

THE ACTION BIBLE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL / THE ACTION BIBLE VBS

DIRECTOR'S GUIDE

THE VISION

The Action Bible Vacation Bible School is an interactive experience for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Each lesson has been created for children to become part of the big story God began telling in Genesis and continues today through the lives of all His children. This unique program is inspired by the worldwide success of *The Action Bible*, which has made the Bible accessible to children of all ages. Now, children can be a part of the Bible's action by telling the story with their friends at church.

Beginning with a time of praise, children are impacted through the excitement of the theme song ... "It's All in the Bible." Each day's lesson is an interactive storytelling experience about a specific person from the Bible. Taking a look at an Action Word that encompasses that person's story in the Bible, along with related Scripture, scripts, and wonderfully-illustrated masks, kids teach each other the story as they're immersed in it themselves. Then, children dive more deeply into the Action Word—and what it means in their lives—continues with discussion, prayer, blessing, and a time of celebration. Bringing the Bible to life through his recognizable artwork, world-renowned artist Sergio Cariello continues to deliver with stunning new visuals in this unique and thoughtful program.

THE VBS PROGRAM

As a five-day program, *The Action Bible* Vacation Bible School program is meant to enhance your ministry program. It can also be used in a mid-week or Saturday setting. There is no limit to how you can creatively incorporate this program into an existing ministry!

FEATURES

The Action Bible Vacation Bible School program offers several unique features.

- » Original theme song: "It's All in the Bible." Interactive motions are provided to enhance the praise experience.
- » Action Word: Each lesson focuses on a Bible person and their accompanying Action Word, which shows how that person responded. Each child will relate to the Bible person and be encouraged to take action in their own life. With increased understanding, they will connect to the Bible: "Mary TRUSTED God, and I can TRUST God, too!"
- » Action Verse: Each Action Verse thoughtfully reflects the lesson's Action Word, Bible person, and their story.
- » Colorful Masks: The Bible stories are scripted and can be acted out with the uniquely colorful masks provided, inviting children to join the action.
- » Send Home Family Devotional: At each lesson's conclusion, children will receive a brief devotional to take home and share with their families. Families will know what was shared at VBS and be able to participate in the faith formation of their children.
- » *The Action Bible* Take-Home Collector's Card: As an optional purchase, these collector's cards are the next best thing to the actual *The Action Bible* for children who want to own their faith. As vibrant supplements to the lesson content, these colorful, informative cards share facts and stories about each Bible person while pointing children directly to *The Action Bible* and *The Action Storybook Bible* to further pique curiosity about what God's Word has for them.

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Bible Person	Action Word	Action Verse	The Action Bible Pages	The Action Storybook Bible Pages	Scripture References
Adam and Eve	LOVE	Psalm 36:5	17-23	13-22	Genesis 3
Abraham	BELIEVE	Matthew 21:22	44-52, 56	39-54	Genesis 15-18
Mary	TRUST	Proverbs 3:5-6	528-529	153-163	Luke 1:26-38
Jesus	SAVE	John 3:16	641-650	153-200	Matthew 27:59-28:20; John 19:38-21:17; Luke 24:13-53
Paul	WITNESS	Matthew 28:19	686-692	202-214	Acts 9:1-31

LESSON SECTIONS IN BRIEF

Take Action! (20-25 minutes)

Large Group: Introduction

Welcome and Praise (15 minutes) kicks things off, followed by the introduction of the Action Word and a video clip during **Hear the Story** (10 minutes).

Time to Act (20-25 minutes)

Small Groups: Bible Story

Mask Interaction explores the day's Bible person through storytelling—providing masks and scripts for the children to act out the Bible story. **Advanced Action** suggests another more detailed option for interaction with the story.

Play On! (20-25 minutes)

Small Groups: Game

Within small groups, children play a fun game that reinforces the Bible story person and the Action Word. Adaptations for preschool children and the 45 Crew are included.

Break Out! (20-25 minutes)

Small Groups: Rotate through snack, questions, and art

After experiencing a featured Bible person's story, children process what they have heard in small groups through guided discussion and a specific artistic response activity. Adaptations for preschool children and the 45 Crew are included.

Live It! (20-25 minutes)

Small Groups: Activity

The Action Word is further explored through simple object lessons or games. Adaptations for preschool children and the 45 Crew are included.

Make It! (20-25 minutes)

Small Groups: Craft

Children create a fun and imaginative craft that reinforces the Bible story and Action Word. All crafts require simple materials and minimal preparation. Adaptations for preschool children and the 45 Crew are included.

Wrap It Up! (10-15 minutes)

Small Groups: Reflect

As the lesson is closing, the day's Action Verse is reviewed, **Prayer** is shared, and a **Blessing** is spoken. (The Send Home Family Devotional resource mirrors this portion of the lesson.)

Celebrate! (10 minutes)

Large Group: Conclusion

Share It! recaps the VBS missions project chosen by your church to support. **Sing It!** sends children out with praise and a brief introduction to tomorrow's featured person. (As an optional feature, send home children with vibrant *The Action Bible* Take Home Collector's Cards supplying facts about the Bible person of the lesson.)

FREQUENTLY USED TERMS

45 Crew: 4th and 5th grade participants; helpers to the younger participants

Action Crew: kindergarten through 3rd grade participants

Action Guides: teen or adult volunteer leaders

Action Verse: the Scripture verse for each lesson; associated with the Action Word

Action Verse Image: a customizable image allowing each director to insert the preferred Bible translation

Action Word: key word associated with the Bible person's action from the lesson; focuses the message of the lesson and shows how God inspired them to act

Action Word Image: image that displays the lesson's Action Word; cued within the lesson

Bible Masterpiece coloring sheet: original coloring page resource for each Bible person. These are specifically allocated for preschool Art Focus but everyone enjoys coloring, so you may want to make additional copies available.

Large Group: times when the Action Crew and 45 Crew are gathered together; the Take Action! and Celebrate! sections of each lesson

Resources: reproducibles and images provided for the program

Small Groups: groups of children, based on age and fewer in number, for the Time to Act, Play On!, Break Out!, Live It!, Make It!, and Wrap It Up! sections.

Action Bible theme song: "It's All in the Bible," an overarching theme song for the program.

ROLES

Action Guides: The number of these teen or adult volunteer leaders will depend on the size of your church and how many children are participating. For each lesson, an energetic Action Guide will lead the children through the large group gatherings of Take Action! and Celebrate! Action Guides will also be assigned to lead each small group for the week. You may want to assign an Action Guide to control the tech equipment and cue the images during the Take Action! and Celebrate! sections of the lesson.

Ideally, one Action Guide will consistently assume this role for the length of the program. If that is a challenge, recruit more Guides and create a rotating schedule.

An ideal small group is 8 to 10 children.

A small group Action Guide, or qualified 45 Crew member, may also fill the role of tech support.

45 Crew: Unique to *The Action Bible* Vacation Bible School program, these participating fourth- and fifth-grade students are also active leaders. Throughout the lessons and in the separate 45 Crew Booklet resource, instructions are provided to encourage the 45 Crew to support the younger children of the Action Crew. The 45 Crew will have active roles throughout the large group sections.

ACTION GUIDE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

Tips for Recruiting:

- » Utilize existing forms of communication so it's easy for you and people know where to look. Does your church have an active website? Weekly online and/or printed, information? A monthly newsletter? Get the word out everywhere possible that thoughtful, committed, and fun Action Guides are needed to help impact the lives of the children in your community.
- » Expand the search to families beyond your children's program. Reach out to other ministries within your congregation including seniors, women's groups, men's groups, young adults, high school youth—there is no limit to where great help can be found. Ask current volunteers to share the names of friends who might also be willing to join the program. Connect with potential helpers by personally sharing highlights of the curriculum and exactly what kind of assistance is needed.
- » Be genuine in your appreciation for your Action Guides and they will likely continue to serve and bring friends!

Tips for Training:

- » Before your launch, plan to offer a training session for all Action Guides. This will unite your team and increase confidence by ensuring volunteers understand the elements of the program. Consider offering more than one training opportunity to best meet the needs of your volunteers. During the training session, introduce the vision of *The Action Bible* Vacation Bible School program and then run through a typical lesson.
- » Consider making copies of *The Action Bible* and *The Action Storybook Bible* available to your leaders so they understand the source of the art and the approachability of these Bibles for young readers.
- » Be sure to explain the children will be experiencing the stories of the Bible with the help of the volunteers' commitment and enthusiasm for this program.
- » Share the various images and play the theme music provided in the resources. Teach the motions to the song and have fun!
- » Consider offering a special training for the 45 Crew. You may want to do a monthly or quarterly check-in with them, share printed copies of the 45 Crew booklets ahead of time so they can prepare for their involvement with the storytelling in Hear the Story, share behavior management tips, and encourage them by listening and answering any questions they may have. *The Action Bible* VBS provides a unique role for this age group, so be sure they feel equipped to fill this responsibility to the best of their ability.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE

	Preschool	Action Crew #1	Action Crew #2	45 Crew #1	45 Crew #2
9:00-9:25	Take Action!				
9:30-9:55	Time to Act	Break Out!	Break Out!	Live It! or Make It!	Live It! or Make It!
10:00-10:25	Play On!	Time to Act	Time to Act	Break Out!	Break Out!
10:30-10:55	Live It! or Make It!	Play On!	Play On!	Time to Act	Time to Act
11:00-11:25	Break Out!	Live It! or Make It!	Live It! or Make It!	Play On!	Play On!
11:30-11:45	Wrap It Up!				
11:50-12:00	Celebrate!	Celebrate!	Celebrate!	Celebrate!	Celebrate!