



Compassion International's
**Missional VBS &
Summer Camp Booster**

DIRECTOR'S GUIDE



About This Booster

WELCOME!

Most every Vacation Bible School and Summer Camp program contains some sort of “missional” component, in which campers are invited to participate in a philanthropic effort, but those efforts have never pointed to the work of Compassion International around the world. This dynamic proved to be highly frustrating for thousands of churches who longed for continuity between their year-round partnership with Compassion and their summertime programming for kids.

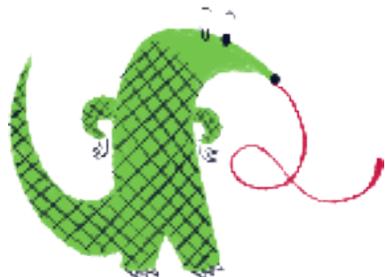
Now, Compassion’s Missional VBS and Summer Camp Boosters allow you to swap out your VBS or summer camp program’s existing missional element with Compassion-centric activities, videos, and more.

The Five Priorities

This year, invite your VBS and Summer Camp participants, [here and throughout the guide referred to as “campers”], to help further Compassion’s work in one of the following five mission-critical priorities:

-  Water and Sanitation
-  Church Mobilization
-  Health and Nutrition
-  Compassion Survival
-  Youth Development

The next section details the five priorities and daily activities for raising your group’s awareness, and for inviting their participation in helping to meet a pressing need.



The Five Sessions

Each of the five missional boosters includes a five-day strategy for engagement, laid out in one fifteen-minute increment per day. Most groups choose to implement this segment during their full-group assembly each morning, but you may elect to leverage a different time of day, such as just before or just after snack time.

Setting Your Group’s Goal

The engagement strategy for each mission-critical priority includes a financial giving opportunity. In terms of setting a financial goal for your group, be sure to take into account group size, the community’s level of resourcefulness, and the past offerings that your VBS or summer camp has raised.

Trust God to give you insight regarding the goal that is appropriate for your group, and then encourage campers to do their level best to reach it.





Priority 1 Water and Sanitation



DID YOU KNOW?

- Each day, more than 800 children die for lack of access to safe water or adequate sanitation?
- Children who do not have access to adequate toilets are forced to defecate in the open, which leads to the rapid spread of disease?
- When families do not have a clean water supply nearby, their children are often made to walk several miles to collect water and carry it home?
- Since children are often the ones who are asked to fetch water long distances from home, they are unable to attend school and, in many cases, Compassion-sponsored activities?

Compassion partners with more than 6,800 local churches in 25 countries to bring safe water and improved sanitation to the children in our care. Your support is what makes this possible.

What will your money help provide for people in need?

Interventions such as these:

- Drilling of wells
- Establishment of community waste-collection and management initiatives
- Water filtration systems
- Installation of rainwater harvesting systems
- Septic systems
- Building of water storage and pumping systems
- Hygiene education
- Training for community members on equipment maintenance
- Construction of toilets and washrooms

The aim of Compassion's Water and Sanitation priority is to ensure that no Compassion-assisted child drinks contaminated water or uses unacceptable sanitation facilities. Monies raised by your VBS or summer camp group will help us to achieve this goal by providing the opportunities and resources to protect children's health as they are being lifted from poverty around the globe.



The following activities have been designed with you in mind. VBS or summer camp is a fast-moving, high-energy environment involving children of a variety of ages and stages; our goal in presenting these elements is to grab campers' attention, build awareness in their minds for the topic at hand, carve out new capacity in their hearts for a compassionate response, and call them to clear, doable action within the confines of a typical five-day VBS or summer camp week. Read on, for details on implementing the "Water and Sanitation" priority.

MONDAY

Director Note: Make a scene as you take the stage by laboriously lugging two 2.5-gallon jugs filled with filthy water and live worms, one jug in each hand. As you begin your remarks, show clear signs of fatigue by panting, wiping your brow with your elbow, sloshing water on the stage because you're unable to hold the jugs still, etc. You may wish to have a shower curtain underneath your feet as you deliver this script!



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Good morning, campers! We are going to take a few minutes during our opening assembly to talk about a very important subject. Whew! These jugs are really heavy! Can I maybe get a volunteer or two who could help me hold these very heavy jugs?

Choose and call to your side two volunteers from the audience. Hand each of them one of the jugs. Then say:

Ah. That's much better. Thank you.





Priority 1 Water and Sanitation



So, as I was mentioning, we have a very important topic to discuss this morning. Does anyone have a guess as to what it is?

Stare at the jugs of water, to give the audience a clue. Then say:

Yes! It is *water*. This morning, we are going to talk about water. Is water important to us? **[Yes!]** Is it *very* important to us? **[Yes!]** Can you tell me some of the things that we use water for?

Take a dozen or so responses from the audience. Then say:

Water is necessary for all of the reasons you've cited and many more, and yet did you know that not everyone in the world has access to safe water?

Did you know that in some places, there are no kitchen faucets?

Did you know that in some places, there are no bathtubs?

Did you know that in some places, there are no *potties*?

In some parts of the world, people must walk miles and miles, just to get to a water source. And then, once they get there, they discover that the only water available to them is filthy, disgusting water ... not safe drinking water at all!

Can you all see my water from where you're sitting? Does this look like water you'd want to drink? **[No!]** Me either! And yet, way too many people in way too many places are forced to drink yucky water like this every day.

Campers, do you think there is anything we can do to help bring clean water and things like wells and faucets and potties to people in need?



[Yes!]

I do too. Before I tell you about a few opportunities to help this week, I'd like you watch this short video.

Have volunteers return to their seats now. Begin video.



Video

Water and Sanitation Video

<http://compassion.com/vbs-resources>



Script Conclusion

Director, say to the group:

Well, as you can see, there is a lot of work to be done, in helping people just like Evelyn and her daughter gain access to safe water. And as we talked about earlier, you and I can help! Each day this week, we will spend a few minutes reminding ourselves of the importance of water. Each evening, after you go home, you will have the opportunity to engage in a fun activity at home. And also this week, beginning tomorrow and



Priority 1 Water and Sanitation



continuing every day this week—so that's Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday—we will collect an offering from you that we will send to Compassion International, who is working with churches in each of these places where access to safe water isn't readily available! You can bring an offering on one of those days or on every day ... whatever you wish.

Does that sound like a good idea?

[Yes!] I think so too. Your group leaders and I have met, and we believe that because of the sheer number of campers we have this year, and because of the generous hearts beating inside each one of your chests, we can raise **[cite specific amount here]** dollars this week. Do you believe that we as a group can do that? **[Yes!]** I do too.

Now, how do you think you might raise an offering to be able to give?

I once read of a group of girls who set up a lemonade stand and then donated the money they made to a cause such as this. I've also heard of boys getting together to mow a few neighbors' lawns and then donate their earnings to a group like Compassion.

In addition to doing things to earn money, kids have done things that simply reminded them of the fact that some kids don't have safe water. I've heard of boys and girls who prayed every night of VBS or summer camp for kids around the world who don't have access to safe water. I've heard of children telling their parents that they would wash the dinner dishes every night of VBS or summer camp, to help them think more intentionally about water and how important it is.

What might you do to think about the importance of safe water this week?

Take suggestions from the audience. Then say:

These are all fantastic ideas! Well, to get us started on the fundraising part of this week, this afternoon when you go home, give your parents this sheet, which your leaders will give you as you leave today. Then, ask your parents if they'd be willing to donate a quarter for every water faucet in your house. How many water faucets do you have, do you think? Four? Six? Twelve? That could wind up going a long way toward our overall offering, I think.

And while being that helpful in your homes and in your neighborhoods will be gratifying in and of itself, I have a little Director Deal I'd like to make with you. If our group does, in fact, raise **[cite specific amount here]** dollars by Friday, our final day together, then I am going to do something





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unbelievable. Actually, two of us are going to do something unbelievable.

Call to the stage your pre-determined partner in crime, who should take the stage carrying the two jugs of filthy, worm-infested water. Then say:

Do you all remember this filthy water I showed you earlier? Here is my deal for you: If our group can raise [cite specific amount] dollars by the end of our time together on Friday, [partner's name] and I will drink this filthy, worm-infested water right here in front of you, on stage, on Friday afternoon. Do you think you'd want to see us do that? I bet so.

All right, now you are going to go with your group leader to your activity spots, where you will meet another young woman who has been blessed by Compassion's work, a girl named Nyabwiri.

I think you'll be intrigued to learn about her life. Have a great day, campers!

Dismiss group to pre-determined activity centers.

close the booklet.

- 4 Have a camper read Nyabwiri's Story from start to finish. (If your campers are pre-readers, read the booklet for them.)



Take-Home

Nyabwiri's Story

Encourage campers to take the following four steps tonight:

- Take home their "Nyabwiri's Story" booklet and retell the story for a friend or family member.
- Give their parents the "Clean Water for All" handout and ask them to engage in the Quarter-per-Faucet Challenge.
- Ask their parents what chores they might be able to do this week, to focus on the "Water and Sanitation" priority.
- Pray with their family for people around the world who long for access to clean water.

Activity

Nyabwiri's Story

Each camper needs:

- One copy of Nyabwiri's Story booklet sheets
- One foot-long piece of yarn, any color

Instructions:

- 1 Once campers are assembled at various activity centers, distribute copies of Nyabwiri's Story booklet, crayons, and pieces of yarn.
- 2 Have campers color each scene from Nyabwiri's Story and properly order the pages.
- 3 Tie a piece of yarn around the booklet's crease and

TUESDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

As I mentioned yesterday, we will be spending a few minutes during our opening assembly each day this week to talk about a very important subject. Who remembers what that subject is? **[Yes! Water!]** Yesterday, we talked about the fact that some people in the world don't have access to safe





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water, a reality which causes tragic problems for boys and girls and their families. During your activity time, you were able to learn about a little girl named Nyabwiri. How many of you took home your booklet and read the story for a family member or friend? Great job! I bet those people loved hearing you tell Nyabwiri's tale.

Now, you also were given a challenge last night to donate one quarter per water faucet in your home. Did you walk around your home and count your water faucets? How many water faucets did you find?

Take numbers from the audience. Then say:

Can you believe that in many parts of the world, people don't have twelve water faucets in their homes? Or even ten or eight or six? Can you believe that in those parts of the world, they don't have a single water faucet in their home? This would make a simple chore such as brushing your teeth a little more challenging, wouldn't it?

Your leaders will gather your Quarter-per-Faucet offerings, and tomorrow, I will give you the grand total toward our goal. While we're on the subject of keeping *water* in mind, what other things did you do last night?

Did any of you pray for children who long for access to safe water? **[Take input.]** Did any of you do the dishes?

Take input. Then say:

Now, I want to turn our attention to another part of our water discussion, which is the subject of *pollution*. Just how dangerous is it to drink from a polluted water source? Well, let's think about some of the things that might pollute a water source. Who can think of one?



Take input from audience. Then say:

Yes! Food items, plastic cups and wrappings, oil and gasoline, sand and dirt, bugs ... so many things can pollute a water source, can't they? You can imagine how awful it would be to have to drink water that was polluted like that, every day of your life. It is estimated that lack of access to clean water kills children at a rate equivalent to a jet airplane crashing every four hours, every single day. Do you know how many people fit on a jet airplane? **[120-150 people]** This means that every day, more than eight hundred children die from lack of clean water. This is why we are pitching in to help!

Now, allow me to dismiss you to your activity centers, which your leaders will direct you toward, so that you can look a little more closely at water pollution.

Be sure leaders have containers for collecting Quarter-per-Faucet offerings. Then, dismiss groups to activity centers.

Activity

Can You Un-pollute Water?

Each camper needs:

- 2-3 "pollutants," such as a banana peel, an apple core, a plastic utensil, a candy wrapper, a small paper cup full of sand and dirt, a small paper cup full of cooking oil, a palmful of small rocks, a piece of a cardboard box, bits of Styrofoam, leaves, a crumpled, empty soda can, or any other discarded household items or items from nature
- An eight-ounce plastic cup filled with water





Priority 1 Water and Sanitation



Additionally, each leader needs:

- A large, plastic tub
- A pitcher filled with water
- One pair of plastic tongs
- A strainer (plastic or metal, any size)
- A towel

Instructions:

- 1 Have a volunteer lay out the towel and place the plastic tub on top.
- 2 Going around the circle, have each camper pour his or her cup of water into the tub. Add water from the pitcher so that the tub is at least half-full.
- 3 Going around the circle again, have each camper drop in one of his or her pollutants. Keep going this way, around the circle, until all pollutants have been added to the water.
- 4 Once the water is sufficiently murky and yucky, ask the campers how they would feel if they had to drink that water every day.
- 5 Next, have the campers begin to remove the big pieces of pollution using the tongs, the strainer, and their hands. Even with the large pollutants removed, how would they describe the quality of the water left behind? Even as cleanup efforts help keep large pieces of trash out of water sources, these water sources do not provide adequately clean water for nearby neighbors.



Take-Home

Chowtime Chat :: Water

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Take home their “Chowtime Challenge :: Water” handout and engage their family in conversation regarding the importance of safe water around the world.
- Engage in one activity to help raise money or awareness for themselves and/or for others regarding the “Water and Sanitation” priority.
- Pray for children around the world who do not have access to safe water.



WEDNESDAY

Director Note: Consider coming to assembly wearing a hard hat and a tool belt, carrying a power drill, etc.



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Can anyone guess why I’m dressed this way?

Take guesses. Then say:

I’ll give you a clue: I’m dressed this way because I’ve been up all morning drilling. Any guesses as to what I’ve been drilling?

Take guesses. Then say:

I’ve been drilling water wells! But I had to stop and fly home so that I wouldn’t miss seeing you.

Do you think I’ve really been drilling water wells this morning? Nah! I don’t think this little power tool could get that job done, do you? Here is what *is* true: because of your excellent work so far, Compassion International is going to be able to drill more water wells very soon.

Here, tell the campers how much money they have raised so far toward their goal. Then say:

Way to go, kids! You should be very proud of yourselves!

I have a brief video to show you this morning, to show you the good you’re doing. You ready? Okay. Let’s roll.





Video

Compassion's World Water Day Video

<http://blog.compassion.com/why-clean-water-is-life/>



Script Conclusion

Isn't it good to see the type of work that can be done for people who long for access to safe water? I surely think so. Let me release you to your activity centers, so that you have plenty of time to engage with today's activity. As you gather in your groups, your leaders are ready to receive today's offerings. Ready? Set? Go!

Gulp, Gulp, Go



Activity

Zoom-Zoom to Safe Water

Each camper needs:

- One empty water bottle
- Four black water-bottle caps, each with a predrilled hole in the center that is wide enough for the straw to just slip through
- One straw, cut into two pieces
- Two two-inch pieces of black duct tape
- Two wooden skewers
- One eighteen-inch piece of string
- A pair of scissors
- Colorful permanent markers

Instructions:

- 1 Once campers have all supplies before them, have them first decorate their water bottles with the permanent markers.
- 2 Using the two pieces of duct tape, attach each half of the straw to the same side of the water bottle, about four inches apart, to form the car's axles.
- 3 Next, run a wooden skewer through each straw, push wheels onto each end of the skewer, and trim the skewers to match the length of the straws.
- 4 Tie the string to the bottle neck; now, the camper can pull the car around.
- 5 Talk with the campers about the fact that through their prayers, service activities, and generous offerings, God can create a way to *zoom* safe water to people who need it.





Take-Home

Walk a Mile

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Invite their families to take a walk ... *for a whole mile*. Have them remind their family members that children in some parts of the world have to walk that far every day—one way!—just to reach water ... and not safe drinking water, but *filthy, contaminated* water.
- Engage in one activity to help raise money and/or awareness for the “Water and Sanitation” priority.
- Pray for children around the world who do not have access to safe water.

to do water-related chores such as washing the car, washing dishes, or washing clothes; and telling your friends and family members about how fortunate we are to have access to safe water.

Thank you all for working so hard these last few days, girls and boys. Keep it up this afternoon, deal?

This morning, I want to talk with you about a ... delicate ... aspect of the water crisis faced by so many people in the world, and it has to do with ...

Cross your legs as though you really, really need to visit the bathroom. Then say:

Um ... it has to do with ...

Cross legs and dance around, as though this need is only increasing. Then say:

Uh, well ... what I was saying is that ...

Keep going along these lines. Then say:

Hmmm ... does anyone have a guess as to what I want to talk about today?

Yes. Going potty. Now, did you know that in many parts of the world, there are no bathrooms? What would that be like for us as a group, if there were no bathrooms for us to use? What would we do?

Take input, carefully. Then say:

For many boys and girls, they have no place to go potty. This is a side effect of having no consistent access to safe water. Without water, there is no plumbing. Without plumbing, there are no toilets. Without toilets, there are no bathrooms. And so, these kids have to go outside. Like animals. Like dogs. No privacy. No cleanliness. And no hope for a different way.

I bring this up because one of the things that Compassion International does with offerings from groups all



THURSDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Hello! It's day four of our focus on “Water and Sanitation,” and I'd like to tell you how much money you have raised so far. Are you ready for this? [Reveal the specific amount.] Now, that is a lot of money, and so I have to ask you kids: How have you raised all these funds? What have you been doing, guys and gals? Whatever it is, it is working! Let me hear some of the ways you have been earning money. Raise your hand if you have something to say.

Take input from the audience on the various ways they have earned money this week. Then say:

Additionally, I know that many of you have been praying prayers; helping





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over the country is to build toilets! Hurrah! It seems like such a simple thing, doesn't it? And yet without them, daily life would be pretty tough.

So, let me show you a picture of what we are trying to help Compassion accomplish.

Show image on screen from file: Bathrooms in the Developing World.jpg
Then say:

Your hard work is really going to pay off for lots of boys and girls. Thank you for working so hard.



Activity

Living Water

Each camper needs:

- One pencil
- One "Living Water" coloring page, printed on thick watercolor paper
- One paper plate
- Four dabs of Tempera paint, any colors, positioned on plate
- Four small water balloons, filled halfway with water

Instructions:

- 1 Pass out "Living Water" coloring pages to campers and have them write their names on the back using the pencil provided.
- 2 Next, have campers use the water balloons as paintbrushes. Let them know that as they pinch and grip the balloons closer to the untied end, they will get a more precise brushstroke.
- 3 Read the Bible verses from John 7 to your campers. Talk about the similarities between providing literal water to a group of people and providing the "living water" that Jesus speaks of there.



Take-Home

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- With parental permission, print signs that say, "Closed!" on sheets of paper, and tape those papers to every restroom in the house except one. Ask every family member to use only that one "open" bathroom for the entire evening, preferably a bathroom not often used. Talk about how inconvenient it is for most American families to have to share a bathroom, and how luxurious even a single bathroom would seem to most people who live in the developing world.
- Engage in one final activity to help raise money or awareness for the "Water and Sanitation" priority.
- Pray for children around the world who do not have access to safe water.

FRIDAY

Director Note: Consider coming to assembly wearing a shower cap and carrying a shower brush.



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

It is our final day to discuss our Water and Sanitation priority! Have you enjoyed learning about this pressing need for water around the world, and about how you can be part of that problem's solution? I know I surely have.

Today, I'd like us to spend just a few moments talking about one more way





Priority 1 Water and Sanitation



that your prayers, acts of service, and offerings help children and their families in countries all around the world. Guess what people who finally have access to safe water are able to do, that they weren't able to do before?

Take guesses. Then say:

Yes! Bathe. Take showers! Be clean. Now, how many of you like to take baths or showers here?

Respond to input. Then say:

Some of you aren't so fond of getting clean, are you? But what if you couldn't take a bath for weeks or even months? You might actually long for a shower then!

I want to show you a picture of a very real situation in another part of our world.

Show photo from file: Sanitation.jpg

Then say:

Now, it wasn't that long ago that I was a kid, just like you. And I remember how fun it was to find puddles to splash in and mud to turn into mud pies. Have you ever eaten a mud pie? Yum, right? But the reason those things were so fun is that they were *unusual* events. You knew that after you had all that fun in the rain and mud, getting dirty and wet, you could go back inside, where Mom or Dad was waiting with a warm, dry towel. You could take a bath afterward and put on comfy jammies. You could feel *clean* as you went to bed.

The little guy in this photo? That's not how his day will end.

For this young man, rain is part of life. Without paved roads, rain means mud. And in his case, mud means more than just getting dirty; mud means scrapes and cuts, as he walks

through the mud without adequate shoes ... and mud also means disease.

If only he could wash that mud off himself! How much healthier he would be.

Friends, the incredible work you've done this week is going to help kids just like him finally gain access to showers, to plumbing, to that amazing feeling of being clean. Are you all proud of yourselves? You ought to be. You ought to be very proud of yourselves.

Before I dismiss you to your activity centers, I want to remind you that when we gather at the close of today for our final assembly, I will reveal whether we've hit our offering goal for the week. And you all remember what happens if we did, right?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! [name] and I will drink that water from Monday's assembly, that is utterly infested with worms. Ick!

Until then, leaders, you may take your campers to your respective activity centers. Enjoy!

Activity

Mason Jar Xylophone

The group needs:

- Six Mason jars, each filled with an increasing amount of water, with the final jar being $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- Six vials of food coloring
- A few plastic spoons
- A plastic drum stick
- Additionally: One die for each camper, to be handed out with the Take-Home worksheet.





Priority 1 Water and Sanitation



Instructions:

- 1 Hand each camper a Mason jar and one vial of food coloring. Have them put 10-15 drops of coloring into the jar and stir with a plastic spoon.
- 2 Stand the jars side by side, with each one touching the next, from the one with the least amount of water to the most.
- 3 Give each camper a chance to “play” the water xylophone with the drum stick by gently running the stick across the middle of the jars.
- 4 Read Psalm 100:1, which says to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord.”
- 5 Talk about how the water xylophone, which reminds us of the gift of water we’re bringing to people the world over, makes a joyful noise to the Lord.



Take-Home

Pipes and Rivers

Hand one copy of the “Pipes and Rivers” gameboard and one die to each camper. Encourage them to take the following three steps tonight:

- Play “Pipes and Rivers” with a friend or family member.
- Thank God for the opportunity to help provide access to safe water to children and their families around the world.

Closing Assembly

- Be sure to reveal the final money total raised by the camp.
- Assuming the goal was met, be sure to drink that wormy water! (We won’t tell if prior to closing assembly you secretly replace the sand with brown sanding sugar and the real worms with the gummy variety!)

Donate

Online at Compassion.com/VBSpriorities

Donate By Mail:

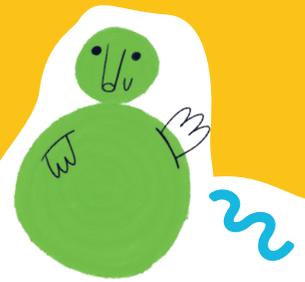
To participate, just make out a check for your donations to “Compassion International” and write “584566” on your check’s memo line along with the “MISSION PRIORITY” — then mail to:

Compassion International
12290 Voyager Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80921





Priority 2 Church Mobilization



☀️ DID YOU KNOW? ☀️

- Local churches are best positioned to understand and respond to community-wide needs in impoverished parts of the world?
- The most effective way to reach children with the transformative love of Christ is through the ministry of the local church?
- Children being lifted out of poverty around the globe most often first encounter Jesus at a local church?
- The local church is the most dependable body for helping children who were impoverished begin to heal from their journey?

Compassion's Church Mobilization priority supports the unique role of local churches by providing them with the opportunities and resources they need to reach the poorest people in their communities with Jesus' love. This work is crucial to ensuring that local churches can lay the spiritual foundation on which children can build a better life and escape poverty forever.

Church Mobilization funds provide the opportunities, tools, training, and support that more than 1.8 million Compassion-assisted children rely on every day. Compassion partners with more than 6,700 churches across the developing world to reach children with the hope of the gospel and implement a proven plan to help kids grow wise, strong, well-liked by others, and pleasing to God.

How will the money that your group raises help?

It will fund interventions such as these:

- Starting of new churches, including design and construction of church buildings
- Launch of new child-development centers
- Building and renovation of Bible-study classrooms
- Child-development training
- Ministry staff training
- Provision of equipment, such as computers, desks, and chairs
- Distribution of Bibles

The following activities have been designed with you in mind. VBS or summer camp is a fast-moving, high-energy environment involving children of a variety of ages and stages; our goal in presenting these elements is to grab campers' attention, build awareness in their minds for the topic at hand, carve out new capacity in their hearts for a compassionate response, and call them to clear, doable action within the confines of a typical five-day VBS or summer camp week. Read on, for details on implementing the "Church Mobilization" priority.

MONDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Good morning, campers! This week, we are going to spend a few minutes during our opening assembly each day talking about a very important subject: *the church*. To begin, I have a question for you: how many of you have ever been to church for a worship service? Maybe you went yesterday, even ... raise your hand if you've ever been to church.

Wow! It looks like the majority of you have been to church at some point ... that's great! Now, who can tell me some of the things you do whenever you're at church? Raise your hand if something comes to mind.

Take input. Then say:

As you all have mentioned, some of the wonderful things that happen in the context of our coming together as the local church are singing and



Priority 2 Church Mobilization



praying, learning from God’s Word and taking communion, talking with other believers, celebrating the gift of God’s grace, and helping other people come to know God.

Isn’t church the *best*? It really is, isn’t it?

So, I think we can all agree that church is a pretty good idea, right? But does anybody know where that idea came from? Who first thought of “church”?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! The idea of “church” was God’s original idea. In various places in the Bible, we learn that God called a group of people to be his church and to come together regularly to study his Scriptures, to worship him with songs and hymns and spiritual songs, to encourage one another to love each other and to do good deeds, and more. And while this concept is familiar to most of us here in this room, did you know that there are places in the world where people don’t have access to this type of gathering? There are places in the world where the idea of “church” would be a foreign concept. There are people in the world who have never been part of a church!

Now, how many of you have heard of an organization called Compassion International? Yes! Many of you. Perhaps some of your families sponsor children through Compassion. What a great investment that is. In addition to their child-sponsorship program, did you know that Compassion also works in many countries around the world to provide opportunities for the establishment and ongoing maintenance of local churches? They help plant churches in places where people have never

had a church before!

Even better is this news: this week, you and I get to be part of those efforts around the world!

Before I tell you about a few amazing opportunities that we have this week to help kids who are dreaming big, I’d like you to watch this short video.

Begin video.



Video

Church Mobilization Sector Video

<http://compassion.com/vbs-resources>



Script Conclusion

Well, as you can see, there is exciting work being done in countries such as Nicaragua to help communities just like that one to become part of a local church. And as we talked about earlier, you and I can help! In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus gave his disciples what is known as the “Great Commission.”





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How many of you have heard of the Great Commission?

Pause for input. Then say:

Here is what the Great Commission says: “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

There are five big ideas in this great commission, and so each day this week, we will talk about one of the ideas, to remind ourselves of how important it is to help local churches in needy communities succeed. Then, each evening, you will have the opportunity to engage in a fun activity at home.

And this week, beginning tomorrow and continuing each day this week—so that’s Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday—if you have earned any money as part of your at-home activities, we will collect those offerings and send them to Compassion International, so that their work with local churches can continue to thrive.

Does that sound like a good idea?

[Yes!] I think so too. Your group leaders and I have met, and we believe that because of the sheer number of campers we have this year, and because of the generous hearts beating inside each one of your chests, we can raise **[cite specific amount here]** dollars this week. Do you believe that we as a group can do that? **[Yes!]** I do too.

Now, how do you think you could

raise money? I once read of a group of girls who set up a lemonade stand and then donated the money they made to a cause such as this. I’ve also heard of boys getting together to mow a few neighbors’ lawns and then donate their earnings to a group like Compassion. What else might you do to earn money to contribute to our offering this week?

Take suggestions from the audience. Then say:

These are all fantastic ideas! Here’s another fun one, to get you started. This afternoon when you go home, give your parents this handout, “Healthy Churches for All,” which your leaders will give you as you leave today, and ask your parents and/or grandparents if they’d be willing to donate a quarter for every local church they’ve been part of. Many moms and dads and grandmas and grandpas have moved residences many times and have participated in a local church in each city they called home. A quarter for each of those churches could wind up being a lot of money for tomorrow’s offering, if we all participate. By the end of the week, we might just hit our goal!

Now, in addition to activities that raise money toward this effort, there are also things you can do to raise awareness in your heart and in the hearts of family members and friends you’ll encounter this week. You can help people see how important the church is to people in parts of the world where healthy churches are hard to find! Maybe you and your family could volunteer this week at your own church. Or maybe you could ask a few friends where they go to church and what they like about it. Perhaps you could memorize the Great Commission and commit





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to praying each night this week for those who long for a healthy church to belong to. What other ideas come to mind, for how to help people see the importance of church this week?

Take input. Then say:

These are some great ideas! I can't wait to see what you all come up with this week. And while raising that much money and doing that much good will be gratifying in and of itself, I have a little Director Deal I'd like to make with you. If our group all participates in raising money and awareness in the ways we've talked about, and if we hit our financial goal by the end of our time together on Thursday, then I am going to do something *unbelievable*.

Director Note: Have a pup tent set up in the sanctuary prior to Assembly, and deliver the following remarks from inside of it. To really play it up, have a collection of props on hand as well, including a pillow, a flashlight, a water bottle, a pair of slippers, and a stuffed animal.

Here is my deal for you: If our camp can raise **[cite specific amount]** dollars by the end of our time together on Thursday, then I will spend Thursday night here at *this* local church! I will sleep at the church! It will be my very own church lock-in. Sound like a good plan? I think so too.

All right, now you are going to go with your group leader to your activity spots, where you will talk about the first part of the Great Commission: the command to "go." Have a great day, campers!

Dismiss group to pre-determined activity centers.

Activity

Go-Go Shoes

Each camper needs:

- A black permanent marker

Instructions:

- 1 Ask each camper to remove his or her shoes.
- 2 Turn in a Bible to Matthew 28:18-20 and read the Great Commission to the group.
- 3 As an icebreaker, ask campers to name a few places that they "go" to in a given week. Perhaps they go to dance class, or they go to school, or they go to the doctor for a checkup. Ask, "What do you think it means to "go" into all the world?"
- 4 Explain that God's plan for spreading his love to a world in need is through us, his beloved children, believers who trust in him by faith.
- 5 Assist camper's in writing on the bottoms of their shoes, "Take me wherever love is needed." Talk with them about how they might manifest love today and every day, wherever they go. How might they be "love" to those they come across?

Take-Home

Marshmallows and Ice Cubes: An Experiment in Loving Well

Encourage campers to take the following five steps tonight:

- Take home their copy of "Marshmallows and Ice Cubes" and give the experiment a try with friends or family members.
- Take home "Healthy Churches for All" handout. Invite their parents and/or grandparents to donate a quarter for each local church they have been part of. Those monies should be brought to their group leader on Tuesday morning.





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- Ask their parents what chores they might be able to do this week, to earn money for the “Church Mobilization” priority.
- Practice “taking love” to someone they encounter who might be sad or alone.
- Pray with their family for people around the world who don’t have the benefit of being part of a thriving local church.

is? **[Yes! Church!]** Yesterday, we talked about the fact that some people in the world don’t have a healthy local church to belong to. They have deep needs and nobody to help meet them! During your activity time, you wrote something on the soles of your shoes. Who remembers what you wrote? **[Yes! “Take me wherever love is needed.”]**

Were any of you able to be loving to someone yesterday? How did that go?

Take input. Then say:

And then last night, you were encouraged to do the marshmallows and ice cubes activity. Did any of you complete that activity? What did you notice about the second round of marshmallows, after your mouth was numb from the ice cube?

Take input. Then say:

It is interesting, isn’t it? If we go through our days caring only about our lives, our wants, our needs,

TUESDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

As I mentioned yesterday, we will be spending a few minutes during our opening assembly each day to talk about a very important subject. Who remember what that subject





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our hopes, our frustrations, our *everything*, then it will be really difficult for us to focus on anyone else! Have you ever noticed that when you're really interested in getting your way, it's hard to be interested in what anyone else is thinking or doing?

Take input. Then say:

We want to be people who care about others, just like God asks us to do. This is the motivation behind the Great Commission. We "go" because we know that there are people whom we will meet who need to know of God's love. We lift our heads and open our eyes and our hearts to the needs of others, because it is in helping to meet those needs that we get to show people God's love.

Now, all of you were given a challenge last night to have your family donate one quarter for each local church they've been part of. How many of you raised more than three quarters last night? Wow! More than four? Five? Ten? Who raised more than ten quarters—could you stand up?

Interview a few kids who raised the most quarters. Then say:

Boys and girls, you did a fantastic job raising quarters! Your leaders will collect your offerings when you go to your activity centers. I want to commend you for helping Compassion to establish and strengthen local churches all over the world. Your efforts here will go a long way in helping people who need help.

Well, today, I'd like to talk about the second part of the Great Commission, which is the part that tells us where, specifically, we are supposed to "go." Does anyone remember in Matthew 28:18-20 what comes after Jesus'

command to, "Go and make disciples of ..."? Jesus tells us where to find the people we are supposed to love. Do you remember where they live?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! They live in "all the nations." Here is how the verse reads: "Go and make disciples of all the nations."

Now, what do you think Jesus means when he says to go to "all the nations"? **[Take input.]** Yes! He means that you and I are to love everyone from every country, all the way around the world! I wonder if we can think of a few countries where people might need our love. Can you all think of any names of countries? **[Take input.]**

Yes! Right here in the United States. What about Spain? Or Germany? Or Tanzania? Or Zambia? Does anyone know how many countries there are in the world today?

Take input. Then say:

There are actually 195 countries in the world today, including 54 countries in Africa, 48 countries in Asia, 44 countries in Europe, 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, 14 countries in Oceania, and 2 countries in North America. Can anyone name the other country in North America besides our country, the United States? **[Take input.]**

Yes! It's Canada.

What God was saying in the Great Commission is that he hopes that every person in every country will come to a saving knowledge of his son, Jesus, so that they can live eternally with God. Now, how many of you have ever traveled to another country than the one you live in? **[Take input.]**





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This verse is an invitation to you and me: wherever we find ourselves in the world, we can practice loving people with the love of Jesus, no matter which country we're in, no matter which people we're meeting, no matter why we're there in the first place. The Great Commission says, "Wherever you go, love my people well!"

Today, in your activity centers, you're going to have the chance to pray for people in some specific countries, but before I dismiss you, let me pray for you all.

Pray for campers before dismissing.

Activity

All the Nations

Each camper needs:

- One palmful of Play-Doh
- 5-6 toothpicks
- 5-6 flags, various nations [see handout]
- Small paper plate
- Small puddle of school glue
- 1 Q-Tip
- Access to a permanent marker

Instructions:

- 1 Have each camper select 5-6 flags from various nations where Compassion is at work.
- 2 Distribute 5-6 toothpicks to each camper.
- 3 Show campers how to fold each flag in half, wrapping it around a toothpick whose top section has been dipped in glue.
- 4 Next, show campers how to dip one end of a Q-Tip into the puddle of glue and apply a tiny dot of glue to the inside ends of the flag and then sticking those ends together.

- 5 Distribute a palmful of Play-Doh to each camper and have him or her form a flat-bottomed base on which to plant five or six toothpick "flags."
- 6 Have campers plant their flags; then write their initials or names on the bases.
- 7 Once everyone has completed the activity, ask a few campers why they chose the countries they chose. Do they know someone who lives in that country? Have they visited that country before? Or did they simply like the colors of that country's flag? Take time to pray for all nations, that each person in each country would come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Encourage campers to take their flags home and pray for the nations throughout the week.

Take-Home

Everyone, Everywhere

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Take home their "Everyone, Everywhere" BINGO handout and play the game with family members or friends.
- Engage in one activity to help raise awareness or money for the "Church Mobilization" priority.
- Pray for people around the world who would benefit from being part of a healthy local church.

WEDNESDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Today, we are continuing our look at the Great Commission. Who remembers what we talked about yesterday, regarding where,





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exactly, we're supposed to "go"?
 Yes! God hopes that we will "go" to "all the nations" and tell everyone, everywhere about his love. This is, in fact, the whole reason that churches exist. Did you know that? They don't exist to have great children's ministry programs or to hold relaxing women's retreats or to put together really good music every weekend, although all of those things can be a wonderful part of church. No, the primary reason that churches exist is so that everyone, everywhere will hear the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That's what "gospel" means, in fact: the "good news"!

The next part of the Great Commission says this: "baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. What is another name for these three? Yes! The Trinity. And here, God is saying, I'm not looking for people who are merely "spiritual" or merely have faith in themselves or faith in their parents or faith in the government, and so forth. I'm looking for people who are fully devoted to me—to Jehovah God! The Bible says that God's eyes are roaming the entire earth, in search of those whose hearts are turned toward him. Do you think his eyes stop on you? I wonder if they stop on me ...

Now, how does God know if our hearts are turned toward him? Does he just want us to look a certain way or act a certain way? **[No!]** No, what God is after is complete devotion to him. He wants us to put our full faith in his Son, Jesus Christ, knowing that it is only by Jesus' great sacrifice that we can even be in God's presence.

And so, one of the best ways we can love people whom we come across in our daily lives is by telling them

about who? **[Jesus!]**

Yes! We can tell them about Jesus. Now, what are some things that we know about Jesus?

Take input regarding the impact Jesus can have on a person's life. Then say:

Did you know that with each dollar we raise this week, we are equipping people to start or strengthen churches so that people can hear about this amazing Savior, Jesus Christ? That's why we're working so hard to raise awareness and also money this week.

Speaking of raising money, I want to hear about how you all raised the offerings that you brought with you today. Tell me about what you have done so far ...

Take input. Then say:

Isn't it wonderful to know the good that will be done with each and every dollar we've raised? Way to go, campers! I believe that God is pleased with your efforts so far. Keep it up! We still have another evening before we tally our offering to see if I'll be sleeping at the church tomorrow night.

As you gather in your activity groups, your leaders are ready to receive today's offerings. On your mark! Get set! Go!





Activity

Fingerprint Cross

Each camper needs:

- One Fingerprint Cross handout, printed on heavy art paper
- One thin paper plate
- Several daubs of acrylic paint, various colors
- Access to a permanent black marker
- Access to baby wipes

Instructions:

- 1 Hand out one Fingerprint Cross page to each camper. Have them write their names at the top of the page. Place all crosses side by side on the table.
- 2 Place several daubs of acrylic paint on each camper's plate.
- 3 Have campers take turns dipping a fingertip into one color of paint and then leaving a fingerprint on each of the group's crosses. To switch colors, simply wipe off paint with a baby wipe and begin again.
- 4 Keep working this way, until each camper's cross is filled with his or her peers' fingerprints (and his or her own!).
- 5 As the crosses are left to dry, talk with the group about how every person in every country matters deeply to God. Explain that God sees each person on the planet as a masterpiece, someone created in his image, on purpose for a specific purpose. Talk about the fact that when Jesus willingly faced death on a cross, he had every person in mind—each one of us, with our unique personality, desires, and fingerprints. We are to treat other people with this same level of love and respect.

Take-Home

Chowtime Challenge :: The Name of Jesus

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Invite their families to take the Chowtime Challenge related to Jesus with their family members during dinner.
- Engage in one activity to help raise awareness or money for the "Church Mobilization" priority.
- Pray for people around the world who have not yet experienced God's amazing grace.

THURSDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Well, we have reached day four of our Church Mobilization priority, and I'd like to tell you how much money you have raised so far. Are you ready for this? **[Reveal the specific amount.]** Does this mean that I will or won't be sleeping here tonight?

Take input and respond accordingly. Then say:

This morning, I'm excited to talk with you about the next part of the Great Commission, which says this, "Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you," (Matthew 28:20a).

Now, to demonstrate this part of the Great Commission, I'm going to need a few volunteers.





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Select ten to twelve volunteers to join you onstage. Then say:

Let's have you form two lines of five or six kids across and stand here in the center of the stage.

Help campers fill the stage two-deep.

How many of you standing here on stage have played the game Simon Says? Most of you. Okay: should we see how good you are at the game?

Engage the kids in a few rounds of Simon Says.

Then say:

Now, let's add a twist. Let's turn you all into frogs who have to *hop* all of their moves. Who has the best frog hop here?

Engage the kids in a few more rounds, making sure they hop forward, backward, and side to side on your cues.

All right. Let's give these brave volunteers a round of applause as they make their way back to their groups.

I want to share a Bible passage with you this morning that is found in Psalm 19:7-10. Here is what it says: "The instructions of the Lord are perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The commandments of the Lord are right, bringing joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are clear, giving insight for living. Reverence for the Lord is pure, lasting forever. The laws of the Lord are true; each one is fair. They are more desirable than gold, even the finest gold. They are sweeter than honey, even honey dripping from the comb."

Now, how many of you in here like the taste of honey? Yes! So many of us do! It is so sweet, isn't it? Just delicious. Here is something interesting: this

passage is saying to those of us who believe in God, God's rules are sweeter to us than honey! Wow! Isn't that an amazing thing to say?

For starters, what are some of God's rules?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! You all really know your Bible. God tells us not to take his name in vain. And to honor our moms and dads. And to love others. And to pray and worship him. So many "rules," right?

Why do you think God says that for those who love him, God's rules are sweeter than honey?

Yes! Those who love God know that life works best when we follow his rules. For example, if you yell at your mom or dad, how do things usually work out?

Take input. Then say:

How about when you honor your mom and dad? How do things work out then?

See, God knows that we sometimes want to do what is wrong. And so he says, "Listen, if you will just live life the way that I have instructed you to live it, you will be happy, I will be glorified, and your life will help others come to know me."

The reason I wanted our friends earlier to play Simon Says was to remind us that God, through his Word, has given us instruction for living. And if we will crane an ear toward him and always be quick to *leap* toward the path that he asks us to stay on, we will experience joy that is deeper than any joy we've ever known.





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I want to remind you that your diligent efforts to raise awareness and money for our Church Mobilization priority this week will go to help Compassion International teach children and their families about how to obey God every day of their lives, but at the same time, we can practice obeying God in our own lives, here and now. Today, in your activity center, you will talk about that very thing. May I pray for you before you go?

Pray for campers before dismissing them to their activity centers.

Activity

Hoppin' Happy to Obey

Each camper needs:

- 1 square of green origami paper (normal-weight colored printer paper works fine as well)
- Access to a permanent marker

Instructions:

Please see this page for instructions:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-an-Origami-Jumping-Frog>

Take-Home

Encourage campers to take the following four steps tonight:

- Take home their origami frog. Each time they play with it and make it jump, pray that God would increase their desire to respond quickly to his still, small voice.
- Take home their "I Spy Sunday" handout and work to find the various hidden objects. Ask campers to consider which hidden objects reflect something that God has asked his followers to do, such as reading

the Bible, singing songs of praise to him, and so forth.

- Engage in one final fundraising activity to help raise awareness or money for the "Church Mobilization" priority.
- Pray for children and their families around the world who are not yet part of a healthy local church.

FRIDAY

Director Note: Assuming your group's financial goal was met, don't forget to show up with a detailed update and perhaps a humorous story of how it felt to sleep at church last night.

Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Well, it is our final day to discuss our Church Mobilization priority! Have you enjoyed learning about this pressing need for strong, healthy churches around the world, and about how you can be part of that problem's solution? I know I surely have.

We have one final piece of the Great Commission to explore this week, which is this: God's presence.

Ahhh! Isn't it refreshing to know that we're never alone in this world? Here is what this portion of the Great Commission says: "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (v. 20b).

One thing I know is this: If God asked us to go to all the world and tell them about his love and grace and made us do that in our own strength, we surely





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would fail. We'd get tired. We'd get cranky. We'd get hungry and lonely and sad. Thankfully, we don't have to do what God has asked us to do in our own strength. Whose strength do we get to lean into, when we are living as followers of God's? **[God's!]**

Yes! God has promised us his power and his presence, every day of our lives.

I want you all to demonstrate this with me. Hold your hands up high ... can everyone do that? Now, on each hand, make the letter "O" with your thumb and index finger. You should have two O's held up high ... does everyone have that? It looks like you're saying "okay" with both hands.

Now, link those two O's together, to form something of a chain with your fingers. Are your "okays" connected now?

Now, pretend I have some Super Glue in my hand. I am going to walk around the room and Super Glue your fingers together, so that one hand is always connected to the other. Are you okay with that?

I won't really do that to you, but the image I hope you'll hang onto, which is that in the same way that your fingers would always be inextricably linked, the Lord's presence for the believer is always inextricably linked to him or her.

The Bible says that God will never leave us or forsake us, that he is always present, always with us, always near. He is always right here, campers, eager to engage with you, eager to care.

Now, I want to ask you a question: What do you think is the benefit of

always having God nearby?

Take input. Then say:

Oh, you have touched on some marvelous truths about God. Because he is near, we do not have to be afraid. Because he is near, we don't have to feel alone. Because he is near, we don't have to wonder if we matter. Because he is near, we don't have to run and hide.

Because God is near, we can know power. Because God is near, we can know strength. Because God is near, we can know confidence. Because God is near, we can be made whole.

Campers, is this good news or bad news for us? **[Good news!]**

Yes. Very good news, indeed.

In today's activity center, you will explore the truth that if you are a follower of Jesus, then you are *always inextricably linked* to God. Let me pray for you as you go.

Pray for campers before dismissing to their activity centers.





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Activity

Paper Chain of Presence

Each camper needs:

- The six colored “links” of the paper chain
- Six pieces of Scotch tape
- Access to a permanent marker

Instructions:

- 1 Hand to each camper the six colored paper links, and have him or her arrange them in order of the verses from the Great Commission.
- 2 Place six one-inch pieces of Scotch tape in front of each camper, and have him or her begin to close each loop around the next, taping the ends of the link as he or she goes.
- 3 Once the paper chain is completed, have the camper write his or her initials on the final chain.
- 4 When everyone has completed his or her chain, talk about the fact that in the same way these paper links are connected, God, by his Holy Spirit, is always connected to us. Read from John 15 regarding God being the Vine and we, his branches. Invite discussion on what fears or anxieties tend to dissipate, once we realize that God is always near.

Take-Home

Family Hide and Seek

Give campers copies of the “Family Hide and Seek” handout.

Encourage them to take the following two steps tonight:

- Play “Family Hide and Seek” with their family members.
- Thank God for the opportunity to help connect people in the developing world to local churches.

Donate

[Online at
Compassion.com/VBSpriorities](https://www.compassion.com/VBSpriorities)

Donate By Mail:

To participate, just make out a check for your donations to “Compassion International” and write “584566” on your check’s memo line along with the “MISSION PRIORITY” — then mail to:

Compassion International
12290 Voyager Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80921





Priority 3 Health and Nutrition



DID YOU KNOW?

- For children living in poverty around the globe, even minor illnesses can have life-altering consequences?
- Inadequate or inaccessible healthcare is the underlying cause of millions of deaths in the developing world each year?
- Some of the most serious threats to a child's health are fully preventable diseases, such as HIV, malaria, diarrhea, and undernutrition?
- One-fifth of all children under age five are malnourished?
- Appropriate nutrition is the fastest, most impactful way to alleviate the global burden of disease.

Compassion International works in partnership with local churches in twenty-five of the world's most impoverished countries to ensure that every child in our care is healthy enough to succeed in life and achieve his or her God-given potential. By supporting the Health and Nutrition priority, you can help children overcome the challenges of illness and continue their journey out of poverty around the globe.

What will your money help provide for people in need?

Interventions such as these:

- Provision of adequate, nutritious food
- Therapeutic feeding and supplemental nutrition
- Medication and care for common ailments
- Long-term care for serious conditions such as AIDS
- Surgery for heart conditions, cleft palates, and severe injuries
- Dental surgery and periodontal treatment
- Emergency care for broken bones, high fever, and more
- Counseling following life-altering events such as trauma or natural disasters
- Oral healthcare such as dental screening, fillings, extractions, and education
- Vaccinations against diseases such as hepatitis A and

B, meningitis, tuberculosis, and typhoid

- Food-stability interventions such as sustainable farming programs and meal-planning education
- Malaria interventions such as the distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets
- HIV and AIDS education and interventions to reduce stigma
- Christian discipleship and spiritual training

Monies raised by your group will help us to achieve our Health and Nutrition goals by providing the opportunities and resources necessary to protect children's health and wellness as they are being lifted from poverty around the globe.

The following activities have been designed with you in mind. VBS or summer camp is a fast-moving, high-energy environment involving children of a variety of ages and stages; our goal in presenting these elements is to grab campers' attention, build awareness in their minds for the topic at hand, carve out new capacity in their hearts for a compassionate response, and call them to clear, doable action within the confines of a typical five-day VBS or summer camp week. Read on, for details on implementing the "Health and Nutrition" priority.

MONDAY

Director Note: Before taking the stage, pre-set two TV trays, one loaded with three full meals and two large snacks, and one that holds a small dish of uncooked rice.

Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Good morning! We are going to take a few minutes during our opening





Priority 3 Health and Nutrition



assembly each day this week to talk about a very important subject. Now, looking up here, does anyone have a guess as to what our topic is?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! We are going to talk about food!

Who in here likes food? Whoa! All of you do! If I were to tell you that you could eat only one food for the rest of your life, what food would you pick?

Take a dozen or so responses, and then tell campers what your selection would be. Then say:

Well, despite our varying answers, I one thing we can agree on is that all of us like *food*. Food tastes good. Food feels good. And food helps us to grow up big and strong. We must have food to survive!

I'd like to draw your attention to the two TV trays you see on stage. What do you notice about these two trays?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! One tray has quite a bit of food on it, while the other has only a small dish of rice. Let's talk first about the tray with a lot of food.

Describe for the campers the food on the tray. Then say:

This is a lot of food, isn't it? Actually, this is about the same amount of food that each of us eats in a given day. Does this seem like the amount of food that you eat?

Take input. Then say:

In this country, most of us have access to several meals a day and even some snacks thrown in there too. It's a lot of food.

But did you know that in some places in the world, people don't have this much food to eat each day?

Take input. Then say:

In many developing countries, people have much, much less food to eat. In fact, in many places, the only food that a person would eat all day is a handful of cooked rice. Here is some uncooked rice ... can you imagine if this were the only food you were given for a whole day? Not very satisfying, right?

It would be hard to live without enough food to eat, wouldn't it? Food gives us energy and helps us to grow. Think about it: what types of activities would be difficult for you to do, if you didn't have enough food to eat?

Take input. Then say:

There is a marvelous organization called Compassion International that is working day and night to get more food to kids all over the world. And not only food, but medicine and other assistance, too.

Boys and girls all over the world need more food to eat, and the good news everyone in this room can help! Before I tell you about a great opportunity that you and I have this week, I'd like you watch this short video.





Priority 3 Health and Nutrition



Video

Health and Nutrition Video

<http://compassion.com/vbs-resources>



Script Conclusion

Director, say to the group:

Well, as you can see, there is a lot of work to be done, in helping people just like Martha and her children gain access to nutritious food. And as we talked about earlier, you and I can help! Each day this week, we will spend a few minutes reminding ourselves of the importance of health and nutrition—especially regarding food. Each evening, you will have the opportunity to engage in a fun activity at home. For example, here is the activity for tonight: ask your parents if you can have your family donate one quarter for every type of food you eat this afternoon and evening. For example, if you have cheese and crackers when you get home this afternoon, that would be two quarters, or \$.50. If you have chicken, broccoli, and apples for dinner, that would be another three

quarters, for a running total of \$1.25. If you have popcorn and M&Ms after dinner, that would be another \$.50, for a grand total of \$1.75. See how it works? Along these lines, your leaders will give you a “Healthy Food for All” handout today to give to your parents.

This week, beginning tomorrow and continuing every day that we’re together—so that’s Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week—we will collect an offering to send to Compassion International, who is working with churches in each of these places where healthy food isn’t available, to get food and medicine to them.

Then say:

Now, let me ask you a question. If you’re really, really hungry, how easy is it to be kind to Mom or Dad or your siblings or friends? It’s hard to be kind when you’re really, really hungry, isn’t it? In fact, it’s hard to do anything when you’re really, really hungry!

There is an old Somali proverb that goes like this: “A hungry stomach has no ears.” What that means is that we have trouble listening well when our tummies are growling! Compassion has found this to be true in the developing world. It’s hard for people to listen to the good news about Jesus, when their tummies are grumbling and growling. So, Compassion helps to bring them delicious food. And then their ears can hear well again.

So, we want to help Compassion to do that wonderful work.

Does that sound like a good idea? **[Yes!]** I think so too. Your group leaders and I have met, and we believe that because of the sheer





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number of campers we have this year, and because of the generous hearts beating inside each one of your chests, we can raise **[cite specific amount here]** dollars this week. Do you believe that we as a group can do that? **[Yes!]** I do too.

Now, how do you think you could raise money? I once read of a group of girls who set up a lemonade stand and then donated the money they made to a cause such as this. I've also heard of boys getting together to mow a few neighbors' lawns and then donate their earnings to a group like Compassion. What else might you do to earn money to contribute to our offering this week?

Take suggestions from the audience. Then say:

These are all fantastic ideas! In addition to raising money, did you know that you can also raise

awareness? This just means that you can help yourself and others think about the importance of helping hungry people find food. That might look like committing to praying each night this week for hungry children around the world. It might look like telling God thanks for each meal you eat. It might look like helping Mom or Dad cook a few dinners this week, as a way to show gratitude for food. What are some other ways you could serve this week, as a way to focus on the importance of having healthy food to eat?

Take input. Then say:

And while raising that much money and doing that much good will be gratifying in and of itself, I have a little Director Deal I'd like to make with you. If our group does, in fact, raise **[cite specific amount here]** dollars by the end of our time together on Friday, then I am going to do something a little ... unusual. Actually, two of us are going to do something unusual.

Call to the stage your pre-determined partner in crime, who should take the stage carrying two heads of iceberg lettuce. Each of you should hold one head. Then say:

Who can tell me what we're holding up here?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! This is lettuce ... iceberg lettuce. Here is the deal we want to make with you. If you all raise **[cite specific amount]** dollars by assembly on Friday morning, then my colleague here and I will have a lettuce-head eat-off! We will race to see who can eat a whole head of lettuce faster. How does that sound?





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All right, now you are going to go with your group leader to your activity spots, where you will talk further about the global need for food. Have a great day, campers!

lands, read one interesting fact from that continent's column. Continue playing until the whole group has taken two turns. Then, pray for people all over the globe who are hungry and who have no access to nourishing food.

Activity

Rice Bags

Each camper needs:

- One brightly colored child-size knee-sock
- Two cups of uncooked rice
- Access to a pair of heavy-duty scissors

Each group needs:

- Seven thin paper plates
- Permanent marker, any color
- One-foot length of masking tape
- One copy, "Hunger around the Globe" handout

Instructions:

- 1 With assistance, have campers cut sock two or three inches above heel, making two "bags," the foot and the tube.
- 2 Starting with the foot, pour one cup of rice into the sock and tie a tight knot at the top.
- 3 Moving to the tube, turn the tube inside-out and tie a tight knot at the end where the sock's foot was once attached.
- 4 Turn the tube right-side out. Fill with the remaining one cup of rice and tie a tight knot at the top. Each camper should have two rice completed rice bags.
- 5 Create a line with masking tape. Have kids form a line behind it.
- 6 While the campers work, write the name of one continent on each of the seven plates. The, position the plates at various distances from the masking-tape line. These will serve as targets for the campers' rice-bag throws.
- 7 Have the first camper toss one of his or her rice bags onto one of the plates. Once you see where the bag

Take-Home

How Would It Be?

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Take home the "How Would It Be?" handout and engage their family members or friends in a discussion regarding world hunger.
- Take home the "Healthy Food for All" handout so that parents can participate in the Quarter-per-Food-Item challenge.
- Ask their parents what activities they might engage in this week, to raise awareness or money for the "Health and Nutrition" priority.
- Pray with their family for people around the world who don't have consistent access to nutritious food.

TUESDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

As I mentioned yesterday, we will be spending a few minutes during our opening assembly each day to talk about a very important subject. Who remembers what that subject is? **[Yes! Food!]** Yesterday, we talked about the fact that some people in the world don't have consistent access to nutritious food, a reality that causes





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tragic problems for boys and girls and their families. Last night, you were invited to talk with your family about how things would be for you, if you could only eat one food for the rest of your life. What foods did you all choose?

Take input. Then say:

Now, you also were given a challenge to donate one quarter for each category of food you ate yesterday afternoon and evening. Did you bring lots of quarters today? How many did you bring?

Take input from the audience. Then say:

Can you believe that in many parts of the world, people who did this exercise would be overjoyed to be able to bring even one quarter today? They would be so happy to have even one type of food to eat each day, let alone each meal. Your offerings are really going to help them out!

Your leaders will gather your Quarter-per-Food-Item offerings, and tomorrow, I will give you the grand total toward our goal.

Now, this morning, I'd like to turn our attention not to what people eat or how much they eat, but how they eat it. Did you know that in the developing world, families don't have kitchens in their home like you do? They don't have refrigerators or stoves or ovens or sinks.

But what about when people need to cook? What do they do?

Does anyone remember from yesterday's video how families might cook in this context?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! They wash their food outside in pails of water, water that often is not

clean. And then they cook their food over fires that they burn right in the middle of their homes!

Can I show you a few pictures of how this works?

Show images from PDF slideshow: Cooking a family dinner.pdf

Then say:

Did you know that part of what Compassion helps people with is providing pails and pots and pans to make cooking much easier? That is part of what your money is helping to fund!

In today's activity, you will be simulating the cooking style of the families we are helping this week. I think you'll enjoy your time there. Before I dismiss you, let me pray for your time together.

Be sure leaders have containers for collecting offerings at their activity centers.

Activity

Firepit Snack

Note: This activity doubles as the morning's snack.

Each camper needs:

- One paper muffin-tin liner
- A handful of red seedless grapes
- 10-15 pretzel rods
- One piece of cheddar cheese

Instructions:

- 1 Have campers arrange the grapes to look like rocks surrounding a firepit.
- 2 Have them prop up the pretzel rods in the center of the grapes to look like firewood.





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- 3 Have them rip up the cheese and place in and on the pile of pretzels to look like flames.
- 4 While campers enjoy eating their “firepits,” talk with them about what it would be like to cook every meal over a campfire in your house. Pray for people who long for nutritious food and resources to make cooking it more convenient.



Take-Home

Chowtime Chat :: Food

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Take home their “Chowtime Challenge :: Food” handout and engage their family in conversation regarding the importance around the world of nutritious food.
- Engage in one activity to help raise money or awareness for the “Health and Nutrition” priority.
- Pray for children around the world who do not have consistent access to nutritious food.

WEDNESDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

How about a little game of “I Spy,” as we get going this morning? Who doesn’t love “I Spy”? Ready for round one? Okay: I spy, with my little eye, something that is smaller than a shoe but bigger than a pencil.

Go a few rounds, citing objects that are in plain view of the campers. Then say:

Ready for our final round? Here it is: I spy, with my little, something that

is kind of small but can have HUGE impact. Any guesses?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! It’s YOU! Each of you! Relative to your moms and dads, you may be small, but in terms of the world-changing activity you can accomplish, campers, your potential is huge, huge, huge.

Let me show you what I mean. Who remembers the name of the organization we are sending all of our offerings to this week, the group that works with families in developing countries, to help them gain access to the food and water and opportunities they need to thrive? Yes! Compassion International!

Well, Compassion went to visit one of the girls whom their program helps, a girl named Vanessa, and they sent some pictures of their visit for us to enjoy. Would you like to see those pictures now? [Yes!]

Show images from PDF slideshow: Vanessa.pdf

Then say:

Campers, do you think it’s a small deal or a BIG DEAL that because of money that you are raising this week, children like Vanessa will be able to go to school and brush her teeth and eat delicious meals? Yes! It’s a very, very big deal. You may be small, but your contribution is anything but small. With each dollar you raise, you are making a gigantic difference in the lives of kids and their families all around the globe.

Way to go, campers! Way to go. Now, I’m going to pray for you and then dismiss you to your activity centers, where you’ll talk more about this idea of big and small. I think you’ll have a great time there today.





Pray for campers and then dismiss them to their activity centers.

Activity

Apple Seeds

Note: This activity doubles as the morning's snack.

Each camper needs:

- One apple
- One small paper plate
- Each group needs:
- One kitchen knife
- One cutting board

Instructions:

- 1 Once campers settle in, distribute to each of them one apple and one small paper plate.
- 2 Ask campers what was talked about in assembly, reminding them if necessary about the topic of “big and small” and the fact that seemingly small things can have a big, big impact in the world.
- 3 Choose a camper to begin with, and stand his or her apple on the cutting board. Slicing in parallel fashion to the cutting board, so that the stem will be on the top half and the base of the apple will be on the bottom half, cut the apple in half. You should be able to see the “star” formation of the apple seeds in the center of the fruit. Hand both halves back to the camper and cut the next camper’s apple in half. Ask campers to refrain from eating their fruit until everyone has two halves in front of them.
- 4 Once everyone’s apple has been cut in half, talk with the campers about how amazing it would be for someone living in the developing world to be handed an apple. Have the campers talk about how sweet an apple would taste, if you hadn’t eaten one before, and what a gift the meal would be for someone who was malnourished and in need.
- 5 Next, ask the question, “Can you think of anything that would be better to give someone who is hungry than a juicy, delicious apple?” Take input, gently leading campers to the idea that even better than

providing someone an apple is providing someone apple seeds, so that they can grow trees that will produce scores of apples. Remind campers that they are, in essence, planting seeds by providing funding to Compassion, who is able to multiply the effectiveness of every dollar received.

- 6 Eat the apples!

Take-Home

Where Small Leads

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Take home their copy of “Where Small Leads” and complete with friends or family members.
- Engage in one fundraising activity to help raise money for the “Health and Nutrition” priority.
- Pray for children around the world who do not have consistent access to enough nutritious food.

THURSDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Good morning! I want to begin by taking a poll. How many of you were able to raise awareness or money for our Health and Nutrition priority last night?

Take input. Then say:

Excellent! I’m going to have a few of you come forward and tell us what you did ...





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Invite two to four campers to the stage to tell the group what they did to help. Then say:

I hope you all are proud of yourselves ... you should be! Your faithful work is going to bring brighter days to so many boys and girls around the world.

Today, I want to talk with you about another aspect of nutrition that we are helping Compassion to achieve, which has to do with *hygiene*.

Who can tell me what “hygiene” means?

Yes! It is the practices that help us stay healthy and clean. Who can tell me what one “hygiene practice” might be?

Take input. Then say:

There are lots of good hygiene practices, aren't there? Washing hands after using the restroom. Not drinking from someone else's cup or straw. Bathing regularly. Washing hair at least once a week. Changing out of dirty clothes into clean clothes. Covering the nose or mouth when sneezing or coughing. Brushing teeth.

Now, why would people want to have good hygiene practices?

Take input. Then say:

Did you know that practicing good hygiene helps keep your body free from disease? This is why, in addition to providing nutritious food to people in need, Compassion International also teaches boys and girls around the world how to do things like wash their hair and brush their teeth.

Now, related to this topic of personal hygiene, we thought it would be fun to have a little competition between group leaders this morning. Group leaders, would you please join me here on stage?

Director Note: Relay course will need to have been prepared ahead of time. See “Leader Hygiene Relay” document for details. Lead relay; celebrate victor; have leaders return to their groups.

What's better than seeing your leaders wearing bubble hair-do's? All in good fun. And you know what? The kids you all are helping have fun with these things too. Can you imagine how good it feels to be given a toothbrush and toothpaste, when you've never been able to clean your teeth before? So satisfying!

Your hard work is really going to pay off for lots of boys and girls. Thank you for working so hard. Today in your activity centers, you will be continuing this discussion on the value of a toothbrush. I think you'll enjoy the activity. Let me pray for you as you go.





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Activity

Toothpaste Toothbrushes

Each camper needs:

- 1 tablespoon school glue
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- ½ tablespoon water
- ½ tablespoon mint-flavored toothpaste
- 1–2 drops food coloring, any color
- Small paper bowl/plate
- Toothpick

Instructions:

- 1 Have campers combine their glue, cornstarch, toothpaste, and food coloring in the bowl.
- 2 Add water and mix until the dough forms a block.
- 3 Sculpt block into a toothbrush by forming the long handle, the small head, and a small rectangle to serve as the bristle-block. Use the toothpick to carve bristles into the sides of the bristle-block.
- 4 Once dry, the sculpture will be hard as a rock and will smell minty. Have campers place the toothbrush sculpture in their bathroom at home. Each time they brush their teeth, they will be prompted to pray for children around the world who are learning the basics of hygiene.

Take-Home

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Take home and complete “Health Matters” activity pages.
- Engage in one final activity to help raise awareness or money for the “Health and Nutrition” priority.
- Pray for children around the world who do not have consistent access to nutritious food.

FRIDAY

Director Note: Assuming the group’s financial goal gets met, come to assembly wearing a bib and prepared to compete with your colleague in the lettuce-eating contest.



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

It is our final day to discuss our Health and Nutrition priority! Have you enjoyed learning about this pressing need for healthy food and healthy hygiene habits around the world, and about how you can be part of that problem’s solution? I know I surely have.

Today, I’d like to draw your attention to a story many of you may have heard before. This story is found in Matthew 14, verses 13 through 21. Here is how the story goes: One day during Jesus’ ministry here on earth, he left one town and headed for another, by way of boat. He often traveled by boat, because they didn’t have SUVs back then.

Then say:

In this new town, Jesus pulled up to the shore, stepped off the boat onto the beach, and saw a giant crowd there, eager to hear him teach. If Jesus showed up here in the sanctuary in person, how many of you would want to hear what he had to say? Yes! That’s exactly how this crowd felt. They were super-excited to hear Jesus teach.





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Now, this next part of the story, I just love. What do you think Jesus thought, when he saw this giant crowd that was eager to hear him teach?

Take input. Then say:

The Bible says that as Jesus saw the crowd, he “had compassion on them.” And that’s not all: his compassion led him to take action. The text says that Jesus “had compassion on them and healed their sick.”

This sounds just like Jesus, doesn’t it? He couldn’t *help* but feel compassion for the people before him, and he couldn’t help but let that compassion lead him to help them out. Whenever we see a need and are compelled to meet it, we are behaving in a way that is a lot like Jesus, campers. Isn’t that good to know?

Well, later that evening, after Jesus and his disciples had taught the crowds all day long, the disciples said, “Jesus, it’s getting late. Send the crowds away so that they can go to the village and get something to eat.”

Jesus looked at his disciples and said, “That’s not necessary. How about you feed them, instead?”

Now, it’s not like the disciples had a giant picnic basket with them or anything. They had no food. The crowd was huge. What were they supposed to do? The text says that there were more than five thousand people in that crowd! Yikes! What would you have done?

Take input. Then say:

Here is what the disciples did. They looked at Jesus and said, “But we have only five loaves of bread and two fish!”

Surely this information would persuade Jesus to alter his

instructions to the disciples, right?

Here is what happened next: Jesus looked at his disciples and said, “Bring them here.”

Then Jesus told the crowd—all five thousand people ... and that number doesn’t even include the women and children who were there—to sit down on the grass. He took the measly meal that the disciples gave him—just five loaves and two fish—and he held them toward the heavens. He blessed the food. Then, he broke the loaves into pieces and handed the bread to the disciples, who distributed it to the people.

Now, how many people do you think were fed by five little loaves of bread?

Take input. Then say:

The truth is that *all* of the people were fed. In fact, everyone in that crowd ate so much bread that their bellies were completely full. And that’s not all! There were even leftovers! The text says that the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of leftovers after the crowd had had their fill.

Wow! Campers, what do you think the disciples thought, upon seeing this miracle unfold?

Take input. Then say:

I think those disciples were just in awe of how powerful Jesus was that day. Do you want some good news? He is every bit as powerful now as he was back then! He is all-powerful, all the time. Isn’t that good news?

As we give our offerings of time and energy and money this week, I want to remind us all that by the power of Jesus that resides in and among us, those efforts can be *multiplied*. Jesus can accomplish far more with





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these investments that we ever could accomplish on our own. You are going to make a physical reminder of this truth in your activity centers today. But before I dismiss you, I think [name] and I have some business to tend to here ...

Director Note: Complete the lettuce-eating competition, pray for the campers, and dismiss the group to the activity centers.

Activity

Loaves and Fishes Necklace

The group needs:

- One 18-inch piece of yarn, any color
- 12-15 pieces of uncooked tubular pasta, such as ziti
- 5-7 construction-paper fish cutouts, [see template], various colors
- One inch-long piece of Scotch tape
- Access to a hole punch

Instructions:

- 1 Hand out supplies and help campers wrap the piece of tape around one end of the necklace, to form a sturdy tip.
- 2 Show campers how to thread the pasta and construction-paper fishes onto the yarn, employing the pattern of their choosing, such as three pieces of pasta followed by one fish, followed by three pieces of pasta followed by one fish.
- 3 When the necklace is filled to their liking, help campers tie the yarn around their necks to form a loosely fitted necklace.

- 4 Once everyone is wearing his or her necklace, invite campers to pray for children in the world who need a taste of God's power and provision today.

Take-Home

Food A-Cross Puzzle

Hand one copy of the "Food A-Cross" puzzle board to each camper. Encourage them to take the following two steps tonight:

- Complete the "Food A-Cross" puzzle with a friend or family member.
- Thank God for the opportunity to help provide access to nutritious food and helpful hygiene practices to children and their families around the world.

Donate

Online at
Compassion.com/VBSpriorities

Donate By Mail:

To participate, just make out a check for your donations to "Compassion International" and write "584566" on your check's memo line along with the "MISSION PRIORITY" — then mail to:

Compassion International
12290 Voyager Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80921





Priority 4 Compassion Survival



≡ DID YOU KNOW? ≡

- Every year, 2.6 million babies in poverty fail to survive the first 28 days of life?
- The most common causes of death of these babies range from preterm birth to delivery complications?
- Other prevalent causes for death are totally preventable conditions such as malnutrition, pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria?

In the developing world, mothers and babies living in poverty face a crippling set of challenges. From pregnancy through the crucial first year of life, they must deal with threats such as waterborne illnesses, a lack of nutritious food, and limited or no medical care.

In recent years, a focused aid effort globally has resulted in an encouraging reduction in child and maternal mortality rates. But the need remains critical, especially in the countries where Compassion works. Compassion's Survival interventions provide help when the risk is highest—during pregnancy and the first year of life. By intervening within this critical time frame, Compassion prevents unnecessary deaths among pregnant mothers, newborns, and infants living in poverty, giving little ones the best possible chance of reaching their first birthday.

What will monies raised by your group help provide for people in need?

Interventions such as these:

- One-on-one home-based care from a Compassion Survival specialist
- Skilled birth attendants
- Feeding instruction and support
- Pre- and post-natal care
- Health screenings
- Early-childhood parenting training
- Church-based group counseling and activities
- Immunizations
- Supplemental food and nutritional education
- Regular growth monitoring of baby

The following activities have been designed with you in mind. VBS or summer camp is a fast-moving, high-energy environment involving children of a variety of ages and stages; our goal in presenting these elements is to grab campers' attention, build awareness in their minds for the topic at hand, carve out new capacity in their hearts for a compassionate response, and call them to clear, doable action within the confines of a typical five-day VBS or summer camp week. Read on, for details on implementing the "Compassion Survival" priority.

MONDAY

Director Note: As you take the stage, hold a swaddled baby doll in your arms and have a team member standing offstage wailing incessantly, like a newborn might.

Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Good morning! We are going to take a few minutes during our opening assembly to talk about a very important subject. Wait. Does anyone else hear that? What is that? It sounds like ... **[looking at baby]** are you all right, little fella? What's the matter?

Does anyone else hear a baby crying? Is that coming from out there? Is it coming from up here? Who's crying? Should we all cry?

Lead campers in wailing like babies. Then say:
Wow! You guys are good cry-ers. It's





Priority 4 Compassion Survival

like you've all been babies at some time in your lives!

Babies know how to cry, don't they? Whew, do they ever!

Well, as you may have guessed, the subject I'd like to talk with you about this morning is *babies*. Newborns! Do any of you remember being a baby? Do any of you have a baby in your home right now?

Allow for a bit of response. Then say:

Did you know that in this country, when a mama delivers a little baby, that baby has a really good chance of being born healthy and of growing up to be a big kid and then a teenager and then an adult? That's how it should be, right? Once we are born, we should be able to grow up big and strong and live a long and healthy life.

But this isn't how things go in certain parts of our world. Did you know that in developing countries, where they don't have the same access to doctors and nurses and medical equipment and medicine and training ... did you know that in these places, when a baby is born, that child is lucky to live past his or her first year of life? Did you know that sometimes, the baby is lucky to live a single day?

This is because those babies are born with diseases, or because they can't get the immunizations they need just after they are born, or because they are having trouble breathing and nothing can be done, or because the moms are almost children themselves and have no idea how to properly care for a little one. So many reasons for these tragedies. It doesn't have to be this way. In fact, God hopes that we will do everything in our power

to ensure that it's *not* this way. Are babies precious to God? Indeed, they are. Psalm 139:13-18 says this:

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body

and knit me together in my mother's womb.

Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!

Your workmanship is marvelous – how well I know it.

You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,

as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

You saw me before I was born.

Every day of my life was recorded in your book.

Every moment was laid out

before a single day had passed.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.

They cannot be numbered!

I can't even count them;

they outnumber the grains of sand!

And when I wake up,

you are still with me!

Each and every newborn is a work of art, straight from the hands of God. We must care for these little ones, right?

Now, how many of you have heard of an organization called Compassion International? Maybe some of your families sponsor children through





Priority 4 Compassion Survival



Compassion. It is a wonderful group of people who work hard to provide opportunities to people in need. They provide food for people who are hungry. They provide clean water for people who don't have access to it. They provide education for children who don't get to go to school. And they provide care for little babies who are born, and for the mamas who birth them.

Let me show you an example of how they help. Let's watch this video.

Begin video.



Video

Compassion Survival Video

<http://compassion.com/vbs-resources>



Script Conclusion

Director, say to the group:

Well, as you can see, there is a lot of work to be done, in helping people just like young Cindy and her daughter to survive ... to *thrive*. But the good news is this: you and

I can help! Each day this week, we will spend a few minutes reminding ourselves of the importance of newborn survival in the developing world. Then, each evening, you will have the opportunity to engage in a fun activity at home. And this week, beginning tomorrow and continuing every day that we're together—so that's Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week—we will collect an offering from you that we will send to Compassion International, who is working with churches in each of these places where infant survival is a big problem, to help love those little ones well.

Does that sound like a good idea?

[Yes!] I think so too. Your group leaders and I have met, and we believe that because of the sheer number of campers we have this year, and because of the generous hearts beating inside each one of your chests, we can raise **[cite specific amount here]** dollars this week. Do you believe that we as a group can do that? **[Yes!]** I do too.

Now, how do you think you could raise money? I once read of a group of girls who set up a lemonade stand and then donated the money they made to a cause such as this. I've also heard of boys getting together to mow a few neighbors' lawns and then donate their earnings to a group like Compassion. What else might you do to earn money to contribute to our offering this week?

Take suggestions from the audience. Then say:

These are all fantastic ideas! Here's another fun one, to get you started. This afternoon when you go home, give your parents this sheet, which your leaders will give you as you leave today, and ask your parents if they'd





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be willing to donate a quarter for every baby they know. Do you have a sibling who is a baby? Did a neighbor or teacher you know just have a baby? Is one of your aunts pregnant? Those are all babies whom you know! And if your families consider donating one quarter to represent each of those little one's lives, that could wind up being a lot of money for tomorrow's offering. By the end of the week, we might just hit our goal!

But you can do more than simply raise money. Did you know that you also can raise awareness? This simply means helping yourself and others remember how important babies are to God. You might commit to saying a prayer every night this week for babies who are struggling to survive. If you have a sibling who is a baby, it might mean helping your mom tend to your baby brother or sister this week ... changing diapers, playing with baby, feeding baby, and so forth. It might mean seeing a neighbor walking a baby in a stroller and asking your mom if you can go tell that mama how special her baby is to God. What are some other things you might do, to "raise awareness" of the importance of babies this week?

Take input. Then say:

Great ideas, campers! And while raising that much money and doing that much good will be gratifying in and of itself, I have a little Director Deal I'd like to make with you. If our group does, in fact, raise **[cite specific amount here]** dollars by the end of our time together on Thursday, then I am going to do something unbelievable. Actually, *all* of us leaders are going to do something unbelievable. If you campers band together and raise **[cite amount]** dollars, then all of us leaders

are going to show up on Friday wearing baby bonnets and sucking on binkies. Who knows what a binkie is? Yes! A pacifier. What baby doesn't love a good pacifier?

All right, now you are going to go with your group leader to your activity spots, where you will participate in a fun activity related to babies. Have a great day, campers!

Dismiss group to pre-determined activity centers.

Activity

Baby Sketch Artist

Each camper needs:

- One thin paper plate, on which is written around the edge, "Babies Matter to God"
- Access to permanent markers, various colors

Instructions:

- 1 Be sure that each camper has one paper plate and one marker.
- 2 Divide the group into pairs and explain the rules: on your "go," the first person in each pair will place the paper plate atop his or her head and work to sketch a picture of a baby onto the plate, [without moving or looking at the plate]. They will have sixty seconds to complete their drawing.
- 3 After the first sixty seconds expires, the other person in the pair will take a turn.
- 4 Once both partners have completed a drawing, they will vote on which of the two sketches looks more like an actual baby, and they will present to the rest of the group their winner.
- 5 Before moving on, talk with your group about the fact that God loves every baby, no matter what they look like or where they're born.





Take-Home

Bible Drill :: Babies Matter to God

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Take home their “Bible Drill :: Babies Matter to God” handout and complete the exercise with a parent, sibling, or friend.
- Take home the “Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies” handout so that parents can participate in the Quarter-per-Newborn challenge.
- Ask their parents what chores they might be able to do this week, to raise awareness or money for this week’s “Compassion Survival” offering.
- Pray with their family for mamas and babies around the world in need of care today.

TUESDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

As I mentioned yesterday, we will be spending a few minutes during our opening assembly each day to talk about a very important subject. Who remember what that subject is? **[Yes! Babies—specially, helping mamas and their newborn babies to survive and thrive in the developing world.]**

Yesterday, we talked about the fact that some people in the world don’t have the resources or opportunities necessary to help their babies survive childbirth, a reality which causes tragic problems for children

and their families alike. Last night, you were encouraged to complete a Bible drill on the subject of babies. How many of you figured them all out? Excellent!

Now, you also were given a challenge last night to begin raising money and also awareness to help babies around the world. How many of you were able to engage in these ways yesterday? Outstanding! What are some of the things you did?

Take input. Then say:

Your leaders are walking around right now to collect your offerings, for those who have them. I will give you our total tomorrow morning and again each morning of this week. Keep working hard, campers! Every dollar makes a big, big difference. To all of you who invested your time and energy in this cause yesterday, *thank you*. Your thoughts and prayers and acts of service go a long way in meeting this pressing need.

Well, this morning, I want to talk with you about something called *stress*. Who knows what “stress” means?

Take input. Then say:

Yes, stress is that sensation you get when you’re totally overwhelmed. You can’t think straight, because it seems like the pressures surrounding you are just too great. Now, since we are working this week to help mamas around the world, let’s talk for a moment about stress that a mama might face.

How many of you have ever seen your own mom stressed? Yeah? Most of you! What types of things stress her out?

Take input. Then say:



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You've named some good ones. Sometimes moms get stressed when kids are fighting with each other, right? Or when they need to be somewhere ten minutes ago and we're still tying our shoes. Or when they don't have time to cook dinner and yet know that everyone needs to eat. Lots of things can stress a mom, right?

Well, in the developing world, many moms feel stress as well. They feel stressed when they don't have food to give a hungry baby. That would be stressful, right? Or they feel stressed when it's hot outside and there is no water to drink. They feel stressed when their baby is sick and there is no medicine to be found.

Director Note: Have an empty balloon in hand here.

I have in my hand an empty balloon. We like balloons, don't we? Let's pretend that this balloon represents a mom's ability to deal with life each day. Now, in the developing world, stressors come at this mom every minute of every day. We've named a few of them. Can you remind me what they are?

Take input. Between each correct guess, such as "not enough food," "no water," or "no medicine for her baby," blow up the balloon a little bit more. Once the balloon is filled to capacity, hold the neck tight so that no air escapes. Then say:

You can see what's happening to this mom as the day goes on, right? She is being stretched thinner and thinner and thinner. What do you think would happen if I kept putting "stress" into this balloon? Yes! Eventually, it would pop. And that's how many mamas in places all over the world feel today.

They are so stressed that they think they might pop.

I want to show you something beautiful. As you and I work to raise money this week for our "Survival" priority, guess what we are doing?

Let a little air out of the balloon. Then say:

We are taking some of the mamas' stress away. [Let a little more out.] We are providing food. [Let more air out.] And water. [More air out.] And medicine for their sick babies. [More air out.] As we are faithful to share the opportunities that God has given to us, we help relieve a burden they never were meant to bear.

Let all remaining air out of the balloon. Then say:

Campers, isn't that wonderful? It is. It really is.

Now, allow me dismiss you to your activity centers, which your leaders will direct you toward, so that you can do a fun activity that will help you remember to pray for these mamas and their babies this week.

Be sure leaders have containers for collecting offerings. Then, dismiss groups to activity centers.





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Activity

Balloon Stress Balls

Each camper needs:

- One decorative balloon, such as a blue balloon with white stars or a white balloon with green zig-zags (uninflated)
- One empty, dry 16.9-ounce water bottle
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- Additionally, each leader needs:
- A set of funnels, such as the three-pack sold at dollar stores
- A black permanent marker

Instructions:

- 1 Using a funnel, have each camper pour his or her flour into his or her dry water bottle.
- 2 Carefully wrap the neck of the balloon around the opening of the water bottle and pour the full amount of flour into the balloon. Leaders may need to assist campers in applying adequate pressure to get the balloon totally full.
- 3 After all of the flour has been transferred to the balloon, pinch the balloon off of the water bottle and tie a knot in the balloon's neck.
- 4 Wipe away excess flour from the balloon and write the camper's initials on the side of the stress ball.
- 5 Talk with campers about how fun it is to play with a stress ball/balloon. Invite them to take this opportunity as they play with their new stress balls this week to pray for God to take stress away from moms and babies around the world who find themselves in challenging situations.

Take-Home

Stress-Ball Prayers

Encourage campers to take the following two steps tonight:

- Take home their balloon stress ball and remember to pray for moms and babies in crisis around the world.
- Engage in one fundraising activity to help raise money for the "Survival" priority.

WEDNESDAY

Director Note: Consider coming to assembly wearing disposable diapers all over your body—on your arms, on your legs, around your neck, stuck to your front and back, etc.



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Good morning! Hey! Why are you all looking at me funny? Do I have food in my teeth? Do I have gum stuck to my shoe? What is it? What's the deal?

Take input. Then say:

Oh! Right! These. Yes: I have a few diapers stuck to me. I'm so glad you noticed.

Can anyone guess why I have all of these diapers stuck to me?

Take input. Then say:

You guessed it! We are going to talk about diapers today. Did you know that when you were a baby, you wore one of these? How many of you remember doing that?

Now, who can tell me why babies wear diapers? Why don't they just go potty like the rest of civil society?



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Take input. Then say:

That's right! Babies wear diapers for a while because they are born not knowing how to go to the bathroom. What else are babies born not knowing how to do?

Take input. Then say:

Boy, babies sound pretty incapable to me. In fact, babies are *totally* dependent on other people when they are born. They can't walk. They can't talk. They can't eat steak. They can't potty in a potty. So many things babies can't do!

Based on all of this, do you think that babies are fragile or not fragile?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! They are pretty fragile beings, aren't they? Do you think this makes them vulnerable or not so vulnerable?

Take input. Then say:

This makes them very vulnerable to all sorts of problems, right? Campers, I want you to think about something: By working so hard to raise money for babies and their mamas, you are coming alongside a very vulnerable little human being and saying, "Here. Let me help you."

Is that something Jesus would do or would not do? **[Would do!]** Yes. And because of your generosity, you look a lot like Jesus this week.

Before we dismiss for our activity, I'd like to hear from three of you about something you did last night to raise money for our "Survival" priority. Who has something to share?

Take input. Then say:

Well done, good and faithful servants. Now, to your activity centers. Leaders, your groups are dismissed.

Activity

Diaper Derby

Each group needs:

- Several rolls of toilet paper

Instructions:

- 1 Pick a number between one and ten and have campers try to guess your number.
- 2 Whoever guesses closest is your group's "baby."
- 3 Have the "baby" stand in the middle of your group, and hand every other group member a roll of toilet paper.
- 4 Explain that on your "go," the group is to work as fast as possible to fashion a diaper on the "baby" using only toilet paper. They will have sixty seconds only, so they need to work fast.
- 5 Call "go," and cheer on the group as they work. After sixty seconds has expired, tell them to stop working.
- 6 As a group, evaluate how good their diaper looks. Before dismissing, remember to pray for mamas and their babies who appreciate every diaper they receive from Compassion.

Take-Home

Chowtime Chat :: Babies

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Invite their family members to compete in "Chowtime Chat :: Babies."
- Engage in one fundraising activity to help raise money for the "Survival" priority.
- Pray for mamas and their babies around the world who do not have the opportunity to thrive.





THURSDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Well, we have reached day four of our “Compassion Survival” priority, and I’d like to tell you how much money you have raised so far. Are you ready for this?

Reveal the specific amount. Then say:

Now, that is a lot of money, and so I have to ask you kids: How have you raised all these funds? What have you been doing, guys and gals? Whatever it is, it is working! Let me hear some of the ways you have accomplished this amazing feat.

Take input from the audience on the various ways they have earned money this week. Then say:

Thank you all for working so hard these last few days. Keep it up this afternoon, deal?

This morning, I want to talk with you about what’s great about being a kid. Let’s start with this one: Lucky Charms. Do any of you like Lucky Charms?

Or how about this one: footie pajamas. Are those the greatest invention, or what?

Or how about roller skating? Have you guys ever roller skated?

What are some of your favorite parts of being a kid?

Take input. Then say:

One of the most joyous aspects of Compassion’s newborn-survival work is seeing babies grow up to be

children, who do all the things that children love to do.

Show photos on screen from file:

Children in the Developing World.pdf

Then say:

What do you see kids in these photos doing?

Take input as you go. Then say:

It would be tragic, wouldn’t it, to be born but never grow up to be a kid? We want all babies to thrive so that they can be healthy and strong boys and girls just like you, and that is exactly the work that your acts of service and heartfelt prayers and offerings this week are supporting, campers. Way to go, every one of you. You are doing noble work.

Well, one thing a lot of kids—maybe even you!—like to do is play with Play-Doh, which is what you’ll be doing in today’s activity center. I think you’ll enjoy your time there. Leaders, your groups are dismissed.

Activity

Play-Doh Babies

Each camper needs:

- One thin, dessert-size paper plate
- Access to Play-Doh, various colors
- Access to a permanent marker

Instructions:

- 1 Pass out one plate to each camper, and using the permanent marker, have him or her write his or her name on the back.
- 2 Have campers select a Play-Doh color, and give each a palm size ball of the clay.
- 3 Ask campers to mold a realistic-looking baby





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out of their clay. As they work, remind them that God handcrafted each of us from dirt and clay, fashioning a masterpiece he referred to as “good.”

- 4 Once everyone is finished, have each camper explain his or her creation.



Take-Home

Baby Talk Word Scramble

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Complete the “Baby Talk Word Scramble” handout with a sibling or parent.
- Engage in one final activity to help raise awareness or money for the “Compassion Survival” priority.
- Pray for mamas and their babies around the world who long for the opportunity to thrive.

FRIDAY

Director Note: Assuming your group hit their goal, come to assembly wearing a baby bonnet and a pacifier. Have a bag with enough bonnets and pacifiers for your entire leadership team, and make a big production of calling them to the stage and having them “dress baby.”



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Hello, campers! I have good news for you all! Can anyone guess what that good news might be? Does the fact that I’m wearing a baby bonnet and a have a pacifier clipped to my t-shirt give you a clue? Yes! You did it! You

hit the goal for the week! You worked hard, and you raised awareness, and you raised *a lot of money*, and now look at me! This is what happens when your campers do good work: we leaders wind up looking a little goofy.

But we’re more than happy to look goofy today, because it means that lots and lots of mamas and their babies are going to receive the care that they need ... all because of you! Well done, kids, well done. The other leaders and I would like to give you a round of applause ...

Have leaders return to their groups. Then say:

Boys and girls, what you’ve demonstrated this week is your understanding that we all need each other, to make it in this life. Some of you may have come across a verse from Acts 2, so these words might sound familiar to you. Here is what verses 44-45 say: “And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need.”

Do those actions sound familiar? Haven’t we been meeting together in one place this week? And haven’t you been sharing everything you have with people in need all over the world? Didn’t some of you sell things and share the money you made with those in need? **[Yes!]**

Gang, this was God’s vision for us as his followers, that we would share our opportunities and resources with each other, so that nobody would be in need. He longs for us to walk through life together, helping those who need help, caring for those who need care, being in this thing all together, so that together, we can thrive.



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Now, I'd like to demonstrate this idea, and for that, I need a couple of volunteers.

Invite two similarly sized kids to the stage.

Then say:

Can you two kids sit cross-legged, back-to-back? Now that you're seated, please interlock your arms behind you.

Now, boys and girls, do you think that these two campers can stand up without unlinking their arms? Should we have them try? **[Yes!]**

All right, my two volunteers, give it a try.

While keeping their arms linked, have the volunteers try to stand up. Then say:

Campers, they did it! Do you think if we added two more campers to the chain that all four people could stand up while keeping their arms linked? Should we give it a try? **[Yes!]**

Invite two more campers to the stage. Then say:

All right, kids. Can all four of you sit in a tight circle with your backs facing each other and link your arms with the person on your left and on your right?

Campers, do you think they can stand up without unlinking their arms? **[Yes!]** Let's give it a try! Volunteers, ready? Set? Go!

Cheer on foursome as they work to stand up with arms remaining linked. Then say:

Now, this was pretty impressive, but I think we can do better still. What if we double this chain? Would *eight* campers be able to stand up?

Add another four volunteers to the chain, and have that group work to stand up without unlinking their arms. Then say:

Again, I'm impressed. But I think we can do better still. You eight volunteers, I'd like you to move your circle to the floor ... can everyone scoot back to make room for these eight? I'm going to select eight more volunteers, and let's see if *sixteen* people can rise together.

Choose eight more campers, and have the group of sixteen give it a try. Then say:

Girls and boys, what would happen if all of us in this room linked arms and tried to stand while our arms stayed linked? Do you think we could do that? **[Yes!]**

Direct leaders and campers as necessary, until everyone is sitting in a circle, with their backs to the center of the circle and their arms linked to those on their left and right. Give a countdown from five, and have the entire camp endeavor to rise at the very same time, without breaking the chain. Then say:

We did it! Friends, this is a picture of God's beautiful vision for his people, that as long as we stay linked to each other and to him, we'll *always* be able to rise.

Always remember that you are a valuable link in the chain, boys and girls. You have wonderful talents and gifts to offer to those in need, and God hopes that you will use those talents and gifts to keep doing good in the world.

Let me pray for you as you head to your activity centers.

Pray for group.

Have a great day, campers!





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Activity

Tape Art

Each camper needs:

- One heavy-weight piece of art paper
- One-half of a thick dollar-store sponge
- One paper plate, to serve as a palette
- One wheel of masking tape

Each group needs:

- Tempera paints in a variety of colors
- One permanent marker
- One disposable table cloth

Instructions:

- 1 Write campers' names on sheets of art paper; then, hand each camper his or her piece of art paper, a sponge-half, and a wheel of masking tape.
- 2 Instruct campers to spell out their name on their paper using the tape as the writing instrument. [Younger campers may need assistance.] If campers wish, they could also "write" a heart, a cross, or another symbol instead of their name.
- 3 While campers are "taping" their names, place dollops of tempera paints in a variety of colors around each camper's plate.
- 4 Using their sponges, have campers paint their entire piece of art paper, including over the tape they put down.
- 5 While pictures dry, talk with campers about the fact that God knows their name, that God loves them just as they are, and that God has a special plan for their lives. Ask why it matters in a person's life to understand these three truths. Then, have them take turns praying for moms and their babies around the world who many not yet know these three truths.

Take-Home

Bedtime Prayer for Babies

Hand one copy of the "Bedtime Prayer for Babies" to each camper. Encourage them to take the following two steps tonight:

- Pray the Bedtime Prayer for Babies on behalf of babies from all parts of the world who don't yet know God's provision and love.
- Thank God for the opportunity to help moms and their babies in need this week.

Donate

Online at
[Compassion.com/VBSpriorities](https://www.compassion.com/VBSpriorities)

Donate By Mail:

To participate, just make out a check for your donations to "Compassion International" and write "584566" on your check's memo line along with the "MISSION PRIORITY" — then mail to:

Compassion International
12290 Voyager Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80921





Priority 5 Youth Development



DID YOU KNOW?

- Every young person deserves to dream big and to reach his or her God-given potential?
- Without intentional training and development, children in the developing world are forced to watch their dreams die?
- Youth-development interventions are a proven means to reversing global poverty's generations-long cycle?

Compassion's Youth Development priority includes a broad spectrum of opportunities tailored to the individual and designed to help young people achieve the goals they have set for themselves. Trained staff members work with young people to help those young people discover their gifts and passions. Together, they develop a life plan that will lead to success and fulfillment. This plan is regularly reviewed as the young person maps out a path to becoming a responsible, contributing member of his or her community.

How will the money that your group raises help?

It will fund interventions such as these:

- Knowledge of Christian leadership principles
- Access to secondary school, seminary, and third-level education
- Tutoring for entrance examinations
- Support for students through institute training and leadership development
- Vocational training and apprenticeships
- Training in job-search skills and computer literacy
- Enrichment camps and retreats
- Education in business, entrepreneurship, and finance for start-ups
- Provision of equipment and needed materials
- Micro-enterprise opportunities including seed capital and micro-loans

The aim of Compassion's Youth Development priority is to ensure that young people are empowered to reach

for their dreams and continue their journey out of global poverty. By providing access to second- and third-level education, discipleship, vocational training and much more, you can empower young people to change their lives, their communities, and even their countries.

The following activities have been designed with you in mind. VBS or summer camp is a fast-moving, high-energy environment involving children of a variety of ages and stages; our goal in presenting these elements is to grab campers' attention, build awareness in their minds for the topic at hand, carve out new capacity in their hearts for a compassionate response, and call them to clear, doable action within the confines of a typical five-day VBS or summer camp week. Read on, for details on implementing the "Youth Development" priority.

MONDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Good morning! We are going to take a few minutes during our opening assembly to talk about a very important subject: *dreams*. To begin, I have a question for you: Have you ever dreamed about what you want to be when you grow up? Raise your hand if you've ever dreamed about becoming something when you grow up ... who would like to share that dream with the rest of us?

Take ten to twelve responses from audience. Then say:

Well, there are all sorts of dreams, aren't there? Some of us want to be doctors who help people who are sick.





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Some of us want to be actors who appear in movies. Some of us want to be firefighters who rescue people from harm. Some of us want to grow up to be mamas and daddies who raise people who change the world. These are all wonderful dreams, aren't they?

I think there is a dream inside each one of us, and for most of you, simply because of the blessing of being born where you were born into the family you were born into, you will be able to pursue your dream and see it become reality. This is a wonderful gift, isn't it? To have a dream come true?

In fact, in the Bible, we learn that God has a "dream" in mind for each one of us ... Jeremiah 29:11 calls it a *plan*. God has a plan—a big dream!—for each of us, to give us a future and a hope.

But did you know that while all boys and girls have dreams inside of them, not all boys and girls get to see those dreams come to pass? Sometimes, because children don't have the blessing of being born into a family that has opportunities or into a country that can afford to help them chase their dreams, those dreams simply ... die.

Isn't that a terrible thing to see happen? There is nothing quite so sad as a dream that dies. And yet too often, that's exactly what happens. Because of something called poverty—which simply means lacking opportunities to thrive in life, kids don't get to pursue their dreams.

Poverty might look like not having enough nutritious food to eat. It might look like not having access to clean water. It might look like not having a warm, dry place to sleep at night. And

it also can look like not getting to go to school or not getting to have extra training classes that teach you how to be what you want to be.

But there is good news for us today, because we can do something to help keep other kids' dreams from dying!

Do you believe that? **[Yes!]** Good! Because it's true. Before I tell you about an amazing opportunity that we have this week to help kids who are dreaming big, I'd like you watch this short video.

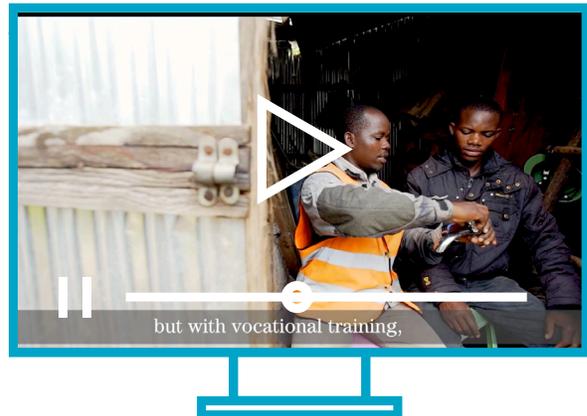
Begin video.



Video

Youth Development Video

<http://compassion.com/vbs-resources>



Script Conclusion

Director, say to the group:

Well, as you can see, there is a lot of work to be done, in helping people just like John and his nephew see their dreams turned into reality. And





Priority 5 Youth Development

as we talked about earlier, you and I can help! Each day this week, we will spend a few minutes reminding ourselves of the importance of finding and fueling big dreams. Each evening, you will have the opportunity to engage in a fun activity at home. And this week, beginning tomorrow and continuing every day that we're together—so that's Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week—we will collect an offering from you that we will send to Compassion International, who is working with churches in each of these places where young people's dreams are just *begging* to come true.

Does that sound like a good idea?

[Yes!] I think so too. Your group leaders and I have met, and we believe that because of the sheer number of campers we have this year, and because of the generous hearts beating inside each one of your chests, we can raise [cite specific amount here] dollars this week. Do you believe that we as a group can do that? **[Yes!]** I do too.

Now, how do you think you could raise money? I once read of a group of girls who set up a lemonade stand and then donated the money they made to a cause such as this. I've also heard of boys getting together to mow a few neighbors' lawns and then donate their earnings to a group like Compassion. What else might you do to earn money to contribute to our offering this week?

Take suggestions from the audience. Then say:

These are all fantastic ideas! Here's another fun one, to get you started. This afternoon when you go home, give your parents this "Bright Futures for All" handout, which your leaders will give you as you leave

today, and ask your parents and/or grandparents if they'd be willing to donate a quarter for every dream they've seen come true—big dreams, small dreams, dreams in their lives, dreams in the lives of people they know. That could wind up being a lot of money for tomorrow's offering, if we all participate. By the end of the week, we might just hit our goal!

But wait! There's more! Because in addition to raising money to help the Youth Development priority this week, you can also help raise *awareness*. This just means you can help yourself and others remember how important it is not just to pursue our own dreams, but also to be the kind of people who help other people's dreams come true too.

And while raising that much money and doing that much good will be gratifying in and of itself, I have a little Director Deal I'd like to make with you. If our group does, in fact, raise [cite specific amount here] dollars by the end of our time together on Thursday, then I am going to do something unbelievable.

Here is my deal for you: If our camp can raise [cite specific amount] dollars by the end of Thursday, then I will show up Friday morning dressed like what I wanted to be when *I* grew up, back when I was a kid like you. Sound like a good plan? I think so too.

All right, now you are going to go with your group leader to your activity spots, where you will play a game related to the story of John's, whom you met in this morning's video. Have a great day, campers!"

Dismiss group to pre-determined activity centers.





Activity

John's Story :: A Memory Game

Each camper needs:

- One "John's Story :: A Memory Game" handout
- Crayons or colored pencils
- One pair of scissors
- One quart-sized zip-close bag, labeled with his or her name

Instructions:

- 1 Pass a handout to each camper and have him or her color the various scenes/images representing the key elements of John's story, which they saw in today's video. **NOTE: The group leader also needs to color and cut out a set of game pieces.**
- 2 Once a camper finishes coloring the scenes, have him or her cut out the twenty game pieces and put them into his or her zip-close bag to take home.
- 3 When everyone is finished coloring, cutting, and securing game pieces for taking home, the leader should lay out his or her set of memory cards face-down, and play "memory" with the group. To play, have a camper select one card to turn face-up. That camper should then try to find the card's match by selecting one more card and turning it face-up. If there is a match, then have the camper try to recall how the image he/she matched related to John's story. For example, if the scooter was matched, the camper might say, "When John and his nephew go to work, they ride together on a scooter."
- 4 After all of the cards are matched, the leader should lead the group in a prayer of thanksgiving for God's work in turning John's dream into reality.

Take-Home

John's Story :: A Memory Game

Encourage campers to take the following four steps tonight:

- Take home their zip-close bag containing "John's Story :: A Memory Game" and play with a friend or family member. Try to retell John's Story as the game unfolds.
- Take home the "Bright Futures for All" handout and invite their parents and/or grandparents to donate a quarter for each dream they have seen become reality throughout their lifetime. Those monies should be brought to group leaders on Tuesday morning.
- Ask their parents what chores they might be able to do this week, to earn money for the "Youth Development" priority.
- Pray with their family for people around the world who lack opportunity to see their dreams become reality.

TUESDAY

Director Note: For this assembly, be sure to collect ahead of time and bring along a variety of common tools used in everyday occupations.

Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

As I mentioned yesterday, we will be spending a few minutes during our opening assembly each day to talk about a very important subject. Who remember what that subject is? **[Yes! Dreams!]** Yesterday, we talked about





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the fact that some people in the world don't have the opportunity to pursue their dreams, a reality which causes tragic problems for boys and girls and their families. During your activity time, you were able to learn about a man named John who dreamed when he was a little boy of becoming a plumber someday. Do I have any aspiring plumbers in the room? You know just how John felt!

How many of you took home your memory game and retold John's story for your family or friends? It's a great story, isn't it? People like John are the ones benefiting from our work to raise money this week for Compassion's youth-development priority.

Now, all of you were given a challenge last night to have your family donate one quarter per dream realized. How many of you remembered to do that? Great job! And you brought your quarters with you today? Excellent. Your leaders will collect it momentarily. That money will go a long way in helping boys and girls around the world see their dreams become reality.

I'd like to talk for a moment about the opportunities needed for a boy or girl to become what they want to become in life. Are you ready for a little quiz? I'm going to hold up a resource, or a tool, and you tell me what job the resource would help someone do, okay?

Director Note: Adjust the following script portion to fit the tools you have on hand.

First, I have in my hand a hammer. What type of work might a hammer

help someone to do?

Take input from audience. Then say:

Yes! A construction worker would use a hammer. Okay, what about this one: a pencil?

Take input from audience. Then say:

A teacher would use a pencil. As would an engineer. A cartographer. All good ideas. Okay, what about this: a dining tray?

Take input from audience.

Continue on with whatever items you brought. Then, hold up the "Opportunity" handout and deliver the following remarks.

Can anyone read what my sign here says? It has a big word on it: *Opportunity*. Who can tell me what "opportunity" means?

Take input from audience. Then say:

Yes! An "opportunity" is simply a chance. Did you know that before you need any of these other tools to fulfill your dream of becoming a carpenter or a caterer or a teacher or an actor that you first need a resource called an opportunity?

And yet in so many parts of the world, boys and girls are never given the chance to chase their dreams.

This is what the money that you're raising will be used for, kids. Your offerings will help fund training classes for boys and girls who really want a chance to become something amazing but who otherwise couldn't become that thing at all. Your kindness will help fund their chance, their opportunity for success. How does that sound?

Good? I think so, too. Now, allow me to dismiss you to your activity centers, which your leaders will direct you toward.





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Be sure leaders have containers for collecting Quarter-per-Dream offerings. Then, dismiss groups to activity centers.

Activity

Dreamers, One and All

Each camper needs:

- One toilet-paper-roll core
- One career template
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Access to scissors
- Access to a glue stick
- Access to a permanent marker

Instructions:

- 1 Have each camper color his or her vocation template.
- 2 After cutting out the colored template, have the camper glue the template to a toilet-paper-roll core.
- 3 Using a permanent marker, have campers write their names on the back of their paper cores.
- 4 When the entire group has completed the activity, take turns saying a prayer for each boy and girl in the developing world who longs to participate in each of those career fields.

Take-Home

Chasing the Dream

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Take home their “Chasing the Dream” handout and complete the quiz.
- Engage in one activity to help raise awareness or money for the “Youth Development” priority.
- Pray for children around the world who do not have the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

WEDNESDAY

Director Note: Consider showing up for assembly with dozens of self-stick notes stuck to various places on your face and clothes, each of which bears the name of a fruit of the Spirit, such as, “Joy!” or, “Peace!”

Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Can anyone see these labels I'm wearing this morning? Let me have a few of you who are able to read come up here and help me tell the rest of the group what they say.

Choose a few boys and girls to come up front.

Then say:

All right, kids. Let's hear what my labels say.

Have helpers take turns reading the labels, which say, 'Peace,' 'Joy,' 'Patience,' etc. Once they have read them all, have the kids take their seats again. Then say:

Does anyone know what this list of characteristics is called in the Bible? [Take guesses.]

Yes! These are the “fruit of the Spirit.” These characteristics are things that you naturally manifest whenever you're in relationship with Jesus.

Have you ever noticed that you have some friends who just make you feel joyful every time you're with them? Or how an older brother or sister can be so very patient with you? Have you noticed that your mom or dad tends to be really kind or loving? This is the fruit of the Spirit at work in their lives!





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Now, we've been talking this week about how important it is for us to help fund the vocational dreams of young people in the developing world, but I want to remind you that you're also helping them with something that happens inside a person's life: their ability to manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

Did you know that when you help lift a person from poverty, you help them become more joyful at the same time?

When you begin to provide opportunities for a boy or girl—things like food to eat, water to drink, and a chance to learn how to do a particular job—you empower them to see their situation as God sees it—and hopefully to respond with God's perspective of joy, peace, kindness, and love. Isn't that amazing?

Did you know that as part of Compassion's Youth Development priority, they work to teach kids lessons from the Bible? Let me show you a picture of a job-training class. What does it look like these kids are doing?

Show photo on screen from file:
Worship in class Kenya.jpg

Take input, then say to the group:

Yes! They are praying! They are reading their Bibles. They are learning about God. And what types of characteristics do you think will flow from their lives as they learn more about God? Yes! Things like love and joy and peace. Things like kindness and faithfulness and gentleness.

Take a look at this video short of children learning to memorize a Bible verse in their own language. Does this remind anyone of AWANA or VBS or summer camp?

Show video.



Video

Spiritual Development of Children in Poverty

<http://blog.compassion.com/spiritual-development-children-poverty/>



Script Conclusion

Director, say to the group:

Isn't it good to see the type of work that your prayers, generous acts of service, and offerings will accomplish? I surely think so. Let me release you to your activity centers, so that you have plenty of time to engage with today's activity. As you gather in your groups, your leaders are ready to receive today's offerings. On your mark! Get set! Go!





Activity

The Me I Hope to Be

Note: leaders may need 2–3 copies of the tags, in case more than one camper selects a particular tag.

Each camper needs:

- One Fruit of the Spirit tag, cut out from full sheet of nine tags
- One “Me I Hope to Be” dream board
- A pencil or pen

Instructions:

- 1 Hand out supplies to each camper and then ask each one to select the Fruit of the Spirit tag that represents the characteristic they hope to possess the most of, as they grow up. Do they want to be a patient person? Or a joyful person? Or a gentle person? What is the inner-person dream they hold most dear?
- 2 Have campers glue the tag that bears the trait they most desire for themselves onto the proper spot on their “Me I Hope to Be” Dream Board.
- 3 In the open square beside the Fruit of the Spirit tag, have campers draw a picture of what they imagine a “patient” or “joyful” or “self-controlled” person boy or girl looks like.
- 4 Once everyone has completed the activity, go around the circle and have campers explain why they selected the tag they did. Then, pray that God would give boys and girls in the developing world the power to manifest that same trait.

Take-Home

Chowtime Challenge :: Big Futures, Big Dreams

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Invite their families to take the Chowtime Challenge related to dreams over dinner.
- Engage in one fundraising activity to help raise money for the “Youth Development” priority.
- Pray for children around the world who long for the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

THURSDAY



Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

Well, we have reached day four of our Youth Development priority, and I'd like to tell you how much money you have raised so far. Are you ready for this?

Reveal the specific amount. Then say:

Now, that is a lot of money, and so I have to ask you kids: How have you raised all these funds? What have you been doing, guys and gals? Whatever it is, it is working! Let me hear some of the ways you have been earning money. Raise your hand if you have something to say.

Take input from the audience on the various ways they have earned money this week.

I know that others of you have been praying this week for children who long to pursue their dreams. Still others of you have helped with acts of service. To you all, I say thank you. Thank you for working so hard.

This morning, I want to tell you a story about a boy named Ramadhani, who grew up in Tanzania. Does anyone know what continent





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Tanzania is on? [Take guesses.] Yes! It's on the continent of Africa.

While you continue, show photo of Ramadhani from file: Ramadhani.jpg

Ramadhani grew up in challenging circumstances. His brother passed away when he, Ramadhani, was young, and because his parents were having troubles of their own, Ramadhani went to live with his grandmother. Eventually, Ramadhani was invited to be part of the Compassion youth-development program, and soon thereafter, things began to change for the better for him.

Ramadhani's family had no money before, which meant that he could not afford to go to school. In his country, you have to pay for uniforms and supplies, and his family could not afford that. But Compassion paid his school fees and provided Ramadhani with books and supplies. Ramadhani said, "It was a great, great relief!"

What is the topic we've been discussing all week? Who remembers?



Take input. Then say:

Yes! We have been talking about dreams. Well, Ramadhani had a dream. He wanted to grow up to be a police officer. Do any of you have that same dream?

Take input. Then say:

Ramadhani had a sponsor who always wrote him letters, encouraging him to pursue his big dream. Guess what his sponsor told him in those letters he wrote? He said, "Ramadhani, you are precious to God! God has big plans for you! If you commit your life to him, you will make it! You can do it! You will be a *wonderful* police officer someday!"

Well, guess what happened? Ramadhani started believing those encouraging words. One day, a police recruitment office came to visit Ramadhani's school, and Ramadhani was so sure that his sponsor's words were true—that Ramadhani would, in fact, become a police officer someday—that Ramadhani applied for the job.

As it turned out, Ramadhani was the only student from his school to complete the ten-month police-officer-training program and now serves with the Tanzanian Police Force. Isn't that incredible?

Boys and girls, the money you are raising this week helps to pay for school and training classes for people just like Ramadhani, who otherwise would not be able to pursue their dreams. Thank you for working so hard!

I'd like to dismiss you now to your activity centers so that you have plenty of time to work on your Encouragement Phones. Blessings, campers!





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Activity

Encouragement Phones

Note: Consider printing the “Speak Life” and “Listen Up” tags on two different colors of paper before cutting out along dotted lines.

Each camper needs:

- Two large, blue plastic cups, with predrilled holes in the bottom that are large enough to slip a piece of string through
- One foot-long piece of string
- One “Speak Life!” tag
- One “Listen Up!” tag
- Two standard-size paper clips
- School glue

Instructions:

- 1 Pass out two cups, two tags (one of each kind), two paperclips, and one piece of string to each camper.
- 2 Have campers glue one tag onto each of their cups.
- 3 With the bottoms of the cups facing each other, help campers thread their string through both cups.
- 4 Tie a paper clip to each end of the string, to keep the string from slipping from the cup.
- 5 Have campers practice delivering encouraging messages to each other via their new “phones.”

Take-Home

Encourage campers to take the following three steps tonight:

- Take home “God’s Words of Encouragement” handout. Tonight, speak at least one encouraging message to each family member.
- Engage in one final activity to help raise awareness or money for the “Youth Development” priority.
- Pray for children around the world who long for the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

FRIDAY

Director Note: Assuming that your group’s financial goal was met, don’t forget to show up dressed as what you wanted to be when you grew up, when you were a young boy or girl.

Opening Script

Director, say to the group:

It is our final day to discuss our Youth Development priority! Have you enjoyed learning about this pressing need for opportunity around the world, and about how you can be part of that problem’s solution? I know I surely have.

Now, you probably noticed that I’m dressed a little ... differently ... today. What do you think of what I’m wearing this morning?

Take input and then explain why you wanted to have this job, back when you were little.

Yesterday, we talked about how important it was for Ramadhani to receive those encouraging words from his Compassion sponsor, and how those words prompted him to pursue his dream of becoming a police officer. I wonder, how many of you went home last night and spoke some encouraging words to your family members?

Take input. Then say:

Our words hold incredible power, don’t they? We can lift someone up and make them feel happy, or else we can put someone down and make them feel sad ... all with just a few





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words. Now, let's think about this for a moment: It would have been easy for Ramadhani's sponsor to look at Ramadhani's situation and say, "Wow, Ramadhani, it doesn't look very good for you. You don't have a mom or dad around. You don't have food to eat. You don't have many clothes to wear. You can't even afford to go to school. I think things are looking pretty bleak for you.

But what did that sponsor say instead?

Take input. Then say:

Yes! He looked at Ramadhani's life and saw that Ramadhani was a young man who was created in God's image and who had great potential and who could definitely become a police officer someday.

Boys and girls, just as you spoke encouragement to your family last night, straight from the Word of God, you can speak encouragement to everyone you come across in this world, reminding them that they too are created in God's image and are precious to God ... that they were created on purpose for a purpose ... that God has big, big plans for their life.

You can be a rainbow or a rain cloud in people's lives. You can learn of their dreams and reflect light on them, or else you can learn of their dreams and keep your light to yourself. Which type of person do you think you want to be? I want to be a rainbow, don't you?

Insert closure to your original dream. For example, you might say, "You know, even though I really wanted to be an astronaut when I was little, God had a bigger dream for my life. But you know what was wonderful? People who loved

me—my mom, my dad, my grandparents, my teachers, and more—they all encouraged me to love God and trust him with my future and my plans. They were all rainbows in my life! Their encouragement helped me believe that I would become something special someday."

Then say:

All right, campers, let's dismiss so that you have plenty of time to complete today's activity. Enjoy!

Activity

Reflectors of Light

Each camper needs:

Seven ten-inch-long crepe paper streamers, one in each of these colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, pink, and purple

- One-half of a thin paper plate
- Five cotton balls
- One ten-inch piece of string
- Access to a glue stick or tape
- Access to a hole punch
- Access to permanent markers in a variety of colors

Instructions:

- 1 Invite campers to glue or tape the streamers to the straight edge of their half-plates, in color-order of the rainbow as they work from right to left: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, pink, purple.
- 2 Have campers flip over their plates so that the streamers are glued/taped to what is now the back of the plate.
- 3 Using a permanent marker, encourage campers to write in the center of their plates, "I can reflect colorful light today!" Talk with your campers about how God has called them to be light in a dark world, and how they have the power in their words and in their actions to be a supporter of others' dreams today and every day.
- 4 Next, have campers stretch out their cotton balls to look like wispy clouds. Then, have them squeeze





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out ten to twelve dots of glue along the edge of the plate and press the spread-out cotton balls onto the glue.

- 5** With adult supervision, have campers punch a hole into the top of their plate and thread the string through the hole. Help them connect the two ends of the string into a knot so that they can hang their rainbow once at home.



Take-Home

Finding Fun in Work

Give to each camper one copy of the “Finding Fun in Work” handout. Encourage them to take the following three steps tonight:

- Have a parent help them hang their rainbow and pray for kids over the coming days and weeks.
- Complete their “Finding Fun in Work” handout.
- Thank God for the chance to help provide necessary opportunities such as education and training classes for dreamers all over the globe.

Donate

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Compassion.com/VBSpriorities

Donate By Mail:

To participate, just make out a check for your donations to “Compassion International” and write “584566” on your check’s memo line along with the “MISSION PRIORITY” — then mail to:

Compassion International
12290 Voyager Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80921

