TIFFANY THENOR**

### HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR PRESCHOOLERS

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week. Here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preschoolers more engaged.

#### GENERAL TIPS FOR ALL SESSIONS

**Worship time.** Worship might be a great opportunity to open up some of the Play Station activities to keep students engaged. You can also play Freeze Dance with these songs or provide hand motions. Also, remember that less is more. Young children have difficulty keeping focus. One well-intentioned song might have more impact than three songs to fill time. Choose wisely and make it fun!

**Bible story time.** Young children LOVE storytelling. What makes a great story telling experience is how engaging and interactive it is. Gathering children up close pulls in their attention. Telling the story on their level helps to keep their attention. Inviting the children to help you act out the story while you are telling it can help the children remember what you have said.

**Discussion time.** Instead of engaging one child's response at a time, have children turn to their buddy beside them to answer each of the questions so that all children can be responding at the same time.

#### ACTIVITY | S.E.A. Agent Badge

Have the adult write each child's name on the badge using dashed/dotted lines so that the preschool child can trace their own name in washable marker. If you would like them to decorate the badge afterwards, provide color pencils and crayons. Have the adult hole punch and lace the badge for the younger child. It is recommended that the adult also laminate these badges, as the younger child might handle the badge more than the others, causing it to tear.

### ACTIVITY | Sticky Toes

This activity might be too challenging for younger students. An alternative would be to use their hands instead of their toes. To prevent children from eating the jello or putting their hands in their mouths, have them watch you spray the jello before the activity with hair spray or something clear and non-edible as a visual reminder this is NOT FOOD. Also, have hand sanitizer and baby wipes readily available for cleaning hands/feet after each turn. Additionally, some children might opt out of this activity entirely due to being sensitive to texture. In this case, a sensory tub with blue-dyed rice or dry paste can have the same effect. Children could also use tongs to large tweezers to pull out the sea creatures instead of hands. Blue-dyed cooked spaghetti is also a fun alternative to the jello.

### ACTIVITY | Crossing the Sea

Using real seashells might be easier to pick up than small pieces of paper on the floor.

### THE BIG IDEA | People can help my faith grow.

To help younger children remember the Big Idea, provide hand motions for the words. Example: People (point to different people in the room around you) can help (raise your hands) my faith (hands to heart) grow (move a hand from the ground up in levels to demonstrate something growing taller).

### OBJECT LESSON | Parting of the Red Sea

Make sure you hot glue the lids of the bottles shut for this activity. Little hands will open it otherwise. Also, adding a little glitter into the bottle makes for an excellent “calming jar” which can be used as an extension to this lesson and a great take-home reminder for young children that God uses people to help us. Help us with situations, feelings, and everyday needs.

### REFLECTION | Tentacles of Faith

This language might be too difficult for a young child to relate to. Using the language “someone who reminds us Jesus loves us” or “someone who shows us God’s love” might help the child connect with the question better. Also, have an adult write the names dictated by the child for them. Or, have the child draw a picture of the person they are thinking of.

### MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

Have the memory verse typed and printed out in strips of paper for this activity. Invite the younger children to color it green and glue it down on the blue construction paper using glue sticks.



# SESSION 1

## LESSON GUIDE

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### **THE BIG IDEA**

People can help my  
faith grow.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Moses and the Red Sea:**  
Exodus 14

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### **VIDEO | Morning Intro 1**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play today's intro video.*

#### **MUSIC | Waves of Worship**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to sing and dance along to some fun songs about God's love, including our original theme song, "We Go Deep!" Here are some other songs we like:*
- ["God's Love is Big"](#)
- ["Holding On"](#)
- ["Oceans"](#)

#### **ACTIVITY | S.E.A. Agent Badge**

- Starting today, each of us are S.E.A. Agents-in-Training at Mission: DEEP SEA. We are going to have to work together to make it through the program. It is our job to take care of each other. So, let's get to know your team!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using the S.E.A. Agent badge printable, the kids will create their own S.E.A. agent badge to wear during VBS.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Make your preteen badges a little different, perhaps adding in a stripe or a different color. Or, you can give them a specific color of yarn not available to the other kids. Also, allow them to help the younger kids make their badges.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Pre-print the badge on a larger label so there is more space to create on. Have kids partner with an adult or peer who can spell the name out loud while they write it together.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Tell the adult to write each kid's name on the badge using dashed/dotted lines for the kids to trace with washable marker. Provide colored pencils and crayons to decorate, then laminate them, if possible. Then, hole punch and lace the badge for them.

- Just like God made the ocean and everything in it unique, God made each of us special and different, too. Go greet your fellow S.E.A. Agents-in-Training!

### ACTIVITY | Sticky Toes

- As S.E.A. Agents-in-Training, we never know what kind of creatures we may encounter in the sea. We are going to play a game that allows us to dive deep into the ocean.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before VBS, fill a bucket or small tub with blue Jell-O. Inside the Jell-O, place small plastic sea creatures. The kids will take turns using their toes to grab as many sea creatures as they can. Remind the kids the Jell-O is there for playing, not eating! If you prefer a non-food option, you can use blue slime (or clear slime and add blue food coloring).
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Fill baggies with blue hair gel and sea creatures. Make sure they are duct-taped shut, allowing the kids to play with these during this activity. Ask them to point out different creatures and squish them through the ocean gel.
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Encourage the preschoolers to use their hands instead of their toes. For kids sensitive to texture, use tongs or large tweezers, or try creating a sensory tub with items dyed blue (e.g., rice, dry pasta, or even cooked spaghetti).
- In today's Bible story, we are going to talk about a group of people who also did not know what they would encounter as they came across a big sea.

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### ACTIVITY | DEEP SEA HQ Skit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the script provided in your Teaching folder to perform a skit or make a video for the kids.

### ACTIVITY | Crossing the Sea

- S.E.A. Agents-in-Training, our first mission is to work together to collect sea shells from the bottom of the ocean.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Small groups will work together to cross the sea, picking up sea shells as they go. Cut out the printable and prep one set for each group. Scatter the seashells (which have words from the Big Idea) along brown butcher paper on the ground. Place a volunteer on each side of this "dry ground," holding up blue bed sheets to create the sea wall. Tell the kids to walk through and collect seashells as they go.

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Tell the preteens to “[crab walk](#)” through this activity. Encourage them to wait for the younger kids to go first so the preteens don’t pick up all the shells. Or, organize your small group so it’s comprised of only preteens.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Partner the kids with a peer and walk through together. Wheelchair friends can be wheeled through while other kids hand them seashells. You can also modify this activity by placing the shells on blankets that volunteers are holding up instead of putting them on the ground, so that kids can reach them easily.
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Using real seashells might be easier to pick up than small pieces of paper on the floor.
- Once you collect all of the seashells, drop your seashell in your group’s bucket. We’ll wait for further instructions from DEEP SEA HQ.

### SCRIPTURE | Exodus 14

- Going on an adventure together means working as a team. At Mission: DEEP SEA, we are going to work together as S.E.A. Agents-in-Training to explore God’s creation, the ocean, and the depths of God’s love for us!
- Back in Bible times, the Israelites had to work as a team, too, as they were escaping Egypt. Let’s dive in to today’s Bible story!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read or summarize Exodus 14 using [action figures](#) for Moses and Pharaoh, and red Jell-O.
- *[Hold up Moses action figure for kids to see.]* Moses was the influencer and leader of faith for the Israelites, God’s people, after they had been slaves in Egypt for such a long time. They needed someone to lead them and needed each other to escape Pharaoh.
- *[Hold up Pharaoh action figure for kids to see.]* Pharaoh sent his army after the Israelites and they were getting closer.
- *[Move Moses to the plate with the red Jell-O mold.]* Moses and the Israelites came to the Red Sea. There was no way they would be able to cross it in time before Pharaoh’s army caught up to them.
- *[Move Pharaoh close to Moses on the plate with the red Jell-O mold.]* But guess what? God told Moses to raise his staff and stretch out his hands. God provided everything the Israelites needed, including parting the sea! *[Use a plastic knife to cut the red Jell-O mold in half, then “walk” Moses through the Jell-O.]*
- Sometimes, when we are facing a tough situation, we might forget to trust God with our problems. But God has given us some people in our lives who can help us with that. Even though all the Israelites were afraid and thought there was no way out, Moses knew God had it under control. Moses obeyed God, and when he stretched out his hands over the sea, everyone was saved. What’s more, their faith in God grew stronger that day!

### THE BIG IDEA | People can help my faith grow.

- Now, it’s time to complete our mission from before. Thanks to our story from Exodus 14, we were able to walk on dry ground to collect some special seashells. DEEP SEA HQ wants us to figure out the secret message from our shells.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Groups will work together to unscramble the Big Idea for the day.
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** To help younger kids remember the Big Idea, provide hand motions for the words. Example: People (point to different people in the room around you) can help (raise your hands) my faith (hands to heart) grow (move a hand from the ground up in levels to demonstrate something growing taller).
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide hand motions for kids with special needs to help them retain the Big Idea. You can use the same hand motions as the ones suggested for preschool, or make your own!
- Great job, S.E.A. Agents-in-Training! We did it! The secret message is our Big Idea for the day:  
**People can help my faith grow!**

### OBJECT LESSON | Parting of the Red Sea

- Today's story in Exodus 14 showed us God used Moses to do something incredible! God told Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea and the water split right down the middle. Because of that, the Israelites were able to walk through on dry ground.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Open the bottle of water, pour half of the water into a cup. Place five drops of blue food coloring into the water. Pour the olive oil into the bottle. Allow kids to take turns shaking up the bottle. The olive oil and blue water will mix together. Once the shaking stops, the oil and water will begin to separate.
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Add a little glitter to the mixture to create "calming jars" that kids can take home. Make sure you hot glue the lids of the bottles closed.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Turn this object lesson into a craft by using a bottle with a wider mouth so that it's easier for them to pour things into the bottle. Pre-make a few bottles in case they are unable to make them so they can still play and take one home.
- The parting of the Red Sea may have looked something like this – but way cooler! Imagine you were one of the people crossing the sea on dry land. **What kinds of things might they have seen as the waters of the Red Sea parted?** [Allow the kids to yell out some answers: fish, whales, seaweed, sharks, etc.]
- I would have been so amazed at what was happening. The Israelites were, too! We know this because of what it says in Exodus 14:31: Because of this miraculous event, the people of Israel had faith in God and in Moses, their leader.

### PRAYER

- God, Thank You for the story of Moses, and for reminding us we can always put our faith in You. Thank You for the people in my life who can help my faith grow.

### SNACK | Snack of the Sea

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** In a bowl, combine colorful Goldfish crackers, blueberries and Cheerios. Use small cups to dip out a portion for each kid in the group. Ask the following questions while the kids eat.
- **If you were going to create a sea creature, what would it look like?**
- **What would you call it?**
- **What would it eat?**

**DISCUSSION**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split off into small groups and have kids share their responses to the following questions. You could choose to combine this with snack time, if you'd like!
- **Who were Moses and the Israelites running from?** Pharaoh and his army.
- **When Pharaoh's army was getting closer to them, what did the Israelites ask Moses?** Why did you bring us here? What have you done?
- **What did God tell Moses to do that made the water part?** Stretch out his hand.
- **Read Exodus 14:13-14. Why did Moses tell the people they need only to "be still"?**
- **Have you ever been in a situation where you thought you had no way out? What happened?**
- **What do you think it means for your faith to grow?**
- **Who is someone who has helped your faith grow? How?**

**ACTIVITY | Play Stations**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** See the "Play Stations" section for some ideas for this free play segment. You can set up the same stations every day or change them up for each session. Let kids float around between stations freely, but designate leaders to supervise. Some ways to monitor the flow is to tell the kids that each station cannot exceed a certain number of kids (e.g., 5-6), so if they see a station that is full, they can go to another one. If you feel there is a station that is more popular, set a timer for how long kids are allowed to stay, or ensure them that the station will be back next session.

**NOW WHAT?** What does God want us to do about it?**VIDEO | Afternoon Countdown 1**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play today's Countdown video.

**REFLECTION | Tentacles of Faith**

- We all have people in our lives who help our faith grow. For the Israelites in today's story, Moses was the person who helped their faith grow.
- **Can you think of someone in your life who helps your faith grow?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before VBS starts, cut out a large circle out of poster board or wood, and draw an octopus face on it (leave out tentacles). Hang the octopus somewhere near the stage or worship area. Split everyone into small groups. Tell the kids to think of the name of someone who has helped their faith grow and encourage them to write down that person's name on a strip of purple paper. They can write as many as they want. Once everyone in the group has written down some names, staple the strips of paper together to form a chain. As each group finishes their chain, attach the chain to the giant octopus with tape, creating tentacles!
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** In addition to making the tentacles, have some purple paper they can use to write a little thank you note or note of encouragement to that person. Challenge them to take the note home and ask their parents to help them mail it to the person.

- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Ask an adult or peer to partner with them for this activity. Supply stickers or pre-cut pictures of people they can choose from, like an image of a woman who has the word “mom” under it (also dad, grandma, grandpa, teacher, pastor, aunt, etc.). Also consider providing a [koosh ball](#) for them to squeeze during this activity. They will match the octopus, have tentacles, and provide movement and stress relief.
- ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Ask preschoolers, “Who is someone who shows us God’s love?” Then, ask an adult to write the names the kids say. Or, encourage the kid to draw a picture of the person they are thinking of.

- Take a moment to quietly pray for all these people in our lives who have helped our faith to grow!

### ACTIVITY | Red Sea Sprint

- Imagine how rushed the Israelites felt trying to get across the Red Sea before Pharaoh’s army got there! Let’s play a game to see how fast you can cross the Red Sea!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** In this game, teams will race against each other to cross the “Red Sea” with water balloons (be sure to check that no kids in your group have a latex allergy). Before the game begins, fill ten to twenty water balloons for each group. Use some sort of ground stakes and ribbon, preferably blue, to create lanes for each team. The kids will spread across their lane, double arms length apart. The first kid will pick up a water balloon and toss it to the next kid in line. The first group to get all their water balloons across, and has the most water balloons left intact, wins!
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Allow friends to go back and forth in between different lines to the side if a race is too difficult for them. Wheelchairs can be wheeled in this game. If you are concerned about balloons being popped, the kids getting wet and causing stress, provide foam balls instead.

### MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to carefully write each word of the memory verse on strips of green crepe paper, one word per piece of “seaweed.” Then have them glue the seaweed strips in the correct order onto blue construction paper. Afterward, show the kids how to say the memory verse in sign language (which we’ve provided for you!).
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Type and print the memory verse on strips of paper for this activity. Invite the younger kids to color it green and glue it down on the blue construction paper using glue sticks.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Tell the kids to wave the “seaweed” while saying the verse to them. Shorten the verse, if needed.

### ACTIVITY | Fish Key Chain Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will make their own [fish keychain](#) to hang on their S.E.A. Agent badge! Form a heart shape in the center of the pipe cleaner and twist below it several times. Thread beads on both pipe cleaner ends. Add a keychain ring, then twist ends together to secure it. Assist the kids in hanging their fish on their S.E.A. Agent badge.

- Our story today showed that even when the Israelites faced something scary, God provided what they needed. God gave Moses the power to part the Red Sea so the people could pass safely on dry ground.
- Hearing stories of how God provided for people in the Bible and even other people we know can help our faith grow. These fish can be a reminder to us that there are people who can help my faith grow!

# SESSION 1

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### THE BIG IDEA

People can help my  
faith grow.

### THE BIBLE

**Moses and the Red Sea:**  
Exodus 14

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 | S.E.A. Agent Badge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids create their own S.E.A. agent badge to wear during VBS.

#### ACTIVITY | Crossing the Sea

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Gather your group and work together to cross the sea, picking up sea shells as they go. Hold on to these sea shells for the Big Idea activity.

#### THE BIG IDEA | People can help my faith grow.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Groups will work together to unscramble the Big Idea for the day.

#### DISCUSSION

- **Who were Moses and the Israelites running from?** Pharaoh and his army.
- **When Pharaoh's army was getting closer to them, what did the Israelites ask Moses?** Why did you bring us here? What have you done?
- **What did God tell Moses to do that made the water part?** Stretch out his hand.
- **Read Exodus 14:13-14. Why did Moses tell the people they need only to "be still"?**
- **Have you ever been in a situation where you thought you had no way out? What happened?**
- **What do you think it means for your faith to grow?**
- **Who is someone who has helped your faith grow? How?**

#### REFLECTION | Tentacles of Faith

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to think of the name of someone who has helped their faith grow and encourage them to write down that person's name on a strip of purple paper. They can write

as many as they want. Once everyone in the group has written down some names, staple the strips of paper together to form a chain. Then attach your chain to the giant octopus in the main meeting room.

#### MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to carefully write each word of the memory verse on strips of green crepe paper, one word per piece of "seaweed." Then glue the seaweed strips in the correct order onto blue construction paper.

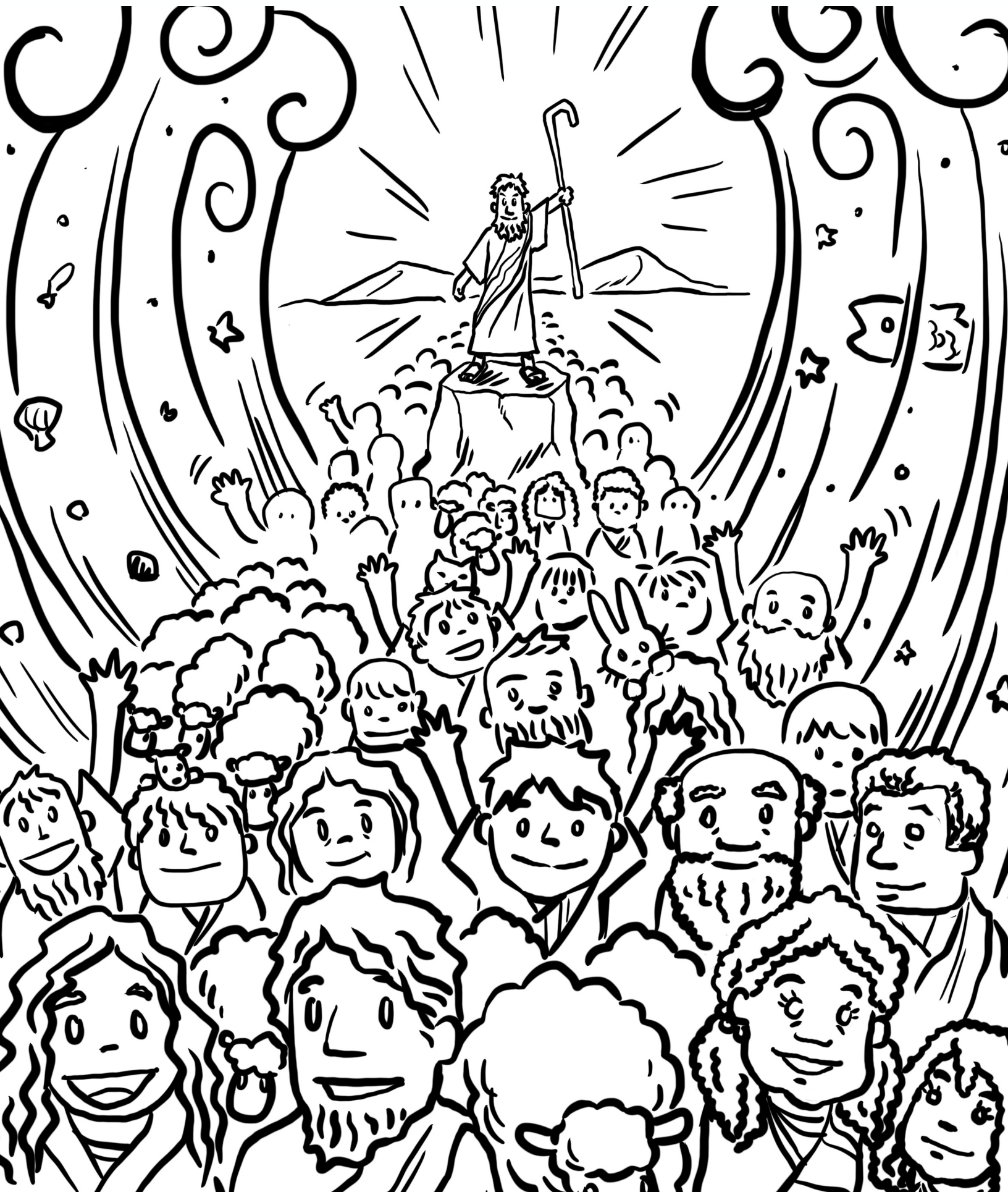
#### ACTIVITY | Fish Key Chain Craft

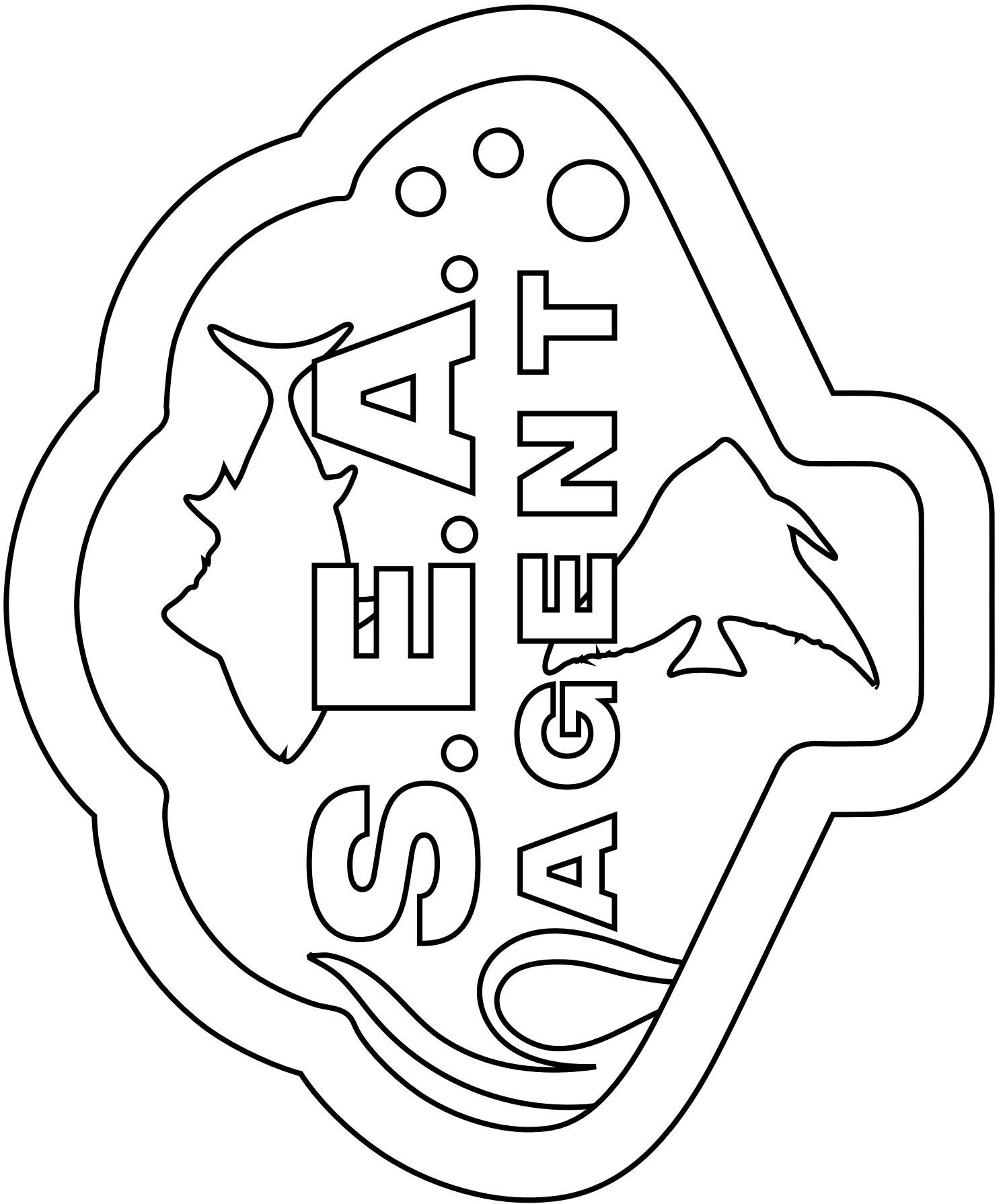
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Form a heart shape in the center of the pipe cleaner and twist below it several times. Thread beads on both pipe cleaner ends. Add the keychain ring, then twist ends together to secure it. Assist the kids in hanging their fish on their S.E.A. Agent badge.

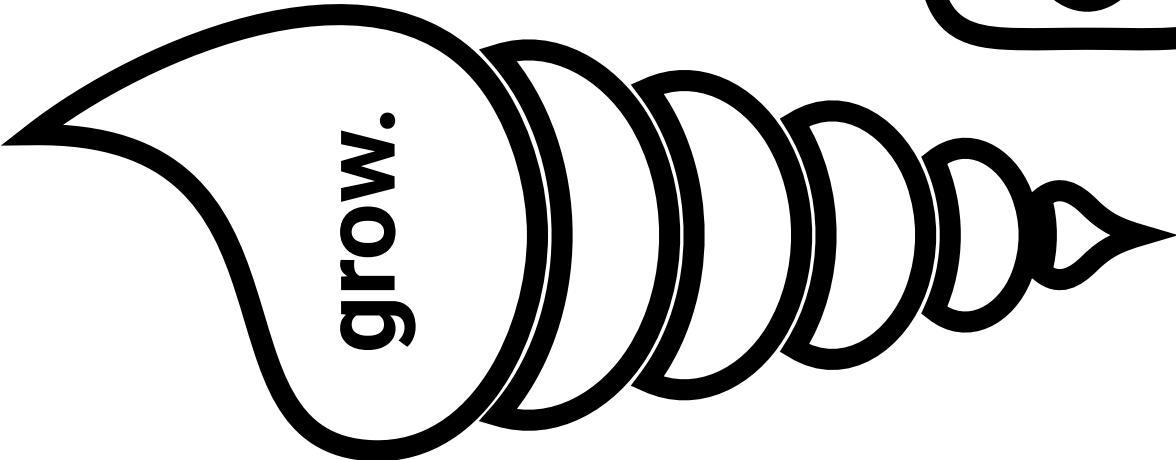
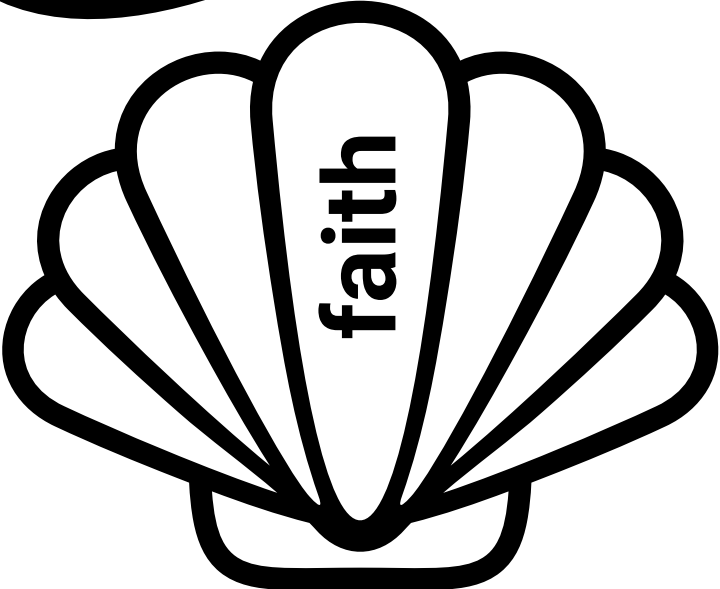
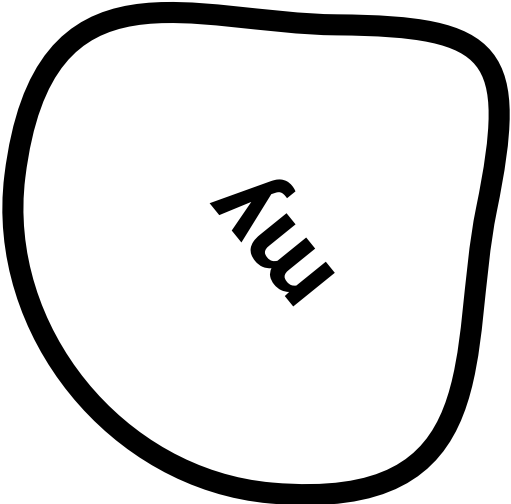
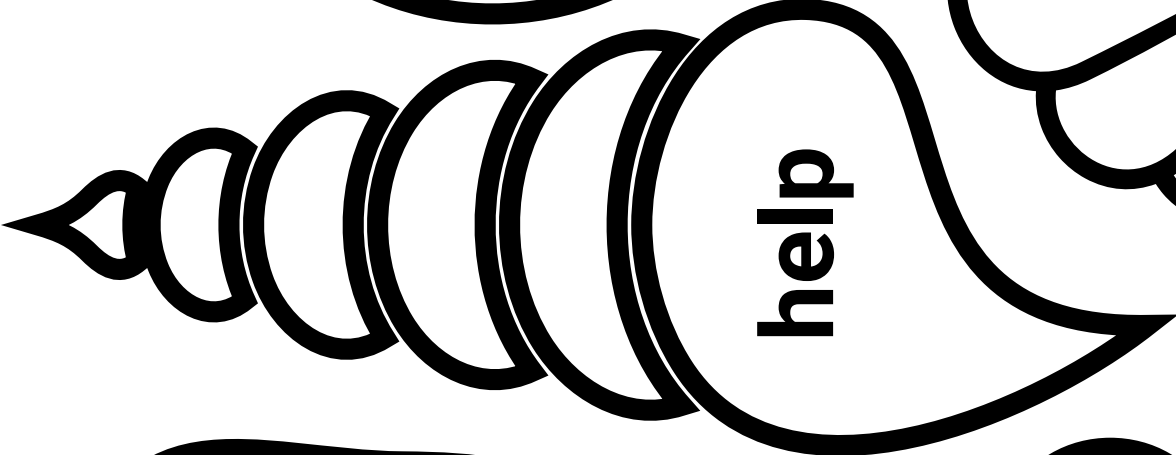
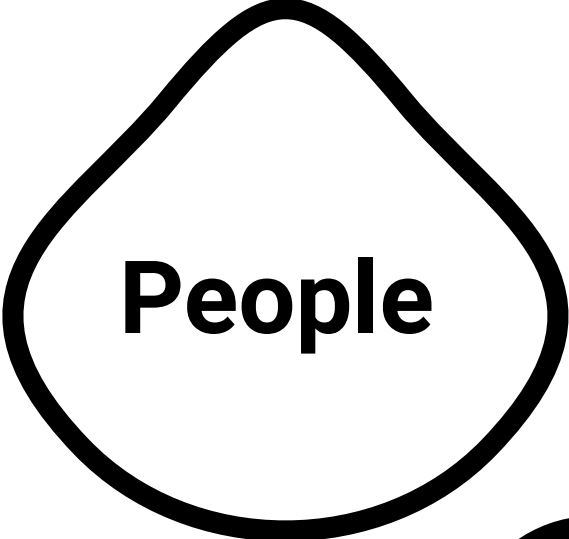
### **MEMORY VERSE FOR MISSION: DEEP SEA: Ephesians 3:18 (NIV)**

*"Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."*

Looking for sign language? Go to [growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18](http://growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18) and get memorizing!









# SESSION 2

## OVERVIEW

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### THE BIG IDEA

My faith grows deeper  
when I use my gifts.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus Feeds the Crowd:**  
John 6:1-13

#### STUFF FOR THIS SESSION

### TEACHING – SESSION 2

- ▶ How to Prepare
  - ▶ [Shopping List](#)
  - ▶ [Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Outline](#)
- ▶ [Preteen Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Special Needs Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Preschool Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

### PARENTS & VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ [Session 2 Volunteer Email](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

#### HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS SESSION



### DESIGN

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics folder](#) & [Video folder](#).



### SHOP

**We made a list** of everything you'll need to buy, borrow, or dig out of your storage closet in order to make this week happen. Get your editable shopping [right here](#).



## PREP

We made a **list** of everything you'll need to print, cut, glue, build, or make in order to make this week happen. Get the list [right here](#).



## CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you'll probably want make some tweaks** to this lesson. You can do that by editing the Word document in your series downloads.



## HACK

If you're using Grow for your toddlers, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for Session 2 [here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for Session 2 [here](#) and the **Preschool Hacks** for Session 2 [here](#).



## COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and parents are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Session 2 Volunteer Email](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)



# SESSION 2

## WEEKDAY LESSON OUTLINE

**MISSION:**  
**DEEP SEA**

### **THE BIG IDEA**

My faith grows deeper  
when I use my gifts.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Jesus Feeds the Crowd:**  
John 6:1-13

#### *THIS SESSION AT A GLANCE*

- **VIDEO** | Morning Intro 2
- **MUSIC** | Waves of Worship
- **ACTIVITY** | Lunch Launch
- **ACTIVITY** | Gifts I Have
- **ACTIVITY** | DEEP SEA HQ Skit
- **ACTIVITY** | Lunch is Served Craft
- **SCRIPTURE** | John 6:1-13
- **THE BIG IDEA** | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.
- **ACTIVITY** | I Draw, You Draw
- **PRAYER**
- **SNACK** | Sea Snack Mix

#### ■ **DISCUSSION**

- Why were there so many people around that needed to be fed?
- What did the young boy have that he was willing to give?
- What did Jesus do before the food was multiplied? He prayed and gave thanks.
- Read John 6:12-13. How much food was left over? How is that possible?
- Have you ever shared something that you really wanted to keep for yourself?
- What gifts, talents, or abilities do you have that God has given you?
- How can using your gift help you grow a deeper faith and help you believe in God more?
- **ACTIVITY** | Play Stations
- **VIDEO** | Afternoon Countdown 2
- **REFLECTION** | Finger Print Fish
- **REFLECTION** | Gifts of Gold
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Ephesians 3:18
- **ACTIVITY** | Deep Diver Craft



# SESSION 2

## EVENING LESSON OUTLINE

**MISSION:**  
**DEEP SEA**

### **THE BIG IDEA**

My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Jesus Feeds the Crowd:**  
John 6:1-13

#### *THIS SESSION AT A GLANCE*

- **VIDEO** | S.E.A. Agent Training, Level 2
- **MUSIC** | Waves of Worship
- **ACTIVITY** | Gifts I Have
- **ACTIVITY** | Lunch is Served Craft
- **SCRIPTURE** | John 6:1-13
- **THE BIG IDEA** | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.
- **ACTIVITY** | I Draw, You Draw
- **PRAYER**
- **SNACK** | Sea Snack Mix

#### ■ **DISCUSSION**

- Why were there so many people around that needed to be fed?
- What did the young boy have that he was willing to give?
- What did Jesus do before the food was multiplied?
- Read John 6:12-13. How much food was left over? How is that possible?
- Have you ever shared something that you really wanted to keep for yourself?
- What gifts, talents, or abilities do you have that God has given you?
- How can using your gift help you grow a deeper faith? How can it help you believe in God more?

- **VIDEO** | Countdown Video
- **REFLECTION** | Finger Print Fish
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Ephesians 3:18
- **ACTIVITY** | Deep Diver Craft



# SESSION 2

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY MIKE SHELEY**

### HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR PRETEENS

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but preteens tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preteens more engaged.

#### **THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.**

Preteens might enjoy actually having a puzzle to assemble. You can purchase [blank puzzles](#) in whatever complexity you want. The sample link shows one with 63 pieces. You can use a marker to write out the big idea on the puzzle. For bonus creativity, involve a preteen ahead of time to creatively write and artistically decorate the puzzle before you take the pieces apart. Then bury the pieces in the sand and follow the original instructions.

#### **ACTIVITY | Lunch is Served Craft**

Print the printable on [shrink paper](#). Have kids color it in with permanent marker, cut them out, then punch a hole in each image. Heat the items using a toaster oven. Once cooled, add the newly-created charms on to a [leather string](#) to make a bracelet, necklace, or keychain.

#### **REFLECTION | Finger Print Fish**

This is going to be a fun and messy activity. Although you can't prevent a mess, you can minimize it. Have preteens who are in charge of each ink pad who can also help the young children with getting the ink on their fingers. Have a different set of preteens who have the baby wipes and are ready to jump in and help wipe off fingers as soon as they are done making their mark!



# SESSION 2

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY KIMBERLY DORPENYO**

### *HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS*

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

#### **ACTIVITY | Lunch Launch**

Provide a buddy that friends throw with and provide a large goal for them to aim for. Consider turning it into a mini relay race where the partners can pass the items back and forth with each step they take toward the goal.

#### **ACTIVITY | Gifts I Have**

Create visual gifts on paper plates then glue them on popsicle sticks. Hold up the visual that matches the item being read. Pre-print matching stickers that kids can put on their shirts or hang posters around the room (or on traffic cones) that kids can go to in order to find a partner. This game creates a lot of noise with all the talking, so have headphones available.

#### **ACTIVITY | Lunch is Served Craft**

Provide a buddy and have some pre-made for friends who can't make one. They can at least color the pre-made baskets.

#### **THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.**

Pre-write the Big Idea on a large piece of butcher paper or poster board so friends can match the puzzle pieces to the bottom line. Provide a bin of kinetic sand for them to play in AFTER they do the verse. If they cannot do the verse, just lead them to the sand.

**ACTIVITY | I Draw, You Draw**

Distribute a picture of the same item for everyone. Provide pre-printed pictures of possible alternative uses and have the students glue them to paper.

**REFLECTION | Gifts of Gold**

Provide a separate treasure chest with stickers or little slips of paper with a some gifts written out or drawn already for friends to put on their plates.

**MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18**

Pre-place a set of submarines on a poster board. Use velcro dots so students can velcro their matching submarine to the board. They may like pulling them off the board and putting them back on - the sound and feel of the velcro is often enjoyable for friends with special needs.



# SESSION 2

## HACKS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY TIFFANY THENOR**

### *HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR PRESCHOOLERS*

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week. Here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preschoolers more engaged.

#### **ACTIVITY | Lunch Launch**

To avoid this game becoming frustrational for young children, ensure that the game is done on a small scale or with large goals for easy aim. For example, instead of tossing bread loaves into a basket, tape off a large perimeter for children to aim into.

#### **ACTIVITY | Gifts I Have**

Have all children sit on the floor or in a chair. Change the statements to "I CAN" statements. If the child agrees with the statement, they can stand up. If the child does not agree with the statement, they can sit or remain sitting. For example, you can say things like, "I can ride a bike" or "I can make a new friend easily."

#### **THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.**

To help younger children remember the Big Idea, provide hand motions for the words. Example: My faith (hands on heart) grows (move hand from ground up in levels to demonstrate growing) deeper (point downward) when I use (point to self) my gifts (hands on hips).

On a large butcher piece of paper, pre-write the Big Idea. When a child finds an index card containing one of the words from the Big Idea, they can match it with the words written on the butcher paper and velcro/tape it beneath the written word on the butcher paper that is displayed. For large groups of children, you can duplicate the set up of this activity in 3-5 areas of the room. It is important to not leave too many children waiting around for this to go on to avoid loss of student engagement. Or, you can make this relay-race style for more students to be engaged in the cheering of this game.

**ACTIVITY | I Draw, You Draw**

An alternative to this activity would be to provide the physical materials instead of requiring them to write or try to draw something that another child would have to decipher. In a brown paper bag, place random household objects (toothbrush, eating utensils, pencil, paint brush, bobby pin, hair tie, shoe laces, bowl, etc.). Make sure there are enough small items for each child to grab one. Then, have them think of an alternative use for it and act out the proper and new way of using the item for their group.

**MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18**

Have the completed memory verse displayed so that they can reference the correct order, instead of needing the ability to read it. For children who have difficulty identifying the words, provide a picture underneath each word to help them make the right matches.



# SESSION 2

## LESSON GUIDE

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### THE BIG IDEA

My faith grows deeper  
when I use my gifts.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus Feeds the Crowd:**  
John 6:1-13

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### VIDEO | Morning Intro 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play today's intro video.*

#### MUSIC | Waves of Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to sing and dance along to some fun songs about God's love, including our original theme song, "We Go Deep!" Here are some other songs we like:*
- ["Let It Shine"](#)
- ["Deep and Wide"](#)
- ["All That You Need"](#)

#### ACTIVITY | Lunch Launch

- Welcome back, S.E.A. Agents-in-Training! I hope you're ready for another mission. We must work together to launch this lunch into the basket.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Groups will compete in a game where they must toss all of their loaves of bread and their fish into the basket. This game can be played inside where groups are tossing their lunch into a basket, or it can be played on a larger scale outdoors with a water balloon launcher and a laundry basket.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a buddy that friends throw with and provide a large goal for them to aim for. Consider turning it into a mini relay race where the partners can pass the items back and forth with each step they take toward the goal.*

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** To avoid this game becoming too frustrating for young kids, ensure the game is done on a small scale or with large goals for easy aim. For example, instead of tossing bread loaves into a basket, tape off a large perimeter for kids to aim toward.

- Great work! In today's Bible story, we are going to hear about some people who grew their faith when they used a lunch similar to this one!

### ACTIVITY | Gifts I Have

- We are going to play a game where you will have to pair up with another S.E.A. Agent-in-Training who has the same gift, talent, or ability as you. When I say something from the list that you have, start finding someone who has that same gift, talent, or ability. Once you've found a partner, sit down and share with them about your gift, talent, or ability. If you do not have the gift, talent, or ability, that's okay – we all have different gifts. Find someone else like you. Share something you both have in common!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read from the following list of gifts, talents, or abilities – feel free to add your own!
  - Plays the same sport
  - Plays the same musical instrument
  - Is able to ride a scooter, bike, or roller skate
  - Can make a new friend easily
  - Is able to recite a Bible verse from memory
  - Knows how to cook or bake
  - Can blow a bubble with chewing gum
  - Is shy when meeting new people
  - Enjoys singing
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Hold up a visual that matches the item being read. Pre-print matching stickers that the kids can put on their shirts or hang posters around the room (or on traffic cones) that the kids can go to in order to find a partner.
- ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Tell all the kids to sit on the floor or in a chair. Change the items above to "I can" statements. If the kid agrees with the statement, they can stand up. If the kid does not agree with the statement, they can sit back down or remain sitting.
- Wow! You all have some pretty great gifts, talents, and abilities. It is always fun to learn that you have something in common with a friend.
- Today, we are going to talk more about these gifts that you have. God created each of you special and gave you these traits. . . which is why we call them gifts!

### SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

#### ACTIVITY | DEEP SEA HQ Skit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the script provided to perform a skit or make a video for the kids.

#### ACTIVITY | Lunch is Served Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will make their own basket of fish and bread. Punch two holes on both sides of the paper plate. Loop a pipe cleaner through each hole, making handles on the plate. Tell

the kids to color their basket, fish, and loaves of bread. Cut out fish and loaves of bread and glue them to the paper plate.

- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Print the printable on [shrink paper](#). Tell the kids to color it in with permanent marker, cut them out, then punch a hole in each image. Heat the items using a toaster oven. Once cooled, add the newly-created charms onto a [leather string](#) to make a bracelet, necklace, or keychain.
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a buddy and have some pre-made for the kids who can't make one. They can at least color the pre-made baskets.

### SCRIPTURE | John 6:1-13

- Did you know that many of Jesus' friends, or disciples, were fishermen? When Jesus first invited them to come along, Jesus even told some of them they would be "fishers of people." That meant that all the gifts they needed to catch fish – like patience, skill, endurance – they would use to bring people closer to knowing Jesus.
- They would have lots of cool stories to tell people, too! The disciples saw Jesus do lots of amazing things because of Jesus' love for them. Let's hear about one of those right now!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read or summarize John 6:1-13. Use two candy fish and five dinner rolls while you tell the story, and tell volunteers to pass one of each out to the kids when you get to the part where Jesus multiplied the food.
- People came from all over the region to hear what Jesus had to say. One time, there were more than 5,000 men, women, and kids gathered on the hillside listening to Jesus.
  - They listened to Jesus for such a long time, they started getting hungry.
  - The disciples didn't know what to do. Which is funny, right? Because they were right by a lake and so many of them were fishermen!
  - Then, one of the disciples found a boy who had some loaves of bread and a few fish that he was willing to share, even though that was not nearly enough food for all of those people!
  - Jesus told the disciples to have everyone sit down. Then, Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks to God, and passed the bread to those who were seated. Jesus did the same with the fish. And do you know what? The bread and the fish didn't run out. In fact, there were even leftovers!
  - Everyone ate until they were full – every single one of them. **Do you remember how many people there were?** That's right, more than 5,000! Isn't that amazing?
- This story is so important because it's a reminder that when we bring whatever we have to God, God can do so much more with it than we can even imagine.
- Did you come to Mission: DEEP SEA today with a few fish in your pockets? Probably not, but you brought yourself and all of the unique gifts and qualities that make you special.
- When you share these gifts to serve others – whether it's helping someone learn to do something you already know how to do or even offering someone a hug – God can do even more with it than you can imagine.

**THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.**

- Okay, S.E.A. Agents-in-Training: your next mission is to find today's Big Idea. You will need to work together to locate all of the pieces, then put it together.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On index cards, write one word from today's Big Idea. Fold up the index cards and bury them in the sand for each group to find. For large groups, duplicate this activity in different areas of your space.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Write the Big Idea on [blank puzzles](#) instead of index cards. For bonus creativity, involve a preteen ahead of time to creatively write and artistically decorate the puzzle before you take the pieces apart. Then, bury the pieces in the sand and follow the original instructions.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Pre-write the Big Idea on a large piece of butcher paper or poster board so the kids can match the index cards to it. Provide a bin of kinetic sand for them to play with after (or instead of) this activity.*
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *To help younger kids remember the Big Idea, provide hand motions for the words. Example: My faith (hands on heart) grows (move hand from ground up in levels to demonstrate growing) deeper (point downward) when I use (point to self) my gifts (hands on hips). Additionally, on a large piece of butcher paper, write the Big Idea. When a kid finds an index card, they can velcro/tape it below the corresponding words written on the butcher paper.*
- Well done, team! You found today's Big Idea: **My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts!**

**ACTIVITY | I Draw, You Draw**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The kids will work together to create new drawings of ordinary objects. Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil, then tell them to draw an everyday item on their paper (e.g., spoon, pencil, toothbrush, ladder, broom, etc.). Encourage the kids to draw something different from each other, and provide suggestions for kids who need them. Then, they will swap papers with someone else and draw a different way that object can be used than what it's typically used for (e.g., spoon can become a shovel. Toothbrush can become a back scratcher).*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Distribute a picture of the same item for everyone. Provide pre-printed pictures of possible alternative uses and tell the kids to glue them to paper.*
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Place random household objects (e.g., toothbrush, eating utensils, pencil, paintbrush, bobby pin, hair tie, shoelaces, bowl, etc.) inside a brown paper bag. Make sure there are enough small items for each kid to grab one. Then, ask them to think of an alternative use for it and act out both the usual and new way of using the item.*
- **Can each of you share with us what you came up with?**
- In our Bible story today, God used an ordinary boy and his ordinary lunch to feed an extraordinary amount of people! God can use you and your ordinary things to do something amazing! When we use the gifts God gave us, we can help others, learn more about God, and deepen our faith.

**PRAYER**

- God, Thank You for making us unique and special. Help us to be like the kid who shared what he had. We know You can do extraordinary things through us. Help us to use our gifts for You and watch our faith grow!

**SNACK | Sea Snack Mix**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a bowl for each of the snack ingredients. Each kid will use a snack-sized Ziploc to create a sea scene in their Ziploc bag using blue jelly beans (water), gummy sharks, and Goldfish crackers. Ask the following questions while the kids eat:
- **If you were going to live in the ocean, where would you make your home?**
- **Why would you choose that part of the ocean to live in?**

**DISCUSSION**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split off into small groups and have kids share their responses to the following questions. You could choose to combine this with snack time, if you'd like!
- **Why were there so many people around who needed to be fed?** Jesus was teaching and the people were there to hear Jesus.
- **What did the young boy have that he was willing to give?** Five loaves of bread and two fish
- **What did Jesus do before the food was multiplied?** Jesus prayed and gave thanks.
- **Read John 6:12-13. How much food was left over? How is that possible?**
- **Have you ever shared something that you really wanted to keep for yourself?**
- **What gifts, talents, or abilities do you have that God has given you?**
- **How can using your gift help you grow a deeper faith? How can it help you believe in God more?**

**ACTIVITY | Play Stations**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up the same "Play Stations" from last session, or try out some new ones! Keep in mind that this time is to encourage free play, so allow the kids to float from station to station at will, but monitor flow.

**NOW WHAT?** What does God want us to do about it?

**VIDEO | Afternoon Countdown 2**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play today's countdown video.

**REFLECTION | Fingerprint Fish**

- Did you know that different fish also have different scales? They are kinda like our fingerprints.
- Take a look at your fingers for a minute. Every print on each finger is different from everyone else's – yours are not the same as mine.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Break off into small groups. Each group will make a giant fish out of poster board and use their fingerprints to make the fish's scales. First, encourage a few kids or a leader to draw a giant fish on the poster board. Then cut out the fish and tell the kids to take turns using the ink pads to press their fingers into the ink. Tell them to press their fingers onto the fish, creating scales of unique sizes based on the kids' fingers and colors based on the color ink they choose.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Put preteens in charge of each ink pad and also help the younger kids with getting the ink on their fingers. Have a different (or same) set of preteens be ready with baby wipes to help wipe off fingers as soon as they are done making their mark!
- God made each one of us unique. We like different things. We grew up in different ways. We have different skills. Different talents. Different gifts. **Our faith grows deeper when we use those gifts!**

### REFLECTION | Gifts of Gold

- Let's think about the gifts God has given us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Place a small treasure chest in the center of your group, on the stage, or another general area for kids to gather. Nearby, place a stack of yellow or gold dessert party plates and pencils for the kids to grab.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a separate treasure chest with stickers or little slips of paper with some gifts written out or drawn already for the kids to put on their plates.
- Think of a gift God has given you, and write or draw about that gift on your "gold coin." Then, thank God for the gift given to you and drop it in the treasure chest.

### MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will use the Submarine Scramble printable to decode the words to the memory verse. Once they've unscrambled all of the words, they can put it together to form the memory verse and a fleet of submarines. Use a hole punch and twine or ribbon to string the submarines together and display them. Don't forget to review the memory verse in sign language, too!
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Pre-place a set of submarines on a poster board. Use Velcro dots so students can Velcro their matching submarine to the board.
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Display the completed memory verse so the kids can reference the correct order instead of needing the ability to read it.

### ACTIVITY | Deep Diver Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will create their own scuba diver with their face. Provide a Deep Diver printable for each kid, copied on card stock paper. Take a photo of each kid, preferably on day one of VBS, and have printed photos ready for this craft. You could also use an instant print camera for this. Tell the kids to color and cut out their deep diver. Leaders can assist in cutting out the photo to fit the hole in the face of the diver, and gluing them in. (If you have any kids who cannot have their photo taken, have them complete the activity by drawing a face for their diver.)
- Just like a diver goes deep into the ocean to explore the depths of the sea, we are exploring how deep God's love is for us!
- **When we use our gifts, our faith grows deeper.**

# SESSION 2

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### THE BIG IDEA

My faith grows deeper  
when I use my gifts.

### THE BIBLE

**Jesus Feeds the Crowd:**  
John 6:1-13

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 | Lunch is Served Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The kids will make their own basket of fish and bread. Punch two holes on both sides of the paper plate. Loop a pipe cleaner through each hole, making handles on the plate. Tell the kids to color their basket, fish, and loaves of bread. Cut out fish and loaves of bread and glue them to the paper plate.*

#### THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids find all the hidden Big Idea cards in the sand. Then have them work together to put the Big Idea in order.*

#### ACTIVITY | I Draw, You Draw

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The kids will work together to create new drawings of ordinary objects. Give each kid a piece of paper and a pencil, then tell them to draw an everyday item on their paper (e.g., spoon, pencil, toothbrush, ladder, broom, etc.). Encourage the kids to draw something different from each other, and provide suggestions for kids who need them. Then, they will swap papers with someone else and draw a different way that object can be used than what it's typically used for (e.g., spoon can become a shovel. Toothbrush can become a back scratcher).*

#### DISCUSSION

- **Why were there so many people around who needed to be fed?** Jesus was teaching and the people were there to hear Jesus.
- **What did the young boy have that he was willing to give?** Five loaves of bread and two fish
- **What did Jesus do before the food was multiplied?** Jesus prayed and gave thanks.

- Read John 6:12-13. How much food was left over? How is that possible?
- Have you ever shared something that you really wanted to keep for yourself?
- What gifts, talents, or abilities do you have that God has given you?
- How can using your gift help you grow a deeper faith? How can it help you believe in God more?

#### REFLECTION | Fingerprint Fish

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut out the fish from the poster board and tell the kids to take turns using the ink pads to press their fingers into the ink. Tell them to press their fingers onto the fish, creating scales of unique sizes based on the kids' fingers and colors based on the color ink they choose.*

#### MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The kids will decode the words to the memory verse by unscrambling the submarines. Put together a fleet of submarines in the memory verse order. Use a hole punch and twine or ribbon to string the submarines together and display them.*

#### ACTIVITY | Deep Diver Craft

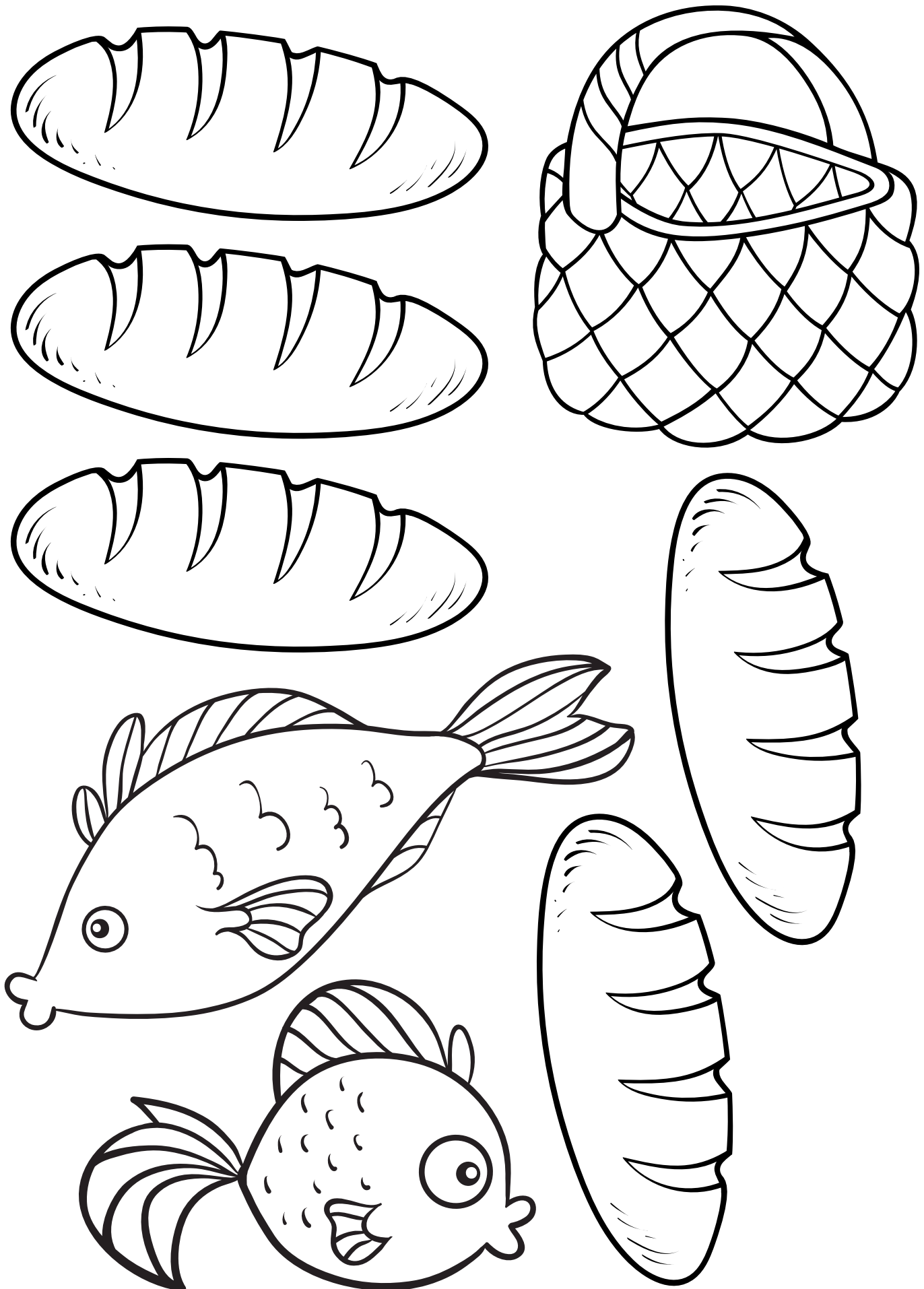
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to color and cut out their deep diver. Assist in cutting out their photo to fit the hole in the face of the diver, and gluing them in.*

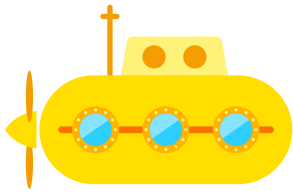
### **MEMORY VERSE FOR MISSION: DEEP SEA: Ephesians 3:18 (NIV)**

*"Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."*

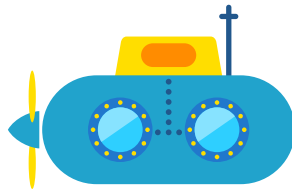
Looking for sign language? Go to [growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18](http://growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18) and get memorizing!



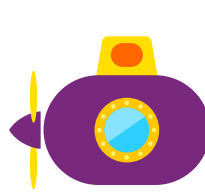




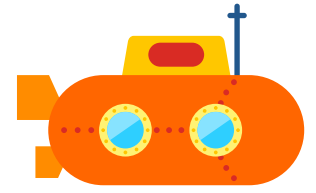
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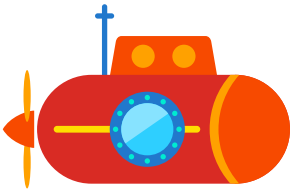
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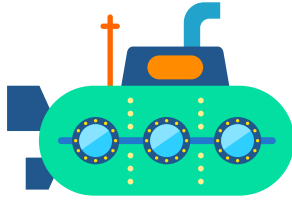
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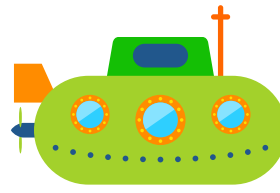
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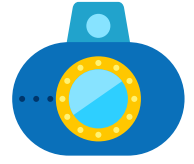
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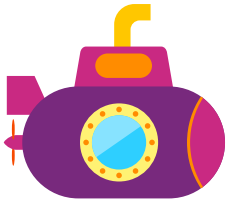
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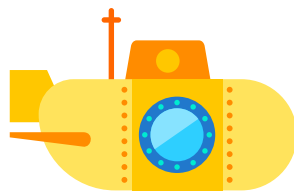
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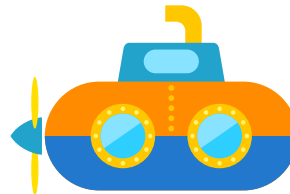
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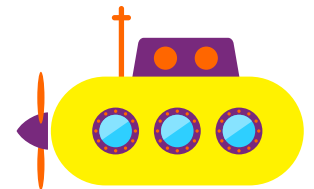
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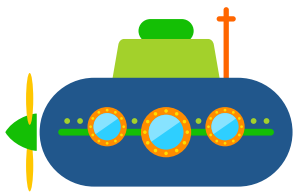
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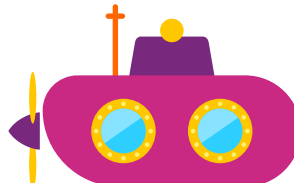
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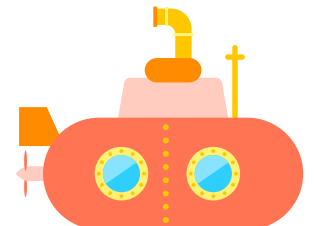
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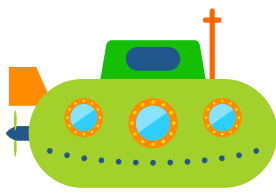
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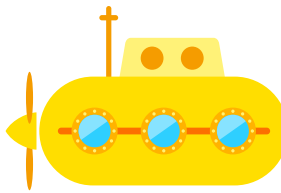
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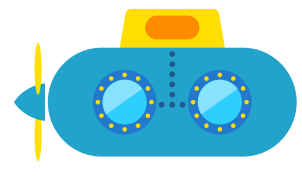
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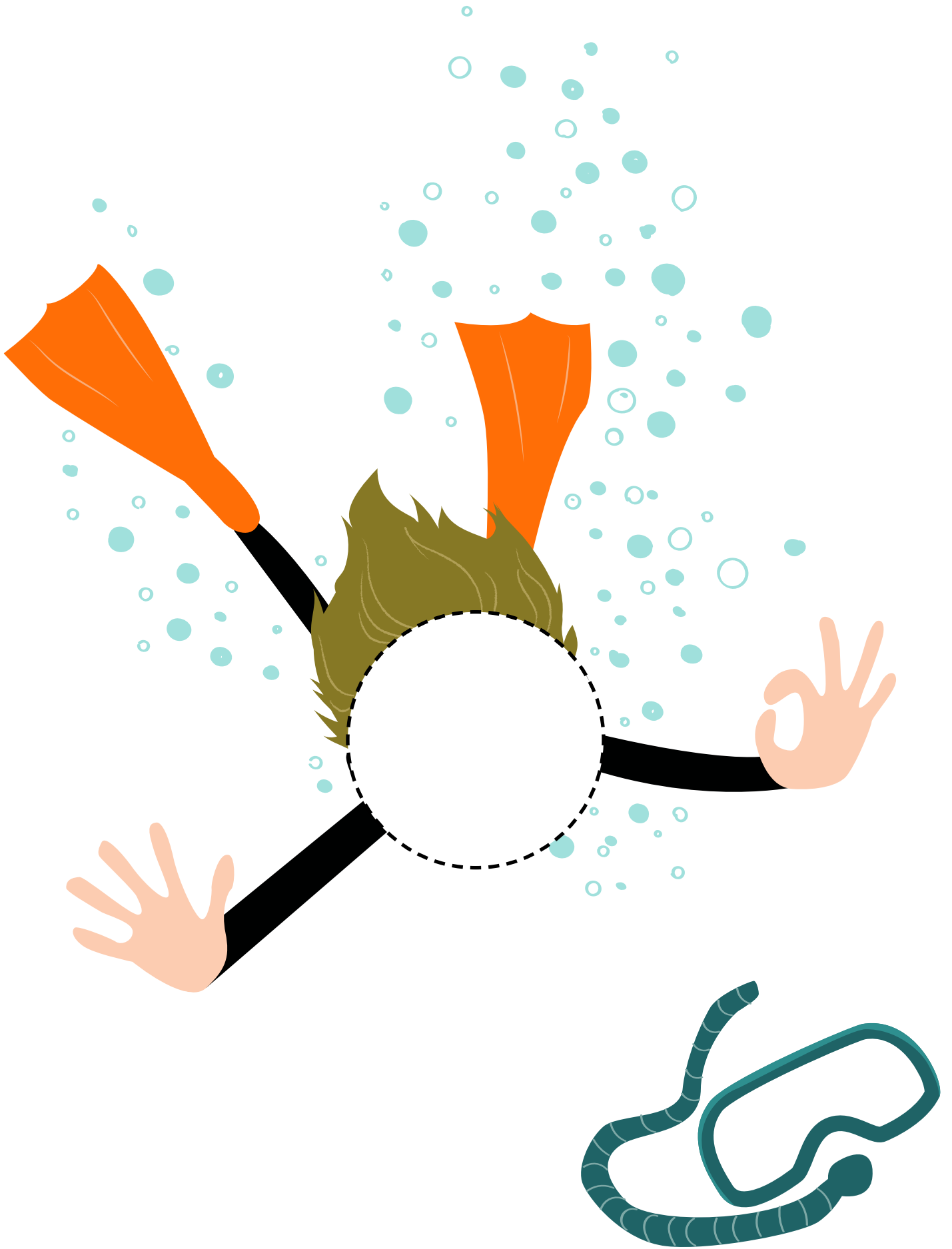
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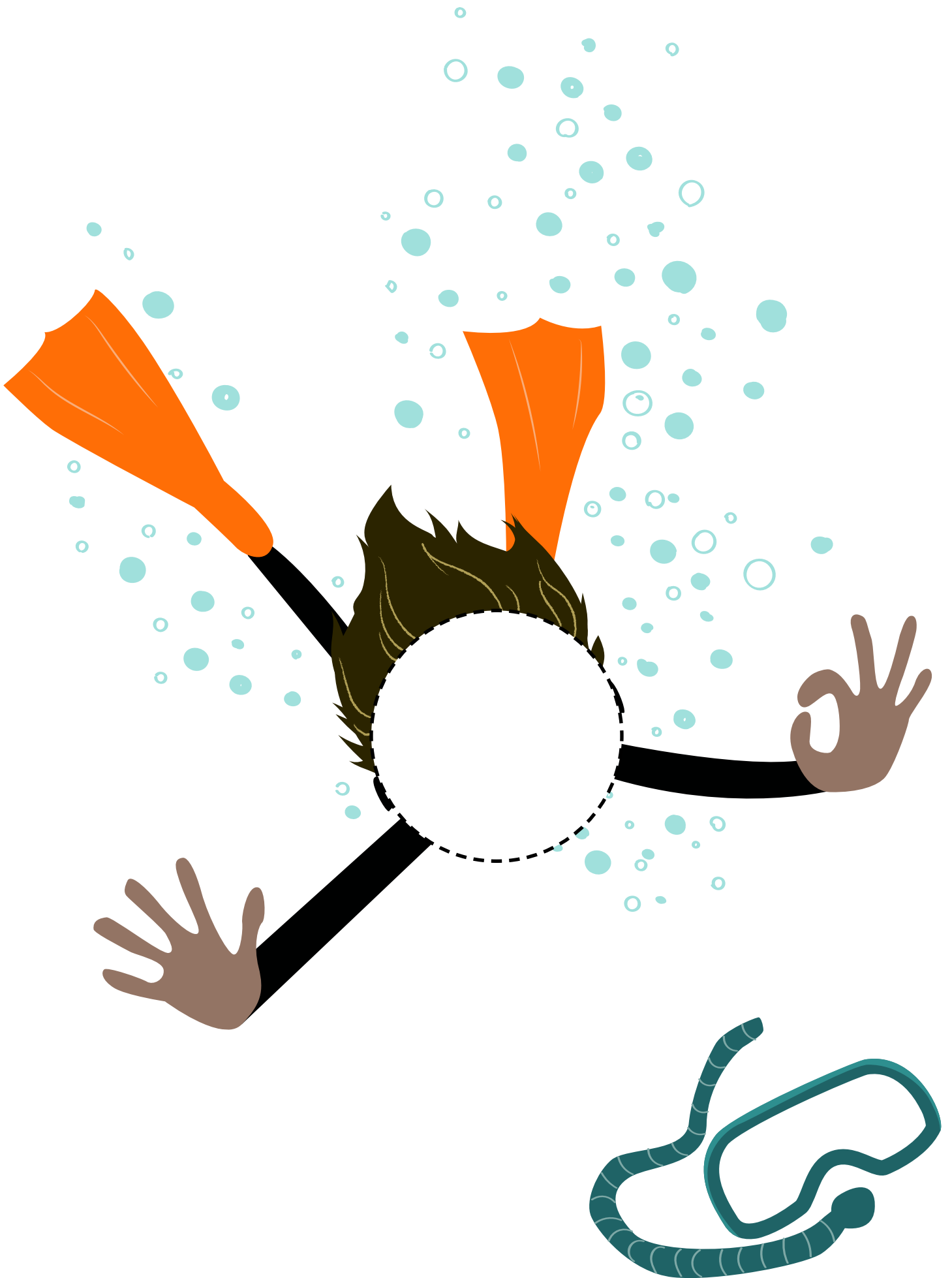


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# SESSION 3

## OVERVIEW

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

#### STUFF FOR THIS SESSION

### **TEACHING – SESSION 3**

- ▶ How to Prepare
  - ▶ [Shopping List](#)
  - ▶ [Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Outline](#)
- ▶ [Preteen Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Special Needs Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Preschool Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

### **PARENTS & VOLUNTEERS**

- ▶ [Session 3 Volunteer Email](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

#### HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS SESSION



### **DESIGN**

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics folder](#) & [Video folder](#).



### **SHOP**

**We made a list** of everything you'll need to buy, borrow, or dig out of your storage closet in order to make this week happen. Get your editable shopping [right here](#).



## PREP

We made a **list** of everything you'll need to print, cut, glue, build, or make in order to make this week happen. Get the list [right here](#).



## CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you'll probably want make some tweaks** to this lesson. You can do that by editing the Word document in your series downloads.



## HACK

If you're using Grow for your toddlers, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for Session 3 [here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for Session 3 [here](#) and the **Preschool Hacks** for Session 3 [here](#).



## COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and parents are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Session 3 Volunteer Email](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)



# SESSION 3

## WEEKDAY LESSON OUTLINE

**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

### *THIS SESSION AT A GLANCE*

- **VIDEO** | Morning Intro 3
- **MUSIC** | Waves of Worship
- **ACTIVITY** | Beach Ball Bounce
- **ACTIVITY** | Octopus Tag
- **ACTIVITY** | DEEP SEA HQ Skit
- **ACTIVITY** | Sunken Treasure
- **SCRIPTURE** | Philippians 2:5-11
- **THE BIG IDEA** | My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Salvation
- **PRAYER**
- **SNACK** | Sandy Shores

#### ■ **DISCUSSION**

- What separates us from God?
- God loves us and wants a relationship with us. Who did God send to rescue us from sin?
- Once we've been forgiven we have a choice to honor what Jesus has done with our lives! Will it be easy to choose what is right over sin?
- 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?
- How does knowing God loves us so much change how we live?

#### ■ **ACTIVITY** | Play Stations

#### ■ **VIDEO** | Afternoon Countdown 3

#### ■ **REFLECTION** | Water Beads

#### ■ **REFLECTION** | Sea Shells

#### ■ **MEMORY VERSE** | Ephesians 3:18

#### ■ **ACTIVITY** | Deep Sea Coral Painting Craft



# SESSION 3

## EVENING LESSON OUTLINE

**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

### *THIS SESSION AT A GLANCE*

- **VIDEO** | Morning Intro 3
- **MUSIC** | Waves of Worship
- **ACTIVITY** | Octopus Tag
- **ACTIVITY** | Sunken Treasure
- **SCRIPTURE** | Philippians 2:5-11
- **THE BIG IDEA** | My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Salvation
- **PRAYER**
- **SNACK** | Sandy Shores

#### ■ **DISCUSSION**

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- 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?
- How does knowing God loves us so much change how we live?

- **VIDEO** | Afternoon Countdown 3
- **REFLECTION** | Sea Shells
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Ephesians 3:18
- **ACTIVITY** | Deep Sea Coral Painting Craft



# SESSION 3

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY MIKE SHELEY**

### HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR PRETEENS

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but preteens tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preteens more engaged.

#### **MUSIC | Waves of Worship**

An alternative playlist for preteens:

- ["Only Wanna Sing"](#)
- ["Real Love"](#)
- ["We Are Royals"](#)

#### **SNACK | Sandy Shores**

Many of the hacks we offer are great for preteens in with the students or up front, but you have preteens who don't want to be up front or with children, but who would love to serve behind the scenes. Recruit a few of these preteens to help make these supplies before this session of vbs. Offer them the opportunity or recruit different preteens to help the children with assembling these during the session.

#### **MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18**

Type out this verse three times on one sheet of paper equally spaced apart. In the second one, delete every other word. In the third one, delete everything except the first letter of every word. When you hand these out to preteens, have them fold it into a tri-fold. They can practice using each of these as a different way to memorize this verse.



# SESSION 3

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY KIMBERLY DORPENYO**

### *HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS*

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

#### **ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Bounce**

Provide a separate ball in a different area of the room and do the same activity one-on-one OR have a kiddie pool filled with balls in the back of the room or the hallway. Let your friends get in the bin of balls and take out a pre-printed picture of the answers to the questions. Have the one-on-one read the back of the pictures to them.

#### **ACTIVITY | Octopus Tag**

Provide a buddy for this game. If friends cannot play this game or do not want to play this game, provide a separate area where they can move like different animals in the sea, such as a shark (place fin on head and go from one line to the other); crab (walk sideways or crawl from one line to the other); fish (pucker lips and flap arms); dolphin (jump); ocean diver (swim around in designated space).

#### **ACTIVITY | Sunken Treasure**

Provide a big crayon (easier for special hands to hold) and let them circle the answers on their map while sitting with the group. Have them share their map with the group.

#### **THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.**

Provide a separate kiddie pool with the same supplies, just take away the racing aspect so they can take their time.

**REFLECTION | Water Beads**

Have a separate container with water beads in it that our friends can touch and squeeze. They can also be in a ziplock back that is duct taped shut for them to squish around.

**MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18**

Put one word of the memory verse on poster board bubble shapes. Put bubble shapes on the floor in order and have kids jump from one bubble to the next saying the word.

**ACTIVITY | Deep Sea Coral Painting Craft**

Provide sponges to paint with so they sponge coral instead of blowing through straws.



# SESSION 3

## HACKS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY TIFFANY THENOR**

### *HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR PRESCHOOLERS*

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week. Here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preschoolers more engaged.

#### **ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Bounce**

For pre-readers, use numbers or a picture instead of written questions. When the child catches the ball, they can tell you the number or picture their hand touches. Each number or picture may represent a question for the teacher to ask them from the list provided.

#### **ACTIVITY | Sunken Treasure**

Customize the sunken treasure map to lead to three spots around the room. When they arrive at each spot, have a leader ask them, "What is one way we can spend time with God?" They can think and talk it out together, before moving on to the next spot the map suggests where they will be asked the same or a similar question.

#### **THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.**

To help younger children remember the Big Idea, provide hand motions for the words. Example: My faith (hands on heart) grows (hand moved from ground up to demonstrate growing) deeper (pointing downward) when I (point to self) spend time (points to wrist like their is a watch there) with God (points upward to heaven).

#### **REFLECTION | Water Beads**

Water beads take about 8 hours to grow. Explain to young children that the growing process takes time. Have them make predictions about what they think will happen to the water beads when they return the next time.

**MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18**

- Leaders can blow bubbles, and kids can try to say the verse before they all pop.

**ACTIVITY | Deep Sea Coral Painting Craft**

- This activity can get really messy. Be sure to use trays or even shallow cardboard boxes to limit splatter. If available, use smocks for aprons to avoid getting the paint on clothing.



# SESSION 3

## LESSON 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

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### VIDEO | Morning Intro 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play today's intro video.*

#### MUSIC | Waves of Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to sing and dance along to some fun songs about God's love, including our original theme song, "We Go Deep!" Here are some other songs we like:*
  - ["Higher Than the Sky"](#)
  - ["Deep, Deep, Deep"](#)
  - ["Your Love is Deep"](#)
- ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *An alternative playlist for preteens: ["Only Wanna Sing"](#) / ["Real Love"](#) / ["We Are Royals"](#)*

#### ACTIVITY | Beach Ball Bounce

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Blow up a beach ball for each small group. Write the following questions on the ball. Bounce the ball around the 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:*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a separate ball in a different area of the room and do the same activity one-on-one or have a kiddie pool filled with balls in the back of the room or the hallway. Let the kids get in the bin of balls and take out a pre-printed picture of the answers to the questions. Tell the one-on-one buddy to read the back of*

the pictures to them.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Instead of writing the questions down, put numbers or a picture instead. When the kid catches the ball, they can tell you the number or picture their hand touches. Each number or picture may represent a question for you to ask them from the list provided.*

- **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.](#)
- S.E.A. Agents-in-Training, today's first mission is to find out some unknown facts about the ocean. If we are going to dive deep under the sea, we should know some of these things in order to be safe.

### ACTIVITY | Octopus Tag

- Let's play a fun ocean game where we get to be sea creatures!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Mark a large square using stakes and ribbon. This will be your "ocean." Choose someone to be the "octopus," and tell them to stand in the center of the ocean. All other players are "fish." The fish will line up at one end of the ocean and the octopus will call out, "I am the octopus! Let's see if you can cross my ocean!" The fish will then try to swim (run) across the ocean and the octopus will try to tag them before they reach the other side. If tagged, fish become "crabs" on the ocean floor. Crabs crouch down where they were tagged, and try to also tag players running by. Each time players reach the other side of the ocean, the octopus and crabs will say the chant again and the players will try to cross the ocean again. The last fish tagged becomes the new octopus.*

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a buddy for this game. If the kids cannot play this game or do not want to play this game, provide a separate area where they can move like different animals in the sea, such as a shark (place a fin on their heads and go from one line to the other); crab (walk sideways or crawl from one line to the other); fish (pucker lips and flap arms); dolphin (jump); ocean diver (swim around in designated space).*

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### ACTIVITY | DEEP SEA HQ Skit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the script provided to perform a skit or make a video for the kids.*

### ACTIVITY | Sunken Treasure

- Buried deep in the ocean is something that everyone would like to find. . . sunken treasure! Sunken treasure can be of great value.

- A relationship with God is something that is also of great value! Even greater value, I'd say. And when we spend time with God, our faith grows deeper and we get even closer to God.
- **What are some ways we can spend time with God?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each group will be given a sunken treasure map. The kids will have to 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. Once they fill in all of the lines, reward them with a treasure of chocolate gold coins.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a big crayon (easier for special hands to hold) and let them circle the answers on their map while sitting with the group. Encourage them to share their map with the group.*
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Customize the sunken treasure map to lead to three spots around the room. When they arrive at each spot, tell a leader to ask them, "What is one way we can spend time with God?" They can think and talk it out together before moving on to the next spot the map suggests, where they will be asked the same or a similar question.*
- We may not be able to follow a treasure map to God, but things like reading our Bible, praying, singing songs of worship, and coming to church are all ways we can find this treasure!

### SCRIPTURE | Philippians 2:5-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Philippians 2:5-11 together. Tell the story of salvation in a way that would make the most sense to your kids, and aligns with your church tradition! We have suggested one way you might do this here.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a small dry erase board and colorful dry erase markers. As the story is being told, ask another leader or one-on-one buddy to draw it out. Draw two sides of ocean waves with a space. Write 'sin' on one side and 'God' on the other. Write down sins and such, then draw a life-preserver with a cross in the middle to bridge the gap between the waves.*
- Earlier, we experienced a big problem with the submarine! Something wasn't right and it needed to be fixed. The problem with our sub is kind of like a problem God's people have. The name of that problem is sin.
- **Sin is what separates us from God.**
  - God made us, cares for us, and never wanted to be separated from us. That's why there had to be a way to overcome sin. Sin might be telling a lie, hurting someone, or something else. All of us sin and all of us have a chance to be forgiven.
  - God loves us so much that God wanted us to be close together again and would do the most loving thing to help us. Jesus wanted the disciples to see how God was going to make sure everyone had a way to connect with God again.
- **So, God sent Jesus.**
  - Jesus became a human to rescue us from sin. Jesus never sinned and always loved. This is why Jesus' life and death makes up for our sin. Even though Jesus died, Jesus came back to life and lives forever. Have you ever heard of the phrase, "Jesus lives?" If you haven't yet, then let's say it together: Jesus lives! Jesus lives! Jesus lives!

- Now, everyone has a chance to know and be close to God. We can spend time with God now, exploring the ocean – or anywhere in the world – because of Jesus. God’s arms are always open wide. **How wide?** Wider than the ocean! And God welcomes us into a love so deep. **How deep?** Deeper than the ocean!
- Just like on this voyage beneath the ocean and getting to see God’s creation in all sorts of new ways, the more time we spend with God, the deeper our faith grows.

### THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before VBS, write the words of the Big Idea on diving sticks. Fill a blue kiddie pool with water. Groups will “dive” down through the water using their hands and pull up the diving sticks. The kids will race to get all the diving sticks and put them in the correct order to reveal today’s Big Idea.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a separate kiddie pool with the same supplies, just take away the racing aspect so they can take their time.
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Provide hand motions for the words. Example: My faith (hands on heart) grows (hand moved from ground up to demonstrate growing) deeper (pointing downward) when I (point to self) spend time (points to wrist like there is a watch there) with God (points up toward the sky).
- You’ve uncovered today’s Big Idea! **My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God!**

### OBJECT LESSON | Salvation

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a single sheet of paper to demonstrate the Gospel. Watch this [video](#) tutorial on how to make a paper gospel presentation, then fold the paper as you talk to the kids.
- It says in the Bible, in John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God and the Word was God.”
  - [Fold down top corner of paper to form a triangle.] **Who is the Word?** Jesus.
  - [Fold the other corner down to make a “house” shape.] **And what do we know about Jesus based on this verse?** Jesus existed with God before the world was created and Jesus is God. If Jesus is God, that means Jesus has all of the same characteristics of God.
  - [Flip the house over and fold the house in half.] **What is God like?** God is perfect, holy, good, mighty, kind, patient, and without sin.
  - [Fold in half again, like wings on an airplane, but both wings should be on one side.] **If God is like that, then what are humans like?** Humans are often selfish, greedy, imperfect. . . because we are full of sin. [Tear down the middle, starting from the thinner end to the thicker end. You should have two sections – one with a lot of little pieces, and one piece of paper intact.]
- **What is sin?** Sin is anything we think, say, or do that God does not want us to think, say, or do.
- **Who sins?** Everyone! Can you think of some examples of sin? [Place the one piece of paper to the side and unfold and spread out all of the pieces so the kids can see them. Arrange the pieces to spell “Sin”.]
  - There’s nothing we can do on our own to get rid of sin – it’s always with us unless we trust God to help us.

- *[Unfold the largest piece of paper to reveal a cross.]* God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin because only someone like Jesus could do it! Jesus was born like you: 100 percent human and not like you because Jesus was 100 percent. Being perfect helped Jesus fix what wasn't perfect - the problem of sin in the world.
- God gave us Jesus so we could have the chance to be close to God. The story of Jesus shows us how deep God's love for us really is.

### PRAYER

- God, It's amazing how deep Your love is. It's amazing how you sent Jesus to save us! I feel so happy knowing I can be close to You and forgiven by trusting in You!

### SNACK | Sandy Shores

- We are going to make our very own beach for a snack today.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Mix up a bowl of vanilla pudding for each group before VBS starts. Keep it refrigerated. Mix in blue food coloring and show the kids how the vanilla pudding turns to "water" (or pre-color the pudding before giving it to the groups). Crumble up graham crackers ("sand") and put it in a gallon-sized Ziploc bag for each group. Give the kids a plastic cup and a spoon. They will layer the "water" and "sand" in their cup. They should have a layer of "sand" at the top of their cup as a beach.*
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Recruit a few of the preteens to help make these supplies before this VBS session begins. Offer them the opportunity to help the other kids with assembling these during snack time.*
- You probably have noticed that all of our Bible stories so far have had to do with water. Spending time hearing these stories is a way you are spending time with God.
- Just like the layers of your snack, our faith can have layers, too. Our faith grows deeper when we spend time with God.
- **If you could have any sea creature as a pet, what would you want?**

### DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split off into small groups and have kids share their responses to the following questions. You could choose to combine this with snack time, if you'd like!*
- **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?**

**ACTIVITY | Play Stations**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up the same “Play Stations” from the last session, or try out some new ones! Keep in mind that this time is to encourage free play, so allow kids to float from station to station at will, but monitor flow.

**NOW WHAT?** What does God want us to do about it?**VIDEO | Afternoon Countdown 3**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play today’s countdown video.

**REFLECTION | Water Beads**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pour a handful of water beads into a shallow bowl or dish and cover with water.
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have a separate container with water beads in it that the kids can touch and squeeze. They can also be in a Ziploc bag that is duct taped closed for them to squish around.
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Water beads take about eight hours to grow. Explain to young kids that the growing process takes time. Ask them to guess what they think will happen to the water beads when they return the next time.
- 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.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Type this verse three times on one sheet of paper, equally spaced apart. In the second entry, delete every other word. In the third one, delete everything except the first letter of every word. When you hand these out to your preteens, tell them to fold it into a tri-fold. They can practice using each of these as a different way to memorize this verse.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS:** Put one word of the memory verse on poster board bubble shapes. Put bubble shapes on the floor in order and tell the kids to jump, wheel themselves, or crawl from one bubble to the next while saying the word.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Leaders can blow bubbles, and the kids can try to say the verse before they all pop.

- God's love is wide and long and high and deep. Just like the bubbles in the ocean and these bubbles, God's love goes farther than we can imagine.

### ACTIVITY | Deep Sea Coral Painting Craft

- **What's our memory verse again?** "Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." Ephesians 3:18.
- We have been talking at VBS about how deep God's love for us is. Did you know deep sea corals are corals that live at depths greater than 160 feet? That is really deep. But God's love goes even deeper than that!
- Let's make our own deep sea coral to remind us of how deep God's love for us is.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids each a small paper plate with washable paint in different colors, a straw, and the Deep Sea Coral Painting printable. Add about five drops of water to each of the paints to create a nice, thin paint. Using the end of your straw, dip it in the paint. Tap the end of the straw on your paper 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. However, try all different ways of holding the straw so you can see the different effects that different angles and directions give. Demonstrate to the kids how to do this before creating their own.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACKS:** Provide sponges to paint with so they sponge coral instead of blowing through straws.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** This activity can get really messy. Be sure to use trays or even shallow cardboard boxes to limit splatter. If available, use aprons to avoid getting the paint on clothing.

# 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.*

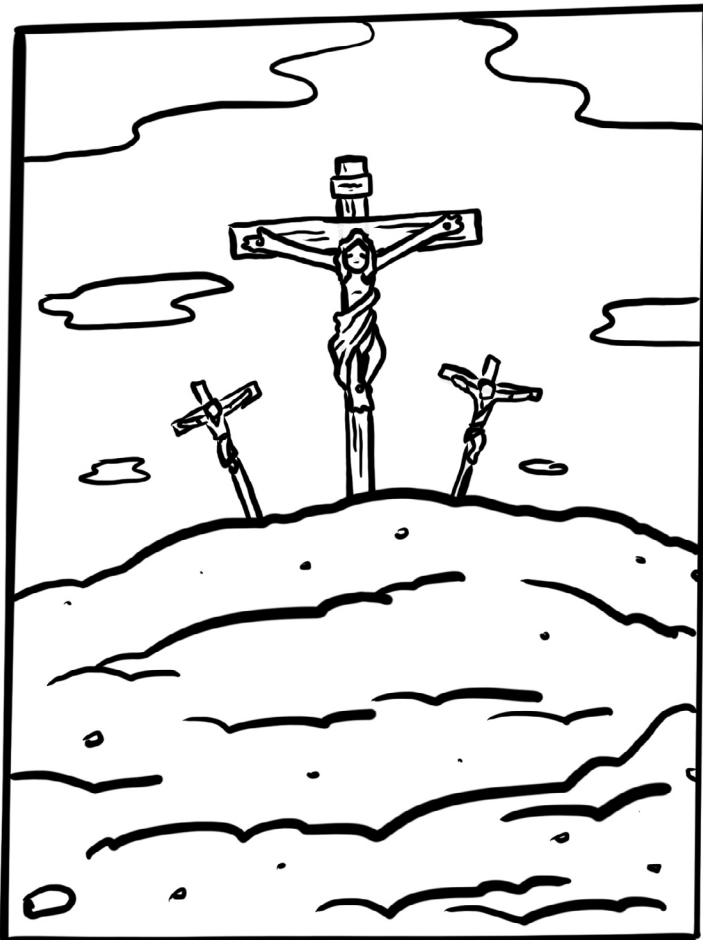
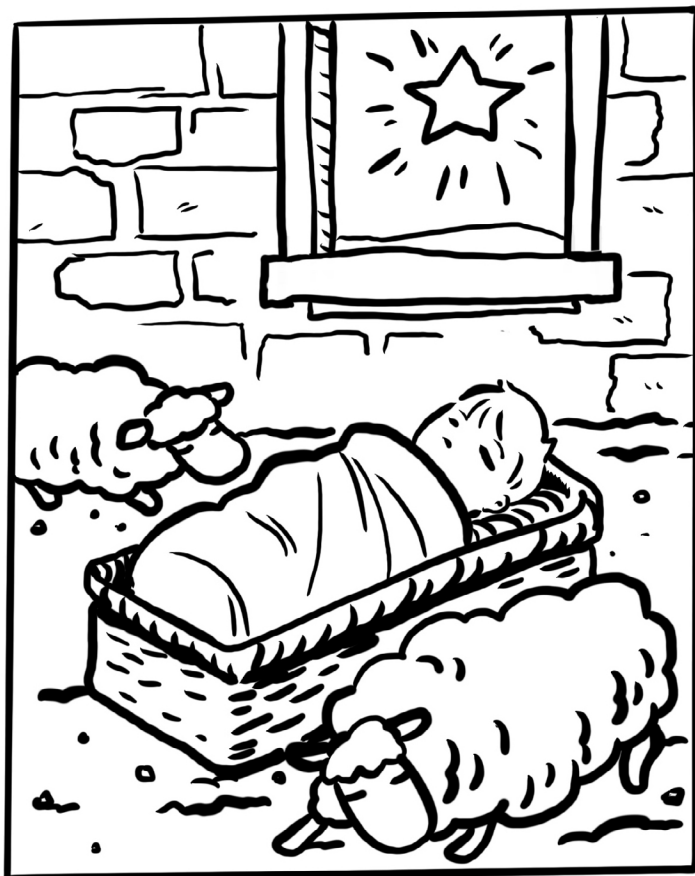
### **MEMORY VERSE FOR MISSION: DEEP SEA:** Ephesians 3:18 (NIV)

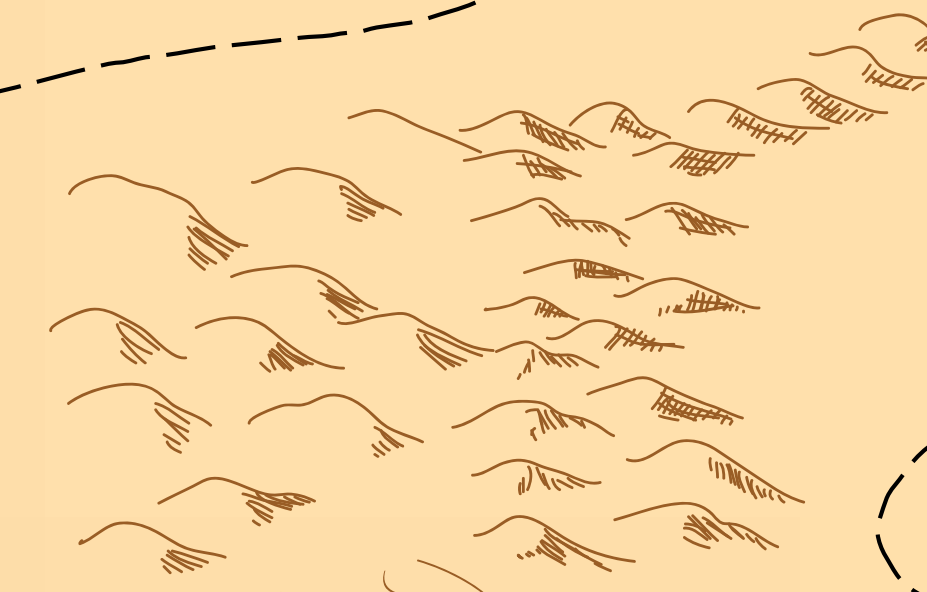
*“Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”*

Looking for sign language? Go to [growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18](http://growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18)  
and get memorizing!

**BIG IDEA:** My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God

**THE BIBLE:** Jesus and the Salvation Story:  
Philippians 2:5-11









# **EPHESIANS 3:18**



# SESSION 4

## OVERVIEW

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### THE BIG IDEA

My faith grows deeper  
when I share my story.

### THE BIBLE

**Jonah Goes to Nineveh:**  
Jonah 1-3

## STUFF FOR THIS SESSION

### TEACHING – SESSION 4

- ▶ How to Prepare
  - ▶ [Shopping List](#)
  - ▶ [Prep List](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Outline](#)
- ▶ [Preteen Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Special Needs Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Preschool Hacks](#)
- ▶ [Lesson Guide](#)
- ▶ [Small Group Guide](#)
- ▶ [Printables](#)

### PARENTS & VOLUNTEERS

- ▶ [Session 4 Volunteer Email](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS SESSION



### DESIGN

We made **lots of graphics** for you! Use them to create slides, social media posts, and more! You can find them in your [Graphics folder](#) & [Video folder](#).



### SHOP

**We made a list** of everything you'll need to buy, borrow, or dig out of your storage closet in order to make this week happen. Get your editable shopping [right here](#).



## PREP

We made a list of everything you'll need to print, cut, glue, build, or make in order to make this week happen. Get the list [right here](#).



## CUSTOMIZE

You know your kids and ministry better than we do, so **you'll probably want make some tweaks** to this lesson. You can do that by editing the Word document in your series downloads.



## HACK

If you're using Grow for your toddlers, you may want to make some tweaks to make it more age appropriate. **Get the Preteen Hacks** for Session 4 [here](#) and the **Special Needs Hacks** for Session 4 [here](#) and the **Preschool Hacks** for Session 4 [here](#).



## COMMUNICATE

To make sure volunteers and parents are in the loop, don't forget about these . . .

- ▶ [Session 4 Volunteer Email](#)
- ▶ [Volunteer Huddles](#)
- ▶ [Parent Email](#)
- ▶ [Parent Handouts](#)
- ▶ [Memory Verse Sign Language](#)



# SESSION 4

## WEEKDAY LESSON OUTLINE

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### THE BIG IDEA

My faith grows deeper when I share my story.

### THE BIBLE

**Jonah Goes to Nineveh:**  
Jonah 1-3

#### THIS SESSION AT A GLANCE

- **VIDEO** | Morning Intro 4
- **MUSIC** | Waves of Worship
- **ACTIVITY** | Swimming Fish
- **ACTIVITY** | Jump the Waves
- **ACTIVITY** | DEEP SEA HQ Skit
- **ACTIVITY** | Spitting Jonah
- **SCRIPTURE** | Jonah 1-3
- **THE BIG IDEA** | My faith grows deeper when I share my story.
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Dominoes
- **PRAYER**
- **SNACK** | Clam Cookies
- **DISCUSSION**
  - What did God ask Jonah to do?
  - Why didn't Jonah want to do this? What did he do instead?
  - What happened after Jonah got spit out by the big fish?
  - Read Jonah 1:17-2:1. If you were in a dark and lonely place like Jonah was, what would you do?
  - Is there someone you think God is asking you to share your story with? Someone you think wouldn't listen?
  - Who is someone that shared their story about God with you?
  - How can sharing our story deepen our faith?
- **ACTIVITY** | Play Stations
- **VIDEO** | Afternoon Countdown 4
- **RESPONSE** | Sharing Your Story
- **ACTIVITY** | S.E.A. Agent Certificate
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Ephesians 3:18
- **ACTIVITY** | DIY Aquarium Craft



# SESSION 4

## EVENING LESSON OUTLINE

**MISSION:**  
**DEEP SEA**

### **THE BIG IDEA**

My faith grows deeper when I share my story.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Jonah Goes to Nineveh:**  
Jonah 1-3

#### *THIS SESSION AT A GLANCE*

- **VIDEO** | Morning Intro 4
- **MUSIC** | Waves of Worship
- **ACTIVITY** | Jump the Waves
- **ACTIVITY** | Spitting Jonah
- **SCRIPTURE** | Jonah 1-3
- **THE BIG IDEA** | My faith grows deeper when I share my story.
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Dominoes
- **PRAYER**
- **SNACK** | Clam Cookies

#### ■ **DISCUSSION**

- What did God ask Jonah to do?
- Why didn't Jonah want to do this? What did he do instead?
- What happened after Jonah got spit out by the big fish?
- Read Jonah 1:17-2:1. If you were in a dark and lonely place like Jonah was, what would you do?
- Is there someone you think God is asking you to share your story with? Someone you think wouldn't listen?
- Who is someone that shared their story about God with you?
- How can sharing our story deepen our faith?

- **VIDEO** | Afternoon Countdown 4
- **RESPONSE** | Sharing Your Story
- **ACTIVITY** | S.E.A. Agent Certificate
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Ephesians 3:18
- **ACTIVITY** | DIY Aquarium Craft



# SESSION 4

## HACKS FOR PRETEENS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY MIKE SHELEY**

### HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR PRETEENS

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but preteens tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preteens more engaged.

#### DISCUSSION

Give each preteen one sheet of plain printer paper. Have them fold it in half. Then have them fold it in half the other direction. Now they should unfold the paper and have a sheet with four different rectangles. Looking at the paper in landscape or horizontal position, instruction them to create four quick sketch notes or comics that summarize their answers to these four prompts:

- Draw a quick sketch of someone God may be asking them to share their story with.
- Draw a quick sketch of someone whom they may not think will listen but who needs to hear their story.
- Draw a quick sketch of someone who shared their story about God with you.
- Write a word or phrase that describes how sharing your story can deepen your faith.

#### RESPONSE | Sharing Your Story

Help preteens practice telling their story with some simple tools. There is the free "[CIY Tell It](#)" app available on the Apple App Store or for \$1 you can pick up a [set of cards](#) that walk them through the same thing. Either way, this simple method will help preteens practice sharing their story!

#### MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

Allow preteens to use one of their own devices or to borrow one from a leader to record themselves doing this video ahead of time. Then play it back to teach it to the children. When they have seen it a couple of times, hit pause after certain lines to help children keep going and "fill in the blank." Do this a few times until the children can do the whole song, (and verse), from memory.



# SESSION 4

## HACKS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY KIMBERLY DORPENYO**

### HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but kids with special needs tend to get overlooked, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your kids with special needs more engaged.

#### **ACTIVITY | Swimming Fish**

Have the completed bottles pre-made, but have extra balloons that kids can still draw a face on their whale and play with it outside of the bottle.

#### **ACTIVITY | Jump the Waves**

Provide a buddy to accompany them from line-to-line, let them march big instead of jump, and/or provide a similar activity in a different area.

#### **ACTIVITY | Spitting Jonah**

Make the origami fish ahead of time for our friends with special needs. Have kids decorate their fish however they want. As an alternative, make paper boats and have them play with a few pom-poms.

#### **SCRIPTURE | Jonah 1-3**

Provide a small bin that students can put their origami fish into and pretend to swim it around while listening to the story.

#### **THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I share my story.**

Provide a buddy to hold and steady the pole. Have the Big Idea pre-written so they can match their fish to it.

**OBJECT LESSON | Dominoes**

Provide [cardboard blocks](#) that can work as dominoes. They need larger areas to draw and these will allow for a whole piece of paper to be stuck to them. Use large crayons instead of sharpies.

**DISCUSSION**

Create an emoji chart (like one you would see at a doctor's office to rate pain) and use them to discuss these questions. Here are some ways you might use emoji: 1) Jonah had to go tell the people of Nineveh about God (talking lips, surprised face, megaphone); 2) Jonah didn't want to go because he didn't like them and didn't think they would listen, so he ran away (angry face, monkey covering ears, boat, runner); 3) When Jonah got spit out by the big fish, he gave God's message to the people of Nineveh, and they all prayed to God (whale, megaphone, talking lips, prayer hands, happy face). Also, use a variety of expressions to help them communicate their responses for the application questions.

**RESPONSE | Sharing Your Story**

Provide pre-cut pictures (or stickers) with suggestions (e.g., mom, friend, neighbor, teacher, etc.). Let the students choose a picture and attach it to the fish. Provide a buddy to help them hang their fish on the net.



# SESSION 4

## HACKS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

**BY TIFFANY THENOR**

### HOW TO HACK THIS SESSION FOR PRESCHOOLERS

In kids ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week. Here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your preschoolers more engaged.

#### **ACTIVITY | Swimming Fish**

Do this activity whole group, or with one leader per small group, to demonstrate this activity. Ask for volunteers along the way to participate in each of the instructions.

#### **ACTIVITY | Jump the Waves**

Knowing that younger children may have difficulty with controlling their movements, play this game outdoors or ask the children to hop instead of run, to limit chaos or hazard.

#### **ACTIVITY | Spitting Jonah**

Have the origami fish pre-created, but allow kids to add the decorations and googly eyes, and play with the pom pom as suggested.

#### **THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I share my story.**

To help younger children remember the Big Idea, provide hand motions for the words. Example: My faith (hands on heart) grows (move hand from ground up to demonstrate growth) deeper (points downward) when I (points to self) share (move hands outwards) my story (hold hands like holding a book).

#### **OBJECT LESSON | Dominos**

Provide [cardboard blocks](#) that can work as dominoes. The kids will need larger areas to draw and these will allow for a whole piece of paper to be stuck to them. Use large crayons instead of permanent markers.

**RESPONSE | Sharing Your Story**

The child can dictate the name of this person to an adult, who can write the name for the child on the fish. Or, the child can draw a picture to represent the person they are thinking of.



# SESSION 4

## LESSON GUIDE

**MISSION:**  
**DEEP SEA**

### **THE BIG IDEA**

My faith grows deeper  
when I share my story.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Jonah Goes to Nineveh:**  
Jonah 1-3

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### **VIDEO | Morning Intro 4**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play today's intro video.*

#### **MUSIC | Waves of Worship**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell the kids to sing and dance along to some fun songs about God's love, including our original theme song, "We Go Deep!" Here are some other songs we like:*
- ["Tell the World"](#)
- ["This is Living Now"](#)
- ["Tell His Story"](#)

#### **ACTIVITY | Swimming Fish**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Fill a large, plastic soft drink bottle about one quarter full with water. Add a few drops of blue food coloring and a very small drop of liquid detergent. Pour in a small amount of clean sand. Blow up a small balloon, release most of the air, then tie the ends closed. Tell the kids to use a Sharpie to draw a face on their "whale." Push the balloon into the bottle and screw the cap on tightly. When you have finished, you will have an ocean with a bobbing "whale" inside. The balloon will swim in the water by holding the bottle sideways and rocking it back and forth.*
- ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Pre-make the completed bottles, but have extra balloons for the kids to draw whale faces on and play with outside of the bottle.*

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Do this activity together as a group, or with one leader per small group, to demonstrate this activity. Ask for volunteers along the way to participate in each of the instructions.

- Today, we are going to talk about a man named Jonah. Jonah had quite the encounter with the ocean. . . and a big fish.

### ACTIVITY | Jump the Waves

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the group into two teams, with one at each end of the play area. In the middle of the room, have two leaders (or older kids) hold the ends of two jump ropes on the ground. Start with the ropes really close together. When you say, “Go,” the two teams will run and toward the middle and try to jump over both ropes. After both teams make it over the ropes, spread the two ropes apart a little bit and repeat. Keep going until it’s too wide for anyone to jump over! If someone falls into the ocean (can’t jump over both ropes), they must “swim” back to the starting line.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a buddy to accompany the kids from line to line, and encourage them to march instead of jump, and/or provide a similar activity in a different area.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Knowing that younger kids may have difficulty with controlling their movements, play this game outdoors or ask the kids to hop instead of run.

- Some things can be too difficult for us, like trying to jump that last distance! Or maybe talking about Jesus to our friends. Our memory verse for Mission: DEEP SEA tells us that God’s love is SO wide, long, high, and deep – way wider than these jump ropes! Let’s hear more about how much God loves everyone, and what that means for us.

## SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

### ACTIVITY | DEEP SEA HQ Skit

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the script provided to perform a skit or make a video for the kids.

### ACTIVITY | Spitting Jonah

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using the Spitting Jonah origami instruction sheet, tell the kids to create their own fish out of paper. Then, they can make the fish “spit” out “Jonah” (a pom-pom). For an added challenge, put out a toy boat (or a box) and encourage the kids to aim “Jonah” into the boat.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Make the origami fish ahead of time. Help the kids decorate their fish however they want. As an alternative, make paper boats and encourage them to play with a few pom-poms.

✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** Pre-make the origami fish, but allow the kids to add the decorations and googly eyes, and play with the pom-poms.

- In today’s Bible story, we are going to learn about a man named Jonah and how he got swallowed by a big fish! Spoiler alert – he was okay, though. But let’s back up a bit.
  - God wanted Jonah to go to a place called Nineveh and tell the people there about God.

- Jonah didn't like the people there, so he decided to get on a boat and go the other way.
- But God had something waiting for Jonah. A great, big fish came and swallowed Jonah whole.
  - Jonah was in a dark and scary place for three whole days. Do you know what Jonah was doing in that dark and scary place?
  - He was praying. Jonah prayed, "God, I'm sorry. Please forgive me! I'll do whatever you want, but please forgive me!"
  - And do you know what happened? God heard Jonah's prayer. So, the fish spit Jonah up.
  - We are going to make a fish of our own. Each of you will follow these instructions. When you're done, you can come get a pom-pom to use as "Jonah."
  - See if you can get your fish to spit Jonah out of its mouth!

### SCRIPTURE | Jonah 1-3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Summarize Jonah 1-3. You can do it something like this!
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide a small bin that kids can put their origami fish into and pretend to swim it around while listening to the story.
- **How many of you had something really amazing happen to you?** When that happened, you probably didn't keep it a secret, right? Nope, you probably told someone!
- It is important to tell others about God because God is even more incredible than anything we can think of!
- Jonah had an important message from God to deliver, but he was afraid. God wanted Jonah to go to a place called Nineveh and tell the people there that they needed to stop living the way they were, and to start following and obeying God.
  - This made Jonah afraid and it made him a little mad. He didn't want to do this. Even though God's instructions were pretty clear, Jonah made excuses.
  - He wasn't sure that he knew exactly what to say when he got there, or that the Nineveh townspeople would even listen to him. Nineveh needed Jonah's message, otherwise the whole city would be destroyed. It wasn't like missing a text message about a sale at your favorite store. Nineveh desperately needed this message.
  - But instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah actually decided to run from God and not do what he was told to do. He got on a boat that was not going to Nineveh.
  - While out on the ocean, Jonah was swallowed by a big fish! After three days and nights in this dark and lonely place, Jonah prayed to God. Jonah apologized and promised to do what God asked. God heard Jonah's prayer and commanded the fish, who spat out Jonah on the shore.
  - By then, Jonah realized the importance of sharing God's message with people and the whole town was saved as a result.
- Sometimes, it can be scary to do what God asks of us. It is okay to be afraid, but we all have our story to share, and when we do, our faith grows deeper.

**THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I share my story.**

- S.E.A. Agents-in-Training! Our next mission is to find today's Big Idea! We are going to go deep sea fishing to figure it out.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Groups will use magnetic fishing poles to fish out the words for today's Big Idea. Each fish will have one word from today's Big Idea written on it. An alternative way to do this activity is to print and cut out the fish printable. Attach paper clips to each fish. Create a magnetic fishing pole by using a dowel rod, string, and a magnet.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide a buddy to hold and steady the pole. Pre-write the Big Idea so they can match their fish to it.*
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *To help younger kids remember the Big Idea, provide hand motions for the words. For example: My faith (hands on heart) grows (move hand from ground up to demonstrate growth) deeper (points downward) when I (points to self) share (move hands outwards) my story (hold hands like holding a book).*
- Excellent work, agents! You've found it! Today's Big Idea is: **My faith grows deeper when I share my story.**

**OBJECT LESSON | Dominoes**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Start by handing out dominoes to each kid. Pass a Sharpie around and tell each kid to draw themselves on the back of their domino. As the VBS leader, be sure to take a domino yourself and draw you, too. As the kids finish decorating their domino, tell them to bring it to you. (While they are drawing, share about a person in your life who told you about God for the first time. What did they say to you? What would your life be like if they didn't share their story? Keep the story short and age appropriate for your group.)*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide [cardboard blocks](#) that can work as dominoes. The kids will need larger areas to draw and these will allow for a whole piece of paper to be stuck to them. Use large crayons instead of permanent markers.*
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** *Provide [cardboard blocks](#) that can work as dominoes. The kids will need larger areas to draw and these will allow for a whole piece of paper to be stuck to them. Use large crayons instead of permanent markers.*
- God wants us to share our story with others. But just like Jonah, that can seem overwhelming, scary, or even impossible to do.
- *[Put your VBS leader domino at the front.] If one person tells one other person [add one of the kids dominoes behind yours], and that person tells another person [continue adding dominoes until all of them have been lined up behind the VBS leader one], eventually something big can happen. [Knock back the VBS leader domino and show the kids the domino effect as they all begin to fall over.]*
- By sharing your story with just one person, you never know the effect it can have. **My faith grows deeper when I share my story.**

## PRAYER

- God, each one of us has a story to share. Sometimes, You may ask us to share that story with people who are different than us, sometimes, You may ask us to share that story with someone who we aren't sure will listen. But just like Jonah, when we share our story anyway, our faith grows deeper. Help us to be brave enough to share our stories with others!

## SNACK | Clam Cookies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Using two vanilla wafers, colored frosting, and a candy pearl, the kids will create their own clam cookie with a surprise pearl in the middle. Ask the following questions while the kids eat:*
- **If you were swallowed by a whale, what would be the first thing you'd do when you got to its stomach?**
- **What kinds of things do you think you'd find in its stomach?**

## DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Split off into small groups and have kids share their responses to the following questions. You could choose to combine this with snack time, if you'd like!*
- **What did God ask Jonah to do?** To go to Nineveh and share God's message.
- **Why didn't Jonah want to do this? What did he do instead?** He did not like the people and thought they wouldn't listen to him. So, he boarded a boat and decided not to go.
- **What happened after Jonah got spit out by the big fish?** He delivered God's message to Nineveh and the people prayed to God.
- **Read Jonah 1:17-2:1. If you were in a dark and lonely place like Jonah was, what would you do?**
- **Is there someone you think God is asking you to share your story with? Someone you think wouldn't listen?**
- **Who is someone that shared their story about God with you?**
- **How can sharing our story deepen our own faith?**
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Give preteens a piece of paper and fold it into fours. Tell them to create four quick sketch notes or comics that summarize their answers to the last four questions.*
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Use emojis to help review: 1) talking lips, surprised face, megaphone; 2) angry face, monkey covering ears, boat, runner; 3) whale, megaphone, talking lips, prayer hands, happy face. Use a variety of expressions to help them communicate their responses for the application questions.*

## ACTIVITY | Play Stations

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Set up the same "Play Stations" from the last session, or try out some new ones! Keep in mind that this time is to encourage free play, so allow the kids to float from station to station at will, but monitor flow.*

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### VIDEO | Countdown Video

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids the provided countdown video to reel them in after Play Stations or a break.

### RESPONSE | Sharing Your Story

- You don't have to travel super far like Jonah did to share your story – I bet there is someone you know, maybe someone you see every day, with whom you could share your story.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before this activity, hang up a large fishing net on stage or in a visible area. Tell the kids to think of someone who they need to share their story with (e.g., friend, a family member, teammate, neighbor, etc.). Once they have a name in mind, they will take a pre-cut fish and write the name of that person on the fish. Then, they will use a clothespin to pin their fish up on the net.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Help preteens practice telling their story with some simple tools, like CIY's free "[Tell It](#)" app or [set of cards](#) (\$1.00).
  - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide pre-cut pictures (or stickers) with suggestions (e.g., mom, friend, neighbor, teacher, etc.). Let the kids choose a picture and attach it to the fish. Provide a buddy to help them hang their fish on the net.
  - ✂ **PRESCHOOL HACK:** The kids can dictate the name of their person to an adult who can write the name for them on the fish. Or, the kids can draw a picture to represent the person they are thinking of.
- Say a prayer and ask God for help sharing your story with this person! **Because our faith grows deeper when we share our story!**

### ACTIVITY | S.E.A. Agent Certificate

- We've done a lot of deep sea exploring here at Mission: DEEP SEA. We've solved a lot of problems, played a lot of games, and heard some incredible Bible stories that showed us how to deepen our faith.
- Today is the last day of your training. . . which means you are all official S.E.A. agents now!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using the certificate printable provided, the kids will graduate from being a S.E.A. Agent-in-Training to a "fully certified" S.E.A. agent!
- Congratulations, agents! Now, you're ready to grow your faith!

### MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Groups will practice the memory verse by singing it to the tune of "Baby Shark." You can add the sign language to do with the song.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Allow preteens to use one of their own devices or borrow one from a leader to record themselves doing this video ahead of time. Then, play it back to teach it to the rest of the group. When they have seen it a couple of times, hit pause after certain lines to help them keep going and "fill in the blank." Do this a few times until the kids can do the whole song (and verse) from memory!

Grasp how wide (doo doo doo doo doo)  
and long (doo doo doo doo doo)  
and high (doo doo doo doo doo)  
and deep (doo doo doo doo doo)  
is the love of Christ!

#### ACTIVITY | DIY Aquarium Craft

- During Mission: DEEP SEA, we've talked about how wide and long and high and deep the love of God is. We've explored the deep ocean and worked together to complete our mission.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The kids will create their own "aquarium" to take home. Instruct them to insert aquarium rocks, plastic plants, fish, and other creatures into the mason jar. Fill with water, five to six drops of blue food coloring, and glitter. Print the VBS logo on two-inch, round Avery labels and tell the kids to stick them to the lid of their plastic mason jars.*
- When you return to land, you will have this aquarium to remind you how deeply you are loved by God, and also of your new mission as a S.E.A. agent – **to grow your faith by spending time with God and others, by using your gifts and sharing your story!**

# SESSION 4

## SMALL GROUP GUIDE

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

### THE BIG IDEA

My faith grows deeper when I share my story.

### THE BIBLE

**Jonah Goes to Nineveh:**  
Jonah 1-3

## 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 | Spitting Jonah

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show kids how to create their own fish, using the origami instructions provided. Then, they can make the fish "spit" out pom-pom Jonah!

#### THE BIG IDEA | My faith grows deeper when I share my story.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the fishing poles to fish out the words for today's Big Idea. Each fish will have one word from today's Big Idea written on it. Have your group work together to put it in order.

#### DISCUSSION

- **What did God ask Jonah to do?** To go to Nineveh and share God's message.
- **Why didn't Jonah want to do this? What did he do instead?** He did not like the people and thought they wouldn't listen to him. So, he boarded a boat and decided not to go.
- **What happened after Jonah got spit out by the big fish?** He delivered God's message to Nineveh and the people prayed to God.
- **Read Jonah 1:17-2:1. If you were in a dark and lonely place like Jonah was, what would you do?**
- **Is there someone you think God is asking you to share your story with? Someone you think wouldn't listen?**
- **Who is someone that shared their story about God with you?**
- **How can sharing our story deepen our own faith?**

**RESPONSE | Sharing Your Story**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell the kids to think of someone who they need to share their story with (e.g., friend, a family member, teammate, neighbor, etc.). Once they have a name in mind, they will take a pre-cut fish and write the name of that person on the fish. Then, they will use a clothespin to pin their fish up on the net in your main meeting area.

**ACTIVITY | S.E.A. Agent Certificate**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids fill out the certificate that graduates them from being a S.E.A. Agent-in-Training to a “fully certified” S.E.A. agent!

**MEMORY VERSE | Ephesians 3:18**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Groups will practice the memory verse by singing it to the tune of “Baby Shark.”  
**Grasp how wide (doo doo doo doo doo)**  
**and long (doo doo doo doo doo)**  
**and high (doo doo doo doo doo)**  
**and deep (doo doo doo doo doo)**  
**is the love of Christ!**

**ACTIVITY | DIY Aquarium Craft**

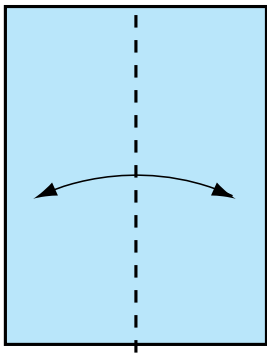
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** The kids will insert the objects provided into the mason jar. Fill with water, five to six drops of blue food coloring, and glitter. Attach the labels to the lid of their plastic mason jars.

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

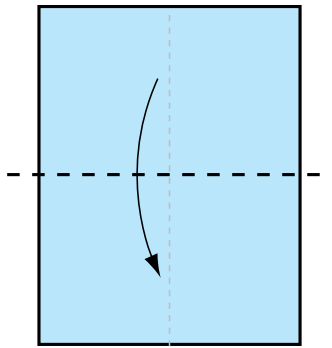
*“Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.”*

Looking for sign language? Go to [growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18](http://growcurriculum.org/Ephesians3-18) and get memorizing!

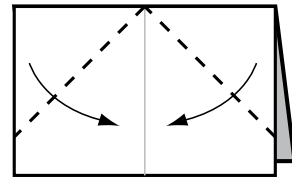




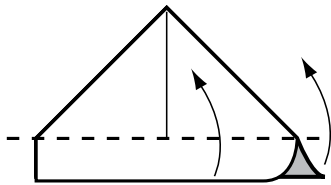
1. Start with a rectangular piece of paper, coloured side up.  
Fold in half, then open.



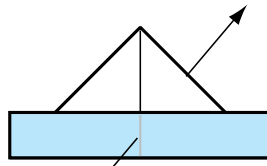
2. Fold in half downwards.



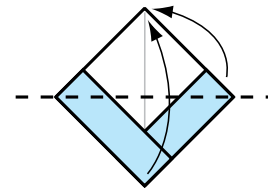
3. Bring corners in to centre line.



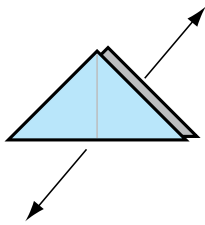
4. Fold uppermost layer upwards & do the same to the back. Crease well.



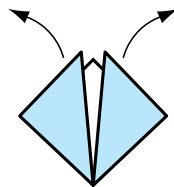
5. Pull the sides out and flatten.



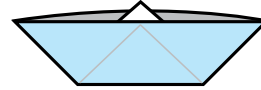
6. Fold front layer up to top, then do the same at the back.



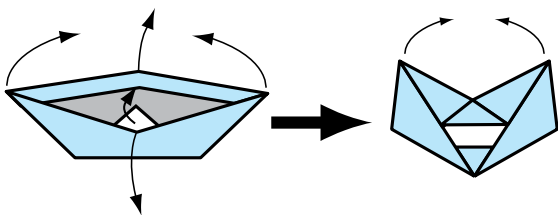
7. Pull the sides apart and flatten.



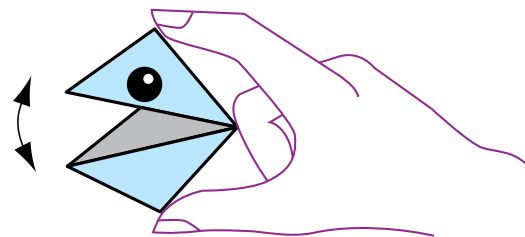
8. Gently pull the top parts of the model outwards, making a boat shape.



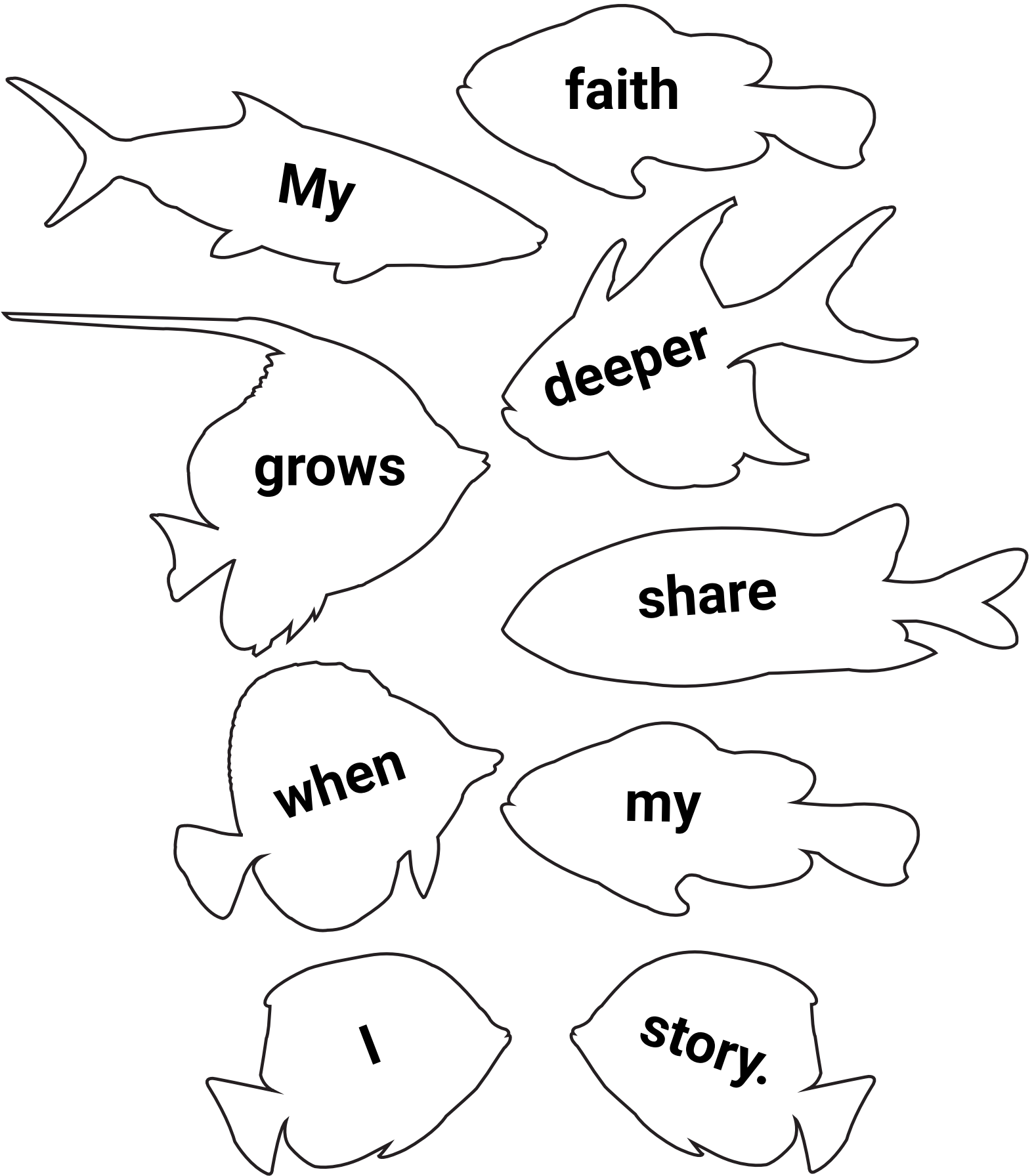
9. Flatten well.

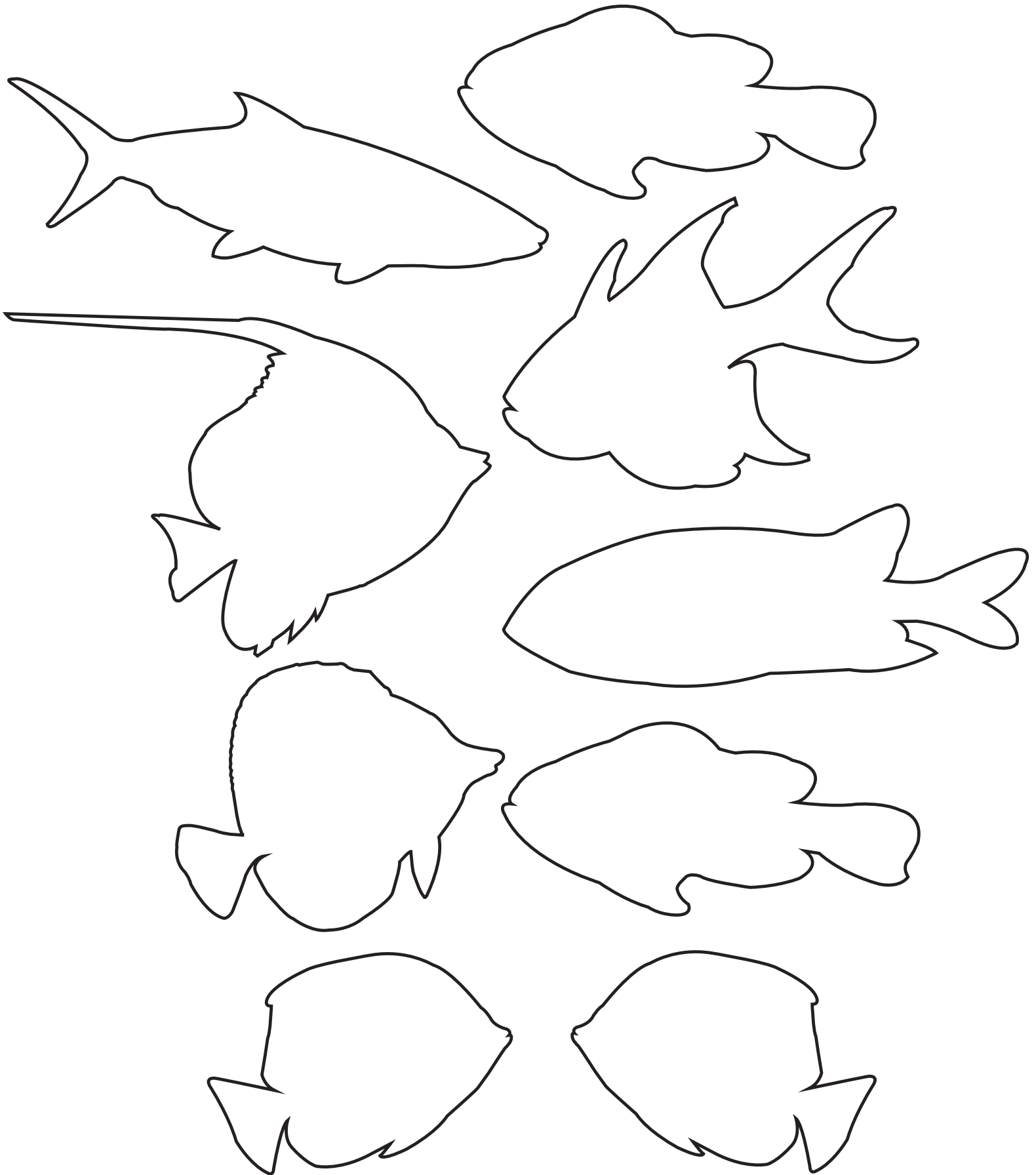


10. Tuck the little centre triangle under one of the sides. Then bring the outside corners to meet together, letting the sides move outwards.



Finished Snapper. To make it snap, hold as shown and press together. It looks especially good with eyes!





# MISSION: DEEP SEA

# S.E.A.

# AGENT

PRESENTED TO: .....

DATE: .....

*Grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. – Ephesians 3:18.*

People can help my faith grow.

My faith grows deeper when I use my gifts.

My faith grows deeper when I spend time with God.

My faith grows deeper when I share my story.







# SESSION 5

## MINI-EVENTS

MISSION:  
**DEEP SEA**

Here are some ideas on what to do if you decide to have an extra day of VBS! Rather than the usually programming, here are some fun ways to close out Mission: DEEP SEA with a splash! Literally!

### EVENT | Water Wars

- This can be run as a family event for parents to join their kids or as a fifth day option for kids to come back for a final day of VBS. Set up outside and have groups rotate through a series of water-related games and events that relate to the theme of Mission: DEEP SEA. You can select from, or do all of, these activities!
- **Bubbles Everywhere:** Set up swimming pools filled with bubble solution, various size bubble wands and even hula hoops for kids to create their own bubbles.
- **Water Tables:** Set up various water tables like [this](#) with funnels, watering cans, and other water accessories or create your own water tables by filling shallow tubs of water for kids to play in.
- **Water Gun Run:** Blow up beach balls and fill trash cans with water. Set up lanes using stakes and ribbon. Each kid participating in the Water Gun Run will be given a [water blaster](#). Players will use their water blaster, but not any part of their body, to push their beach ball down the lane to the end. First player to get their beach ball to the finish line wins.
- **Cup to Cup:** Put one full bucket of water in the grass and have one player sit right behind the bucket. Have the rest of the team sit in a straight line right behind the first player. Have the last person in the line turn and face the other way so the last two players are back to back instead of one after another. Put another smaller bucket in front of the last player. Give the first player an empty cup. They must dip the cup in the full bucket of water and pass it backwards over their head to the next kid. The second kid must then pass it over to the third and so on until the final kid on the team dumps the water in the cup into the empty bucket. Then pass the empty cup of water back up to the front. The first team to fill their bucket wins.
- **Sponge Run:** Place a bucket full of water (or a [kiddie pool](#)) on one side of the playing area and place an empty bucket on the other. Give a sponge to each player and have them stand by the full bucket or kiddie pool. Players must dunk the sponge in the water trying to soak up as much water as possible. They then have to put the sponge on their head and hold it there while they run to the empty bucket, hoping to keep as much water as possible in the sponge. Wring out the sponge into the empty bucket and run back, continuing until someone reaches the mark on the empty bucket. First person to fill up their bucket to the marked line wins.

- **Water Balloon Toss:** Have everyone pick a partner and tell them to stand in two straight lines, partner facing partner. Give each team a water balloon (or a sponge if you're playing with young kids). Everyone must toss their water balloon to their partner. If they catch the water balloon or they drop the water balloon but it does not break, one person on the team takes a step back (make sure everyone stays in line). If they drop the water balloon and it pops or it pops while they're trying to catch it, they're out. Continue tossing water balloons and taking step backs all at the same time until there is only one team remaining. Remaining team wins.
- **Water Balloon Hot Potato:** Fill water balloons and have everyone sit in a circle in the yard. Give one person in the circle a water balloon. Players must pass the water balloon around the circle while everyone in the circle recites the memory verse from the week. When the verse is complete, whoever has the balloon must pop the balloon above their head and is out. If there's confusion about who "has" the water balloon when the verse is complete, play rock paper scissors to make a decision.
- **Giant Slip-'n-Slide:** Get 100 feet of heavy-duty plastic sheeting, something that is between 10 and 12 feet wide. Spread the plastic sheet out on a grassy lawn. It would be best if you place the slide on a hill—even if it is a small one. The slight incline will help boost your speed. Smooth out any wrinkles or ripples with your hands. Fold the plastic sheeting in half. It should now be around 5 or 6 feet wide. This will help make it even more durable and slide-like. Anchor the sides of the sheeting with [landscape anchor pins](#). You will need a pin in each corner of the slide. You will also need to add more pins down the long side edges, about 5 to 10 feet apart. Use a hammer to drive the pins into the grass. You want them to be flush against the ground to prevent injury. Add some liquid soap down the center of the slide. Spray the slide with water. Grab a hose and turn it on. Spray water over the entire side.

### EVENT | Visit a Local Aquarium

- Plan to take your group to a local aquarium to visit some under the sea creatures you've talked about during Mission: DEEP SEA. This can be run as a family event for parents and their kids to go as a family or as a trip led by VBS volunteers.
- Check local aquarium websites for group pricing.
- Collect release forms from parents of the kids attending this trip.
- Prep and pack lunch for kids.

### EVENT | Movie Day

- Plan a movie day with your kids. You can prepare a double feature, and don't forget the popcorn and other yummy snacks! This is a great alternative to prepare anyway, in case of rain. Be sure to preview the movie selection(s) before your event, and review your church CVLI license, too. Check out some of the following sea-themed movies:
  - The Little Mermaid (G)
  - Finding Nemo (G)
  - Disney Nature: Oceans (G)
  - Finding Dory (PG)

- A Turtle's Tail (PG)
- Shark Tale (PG)
- Dolphin Tale (PG)
- Flipper (PG)

#### **EVENT | Recreational Water Play**

- Plan to take your group to a water park, local swimming pool, or the beach. This can be run as a family event for parents and their kids to go as a family or as a trip led by VBS volunteers. Check websites for group pricing or renting the entire location out, if needed. Collect release forms from parents of the kids attending this trip. And don't forget to prep and pack snacks or lunch for the kids, or ask that parents supply lunch money.

Here are some stations you can run halfway through your VBS program that allows for kids to run and play a little more freely, and gives your volunteers a bit of a break, too! You can set up the same stations every day or change them up for each session. Let kids float around between stations freely, but designate leaders to supervise.



# PLAY STATIONS

**MISSION:**  
**DEEP SEA**

Some ways to monitor the flow is to tell the kids that each station cannot exceed a certain number of kids (e.g., 5-6), so if they see a station that is full, they can go to another one. If you feel there is a station that is more popular, set a timer for how long kids are allowed to stay, or ensure them that the station will be back next session.

## STATION 1 | Motion of the Ocean

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** A leader will call out one of the following motions and kids will act it out.
  - Float like a jellyfish
  - Jump like a dolphin
  - Puff like a pufferfish
  - Move your arms like an octopus
  - Pucker your lips like a fish
  - Stretch like a starfish
  - Dig like a sea turtle
  - Walk like a crab
  - Pinch like a lobster
  - Move backwards like a squid
  - Chomp like a shark
  - Dive like a diver

## STATION 2 | Sea Creature Creations

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set out play doh and ocean themed cutters for kids to create their very own sea creature.

## STATION 3 | Water Beads

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a large kiddie pool, on a tarp, filled with water beads for kids to dig through. Provide buckets and shovels for kids to use.

#### STATION 4 | High Seas Exploration

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up an ocean themed scavenger hunt around your space. Give kids a list of sea creatures to locate. You can purchase ocean animal toys to hide around your space. Kids could collect them and turn them in for a prize.

#### STATION 5 | Book Corner

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up an ocean themed library where kids can choose books or magazines about the ocean. Some great titles to use are:
  - [Mister Seahorse](#) by Eric Carle
  - [The Rainbow Fish](#) by Marcus Pfister
  - [Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef](#) by Marianne Berkes
  - [The Pout Pout Fish](#) by Deborah Diesen
  - [Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea](#) by Ben Clanton
  - [Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist](#) by Jess Keating
  - [National Geographic: The Ultimate Book of Sharks](#) by Brian Skerry
  - [Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief](#) (illustrated edition) by Rick Riordan

#### STATION 6 | Sand Castle Build Off

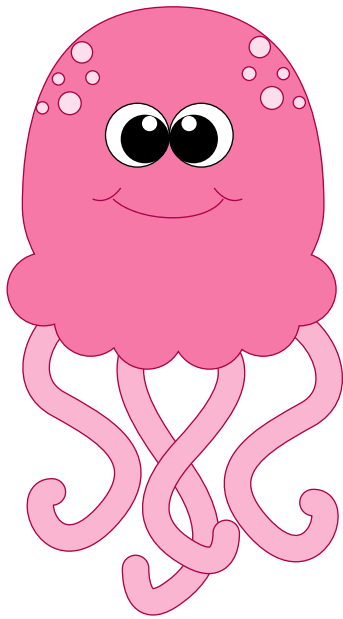
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using kinetic sand, have kids build their own sand castle.

#### STATION 7 | Float Your Boat

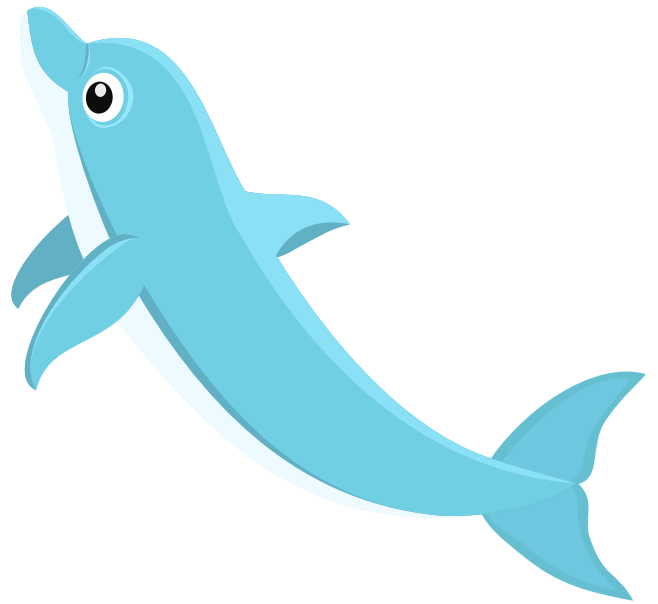
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will be given foil and tape to create their own boat. As kids complete their boat, have a kiddie pool of water for them to float it out in the water.

#### STATION 8 | Bible Verse Go Fish

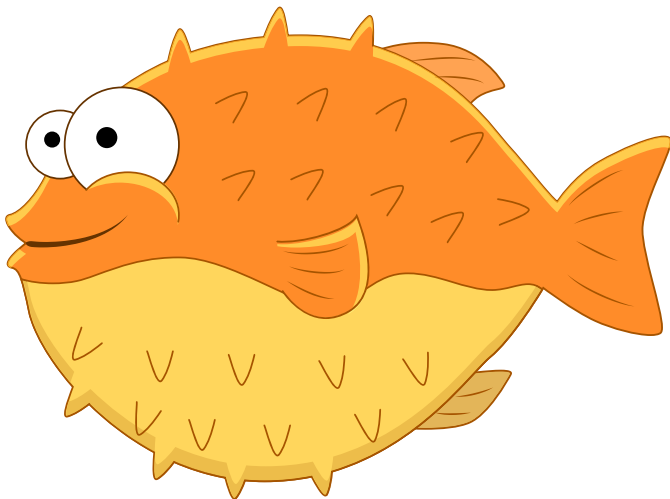
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Kids will play this game in pairs. Deal out the Bible Verse Go Fish cards to each player. Players will take turns asking their opponent for a corresponding Bible verse or Bible reference card. For example, "Do you have John 3:16" and the opponent would have to hand over their card that said "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."



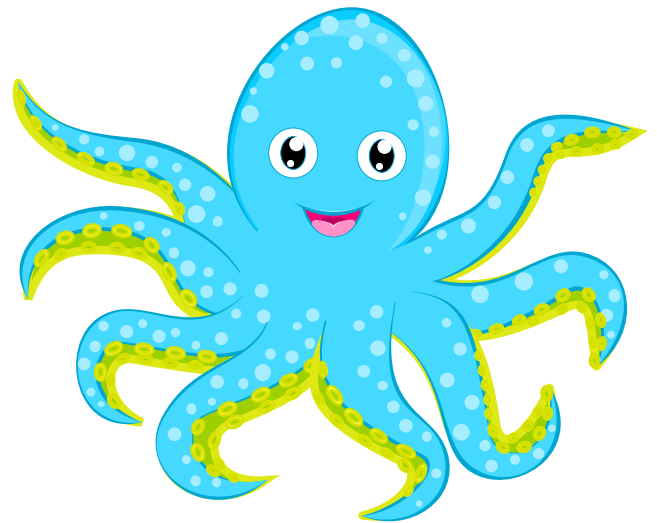
**FLOAT LIKE A  
JELLYFISH**



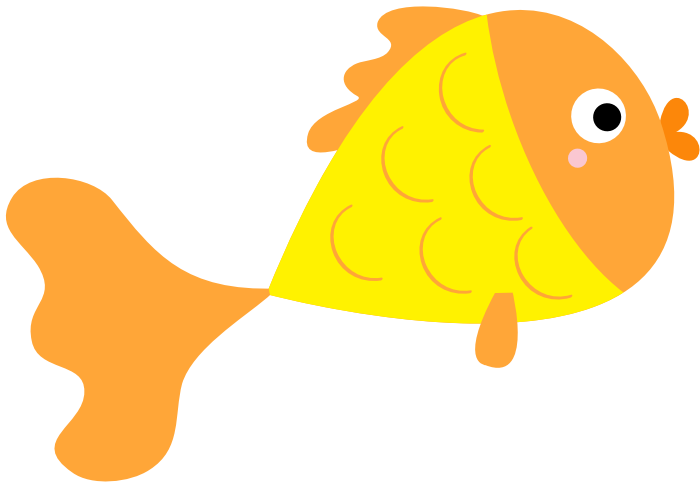
**JUMP LIKE A  
DOLPHIN**



**PUFF LIKE A  
PUFFERFISH**



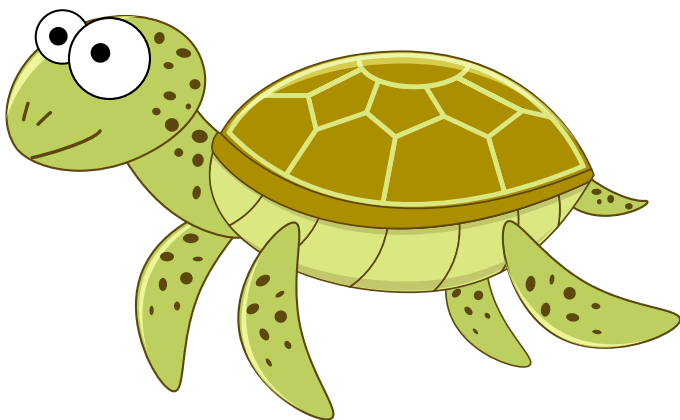
**MOVE YOUR ARMS  
LIKE AN OCTOPUS**



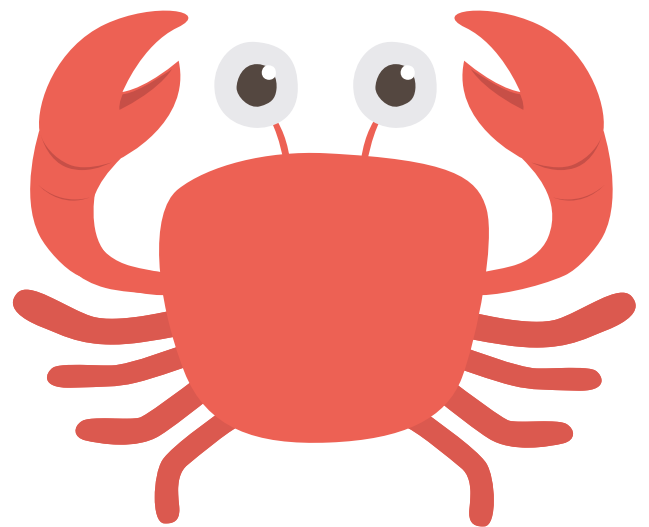
***PUCKER YOUR LIPS  
LIKE A FISH***



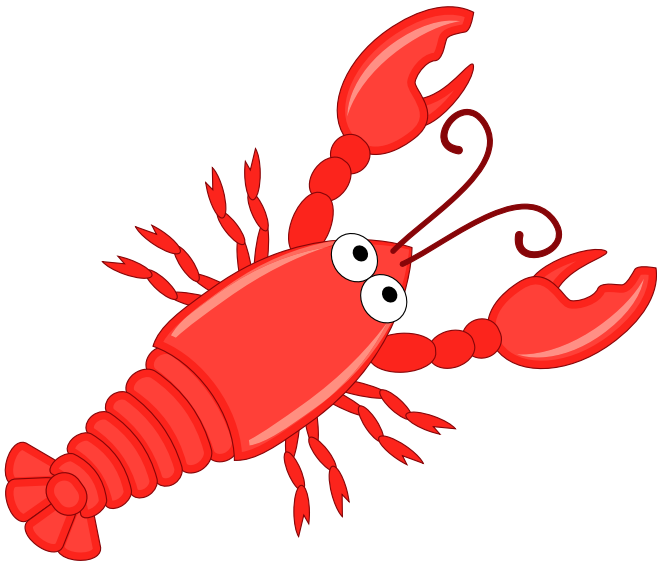
***STRETCH LIKE A  
STARFISH***



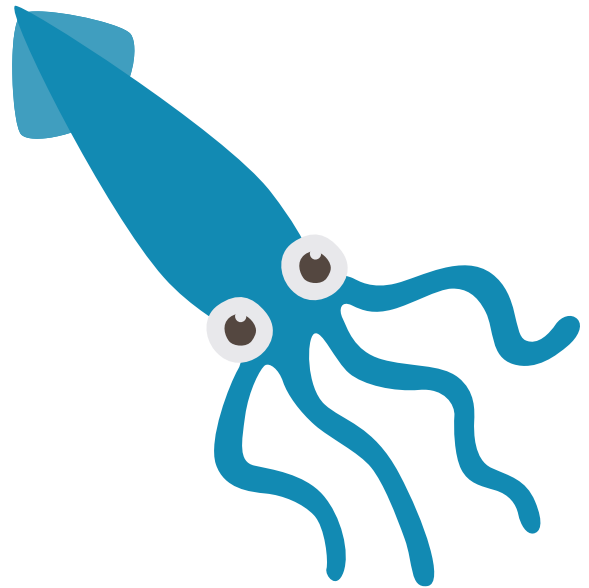
***DIG LIKE A  
SEA TURTLE***



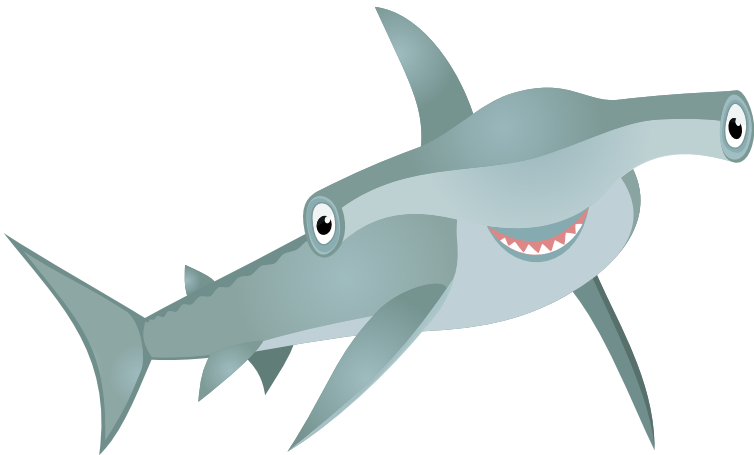
***WALK LIKE  
A CRAB***



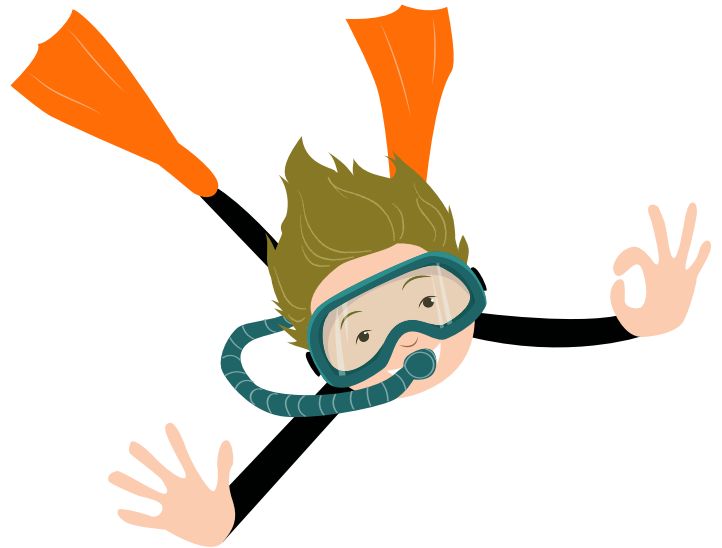
**PINCH LIKE A  
LOBSTER**



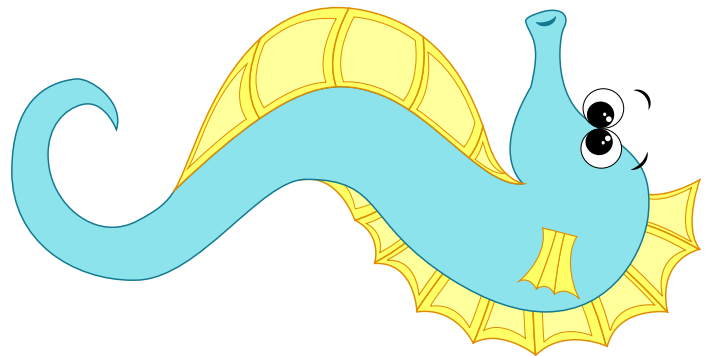
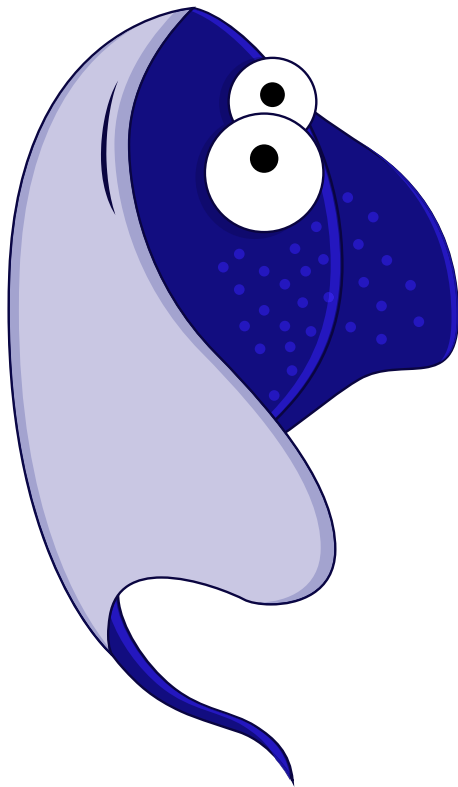
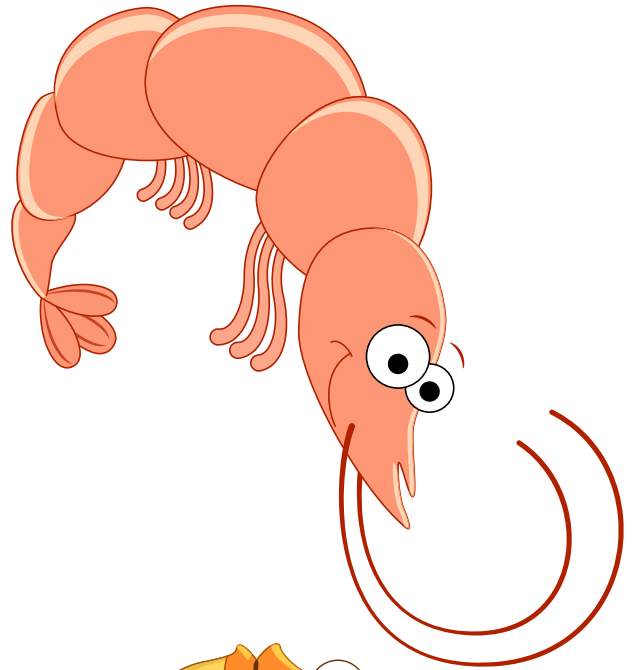
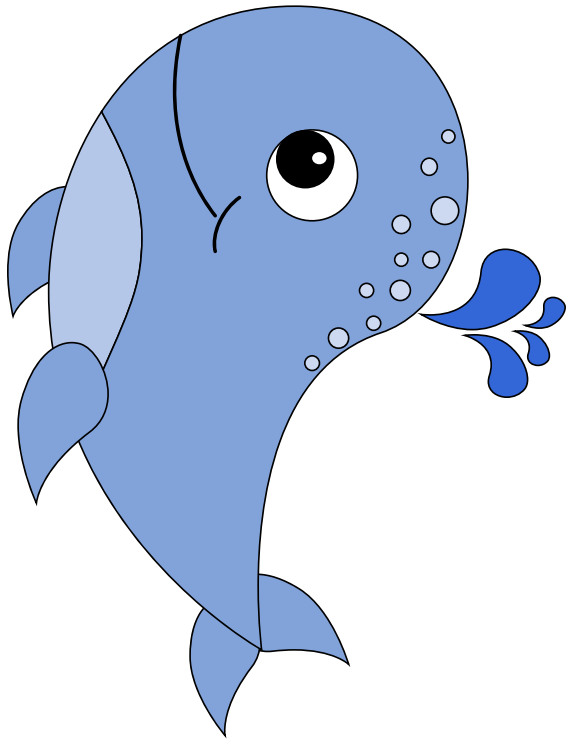
**MOVE BACKWARDS  
LIKE A SQUID**

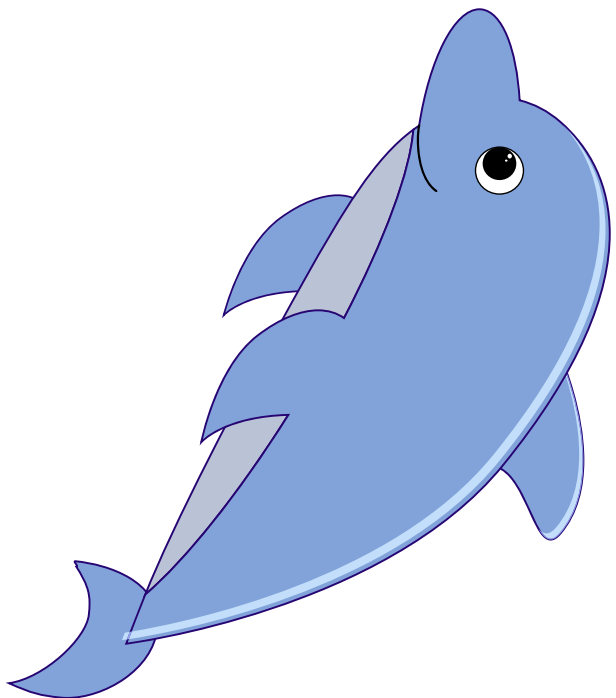
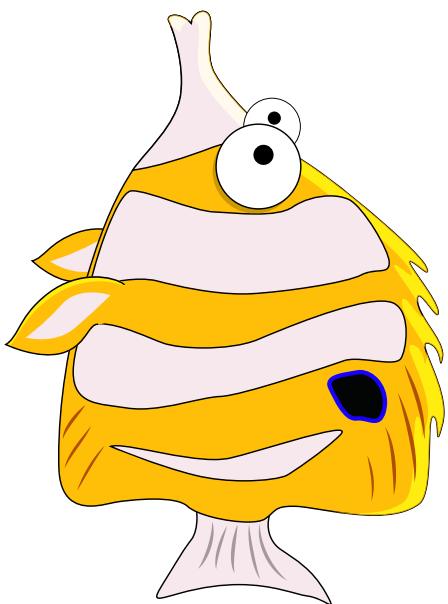
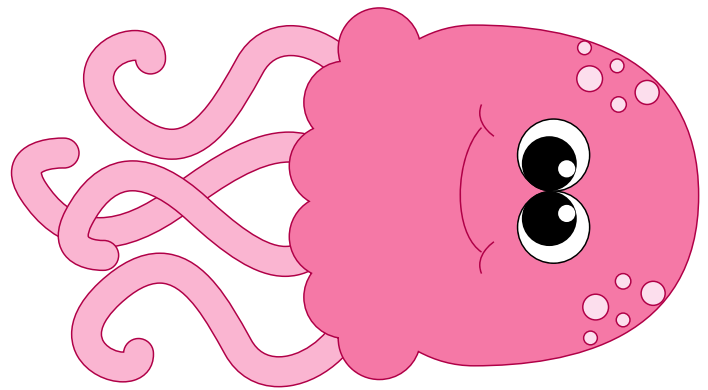
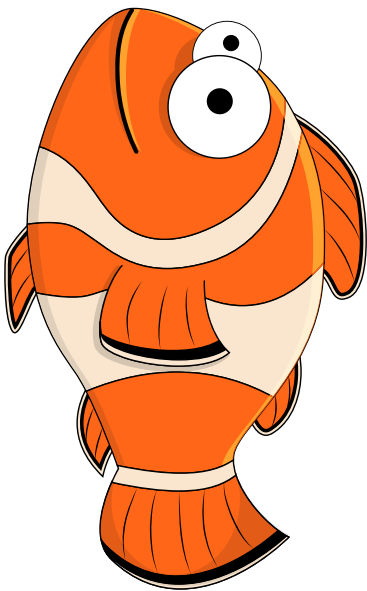
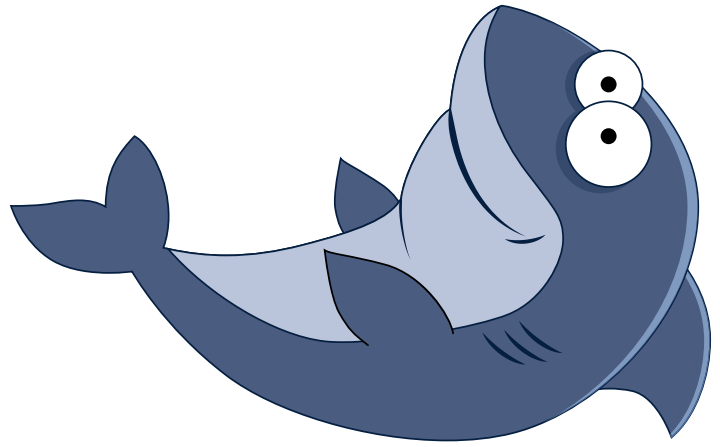


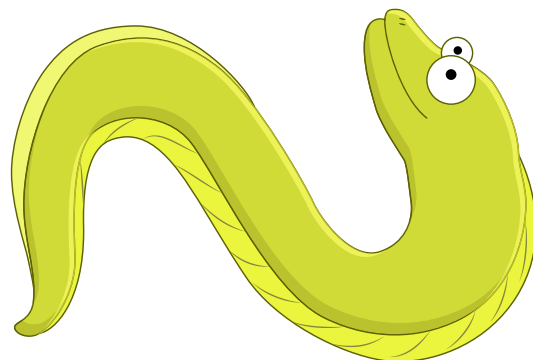
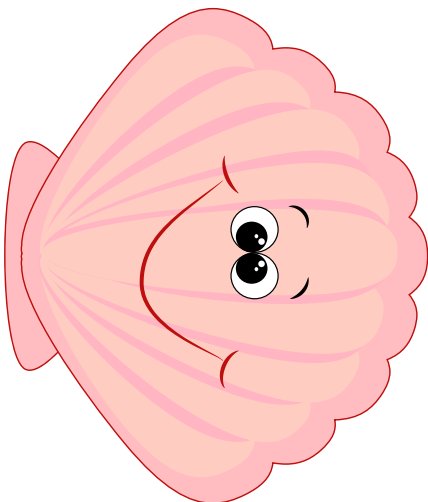
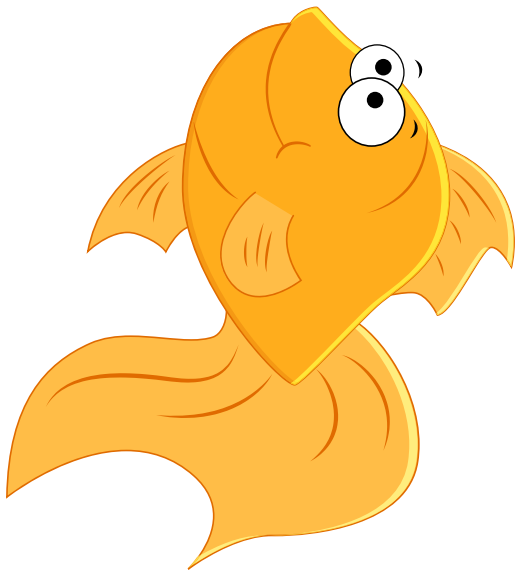
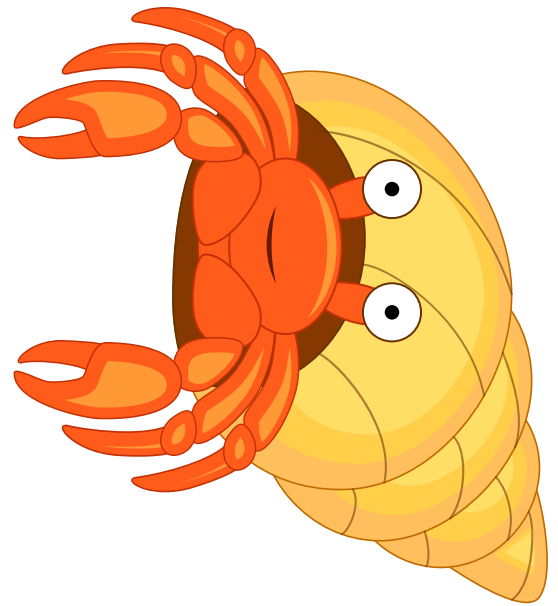
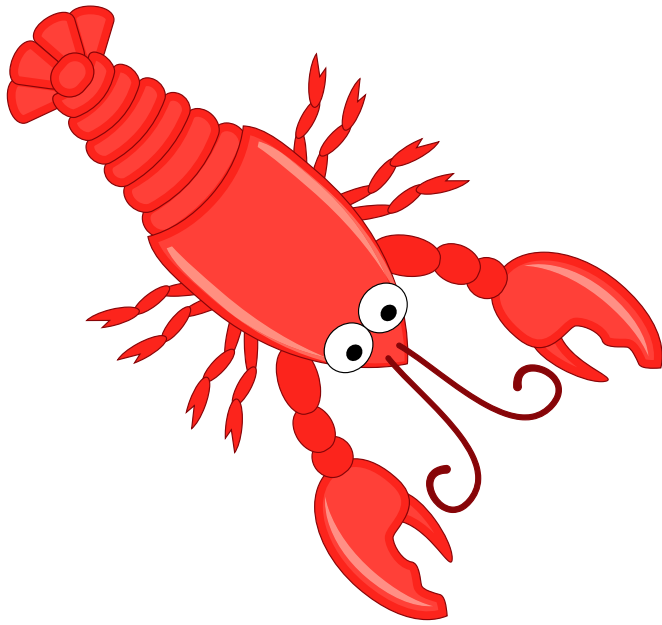
**CHOMP LIKE A  
SHARK**

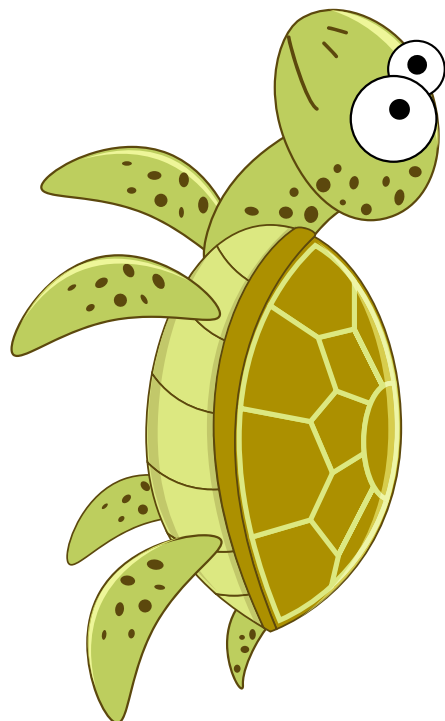
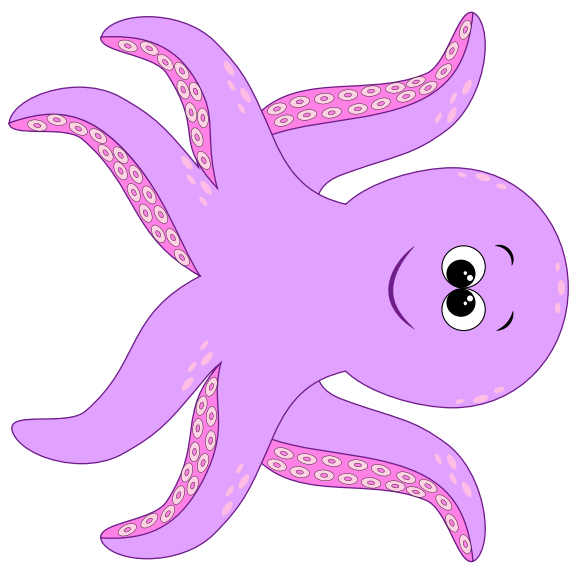
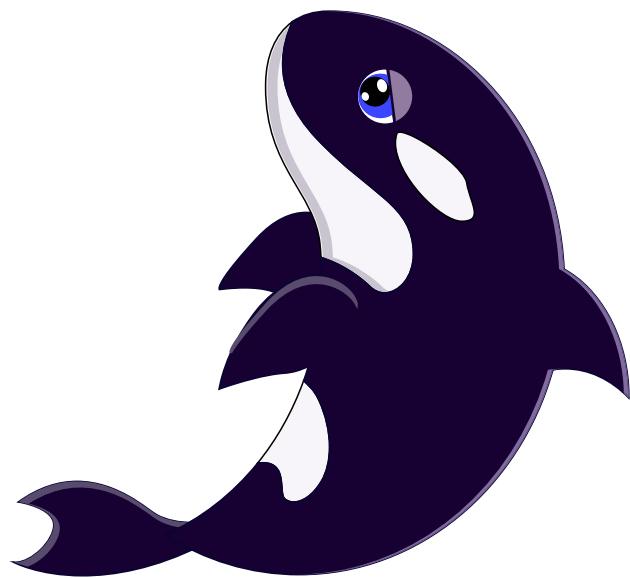
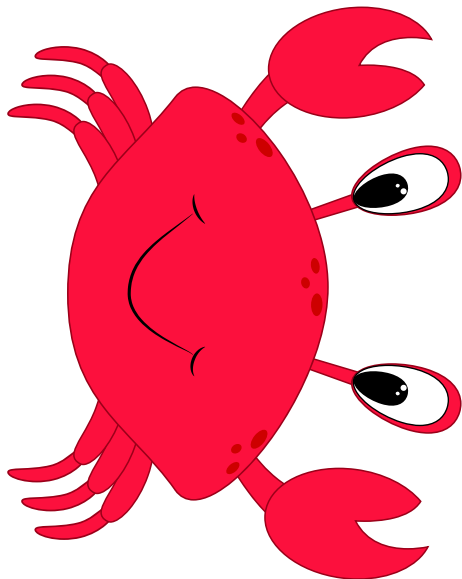
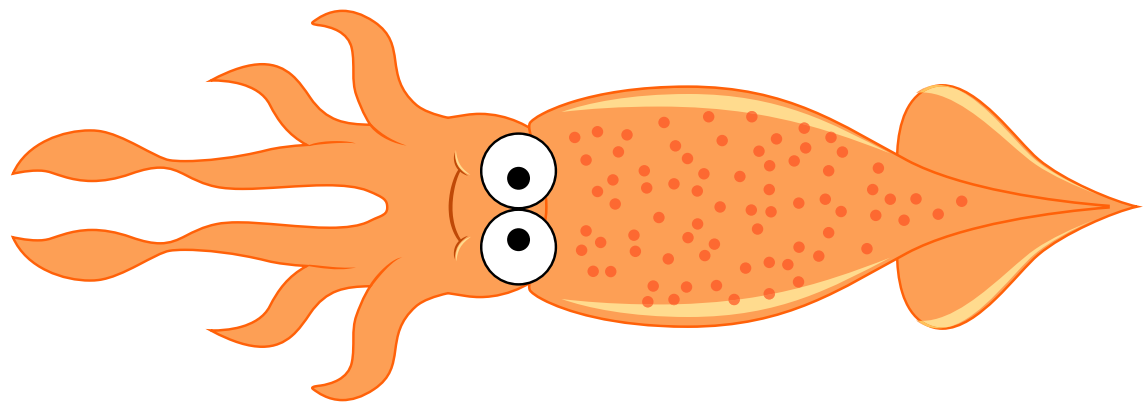


**DIVE LIKE A  
DIVER**

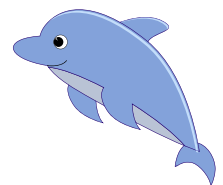
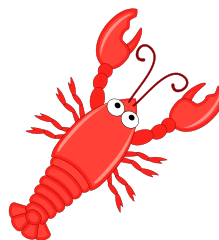
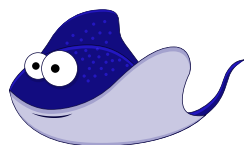
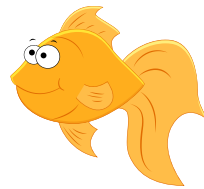
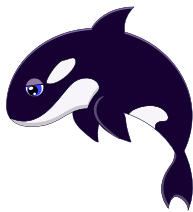
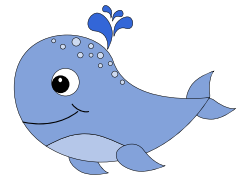
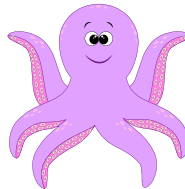
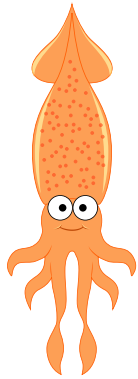
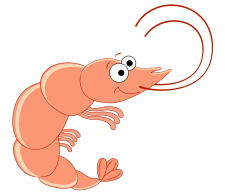
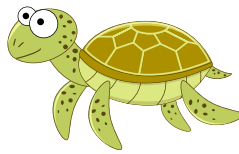
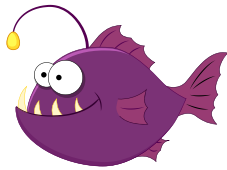








# Scavenger Hunt Check List



**Ephesians 3:18**

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

**Exodus 14:13**

Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again

**Exodus 14:14**

The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.

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**John 6:12**

When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.

**John 6:13**

So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

**Jonah 1:17**

Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights

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**Jonah 2:1**

From inside the fish  
Jonah prayed to the  
Lord his God.

**Colossians 3:12**

Therefore, as God's chosen  
people, holy and dearly  
loved, clothe yourselves  
with compassion, kindness,  
humility, gentleness and  
patience.

**1 John 4:7**

Dear friends, let us  
love one another, for  
love comes from God.  
Everyone who loves  
has been born of God  
and knows God.

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**Romans 5:8**

But God demonstrates  
his own love for us in  
this: While we were  
still sinners, Christ died  
for us.

**Romans 8:39**

Neither height nor  
depth, nor anything  
else in all creation, will  
be able to separate us  
from the love of God  
that is in Christ Jesus  
our Lord.

**Luke 10:27**

Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart and  
with all your soul and  
with all your strength and  
with all your mind and,  
love your neighbor as  
yourself.

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**Matthew 5:16**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

**Proverbs 12:26**

The righteous choose their friends carefully, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

**1 Peter 3:15**

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

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