

The Easy VBS™

Elementary Science



RAINFOREST FALLS

Imagination Station™

Leader Manual

Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:



Relational

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong

Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

Imagination Station™ Leader Manual

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Visit our websites:

group.com

group.com/RainforestFalls

Thanks to our amazing team, who love using their gifts to root kids in God's love!

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Thanks for joining the team!

Step through the mist into a paradise overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. But this is more than just a lush and lively setting!

God created rainforests to be our planet's powerhouse. Though rainforests occupy a tiny percentage of Earth's surface, *half* of the planet's terrestrial animals find shelter there. Rainforest plants are a source of lifesaving medicine. And rainforests are often called "the lungs of the planet," purifying the air we breathe.

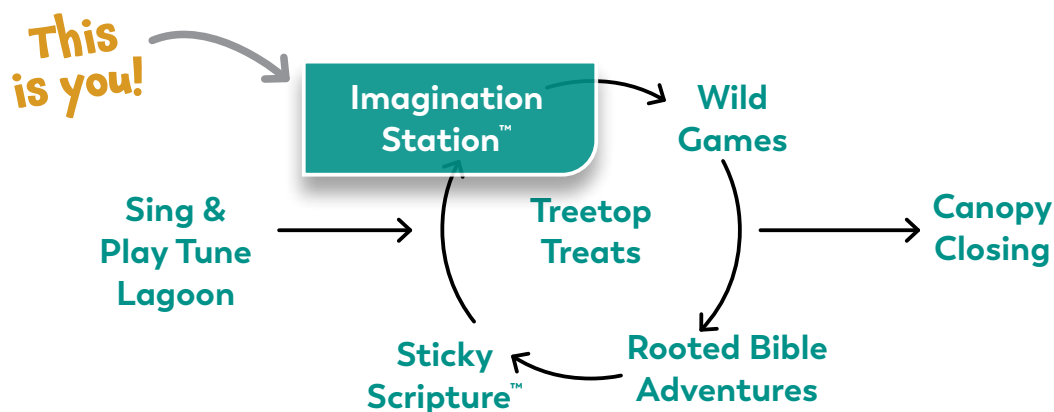
Rainforests are a refuge, rich and restorative. They're life-giving and lifesaving.

A bit like God.

Yet, for many kids today, God seems mysterious or made-up. He's just someone they've heard about—not someone they know. It's easier to believe in things on screens or rumors from friends.

That's why this is the perfect spot for kids to explore who God is. Faith takes root as kids discover God is their loving creator who knows everything about them. Wonder washes away doubt in the life-giving truth that God loves us deeply. Hope lives when kids explore the rich gift of Jesus and promise of a home forever.

Together, let's take kids on a life-changing adventure, exploring the nature of God.

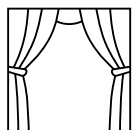


Before Rainforest Falls



Pray for everyone who will attend Rainforest Falls.

Ask God to prepare your heart and the hearts of the kids and leaders who will be part of your program.



Get your room ready to energize imaginations!

Choose a room with enough space for Crews to do the activities. Move chairs and tables out of the way. Place blankets on the floor for each Crew in a rotation to sit on. Use the decorating ideas at group.com/vbsTools to make your room look like the rainforest floor with lush ferns and roots, looking into the jungle canopy! You'll also use the Talk-Starter Posters at the start of each day's session.



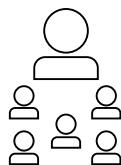
Work with the Rainforest Falls Director to collect necessary supplies.

Almost all the supplies are easy to find around the church, from church members, or from Group.



Order Imagination Station Crew Packs.

At Imagination Station, kids don't just watch experiments—they participate in the science! And these science discoveries get kids connecting the “wow” of science to the “wow” of God! Each day's Crew Pack provides supplies for a Crew of five kids plus a leader to do that day's fun experiments! These kits make sure the sciency-fun wows stick! Be sure to order an extra pack so you can test and demonstrate experiments.



Determine the number of Crews you'll have in each rotation.

Kids join mixed-age Crews—groups of up to five elementary-age kids and one adult or teenage leader. Plan on one-fourth of the total number of Crews in each rotation. If your VBS has 20 Crews, you'll work with five Crews (approximately 25 kids and five leaders) during each session.



Test the experiments.

You can find videos at group.com/vbsTools, showing you each experiment in action!

TREE TIP

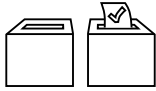
Your room doesn't have to be decorated in any particular way. Just go for the rainforest setting that's easiest to decorate and allows kids to flex their imagination muscles!

During Rainforest Falls



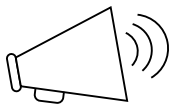
Get Crew Leaders involved!

Guide Crew Leaders to participate right along with kids. When Crew Leaders listen, get involved, and have fun, kids do too!



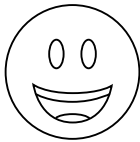
Talk About Talk-Starters.

Start each day with a talk-starter question to help kids get to know each other. Kids will “vote” for their answer by doing various actions. You’ll need the Talk-Starter Posters for the room to show kids their options.



Use an attention-getting signal.

Attention-getting signals let kids know when it’s time to stop what they’re doing and look at you. Use the Rainforest Rattle (available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier) or another signal of your choice.



Call on kids' Crew roles.

Every day, kids choose one of five jobs: Guide, Kit Carrier, Prayer Person, Schedule Supervisor, or Thank You-er. Kids love when those jobs get called on! In Imagination Station, you’ll call on the Kit Carrier.



Repeat the daily Bible Point often.

Every activity focuses on one memorable Bible truth called the Bible Point. Repeating the Bible Point helps kids remember it and apply it to their lives after Rainforest Falls. Each time kids hear the day’s Bible Point, they fling out their fingers and say, “Wow, God!”



Play the Sing & Play Tune Lagoon Music while kids explore.

Music creates a fun atmosphere and, more important, reinforces faith!



Rainforest Rattle



Wow, God!

DAY 1:

God is our creator.



Bible Story: God creates the world. (Genesis 1)

Bible Verse: "Praise the Lord, everything he has created, everything in all his kingdom."
(Psalm 103:22)

Sing & Play Tune Lagoon

- Learn the Day 1 Bible Point and verse, and meet Bible Memory Buddy Tango.
- Sing Rainforest Falls songs.
- Meet Dr. Flutterby, a scientist searching for a rare rainforest butterfly.



Rooted Bible Adventures

Act out what happened when God spoke and created *everything*, then celebrate God's "very good" creation—people!



Treetop Treats



Cuppa Creation



Creative Clementines

Sticky Scripture™

Play "Praise Band" as they explore Psalm 103:22 and discover what it means to praise the Lord.



Imagination Station™

Craft surprising Colorful Quetzals, then extract chlorophyll to discover more surprises about the way God created the world.



Canopy Closing

Use a wild and windy creation to remember—and celebrate—all that God created!



Wild Games



Fruit Roll Up



Jungle Vine Jump



Quetzal Quest

At **Rainforest Falls**, the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each station's activities for unforgettable Bible learning. See how your station reinforces today's Bible Point.

God is our creator.

Bible Verse: “Praise the Lord, everything he has created, everything in all his kingdom.” (Psalm 103:22)

Bible Story: God creates the world. (Genesis 1)

Genesis 1 launches the ultimate origin story—no capes, no gadgets, just God’s unstoppable creative power! With just a command, he fills the emptiness with light, land, and life. Imagine—no tools, no materials, just God’s voice shaping the universe! Though the sun and moon don’t appear until day four, light already shines from day one, proving God doesn’t rely on the sun to illuminate his creation. And here’s something amazing: The Hebrew word *bara*, meaning “create,” describes only what God does. No one else creates from nothing! After forming the oceans, mountains, and every creature, God saves his most treasured work for last—people. God crafts them, unlike anything else, in his image, designed for a deep and personal connection with God. Every child reflects the artistry of the ultimate Creator!

Kids often hear they need to *make* something of themselves—be smarter, cooler, more successful. But Scripture flips that script. Before kids ever tried to prove their worth, God already designed them with purpose and love. That truth changes everything! Kids don’t need to chase approval or compete for value; they already matter because the Creator of the universe formed them intentionally, in his own image. Wow—imagine walking with confidence, knowing you belong, hold value, and have been created for something extraordinary! Plus, every day we get to enjoy reminders of God’s ongoing creative work through sunshine, trees, and even rain! Today, take joy in showing kids God’s creative nature! Remind kids that, as people, they’re God’s “very good” creation.



Why It Matters

Celebrate! God—the intentional, master Creator—lovingly made each part of creation...including us! Kids can find confidence in knowing they’re crafted by God’s ingenious design.



Items for Every Day:

Imagination Station Poster Pack*

Small Bible Memory Buddy® Posters*

- baskets to hold supplies (1 per Crew in a rotation)
- blankets (1 per Crew in a rotation)
- 1 or more helpers (2 would be great!)



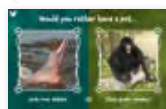
Sing & Play Tune Lagoon Music CD or download*

• media player



Rainforest Rattle* or other attention-getting device

Day 1 Supplies:



Day 1 Talk-Starter Poster from Imagination Station Poster Pack*

Colorful Quetzal Kits* (1 per Crew)



bright green craft feathers (1 per Crew in a rotation)

- spinach leaves (2-3 per child)
- resealable plastic sandwich bags (7 per Crew)
- tablespoon measuring spoons (1 per Crew in a rotation)
- 70% rubbing alcohol (1 bottle per Crew Leader in a rotation)
- scissors (1 per Crew)
- clear plastic cups (1 per Crew, plus 1 for you)
- green food coloring
- water



UV black lights (1 per Crew)



flour sifters (1 per Crew in a rotation)

- plastic spoons (1 per Crew in a rotation)
- basins of water (1 per Crew of 5)
- permanent markers (about 3 per Crew in a rotation)
- wet wipes

*available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier



Before Kids Arrive

- Before Day 1, decorate your room to look like a rainforest floor, and hang the five decorating posters around the room. We used the Jungle Trees Plastic Backdrop and the Jungle Foliage Plastic Backdrop.
- Set out blankets for Crews to sit on.
- Hang the Day 1 Talk-Starter Poster on a wall at kids' eye level.
- Hang the poster of Tango from the Small Bible Memory Buddy® Posters.
- Place a table along a wall of your room. Place the day's supplies on the table for easy access, and store the remaining supplies under the table.
- Put a small amount of water in one clear plastic cup, and set it on your table.
- Set basins of water around the edge of the room, 1 per Crew in a rotation.
- Put 2-3 spinach leaves per child in a resealable plastic sandwich bag. Make 1 bag per Crew.
- Create a basket of supplies for each Crew. (You can restock between rotations.)

TREE TIP

The Crew supply bins are full of eye-catching and curiosity-inspiring items that may be a distraction to kids. You may want to cover each one with a bandanna and ask Crew Leaders to keep them covered while you're talking.

TREE TIP

If you have larger Crews, provide multiple basins per Crew so every child has a turn to make a Colorful Quetzal in a timely fashion.

For the whole Crew:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ✓ 1 Colorful Quetzal Kit*
(includes 3 packets of Tropical Tints and 6 Quetzal Cards) | ✓ 1 bottle of 70% rubbing alcohol |
| ✓ 6 resealable plastic sandwich bags (for holding the finished cards) | ✓ 1 pair of scissors |
| ✓ 1 bright green craft feather | ✓ 1 UV black light |
| ✓ 1 resealable plastic bag of spinach leaves | ✓ 1 flour sifter |
| ✓ 1 tablespoon measuring spoon | ✓ 1 plastic spoon (for adding Tropical Tint to sifter) |
| | ✓ about 3 permanent markers |
| | ✓ wet wipes |



Got Imagination?

Have the fun Sing & Play Tune Lagoon Music playing as Crews arrive. Greet kids enthusiastically as they enter Imagination Station. Then have Crews sit together on the Crew blankets.

SAY Welcome to Imagination Station! Here we'll explore the wonders of the rainforest to discover what science can show us about the nature of God! We'll do fun experiments that help us understand who God is. But before we begin, I have a question for you.

ASK Who brought their imagination today?

SAY We're definitely going to need lots of imagination. Our Buddy Tango the quetzal [pronounced ket-S AHL] makes me think a lot about imagination. Quetzals are covered in colorful feathers that show off God's creativity! Point to the poster of Tango.

Since Tango's feathers are so full of imagination, I thought we could get imagination just by brushing against one!

Have your helpers distribute a Crew basket to each Crew. Set a ground rule that only Crew Leaders are allowed to reach into the baskets. Crew Leaders can get out the feathers and brush each child's hand with a feather. After about 30 seconds, sound the Rainforest Rattle to settle kids down.

Wow! I can feel the imagination flying across our room!

Answer a Talk-Starter Question

SAY Every day at Imagination Station, you'll get to answer a fun talk-starter question. Here's today's question.

Point to the Day 1 Talk-Starter Poster.

ASK Would you rather have a pet pink river dolphin or a pet black spider monkey?

SAY If you'd rather have a dolphin, pretend to jump out of the water like a dolphin! If you'd rather have a monkey, pose like a monkey.

When everyone is in position, sound the Rainforest Rattle. Then point out which choice seems to have more votes.



TREE TIP

Ham it up as you present the talk-starter question each day. You'll set a fun mood and encourage kids' imaginations at the same time!



Watch How to Create Colorful Quetzals

SAY

Pink river dolphins and black spider monkeys are just two of many, many unique animals God made to live in the rainforest. Scientists think more than half of all the world's species live in tropical rainforests.

There's a word to describe all the different kinds of plants and animals in the rainforest: *biodiversity*. Let kids test out saying the word. That means there are tons of different kinds of life—and God made it all! **God is our creator. (Wow, God!)**

Let's make colorful quetzals like Tango to remind us of just how differently and creatively God made the animals of the rainforest.

First, I'll show you what to do.

Set a basin of water on the floor in the center of the room so kids can see what you're doing. Tell kids that you'll sprinkle some Tropical Tint powder on the surface of the water, then *quickly* lay the Quetzal Card on top of the water. (Telling kids before you show them makes this step *super* clear!)

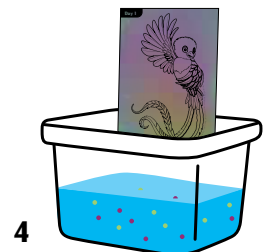
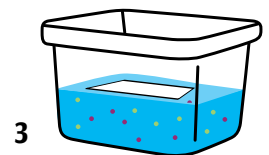
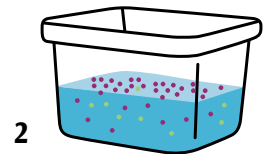
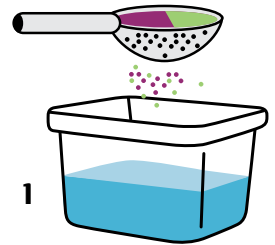
1. Have your helper hold the flour sifter above the water. Use a plastic spoon to add a little Tropical Tint into the sifter. Your helper will gently tap the side of the sifter, letting the powder rest on the surface of the water.
2. Cover the surface of the water with plenty of powder!
3. The powder *will* sink, so quickly lay your Quetzal Card face down on the surface of the water. Hold the end of it with the tips of your fingers. The card just needs to pick up the colors floating on the surface of the water, so *don't* push it under the water.

4. Pick up the card and show kids your Colorful Quetzal!

Now it's your turn to try!

TREE TIP

Kids will find it much easier to follow directions when they see you modeling what to do.





FIELD TEST FINDING

The Tropical Tint sinks to the bottom after a few seconds, so each person needs to add their own layer of powder.

FIELD TEST FINDING

We weren't very clear about how the process would work, and kids tried to dunk their papers under the water, thinking the Tropical Tint would dye the paper. That just made a soggy mess! Your demonstration should make it clear how to do this project!

Make Colorful Quetzals

Have Crew Leaders get out the Colorful Quetzal Kits, flour sifters, and permanent markers and head to a basin of water near the wall.

SAY

Crew Leaders, you'll go first so kids can follow your example when it's their turn. I'll walk you through each step all together.

First, choose someone to hold the sifter for you. Pause.

Now choose which colors you want. Spoon a little bit of those colors into the sifter. Pause. Your helper will gently tap the edge of the sifter to make a layer of powder on the surface of the water. Pause.

Now hold the ends of your Quetzal Card and lay it face down on the water on the count of three—but keep holding the edges. Don't dunk the card *under* the water.

Everyone ready? 1, 2, 3!

After a couple of seconds, say: **OK, carefully pull your cards out and show off the colors!** Pause.

Crew Leaders, set your finished Quetzal Card on one of the plastic bags so it can dry a little. Now choose a friend to go next. Kids, while you're waiting for your turn, use a marker to write your name on a plastic bag to hold your finished project!

Have Crew Leaders guide kids through the steps of making their quetzals colorful. Crew Leaders should hold the sifter and monitor rationing the powder so there's enough for everyone.

As kids work, roam around to help or offer suggestions. You might point out the cool science of surface tension, which allows the light granules of color to rest on the water for a few seconds.

ASK

Compare your card with your friends' cards. What differences did you notice?

Have kids set their Quetzal Cards on top of the plastic bags, near the bins of water. This allows them to dry a little before it's time to leave. Have Crews return to their blankets.

Extract Chlorophyll

SAY

It's easy to know that animals like quetzals are alive. But plants are living things, too!

Let's do a little science experiment to find out more about the living things God created.

Have Crew Leaders get out the bags of spinach, tablespoons, and rubbing alcohol.

Kids will each tear two to three spinach leaves into small pieces and put the pieces back in the bag. Lead kids in this step and make sure everyone is done, then sound the Rainforest Rattle.

Crew Leaders will then add 2 tablespoons of rubbing alcohol into the bag and seal it with air pressed out, then put the bottle away so kids don't touch it.

Give kids each a turn to squeeze or use their fists to smash and hammer the leaves through the bag for about 10-20 seconds. This pushes the chlorophyll out of the leaves. As this happens, the rubbing alcohol should turn light green.

As Crews work, have your helpers give each Crew Leader a clear cup. When everyone has had a turn to squeeze the leaves, lead Crew Leaders in snipping a tiny corner of the bag over the cup and pouring just the green liquid into the cup. They can then fold the bag so the slit is contained and put the bag back in the basket. Crew Leaders should hold the cups.

Your green liquid comes from the inside of plants.

Let's see what happens when I make a cup of green liquid that *doesn't* come from plants.

Add a little green food coloring to your cup of water, darken the lights, and shine a UV black light on it. Nothing will happen.



FIELD TEST FINDING

Some of the kids thought they were getting away with something when they heard the liquid was called "alcohol." They wanted to take a sip! Tell kids rubbing alcohol is a kind of medicine you can put on cuts and scrapes.

TREE TIP

If you're running short on time, you don't have to show the cup with green food coloring. But the glowing red chlorophyll is a huge wow!



TREE TIP

A juice glass may refract the light differently than a plastic cup, but either will work. You may find that shining the light works best from different angles depending on what type of cup or glass you use.

FIELD TEST FINDING

We thought this experiment might not work with the spinach stems, but it didn't make a difference either way.



Green dye with black light



Chlorophyll with black light

SAY Your cup isn't like mine. Mine just has food coloring, but yours has chlorophyll in it. Chlorophyll is the stuff inside leaves that makes them green and gives them energy to keep growing. Chlorophyll takes the energy from the sun and captures it to help the plant grow.

So let's see if you can see that energy at work now that it's out of the plant. We'll use special lights that shine the same kind of light as the sun.

ASK What do you think will happen when you shine this light on your chlorophyll liquid? Take several hypotheses.

SAY Let's see if you're right!

Have Crew Leaders shine UV black lights on the cups. The liquid with the chlorophyll will glow bright red.

ASK What can an experiment like this show you about God?

SAY God is awesome and creative! God made plants with the ability to store energy from sunlight! God is the best, most amazing and creative creator! **God is our creator!**
(Wow, God!)

SAY I'm so glad all you scientists were able to join me today and discover more about the biodiversity in the rainforest. I'll see you tomorrow for more sciency fun!

Have kids retrieve their Colorful Quetzals, putting the projects into the plastic bags and then into their Crew Bags.

After kids leave, you and your helper will refresh the water bins, throw away the bags of crushed spinach, and restock supply bins.

DAY 2:

God knows everything.

Bible Story: David celebrates all God knows. (Psalm 139)

Bible Verse: "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me."
(Psalm 139:1)

Sing & Play Tune Lagoon

- Learn the Day 2 Bible Point and verse, and meet Bible Memory Buddy Seymour.
- Share God Sightings and add items to the God Sightings Celebration Spot.
- Sing Rainforest Falls songs.
- Hear how Dr. Flutterby is planning to capture his special butterfly.



Rooted Bible Adventures

Use all their senses to explore David's praises from Psalm 139.



Treetop Treats



Sweet Face



See More Seymour

Sticky Scripture™

Learn actions to Psalm 139:1 and "See What?!" they can spot in Rainforest Falls. They'll find comfort knowing that God sees their hearts.



Imagination Station™

Use Rain Reveal Cards to take a closer look at some of the rainforest's smallest creatures. Rejoice that God knows the smallest details about us!



Canopy Closing

Watch hidden messages appear, exploring how *nothing* is hidden from our all-knowing God!



Wild Games



Find the Fruit



It's a Jungle Out There!



Make Up a Splash

At **Rainforest Falls**, the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each station's activities for unforgettable Bible learning. See how your station reinforces today's Bible Point.

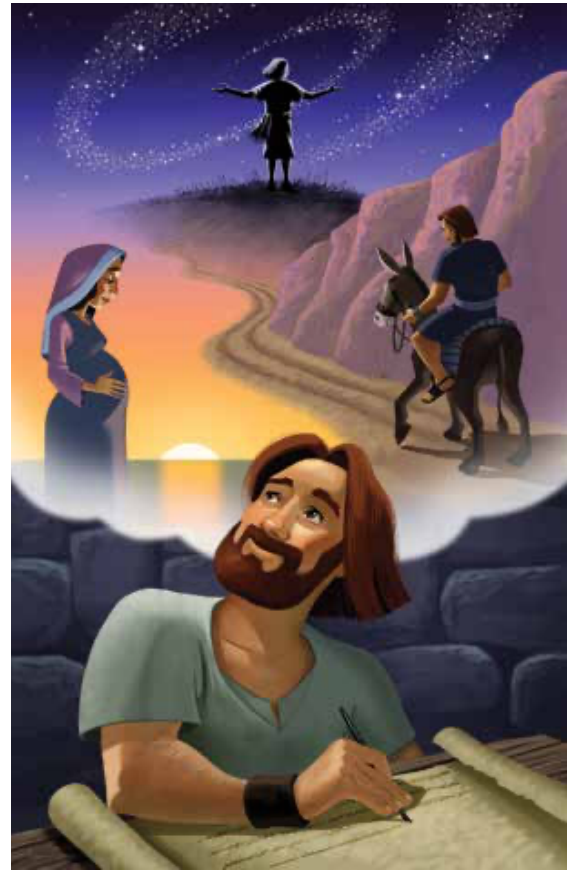
God knows everything.

Bible Verse: “O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.”
(Psalm 139:1)

Bible Story: David celebrates all God knows.
(Psalm 139)

Psalm 139 gives us a front-row seat to David’s heart as he wrestles with the incredible truth that God knows everything about him—his thoughts, his actions, even the words he hasn’t spoken yet! As a young shepherd, David spent years alone in the fields, unseen by people but fully known by God. Later, as a fugitive running from King Saul, he hid in caves yet always stayed in God’s watchful care. Even as king, when David made terrible mistakes, God still saw and pursued him. David understood both the comfort and the weight of being fully known by a God who never loses sight of his people. He described God’s knowledge as both mind-blowing (“too great for me to understand”) and deeply personal (“You know my thoughts”). God doesn’t just see us; he intimately knows every detail of our hearts.

The kids coming to your program live in a world that constantly watches them—safety monitors, social media posts, school expectations, even AI-driven content telling them who they should be. In spite of all that attention, many kids still feel unseen, unknown, or misunderstood. Psalm 139 reassures kids that God doesn’t just watch them like an algorithm tracking clicks. God knows their hearts, like a loving Father. God sees their struggles, their dreams, their quiet worries...and God cares. For children wrestling with comparison or anxiety, this truth brings peace. Help kids find rest in discovering that no burden or worry is hidden from our faithful God.



Why It Matters

Be encouraged! Kids never have to feel unknown or unseen. God knows every detail of their lives and promises to always love them.

Day 2 Supplies:



Day 2 Talk-Starter Poster from Imagination Station Poster Pack*



Rain Reveal Cards* (1 set per Crew)



UV black light

• pencils (1 per person in a rotation)

• cups of water (1 per Crew in a rotation)

• cotton swabs (1 per person)

• nature items, such as leaves, blades of grass, sticks, or dirt

• paper towels

• clipboards or trays (1 per person in a rotation)

*available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier

Before Kids Arrive

- Hang the Day 2 Talk-Starter Poster on the wall.
- Hang the poster of Seymour from the Small Bible Memory Buddy® Posters.
- Create a basket of supplies for each Crew. (You can restock between rotations.)

For each Crew member:

- ✓ 1 pencil
- ✓ 1 cotton swab
- ✓ 1 clipboard or tray

For the whole Crew:

- ✓ 1 set of 6 Rain Reveal Cards
- ✓ various items from nature
- ✓ 1 roll of paper towels



TREE TIP

During the huddle and a prayer time before Rainforest Falls, let Crew Leaders know they'll need their phones handy today for Imagination Station.



Got Imagination?

Have the Sing & Play Tune Lagoon Music playing in your room as kids arrive.

Greet kids enthusiastically as they enter Imagination Station. Then have Crews sit on their Crew blankets.

SAY Welcome back! I'm so excited that we're all here at Imagination Station! We're exploring the amazing rainforest. But before we get started, I need to know...

ASK Who remembered their imagination today?

SAY Uh-oh! Sometimes we forget. That's OK—it's only Day 2. I kind of thought that might happen, so I asked Seymour for ideas. Point to the poster of Seymour. And he had a great idea!

See, if you look at Seymour's belly, you'll see everything inside of him. Point to different parts of the poster. You can see his stomach and his heart and his imagination!

So I thought maybe I could look inside you and find your imagination with a special light!

Shine a black light on each child, and ham up finding kids' imaginations.

Answer a Talk-Starter Question

Point to the Day 2 Talk-Starter Poster.

SAY Since I just looked inside of you, I have a question.

ASK Would you rather be able to see inside your brain or your belly?

SAY If you'd rather see inside your brain, point to your head. If you'd rather see inside your belly, rub your belly!

I think the winner is... Announce which choice you think got more votes.

We can't see inside our brains or our bellies. But today we'll explore things we *can* see in the rainforest! Let's get started.



Look Closer

Have Kit Carriers come up to get Crew baskets and give them to their Crew Leaders.

ASK Call out some things that come to mind when you picture the rainforest. Welcome responses for about 10 seconds.

SAY When I picture the rainforest, I think of the huge, tall trees. Those make our rainforest so nice and shady.

So let's draw big, huge trees! Crew Leaders, get out the cards in your supply baskets, and give one to each person, along with a pencil. Crew members can also use a clipboard or tray to draw on. Draw on the side that's less shiny.

Allow time for everyone to draw large trees. Compliment them on their drawings.

Those trees are big and easy to see, but if we don't look closer, there's a whole world we might miss out on! Let me show you what I mean.

Dip a cotton swab in water, and use it to begin to color in your card.

Have your helpers give each Crew a cup of water while Crews Leaders give each person a cotton swab. Have everyone dip the cotton swabs in the cup of water and then rub the cotton swabs all over their drawings.

A different picture will appear on each card in a Crew! Let Crew members compare pictures. Then sound the Rainforest Rattle.

ASK Tell me something you see on your card now that you couldn't see before.

SAY Wow! There are all kinds of tiny things on your cards! Some of you have ants—did you know there are 100 different species of ants in the rainforest? That's a lot of kinds of ants!

I see moss and nearly invisible spiderwebs catching the light!

And don't miss out on insects like the rainbow grasshopper, the leafhopper nymph, and the glasswing butterfly!

All these things wouldn't show up if you looked at a drone picture of a rainforest—they're too small! But **God knows everything. (Wow, God!)** He sees the tiny little details in the rainforest—and the tiny details in our hearts.

In fact, there are things even tinier than what's on your cards! So let's take a closer look at some things God made and notice more details.

Direct Kit Carriers to bring the cups of water to your supply table (so water doesn't get spilled) and throw away the wet cotton swabs.

TREE TIP

Playing Sing & Play Tune Lagoon Music in the background as kids draw or do other independent work can make for a more fun atmosphere. Plus, stopping the music helps get their attention when you're ready to move on!

FIELD TEST FINDING

At our field test, we wanted to keep drawings open-ended. But some kids ended up trying to trace the faint shapes they could see on the card, and others drew small things like bugs. It's important that kids draw something that's big so it contrasts with the small thing they'll reveal—so keep reminding them to draw trees!

FIELD TEST FINDING

When our Station Leader demonstrated how to reveal the picture, there was a collective gasp as kids saw the colors show up! By demonstrating the experiment first, you model how to do it, but you also generate excitement as kids realize *they* get to try it, too!



FIELD TEST FINDING

We originally had kids use little magnifying glasses to explore the details in leaves and flowers, but kid-friendly (and cost-effective) magnifiers couldn't get the same detail that a phone could. Once a leader brought out a phone and zoomed in, kids all wanted to take a close-up look!

TREE TIP

Here's a pro teaching tip: Create a welcoming environment where *all* kids feel free to share their thoughts. Respond to kids' answers by simply repeating what a child said. Repeating shows respect and that you heard that child. This also allows everyone to hear soft-spoken kids. You'll promote thinking and find that more kids engage and eagerly share rather than waiting for one person to share the correct answer.

Magnificent Magnifiers

SAY Sometimes we need tools like microscopes or magnifying glasses to help us see things that are too tiny to see with just our eyes. Even our phones can help! Let's see what else we can discover by looking up close at real pieces of the natural things around us!

Have Crew Leaders get out the leaves and other nature items and open their cellphone cameras, zooming in all the way. Crews can work together to examine nature items through the cameras.

After a couple of minutes, sound the Rainforest Rattle. Have Crew Leaders put away their phones and the nature items.

ASK Tell me some things you noticed.

SAY Psalm 139:1 says, "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me."

ASK You just examined God's creation. How do you think that's like—or maybe not like—the way God examines and knows you? (This is a thinking question that may take a moment for kids to ponder and consider. That's OK! Give kids time to make surprising faith connections.)

SAY God doesn't need a magnifying glass to see the tiny details about us!

We have so much more to learn, but we'll never know as much as God, because **God knows everything. (Wow, God!)** And that includes all the details about you!

I'm so glad all you special scientists were able to join me today and explore the tiniest parts of God's creation! I'll see you tomorrow for more sciency fun!

Between rotations, refill water cups, and reset the baskets for the next rotation.

DAY 3:

God is our safe place.

Bible Story: David hides from Saul. (1 Samuel 23–24)

Bible Verse: “Then I pray to you, O Lord. I say, ‘You are my place of refuge.’” (Psalm 142:5)

Sing & Play Tune Lagoon

- Learn the Day 3 Bible Point and verse, and meet Bible Memory Buddy Dottie.
- Share God Sightings and add items to the God Sightings Celebration Spot.
- Sing Rainforest Falls songs.
- Help Dr. Flutterby get out of a tangled mess.



Rooted Bible Adventures

Meet David, who’s running from King Saul, and help him know the right thing to do in a hard situation.



Treetop Treats



Rainforest Refuge



Ocelot Spots

Sticky Scripture™

Explore Psalm 142:5 and find out that a refuge is a safe place or person. Then they play “Would You Rather?” and decide where they’d like to find refuge.



Imagination Station™

Make layers of bubbles, then engage with Flutterflies to explore the wonderful way God made rainforests to be safe places.



Canopy Closing

Pass a message, then see how God’s comfort wraps around our fragile hearts.



Wild Games



Ups and Downs



Safe Buddies



Refuge Run

At **Rainforest Falls**, the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each station’s activities for unforgettable Bible learning. See how your station reinforces today’s Bible Point.

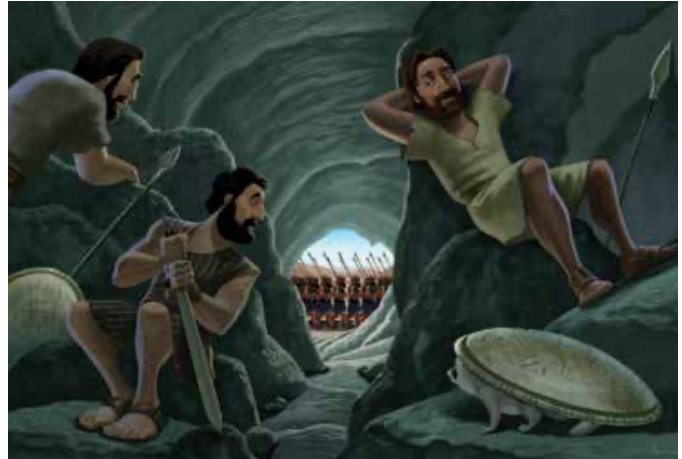
God is our safe place.

Bible Verse: “Then I pray to you, O Lord. I say,
‘You are my place of refuge.’ ”
(Psalm 142:5)

Bible Story: David hides from Saul.
(1 Samuel 23–24)

David’s life reads like an action-packed survival story. After being anointed as the future king, he suddenly found himself running for his life from King Saul. Forced to flee, David hid in the caves of Adullam, a rugged, rocky refuge southwest of Bethlehem. These caves, naturally formed in limestone cliffs, provided shelter and secrecy for someone on the run. But David’s caves weren’t small, cramped holes in the ground—they were large, deep systems, often used by travelers, shepherds, and even armies. God provided not just a *physical* refuge but also a community—David’s family and a band of 400 outcasts joined him! While caves and strongholds provided temporary shelter, David daily found his safety in the presence and promises of God.

Kids may not be running from a king, but many face battles that leave them feeling overwhelmed or unsafe. Whether it’s the pressure of school, struggles at home, or the weight of anxiety, kids need a refuge just like David. The good news? God still provides a safe place—not a cave or a hiding spot, but his rock-solid presence. When everything around them feels uncertain, kids can trust that God understands, hears what’s spoken in their hearts, and stays with them. Just as God never abandoned David, God will never abandon us. While God never promises that we won’t face hardship, he *does* promise to be our shelter. Guide kids to find comfort when they turn to God as a refuge—a safe place for their hurting hearts.



Why It Matters

Find comfort. God provided a safe place for David to hide from King Saul. Today, God provides a refuge for us, where our doubts, worries, fears, and hearts are safe with him.



Day 3 Supplies:

Day 3 Talk-Starter Poster from Imagination Station Poster Pack *



Flutterflies* (1 per person)

• dot stickers (1 per person)

• markers (1 set per Crew in a rotation)

• pencils (1 per person)

• 8-ounce cups of water (1 per Crew)

• tablespoon measuring spoon

• granulated sugar

• dish soap

• jumbo drinking straws (1 per person)

• smooth plastic plates (1 per person)

• paper towels

*available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier

Before Kids Arrive

- Hang the Day 3 Talk-Starter Poster on the wall.
- Hang the poster of the canopy layers and the poster of the cocoon from the Imagination Station Poster Pack (if you haven't already hung them as part of your decorations).
- Hang the poster of Dottie from the Small Bible Memory Buddy® Posters.
- Cut a strip of dot stickers for each Crew, so that there are enough for each Crew member to have 1 sticker.
- For each Crew, premix a bubble solution using 8 ounces of warm water, 1 tablespoon of granulated sugar, and 2 tablespoons of dish soap. Dissolve the sugar in the water before adding the soap. Mix it together well.
- Practice making bubbles within bubbles so you know how to do it well!
- Decorate a Flutterfly and practice winding it up 35 times, holding it between your palms, then releasing it. Here's a tip: If you wind the wings in a *counter-clockwise* direction, the Flutterfly tends to fly up, rather than down.
- Create a basket of supplies for each Crew. (You can restock between rotations.)

For each Crew member:

- ✓ 1 jumbo drinking straw
- ✓ 1 plastic plate

For the whole Crew:

- ✓ 1 roll of paper towels
- ✓ markers in a variety of colors

FIELD TEST FINDING

We tried eyeballing measurements for the bubble mixture, and it did not work well. Be sure to follow the recipe!

TREE TIP

We recommend *not* putting the Flutterflies in the supply baskets so kids can be surprised when you show them later.

TREE TIP

You *really* need to practice making the bubble "layers." It's OK if you don't get things right your first time in the demo. Although practice will help, it can be tricky to master! If you mess up, that will help the kids feel less pressure to get it perfect.

TREE TIP

The “Got Imagination?” section is just a quick, smile-inducing tradition to add each day. If you feel pressed for time, you can omit it. But we’ve found it to be a fun way to begin each session.



Got Imagination?

Play the Sing & Play Tune Lagoon Music as kids arrive.

Greet kids enthusiastically as they enter Imagination Station. Then have Crews sit on their Crew blankets.

SAY Welcome back to Imagination Station! We have a lot to discover today. But in order to really dive into the science, you’ll need your imagination! So you know I have to ask...

ASK Did you bring your imagination today?

SAY Uh-oh! It looks like some of you left your imagination at home! But good news! Point to the Dottie poster. I was talking with my friend Dottie, and she told me *she* stores her imagination in her spots! She said just one spot has enough imagination to power us through Imagination Station today, so let’s all put on a spot!

Give each Crew Leader a set of stickers, and have Crew Leaders distribute them to their Crews. Put one on yourself as well.

Wow! Now I can spot imagination on each of you! I think we’re ready to get going with our talk-starter.

Answer a Talk-Starter Question

Point to the Day 3 Talk-Starter Poster.

SAY Today’s talk-starter question will help us start thinking about the different layers of the rainforest.

ASK Would you rather live in a rainforest treehouse way up high or down on the ground in a cozy cave made out of branches, leaves, and vines?

SAY If you’d rather live in the treehouse, pose like a tree! If you’d rather live in a viny cave, hunker down into a little curled-up ball. Allow time for kids to vote.

Announce which choice you think is the winner.



Bubble Layers

Refer to the poster of the rainforest canopy layers.

SAY There are four major layers of the rainforest. Stand up and repeat them with me. There's the **emergent layer** (have kids reach up high), **the canopy** (have kids stretch arms to the side), **the understory** (have kids crouch slightly), and **the forest floor** (have kids sit back down).

I have a fun way for us to explore all these layers! Watch.

Demonstrate the experiment on the floor in the middle of the room so everyone can see. Using your fingers, rub some bubble solution all over a plastic plate.

At the bottom is the forest floor. It's very dark there because all the other plants block the sunlight. It also traps moisture, so it's humid. There are some big animals and interesting bugs in this layer!

Then dip your straw into the bubble solution and hold it on the plate. Blow into the other end of the straw to make a large bubble dome on the plate.

The emergent layer is the tallest. It has the *really* super-tall trees that poke out. There are some birds and insects, but not a lot of animals live there.

Under that is the canopy layer. It's the really thick layer of treetops where most of the plants and animals live.

Dip your straw in the solution again, then poke it through your bubble to blow another bubble inside, smaller than the first. Be careful when blowing that the two bubbles don't touch each other; touching will cause them to combine and form two side-by-side bubbles instead of one dome inside another.

Beneath that, you have the understory layer. That's where you'd find shrubs, bushes, and younger trees that haven't grown big enough to reach the canopy.

Dip your straw into the solution again and repeat, trying to blow a third bubble inside the "canopy layer" bubble.

Now it's your turn to make rainforest layers. I'll walk you through each step, so pay close attention.

Have your helpers distribute Crew baskets and a cup of bubble solution for each Crew Leader to hold on to.

This can be tricky to learn, so don't be discouraged if you don't get it. Just try again.



TREE TIP

Head to group.com/vbsTools to see a video of this amazing experiment in action!



group.com/RainforestImagStation

FIELD TEST FINDING

Kids absolutely loved experimenting with bubbles. And most were able to get the hang of it more quickly than expected! Even the kids who couldn't stack layers still loved the challenge—this was one they went home and talked about! Parents told us that their kids could explain the connection between the layers of bubbles and the layers of God's rainforest!



SAY

The first thing you'll do is make your forest floor by smearing bubble solution all over your plate. Everyone do that, then raise your hand when you're done. Allow time.

To make your bubbles, simply dip your straw in the solution, then hold it on the plate and blow into it. When you're ready to make more bubbles inside, you'll do the same thing, poking your straw through the bigger bubble. Here's one trick: Don't blow the inside bubbles big enough that they touch the outside bubbles—that will mess them up! If they all stick together, just use your fingers to pop your bubbles and try again. See how many layers you can make!

Allow a few minutes for kids to experiment. Then have your helpers collect all the bubble supplies while kids wipe their hands with paper towels.

Our bubble domes reminded me of the rainforest—one layer inside another. God made the layers to help protect things that live in each one! **God is our safe place! (Wow, God!)** Let's learn more about how God creates a safe place for his creation.

Flutterflies

Point to the poster of the cocoon.



ASK

What do you see in this picture?

SAY

This looks like a leaf...but it's really a cocoon! Some little caterpillar created this when it was time to change into a butterfly!

ASK

How would a cocoon be a safe place for that caterpillar?

How could a cocoon remind you of God's loving care for us?

While you talk, wind up a Flutterfly 35 times and hold it between your palms.

SAY

God is so amazing! He created caterpillars so they can make a safe, cozy spot to stay away from birds or other animals that might want to eat them. **Wow, God!** Hold out your hands, with your palms pressed together, like a cocoon. **And because they stay wrapped up and safe, something incredible happens.**

Quickly open your hands and let the Flutterfly fly!

Wow! Now you can make one of these Flutterflies to remember that God is a safe place. (Wow, God!)

Ask Kit Carriers to come up and get enough Flutterflies for each person in their Crew to have one.

Allow time for kids to decorate their Flutterflies. While kids are working, move around and show them how to wind the Flutterfly at least 35 times, then hold it straight out away from your body and release it. (Be sure kids put their names on their Flutterflies.)

When everyone is finished, have kids stand and wind up their Flutterflies.

SAY **God is our safe place!** As kids say, “Wow, God!” they’ll release their Flutterflies all at once!

Have Crew Leaders collect the Flutterflies and put them in their Crew Bags.

*The rainforest is full of animals that have everything they need because God takes care of them! And God loves us even more, so we can trust that he’ll take care of us. Even when life around us feels scary, **God is our safe place. (Wow, God!)***

Thank kids for coming, and dismiss kids to their next rotation.

Between rotations, make sure a fresh set of supplies is ready for the next group.

FIELD TEST FINDING

One little girl with gorgeous curls had her Flutterfly fly straight into her hair and get tangled. (No worries, we got it untangled without too much fuss.) You may tell kids with longer hair to hold the Flutterfly away from their head, or even stand a little away from Crew friends when releasing their butterflies.

FIELD TEST FINDING

We discovered that the direction you wind the Flutterfly will determine if it flies up or down. Let kids experiment!



DAY 4: God is love.

Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes to life to show God's love. (Luke 22:39–24:12)

Bible Verse: "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever."
(Psalm 136:1)

Sing & Play Tune Lagoon

- Learn the Day 4 Bible Point and verse, and meet Bible Memory Buddy Tia.
- Share God Sightings and add items to the God Sightings Celebration Spot.
- Sing Rainforest Falls songs.
- See if Dr. Flutterby's disguise will attract a butterfly.



Rooted Bible Adventures

Make marks on a cross as they discover how Jesus showed God's love to all of us in a life-changing way.



Treetop Treats



Ants on a Branch



Bonded Branches

Sticky Scripture™

Hope to "Faithfully Flip!" a water bottle as they explore Psalm 136:1 and investigate what it means to be faithful.



Imagination Station™

Create Wow Windows that show the amazing way God gave rainforests the ability to regenerate. God's love gives us do-overs, too!



Canopy Closing

Discover how Jesus showed God's everlasting, unfailing love.



Wild Games



Give to Love, Love to Give



Aunty Eater



Along the Vine

At **Rainforest Falls**, the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each station's activities for unforgettable Bible learning. See how your station reinforces today's Bible Point.

God is love.

Bible Verse: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever.” (Psalm 136:1)

Bible Story: Jesus dies and comes to life to show God’s love. (Luke 22:39–24:12)

God’s creativity and magnificent design didn’t end with creating the world. One might even say that God’s plan to reveal the greatest act of love began at the Garden of Eden. God’s Son, Jesus, came to earth—fulfilling a staggering 300 Old Testament prophecies! The passage begins in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus, fully aware of the pain ahead, chooses to follow God’s plan. Jesus’ love wasn’t just a feeling; it was a choice that cost him everything. Where betrayal and arrest might have stirred up emotions of anger, Jesus showed only love. Instead of fighting or fleeing, he carried the cross and gave his life, demonstrating the power of God’s love for humanity. Three days later, in the most astonishing moment of all, the tomb stood empty—Jesus conquered death! God showed that his love is more powerful than anything.

Kids hear mixed messages about love. Songs say it’s about feelings. Influencers claim that popularity equals love. And people may argue, “If you loved me, you’d...” But Jesus reveals a different kind of love—one that’s selfless, sacrificial, and unshakable. Jesus didn’t love based on who deserved it; he loved because *that’s who he is*. What a gift to know that we’re fully loved—not because we’re perfect, but simply because God *is* love. In a world that often defines love in shallow or conditional ways, the cross and the empty tomb remind kids what real love looks like—powerful, unstoppable, and forever! Today, help kids explore a God-focused definition of love that will change their lives for eternity.



Why It Matters

Be amazed! Jesus demonstrated that God’s love is selfless, unconditional, and powerful. Kids will gain a fresh perspective on what *true* love is, following God’s timeless definition.



Day 4 Supplies:

Day 4 Talk- Starter Poster from Imagination Station Poster Pack*



leaf blower or hair dryer

- applesauce pouches (1 per Crew)
- paper plates (1 per Crew)
- plastic spoons (1 per child)
- wet wipes (1 pack per Crew)



Wow Windows* (1 per person)

- permanent markers
- clear tape (1 roll per Crew in a rotation)
- pens

*available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier

TREE TIP

Head to group.com/vbsTools to see a video of all the *amazing* experiments in action!



group.com/RainforestImagStation

Before Kids Arrive

- Hang the Day 4 Talk- Starter Poster on the wall.
- Hang the poster of Tia from the Small Bible Memory Buddy® Posters.
- Assemble a Wow Window, and practice the trick so you can show kids. Keep an additional Wow Window on hand so you can show kids how to assemble them in each rotation.
- Check out group.com/vbsTools to see how to create your own Wow Window.
- Create a basket of supplies for each Crew. (You can restock between rotations.)

For each Crew member:

- ✓ 1 plastic spoon
- ✓ 1 Wow Window*

For the whole Crew:

- ✓ permanent markers
- ✓ 1 roll of clear tape
- ✓ 1 pouch of applesauce
- ✓ 1 paper plate
- ✓ 1 pack of wet wipes
- ✓ pens

Got Imagination?

Play the Sing & Play Tune Lagoon Music as kids arrive.

Greet kids enthusiastically as they enter Imagination Station. Then have Crews sit on their Crew blankets.

SAY Welcome to Imagination Station! Today we're learning that **God is love. (Wow, God!)** And we'll explore that further as we learn something really cool about the rainforest.

But first, I think you may know what I need to ask...

ASK Did you bring your imagination today?

SAY Scientists have to have imagination and curiosity!

Luckily, I was just talking to our friend Tia about how she gathers ants. She licks them up on her spiny tongue. But you know, with that long snout she has, it almost looks like she's vacuuming them up!

So I thought, if Tia can vacuum up her meals, maybe we can *un-vacuum* imagination to blow it onto all of you!

Turn on the leaf blower (or the hair dryer, set to cool) and aim it in the general direction of kids.

I saw imagination come flying out onto all of you! Now let's use that imagination as we answer our talk-starter question.

FIELD TEST FINDING

Kids absolutely loved the leaf blower! This is a huge hit!



Answer a Talk-Starter Question

SAY Scientists have had a hard time exploring the canopy layer because it's so high up! Mostly we can explore the rainforest from the floor or from flying above it and looking down on it. So I have a question for you.

ASK Would you rather take a hike in the rainforest or fly over it in a helicopter?

SAY If you want to hike in the rainforest, walk in place. If you'd prefer a helicopter ride, wave your arms above your head like helicopter blades.

It looks like [pose with more votes] is the winner! So let's dive into the science and start exploring the rainforest!



TREE TIP

You could also do the applesauce experiment with travel-size tubes of toothpaste, which you may be able to get donated from a dentist's office.



Try to Undo Damage

Have Kit Carriers get the Crew baskets.

SAY All week we've been learning about the beautiful rainforests God made. But there's a problem: Sometimes humans cut down trees in the rainforest. And the rainforest is really important!

So people have tried planting more trees to undo the damage.

Let's do a little experiment that will help us understand that better.

Have Crew Leaders get out a paper plate and an applesauce pouch.

Here's your challenge: Squeeze out as much applesauce as you can onto the plate. Make sure everyone gets a turn! Allow time.

And now that the damage is done, try to undo it. See how much you can get back into the pouch. Crew Leaders can get out spoons and facilitate kids taking turns trying to refill the pouch.

After a minute, sound the Rainforest Rattle. Helpers and Kit Carriers can collect the pouches, plates, and spoons and throw them away. Kids will also need to clean their hands with wet wipes.

ASK Call out some words that describe how you felt trying to undo what you'd done.

Has there ever been something you've done that you wish you could undo? For example... Share your own story. Then have kids share in Crews.

SAY There's some damage we can't undo—sin.

Sin is when we choose to do wrong things or choose *not* to do the good things God calls us to do. Sin destroys our friendship with God. We can't undo that damage—but because of Jesus, God can!

See a Tree Grow

SAY We can fix the damage done to the rainforest! So let's experiment more with cutting down a tree, using this fun gizmo.

Pull out your assembled Wow Window, so you're showing the tree stump. The *decorated card* should already be loaded into the sleeve.

Hold up the Wow Window and show kids the tree stump.

SAY This used to be a tree in the rainforest. How sad! This picture might seem hopeless, a little like our lives when we sin. But let me show you something.

Grasp the taped tab. This way, you're pulling the clear "window" as well as the decorated card underneath—together. Pull out, but not all the way out. The image will appear to "regrow" the tree! **Researchers studied and found out that if there's a part of the rainforest we've cut down, and we leave it alone and don't do anything else to it, it will come back to life in 25-60 years—all on its own!**

That reminds me of Jesus. He died (slide the window back to its original place so it shows just a stump)...**but he came back to life!** (Pull out the connected pieces, making the tree "regrow.") **And God made rainforests to come back to life even after they've died.**

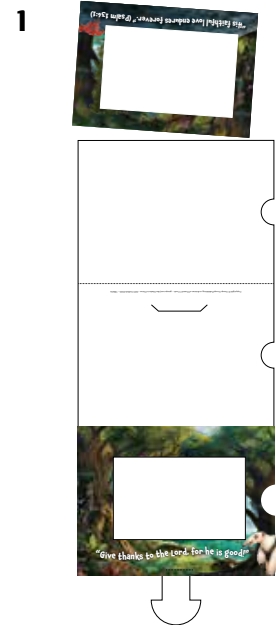
We can still be careful and try not to destroy them, but it's cool to know that God takes such good care of his creation and made a way for rainforests to come back to life.

Make a Wow Window

SAY Now, I bet with all the imagination you got earlier, you're just itching to get your hands on one of those cards!

Have Crew Leaders get out the Wow Windows and give one to each person.

1. Demonstrate how to gently tear off the perforated card.
- 2 Next, let everyone use permanent markers to color in the stump that's on the plastic sleeve. Slip the card (which you tore off) into the plastic sleeve. The words should be on the open side of the plastic sleeve.
Kids can hold this in place, with the plastic flap lifted up, while the Crew Leader adds clear tape to the side and bottom. The top flap does not get taped down.
3. Kids can lift the flap and draw a colorful tree, sky, grass, flowers, and vines on the paper card, lining up their drawing with the stump. Set this piece aside for a moment.



Make a colorful tree scene on the paper card—not the plastic.



Insert tab into slot on back



4. Demonstrate how to fold the window, inserting the tab into the slot.
5. Finally, demonstrate how to load the card into the window so the clear plastic goes over the blank part of the window. The colorful picture will be hidden behind that blank part—until kids pull it to the side!

Once everyone has followed your directions, allow time for kids to play and experiment, and have them write their names on their cards. Then sound the Rainforest Rattle.

ASK What do you think about the Wow Window?

How does it remind you of Jesus? How is it different?

SAY Jesus coming back to life was no trick. It really happened! Jesus died for us because **God is love. (Wow, God!)** Then he came back to life!

I'm so glad we could have so much sciency fun today experimenting with how God can heal the rainforests—and our hearts. Remember, **God is love. (Wow, God!)** He loves us enough to heal us.

I'll see you tomorrow for one more day of sciency fun!



FIELD TEST FINDING

When we tested this, it was extra important to walk kids *together* through each step of the Wow Window so they could do it on their own.



DAY 5:

God is forever.

Bible Story: God gives John a vision of heaven. (Revelation 7:17; 21-22)

Bible Verse: "But we can praise the Lord both now and forever! Praise the Lord!"
(Psalm 115:18)

Sing & Play Tune Lagoon

- Learn the Day 5 Bible Point and verse, and meet Bible Memory Buddy Howie.
- Share God Sightings and add items to the God Sightings Celebration Spot.
- Sing Rainforest Falls songs.
- Encourage Dr. Flutterby, who got into a jam with a jaguar.



Rooted Bible Adventures

Create a multisensory version of heaven, following John's description of the wonderful place where God's friends will spend forever!



Treetop Treats



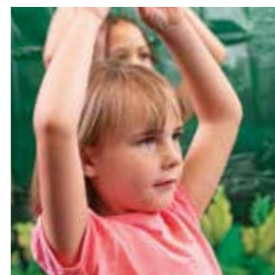
Monkey Munch



Forever Loops

Sticky Scripture™

Play "ZippEEE!" as they zip-line through the rainforest, finding Bible Memory Buddies along the way. Then they'll learn actions to Psalm 115:18 and celebrate that God is forever!



Imagination Station™

Create clouds, then plant seeds to remember the trees and plants John describes in heaven. What a beautiful place to live forever with God!



Canopy Closing

Send a balloon along a zip line to see if it can go on forever. Then praise God for being a forever friend!



Wild Games



Jungle Jump



Round and Round



Celebration Ball

At **Rainforest Falls**, the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each station's activities for unforgettable Bible learning. See how your station reinforces today's Bible Point.

God is forever.

Bible Verse: “But we can praise the Lord both now and forever! Praise the Lord!”
(Psalm 115:18)

Bible Story: God gives John a vision of heaven.
(Revelation 7:17; 21-22)

The book of Revelation pulls back the curtain on eternity, showing that God’s love, power, and presence are *forever*. These words came from a vision given to the Apostle John, one of Jesus’ closest friends, during exile on the island of Patmos. Imagine being alone on a rocky island, separated from everyone you love, when suddenly, heaven opens before you! Wow! God gave John a glimpse of the future, revealing a world completely restored, where there’s no more pain, sadness, or death. John recorded that God wipes away every tear, and Jesus, the Lamb, becomes our eternal Shepherd, leading us along streams of living water. Revelation 21:23 explains that heaven doesn’t even need the sun or moon because God’s glory shines so brightly! What a wonderful “full circle” picture of God’s glory shining during creation! God isn’t just powerful for a moment—he is forever. God’s Kingdom, love, and promises never end.

It’s often said that “all good things come to an end.” Kids understand that, as they live in a world where things *don’t* last. Favorite shoes wear out, friendships change, and even the latest trends fade in a flash. That can make life feel uncertain, even scary. But Scripture gives kids a life-changing truth: God never runs out, never changes, and never leaves. God’s love is permanent, his promises are unbreakable, and his home is waiting for all who trust in him. That means kids don’t need to be afraid of the future. When kids realize that God is forever, they can live with hope, confidence, and joy—because no matter what happens, their forever is safe in God’s hands!



Why It Matters

Hope! God’s vision to John means that the love of our all-knowing creator and refuge never ends! Kids can look to a bright future, celebrating all that God promises for those who trust in Jesus.

Day 5 Supplies:



Bible

• table for demonstration



Day 5 Talk-Starter Poster from Imagination Station Poster Pack*

• 16-ounce Mason jars with lids (1 per Crew in a rotation)

• hot water (about $\frac{1}{3}$ cup per Crew)

• ice

• aerosol hairspray

• original-flavor tonic water (1 bottle per Crew in a rotation)



• 3-ounce paper cups (1 per child)

• trays (1 per Crew in a rotation)

Grow Notes* (1 pack per Crew)

• pens

• basins of water (1 per Crew in a rotation)

• paper towels

• sandwich-size resealable plastic bags (1 per person)

*available from group.com or your Group VBS supplier

Before Kids Arrive

- Hang the Day 5 Talk-Starter Poster on the wall.
- Hang the poster of Howie from the Small Bible Memory Buddy® Posters.
- At least three weeks ahead of time, plant a Grow Note, following the directions on page 39. (These are alyssum seeds and should sprout fairly quickly.) When it starts to sprout, transfer it to a pot of dirt and let it grow.
- Create a basket of supplies for each Crew. (You can restock between rotations.)

For each Crew member:

- ✓ 1 Grow Note
- ✓ 1 paper towel

- ✓ 1 resealable plastic sandwich bag
- ✓ 1 pen

FIELD TEST FINDING

This day has more than usual for the station helper to do, so if you can recruit an extra helper or two for Day 5, you'll be glad you did!

FIELD TEST FINDING

Be sure you have a table to use for your demonstration so you don't have to hold the hot jar!

Got Imagination?

Play the Sing & Play Tune Lagoon Music as Crews arrive.

Greet kids enthusiastically as they enter Imagination Station. Then have Crews sit on the Crew blankets.

SAY

Welcome to our last day at Imagination Station! This week was an amazing exploration of the rainforest—and the science of so many things God made there! But we have one more thing to explore!

ASK

Did you bring your imagination today?



SAY I was talking to my friend Howie the howler monkey. Howie said when he needs imagination, he just howls really, *really* loudly.

So I think we should try it on the count of three. But just to make sure you know when to stop howling, I'll sound the Rainforest Rattle when I see that you all have imagination.

Are you ready? 1, 2, 3!

Allow 10 seconds for howling, then sound the Rainforest Rattle.

Wow! You howled so loudly that you stirred up all kinds of imagination!

Answer a Talk-Starter Question

Invite Kit Carriers to get the Crew baskets and give them to their Crew Leaders.

Point to the Day 5 Talk-Starter Poster.

SAY You know, howler monkeys howl so loudly—that's how they got their name! But they can also swing from tree branches high up in the rainforest canopy. So I wonder...

ASK Which do you think is cooler—how loud howler monkeys are or how they can climb up so high in the trees?

SAY If you like how loud they are, cup your hands around your mouth like a megaphone. If you think it's cool how high they can climb, pretend you're swinging from a branch. Allow time for kids to pose.

Wow! It looks like [sum up the results of the vote]. Let's find out more about Howie's home.

Breathe Fresh Air

SAY Howie can be loud *and* swing from the trees in his beautiful home in the rainforest! But most of us will never go to a rainforest in real life. So why does a rainforest matter to us, anyway?

Well, there are a lot of reasons! Today we'll explore three ways the rainforest helps us—all the way here, far away from the rainforest!

The first thing the rainforest helps us with is air. Everyone take a deep breath. Lead kids in breathing in and out.

The air you breathed in was oxygen, and your body just turned it into carbon dioxide—that's what came out when you exhaled.

But plants do the opposite! They take carbon dioxide in and exhale oxygen! Plants give us what we need to breathe!

SAY The Amazon rainforest is sometimes called “the lungs of the planet” because it helps take in carbon dioxide and gives us more oxygen to breathe. The air from the rainforest travels all around the planet.

Make a Cloud

SAY Air cycles around and around our planet, but so does something else: water!

Water evaporates and goes up into the sky, then comes back down to earth as rain. God just keeps recycling water for us!

And the rainforest plays a big part in that water cycle. All the plants in the rainforest help make it a really wet place!

So how does the water cycle really work? Let’s use science to find out!

Have your helper pour about $\frac{1}{3}$ cup of hot water into a Mason jar for each Crew, then distribute the jars to Crew Leaders, along with ice. Place the jar on a tray in the center of the circle, and designate the tray as “no touch” so only Crew Leaders touch the jar of hot water. *Have kids scoot two “scoots” away from the jar of hot water.*

You’ll also want your own supplies to demonstrate.

First we’ll swirl the jar a little to make the glass hot. Crew Leaders, please do that with me. Put the lid on first so you won’t swirl hot water on your hand. Then hold it by that tight lid and swirl it gently so the water passes over the sides of the jar. Pause. We’ll swirl for 30 seconds, so, kids, count for us!

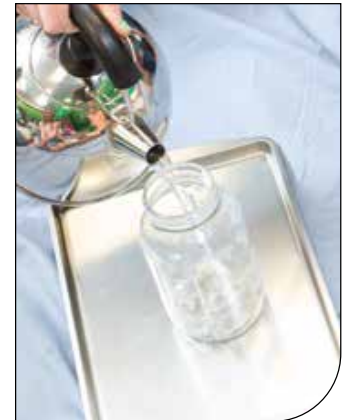
Lead kids in counting to 30.

Next, Crew Leaders, take off the lid and flip it upside down. Set the upside-down lid on the jar. Demonstrate, and have Crew Leaders do the same.

And now we’ll put ice on our upside-down lids. Demonstrate filling the lid with ice. Then assist your helper in handing some ice to each Crew Leader. Then lead kids in counting to 30 again.

ASK Look at your jar. What do you see happening?

SAY You might see some droplets of water forming in the top of the jar. We’re going to use that water to make a cloud right now. When my helper gets to you, Crew Leaders, quickly lift the lid off your jar. Don’t lift it until [name of helper] comes to your Crew. Once [name of helper] has sprayed in your jar, you’ll put the lid back in place as quickly as you can and look inside the jar to see what happens.



FIELD TEST FINDING

The water doesn’t have to be boiling. We heated our water to about 185 degrees, and it worked perfectly! And kids never got close to the hot water. They did a great job of staying back from the trays until it was time to add ice.

TREE TIP

The timing of 30 seconds doesn’t have to be precise—it should just be *at least* that long. Wait until everyone has the water and count together as one group.



Have your helper spray a little hairspray into your jar, then do the same for each Crew. (The hairspray gives the droplets something to cling to, to form a cloud.)

Wait until there's a good amount of "cloud" that kids can see in their jars.

SAY Do you see your cloud in there? Now let's see how it travels!

Lift the lid, and the cloud should float out of the jar. Have Crew Leaders do the same and observe what happens. If they put the lid on before the whole cloud is gone, more will form and they can repeat several times.

When the cloud has floated away, your helpers can collect the supplies.

Clouds look like fluffy cotton balls, but they're actually incredibly heavy tanks of water! And the rainforest is responsible for making a lot of those tanks of water that pour rain all over the rest of the world. Wow!

Just like the air cycle, the water cycle can go on forever. What a great reminder that **God is forever. (Wow, God!)** Now, there's one more thing the rainforests do for us. Let's keep exploring!

Taste Quinine

SAY The rainforest has so many plant species, and some of those plants get turned into medicine! Did you know lots of medicine we use comes from rainforest plants?

Hold up a Bible. That reminds me of something the Bible tells us about heaven. It says there will be a tree in the middle of heaven, and it says this about the tree in Revelation 22:2: "And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."

Wow! God is forever. (Wow, God!) He's preparing a perfect place for us in heaven.

ASK What are some medicines you use when you're sick?

SAY One medicine we get from the bark of a tree in the rainforest is called quinine. In some tropical countries, mosquitoes carry a disease called malaria. And people can treat it with quinine—found in tropical rainforests!

We don't use quinine so much here, but there's a little bit of it in the bottle of water you have. It's not a lot, so it's not bad for you like it would be to take medicine you don't need.

Have your helpers give each Crew a bottle of tonic water and enough cups for each child.

FIELD TEST FINDING

One child at our field test remembered Revelation 22:2 from Bible Adventures and started saying it with our leader when she started reading it! It was cool to see him make the connection!

Have Crew Leaders pour a small amount of tonic water into each cup for kids to taste. It's very bitter and most kids won't like it, so don't force anyone to taste it.

ASK How did that drink taste?

SAY Quinine may not taste very good, but I love that God made the cure for a tropical disease right there in tropical rainforests! But one day in heaven, we'll have *forever* healing. We won't need medicine, because we won't get sick!

Plant a Seed

SAY Let's grow our own plants as a reminder of the healing God brings through rainforest plants.

Hold up a Grow Note.

This just looks like a piece of paper. But when we plant it and water it, it will grow into a plant! Show the cup with the seed you planted ahead of time.

Here's what we'll do to plant it.

Have Kit Carriers each get a Crew basket for their Crew. Your helpers will give a basin of water to each Crew.

First, everyone will need a Grow Note and a pen. Have Crew Leaders distribute those.

I want our plants to be a celebration that God is forever. (Wow, God!) So let's all write "Wow, God!" on our leaves. Allow time.

You'll also need to write your name on the bag. Allow time.

Now get a paper towel nice and wet in your basin of water. Demonstrate, and have kids do the same.

Wrap the paper towel around your Grow Note, put it in the bag, and seal the bag. Demonstrate, and have kids do the same.

Have Crew Leaders collect the bags.

Your seed won't grow into a plant today. Or tomorrow. You'll take it home and put it in the sun, but it will take several days before you start to see something sprout. Then you can plant it in a cup or pot with dirt. But you'll have to wait!

Waiting for seeds to grow reminds me of heaven. Right now we're waiting for the amazing life we'll have in heaven. But while we wait, we can have hope that God is forever. (Wow, God!) And we can have a great friendship with Jesus.



FIELD TEST FINDING

We had a blast watching our kids taste the tonic water. One boy said, "Starts out like Sprite, but then it tastes like hand sanitizer." Another boy shrugged and said, "I like it."



TREE TIP

The timing of when to transplant the Grow Note doesn't have to be precise. In fact, kids *could* directly plant the cards in soil cups during Rainforest Falls! We wanted to give a less messy, easy-to-transport option.



sweet alyssum

SAY

I'm glad I got to have so much sciency fun with all you amazing scientists this week! I hope you'll continue to use scientific curiosity to explore the nature of God. Science can always point us to God because science is just studying things God made!



Imagination Station™

Day 1



Craft surprising Colorful Quetzals, then extract chlorophyll to discover more surprises about the way God created the world.



Day 2



Use Rain Reveal Cards to take a closer look at some of the rainforest's smallest creatures. Rejoice that God knows the smallest details about us!



Day 3



Make layers of bubbles, then engage with Flutterflies to explore the wonderful way God made rainforests to be safe places.



Day 4



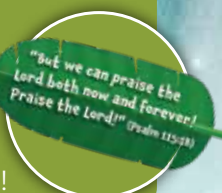
Create Wow Windows that show the amazing way God gave rainforests the ability to regenerate. God's love gives us do-overs, too!



Day 5



Create clouds, then plant seeds to remember the trees and plants John describes in heaven. What a beautiful place to live forever with God!



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