

Top Koala-ty Treats

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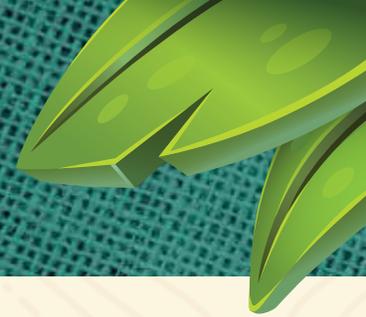


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LEADER GUIDE

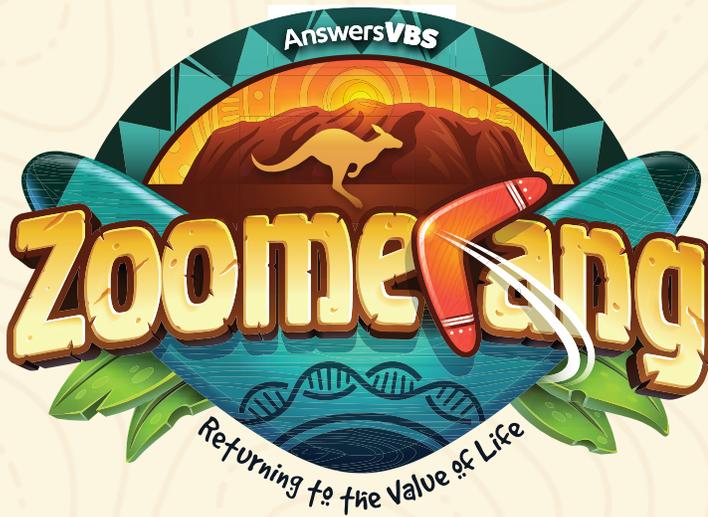
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mentioned in this book from
AnswersUBS.com/zoomresources.**

TOP KOALA-TY TREATS

Course Overview



	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Title	The Beginning of Life: Made in God's Image	The Wonder of Life: Made with Amazing Design	The Value of Life: Made with Worth	Eternal Life: Made for Relationship	Using Your Life: Made for a Reason
Area of Australia	Outback Life at Uluru	Great Barrier Reef Life	Coastal Life	Forest Life	Outback Life at Coober Pedy
Land Down Under Lesson Focus	The Creator of the universe created <i>you!</i> You didn't evolve from an apelike creature.	<i>You</i> are fearfully and wonderfully made, with a body full of awe-inspiring design features.	God values <i>you</i> greatly! Each and every person—young, old, healthy, sick—is a priceless treasure.	God loves <i>you!</i> He loves you so much he sent his only Son to die for you.	<i>You</i> are created on purpose for a purpose.
Bible Passages	Genesis 1:26–28, 2:7–23	Psalm 139:13–16	Matthew 1–2 Luke 2	Select Scriptures	Acts 1:6–11 1 Corinthians 12:12–26
Fair Dinkum Verses	So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27	I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Psalm 139:14	And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. Luke 6:31	Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11:25	For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10
Apologetics Focus	They can't make a monkey out of me! (Ape-men Frauds)	God thought of everything! (Design Features of Our Bodies)	Be a defender of the defenseless! (Protecting and Respecting Life)	SMYLE! God loves you! (Only One Way to Eternal Life)	All I want to do is live each day for you! (Life Has Meaning and Purpose)
Animal Pals	Jumpin' Jack the Kangaroo	Shimmer the Coral	Bill the Platypus	Paula the Koala	Ringo the Dingo
Turtle-y Terrific Science	Bonzer Boomerang Fossil Handprint	Pick Your Brain Making Sense of Senses	Stellar Stethoscope Toothpick Heartbeat	Let's Get "A-Lung" Blood Sample	Mining Cereal Fabulous Fingerprints
Turtle-y Terrific Crafts	Rockin' Dot Art Hop-a-Shot	Crocs and Kangaroos Fitness Game Manta Ray Bookmark	Life Is Precious Photo Frame Playful Platypus	Southern Cross Ornament Koala Pen	Straya Sun Pillow Clay Echidna
Hoppin' Good Games	Jumpin' for Jesus Aussie Rules	PS139 Obstacle Course Reef Thief	King of the Court Let Me Help You	SMYLE! Kickball Animal Pal Dash	Teamwork Towers Dingo Fence
Top Koala-ty Treats	Outback Hat Funky Monkey	Coral Cup Thumbprint Cookie	Celebration Cake Baby in a Blanket	SMYLE! Pizza Koala-fied Cookie	Dingo Puppy Chow Boomerang Bread
Cool Contests	"Lollies" Guessing Game	Team Cheers	Dress-Up Day	"Beaut" of a Bible Challenge	Mission Money Mania



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Top Koala-ty Treats

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Answers
 IN GENESIS®

Handy Helps

Welcome to "Aus-some" Australia!

G'day, mate! Are you ready for the trip of a lifetime as we zoom off to the Land Down Under? Be prepared to experience the jaw-dropping beauty of the Great Barrier Reef, the arid temperature of outback afternoons, the architectural marvels of Australia's modern cities, and the fascinating eucalypt forest, home of the koalas.

At *Zoomerang*, the newest Answers VBS, you'll marvel at the unforgettable wildlife, culture, and beauty of Australia while exploring the wonder and value of life, from the lives of preborn babies to eternal life in the kingdom of God.

Day 1: The Beginning of Life—As we explore the Genesis account that describes the creation of man and woman, we will find that people didn't evolve from ape-men. Instead, we'll discover that Jesus is the author of life.

Day 2: The Wonder of Life—We'll check out the words of King David, who expressed the wonder of being formed by God even before he was born. As we look at the special design features of our bodies, we'll learn that we're fearfully and wonderfully made in God's image.

Day 3: The Value of Life—The book of Matthew tells the account of Jesus' birth and the subsequent killing of Bethlehem's baby boys. As we look at this passage, we'll discover that God wants us to protect and respect all life—no matter how old, young, smart, or physically fit someone is. Every life is precious to God!

Day 4: Eternal Life—As we explore the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we will see there is only one way to have eternal life with God—through repenting of sin and believing in his Son.

Day 5: Using Your Life—When Jesus ascended into heaven, he left his followers with an important mission. We will take a closer look at the truth that we are created for a reason—to glorify God through the good works he has prepared for us to do. Our main mission is to tell others about our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ!

From the minute our mates step off the plane onto Australian soil, they will find themselves on a trip they'll never forget! The day begins at the **Aussie Assembly**, the thrilling opening complete with entertaining welcomes, "aus-some" songs, a mission moment, and prayer. Then we're off to four fun rotation sites:

Land Down Under Lessons—the teaching time. Here, our mates will unearth the value and wonder of all life created by God and for God.

Top Koala-ty Treats—the snack spot. Mates will enjoy delicious tucker (food) at this much-anticipated stop.

Hoppin' Good Games—the recreation location. At this location, mates "av a go" (put in a good effort) at working together as teams and trying out various physical challenges.

Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts—the science, craft, music, mission, and memory verse spot. This location features a wide array of activities to choose from: engaging science experiments to explore, appealing crafts to invent, rockin' songs to sing, fun memory verse games to play, or mission time to explore (for those who want to spend more time than is given during the assembly).

After finishing the day's rotations, everyone heads back to the **Aussie Assembly** for the closing that includes more singing, a creature feature, contest results, and the greatly anticipated daily drama, which is a highlight of the kids' day. The drama features an Aussie game show called *Zoomerang*. Before the game show goes on the air each day, the kids will witness some drama between the staff members who work on the show. Then, when the announcer gives the countdown, the show begins, complete with kids being called from the audience to be contestants.

So grab your Aussie hat and "sunnies," and let's begin our fun-filled adventure at *Zoomerang*!

Our Goal

We are so thankful for how God has chosen to use the Answers VBS programs over the past years! But why did we decide to embark on such an undertaking in the first place, and why are we still at it, by God's grace?

Our primary goal has always been to bring God glory by boldly and unashamedly proclaiming him to a strategic group—young people! From both a biblical and statistical point of view, young people are a big deal. They're not only awesome—we love 'em!—but they're also dearly cherished by our Lord and tend to be soft-hearted toward spiritual things. Researchers generally agree most people become Christians when they're children, so it's apparent this age group is a huge mission field!

Children are loved by their Creator. Jesus said to let them come to him (Luke 18:16). We want children to come to Christ and not be hindered in any way from doing so. To that end, we combine a biblically rich VBS with off-the-chart, irresistible fun. In a day and age when content sometimes suffers, it's critically important to us not to sacrifice rich teaching. But it's also crucial that the most exciting book in the world not come across as boring or irrelevant. We want to reflect our creative, inspiring, joy-giving God who made laughter and fun.

So why do we do it? We want kids around the world to hear about and personally meet our awesome God and understand

how they can receive eternal life through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. We believe VBS is a great way to introduce them to God, as it is one of the biggest outreaches of the year for most churches.

We pray you will find that every prayer prayed, every minute invested, every dollar spent, and every word spoken will bring God glory as you reach kids for Christ. Just remember—VBS is worth it. May God richly bless your VBS. We're praying for you!

Your Role

Your role as the Snack Coordinator is outlined in the following pages. Your responsibilities may include:

- Planning snacks for all age levels
- Organizing the snack donation sign-up
- Buying supplies that have not been donated
- Preparing daily snacks for VBS and/or overseeing others who are helping with snacks
- Monitoring which children have allergies and planning accordingly
- Coordinating the serving of snacks each day

- Making sure key lesson themes are reinforced through the snacks
- Overseeing the cleanup of the snack area(s) each day
- Praying over all aspects of this job before, during, and after VBS

This is *your* guide. Read it carefully and prayerfully, using our suggestions combined with the ideas the Holy Spirit brings to your mind.

So get ready! Get set! God is about to use you and your church to impact lives.

Frequently Asked Questions

The content of *Zoomerang* may be new to you. For a list of helpful articles on the topics covered in this VBS program, please visit AnswersVBS.com/zrfaq.

Terms to Know

Throughout the VBS curriculum, various terms will be used. Here's a list of some of the most common terms to know.

Mates: Friends or buddies are often called “mates” in Australia. Mates at VBS will be the kids.

Tour Groups: Classes of kids will be put in tour groups named after Australian animals (e.g., Kangaroos, Wombats, Sugar Gliders, and Kookaburras).

Group Guides: Adult and teen leaders will be the group guides who get the mates from place to place during VBS. No teaching is required for this position.

Tour Guides: This refers to the teachers at the Land Down Under Lessons.

Aussie Assembly: At this location, everyone joins together for the opening and closing assemblies.

Land Down Under Lessons: This rotation site is where Bible and apologetics teaching occurs.

Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts: At this site, mates participate in exciting science and crafts. There are also options for singing songs, learning memory verses, and exploring missions around the world.

Top Koala-ty Treats: The mates will enjoy some yummy outback eatables at this rotation.

Hoppin' Good Games: At this indoor or outdoor site (outdoor is preferred), the mates will “av a go” (put in a good effort) at fun land and water games.

Fair Dinkum Verses: “Fair dinkum” is an Australian term meaning something that is 100% genuine and truthful. Mates at VBS will learn their fair share of fair dinkum memory verses.

Aus-some Songs: Mates will be singing along with the catchy music of VBS.

Animal Pals: These are our friendly animal mascots used to emphasize the key point of each day's lesson.

Creature Feature: During opening or closing assembly, mates will hear of real-life Australian animals and the amazing design features God has given them.

Toddlers: These are mates who are 2–4 years old.

Pre-Primaries: These are mates who are 4–6 years old or kids who are age 4 through those who have completed “kindy” (kindergarten).

Primaries: These are mates who are 6–9 years old or kids who have completed grades 1–3.

Juniors: These are mates who are 9–12 years old or kids who have completed grades 4–6.

For multiage K–6 teams, we recommend using the Primaries material.

Top 20 Tips for Top Koala-ty Snack Time

1. Psalm 139 teaches that we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. Treat every child with kindness and respect, remembering each is a precious image bearer of God. Our attitude toward and treatment of others will speak volumes.
2. Pray! This is your most important preparation. Give all concerns to the Lord, and watch *him* do great things.
3. After reading the daily snack choices, including the Super Simple Options, Healthy Options, Toddler Options, and extra ideas listed in the Tip Corners, decide which snack you will serve each day. There are also Additional Snack Ideas at the back of the book. Test each recipe ahead of time to learn how to prepare the snack efficiently. Also, check out [Pinterest.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.pinterest.com/AnswersVBS) for pictures of the snacks and fun ways to present them.
4. Don't forget to include VBS workers in your calculations! Offer munchies for adult and teen helpers to grab on the run.
5. Plan two snacks per day for toddlers. See the Toddler Snacks list for suggestions to pair with other ideas in this book. When choosing other options, be mindful of small foods that may be choking hazards for young children (e.g., hot dogs, nuts, marshmallows, raisins or dried fruits, hard or very chewy candies, chunks of cheese or fruit, and popcorn).
6. Calculate your portions based on the daily snack supply list located on the back cover. (Additional ideas are not included on this list.) Make a snack donation list based on what you've chosen, and share it with those in your ministry.
7. Set up a collection area for incoming supplies. Label the supplies for VBS to prevent hungry people from opening unlabeled food. Stockpile your items in a safe place.
8. Check with local restaurants for donations of cups, napkins, and lemonade mix.
9. Assess your stock often. As VBS approaches, purchase what has not been donated.
10. Prepare as much as you are able to ahead of time. Use zippered baggies when possible to hold individual snacks for each child.
11. Be aware of allergies. Some common allergens include nuts (e.g., peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oil, and tree nuts), dyes (red, blue, and yellow), dairy items, berries, gluten, wheat, soy, eggs, and corn. Be vigilant and careful regarding all of this! Plan alternate snacks or ask parents to provide an alternative. It's also helpful to make a list of all the ingredients used in each snack so parents can see if there will be any problematic ingredients. Post the daily list in a visible spot (on the entry doors, at the snack location, at the info counter) and in your Caretaker Handbook.
12. Keep a list of children with allergies and monitor what is being served to them. Make sure all leaders and snack servers are aware of who has what allergies.
13. Enlist help for the preparation station in the kitchen and for the serving station in the refreshment area. If serving indoors, set up the serving station away from kitchen knives, hot pans, and potentially slippery floors. If serving outside, place a table in the shade.
14. Decorate the space so it has kid appeal and hang the "Top Koala-ty Treats" sign. Post a sign announcing the featured food and drink of the day. Check "Decorating Decisions" in the *Director Guide* for more decorating ideas. Play the VBS music CD.
15. Check the daily attendance to get an accurate number of children. Make extra snacks for latecomers.
16. Use good hygiene. Adults must wash their hands before preparing food. Plastic food prep gloves should be worn by food staff, and long hair should be pulled back. Children should take a quick bathroom break and wash their hands before snack time. Use wipes or hand sanitizer for quick hand cleanup.
17. Keep drinks cold in large coolers, such as 10-gallon coolers with a pour spigot.
18. Pray and thank God for the snacks before eating.
19. While the children are eating, reinforce the day's lesson using the Teaching Tie-In given for each snack. (Make sure to have a Bible to read verses that are referenced.) Then use the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts to have fun, guided conversations.
20. Place large, wheeled trash cans with trash bags in the area for quick cleanup.

Toddler Snacks

Day 1

Aussie Fairy Bread

Just three ingredients make up this favorite treat of Aussie kids: white bread, room-temperature butter (1 T. per bread slice), and colorful sprinkles (about 2 T. per bread slice). Remove the crusts from the bread and spread each slice with butter. Put the buttered bread in a container (to catch the stray sprinkles), then shake on a thick layer of sprinkles. Gently press the sprinkles. Cut each slice into triangles. Serve 1–2 pieces per child.



TEACHING TIE-IN

The kids in Australia like to eat this treat called Aussie Fairy Bread. It's a special treat we're excited to have all you special children try. While you're eating it, we hope you remember that each and every child is special to God!

Let's thank God for creating each person in this world, and then we'll eat our yummy Fairy Bread.

Day 2

Skeleton Pretzel Frame

Print the [Skeleton Pretzel Frame sheet](#), one per child. Have children place stick pretzels (about 10–15 per child) and mini pretzels (2–3 per child) on the skeleton. Or you may want to cover pretzel sticks in white chocolate to resemble bones.



TEACHING TIE-IN

Touch your knuckles on your hands. Demonstrate where knuckles are. What do you think those hard things are under your skin? Take responses. Your bones! You have bones from your head to your feet. All your bones together are called your skeleton. Let's see if you can put the bones on your skeleton with pretzel sticks before we eat. Do so, then say:

Let's thank God for making our skeletons in our bodies, and then let's eat.

Day 3

Gingerbread Girls and Boys

Use your favorite gingerbread recipe and girl and boy cookie cutters (available online) to make gingerbread girls and boys. Ice the cookies as pictured. Let the kids add a couple decorations, such as candies and chocolate chips. (Use extra icing as needed for "glue.")



TEACHING TIE-IN

Look at these cute gingerbread girls and boys! We're going to decorate them, but first, listen to this from God's special book, the Bible: Read the first part of [Genesis 5:2](#). God is the one who makes boys and girls like you! And you are very loved and valued by him.

Let's thank God for loving us, and then we'll decorate our cookies and eat!

Day 4

All Smiles

Use various pre-packaged items that are smiley-face foods, or make your own smiley-face goodie. Store-bought possibilities include McCain Smiles Potatoes, Great Value Fruit Smiles, and Gerber Banana Cookies. DIY options include smiley-face sugar cookies, rice cakes with chocolate chip eyes and string licorice mouths, or round crackers with a spray cheese smiley face.



TEACHING TIE-IN

Can you give me a big smile? Pause. It's fun to smile. Do you smile when you see your mom? Your dog? Your friend? Take responses. The best thing that makes me smile is knowing that Jesus loves me and gave his life to save me.

Let's thank God for his love, and then we'll eat our smiley treats.

Day 5

Cloudbursts

Gather a cloud-shaped cookie cutter (available online), watermelon, and blueberries. Cut the watermelon into thin slices, and use the cookie cutter to cut cloud shapes. Place on a paper plate and add several blueberries as “raindrops” coming down from the “cloud” of watermelon.



TEACHING TIE-IN

What does your watermelon look like? Take responses. Yes, a cloud. Our Bible account today teaches us that after Jesus came back to life, he went up to heaven and was hidden in a cloud. Wouldn't that have been amazing to see him leave the ground and go up to heaven? Now he lives in heaven, and someday all his children will live there with him, too. But for now, we have his work to do here on earth.

Let's thank God for giving us jobs to do here for him, and then we'll eat our cloudbursts.

DAY 1

Outback Hat

Ingredients (about 48 cookies)

- 13.1-oz. Oreo Thins
- 48 Rolo chewy caramels
- 16-oz. can chocolate frosting
- 16-oz. can white frosting

Lemon Squash Drink Ingredients

- Powdered lemonade mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Note: “Lemon Squash” is another name for lemonade in Australia.

Basic Supplies

- Piping bag OR zippered baggie and pair of scissors
- Napkins and cups, 1 of each per child
- Stirring spoon
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Pre-prep

1. Mix half the chocolate and half the vanilla frosting well. Place the frosting in a small piping bag or a zippered baggie with a small hole cut diagonally in one of the bottom corners.
2. Pipe some frosting on the bottom of a Rolo and place it in the center of the cookie.
3. Pipe a ring of frosting around the base of the Rolo.
4. Prepare the drink mix according to package directions.

Teaching Tie-In

We’re visiting the outback today as we talk about how human life began. Aboriginal people have lived in the outback for a long time—since the people spread out from the tower of Babel. But they aren’t the very first people who ever lived on earth. How do you think the very first people came to be? *Take responses.*

The Bible is where we turn for answers like this. God’s Word is always true (John 17:17) and always perfect.



Let’s thank God for the Bible, and then we’ll eat our Outback Hats.

Pray, then while eating, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- Have you ever visited Australia? Would you like to?
- If you were going on a trip to Australia, who would you want to go with? Where might you want to go first?
- God created all the different animal kinds, which the animals that now live in Australia came from. Which Australian animal would you most want to see? Why?
- There are more kangaroos that live in Australia than people. Does that make kangaroos more special than people?
- Are people and animals equal? Are animals made in God’s image?

Tip Corner

- Check out the Super Simple Options, the Healthy Options, and the Toddler Options on the following pages. Any of these can work for Day 1 or other days or meetings. They are all yummy and lots of fun!
- If buying the frosting in cans, the easily spreadable variety is great to use.
- Individual drinks are more expensive but require no prep and often no cups.
- For individual drinks any day, substitute juice boxes, juice pouches, or water bottles with “Aussie Agua” or “Ocean Water” printed labels.
- For added fun, use outback-themed napkins and cups.

Day 1 Overview

The Beginning of Life: Made in God's Image

Lesson Focus		Bible Passages	
The Creator of the universe created <i>you</i> ! You didn't evolve from an apelike creature.		Creation of Man Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7-23	
Fair Dinkum Verse	Animal Pal	Cool Contest	
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)	Jumpin' Jack the Kangaroo	"Lollies" Guessing Game	
Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts	Top Koala-ty Treats	Hoppin' Good Games	
Experiments: Bonzer Boomerang and Fossil Handprint Crafts: Rockin' Dot Art and Hop-a-Shot	Outback Hat Funky Monkey	Jumpin' for Jesus Aussie Rules	

DAY 1

Funky Monkey



Ingredients (8 servings—3 crackers per serving)

- 24 round snack crackers, such as Ritz
- Slices of white cheese cut into twenty-four 1 to 1½-inch circles
- 24 mini pretzel pieces broken into smile shapes
- 48 Cheerios
- 48 chocolate chips

Lemon Squash Drink Ingredients

- Powdered lemonade mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Note: “Lemon Squash” is another name for lemonade in Australia.

Basic Supplies

- Zippered baggies, 1 per child
- 1 to 1½-inch round cookie cutter or round measuring tablespoon
- Plates, napkins, and cups, 1 of each per child
- Stirring spoon
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Pre-prep

1. Cut the white cheese into 1 to 1½-inch circles with the cookie cutter or round tablespoon.
2. Put the supplies in bags so the kids can assemble the monkeys before they eat them.
3. For each child to make three monkey crackers, place the following in a zippered baggie: 3 round crackers, 3 round pieces of white cheese, 3 smile-shaped pieces of pretzel, 6 Cheerios, and 6 chocolate chips.
4. Prepare the drink mix according to package directions.

Teaching Tie-In

Have you ever seen something at a zoo you found particularly interesting or fun? Discuss. Have you ever seen a monkey or an ape at a zoo? Take responses. Today, we’re talking about how we don’t share an ancestor



with apes. God made all the awesome kinds of animals, and then he made his most special creation—Adam and Eve. There’s no missing link between apes and man. People are people, and apes are apes.

Pray and thank God for being made in his image and for the Funky Monkey snack. Have the kids assemble their three funky monkeys, then eat. While eating, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- Have you ever visited Australia? Would you like to?
- If you were going on a trip to Australia, who would you want to go with? Where might you want to go first?
- God created all the different animal kinds, which the animals that now live in Australia came from. What Australian animal would you most like to see and why?
- What does it mean to be made in God’s image? Answers can include being able to create, enjoy beauty, talk in full sentences, and have a relationship with God.

- One animal you won't see in the wild is a monkey. They don't live in Australia.
- Do you think a monkey is made in God's image? A kangaroo? A sea turtle? Only people are made in God's image.

Tip Corner

- Any 1 to 1½-inch food-safe kitchen object or mini cup can be used as the circle cookie cutter. Our cheese circles were 1¾ inches.

Super Simple Option

"Icy Poles"—Ice pops are called "icy poles" in Australia.

Healthy Options

"Rockmelon"—Cantaloupe is called rockmelon in Australia. When serving the rockmelon, talk about Ayers Rock (also called Uluru—OO-loo-roo).

Banana Mini Muffins or Aussie Bites—Bake your favorite banana mini muffin recipe or buy Aussie Bites,

which are available at Costco or online. As you serve up these delicious snacks, remind the mates that we don't share an ancestor with apes—"They can't make a monkey out of me."

Bite of Australia Option

Every day, a famous Australian favorite is mentioned. Give each child one bite so they can try it!

Vegemite—This iconic Australian food is a favorite among locals. Spread 1–2 T. on a piece of toast, cut into small, one-bite squares or strips, and enjoy. Don't be surprised if the mates don't love it; it's an acquired taste. But it's good to try such an Aussie classic.

Toddler Option

Check the Toddler Snacks for daily suggested snacks with Teaching Tie-Ins and photos.

If you choose to serve other snack options included in this book, make sure they are safe for toddlers, with no choking hazards.

DAY 2

Coral Cup



Ingredients (24 servings)

- 8.5-oz. bag crunchy Cheetos
- Two 8-oz. cans spray cheese
- Two 6.6-oz. bags colorful Goldfish crackers

Ocean Wave Drink Ingredients

- Powdered blue drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Basic Supplies

- 5-oz. clear blue plastic cups, 1 per child
- Napkins and cups, 1 of each per child
- Stirring spoon
- Drink pitchers or coolers
- Optional: picture of a butterfly fish

Pre-prep

1. The day of, spray ½ oz. of cheese spray on the inside bottom of each blue plastic cup.
2. Insert seven Cheetos into the cheese so they stand up like coral.
3. Add five colorful fish crackers to each cup.
4. Prepare the drink mix according to package directions.

Teaching Tie-In

Today we're at the coral reef. Each animal there has amazing design features that couldn't have just happened. God designed them! Take the colorful butterfly fish, for instance. Show picture if you have it. This coral reef dweller is a very thin fish, so it can maneuver through the coral reef with ease. Remember Adam and Eve and how they disobeyed God? Their sin affected the whole world—including fish! In this fallen world, this fish can also chase its prey into the coral without running into things. Isn't it cool that God thought of everything when he made this fish?

Pray and then eat. Share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts.



Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- Would you like to go snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef?
- The Great Barrier Reef is super colorful. God could have made the world in black and white, but I'm so glad he made it in color. What's your favorite color?
- Can you think of any colorful animals that live in the coral reef?
- Those animals are wonderfully designed, but there's a big difference between them and people. What are some things animals can't do that people can?

Tip Corner

- Plan to prep these the day you are serving them to avoid soggy Cheetos.
- You might want to spray the cheese in the bottom of the cups and give each child a baggie with Cheetos and fish crackers to put their “coral reefs” together themselves before eating.
- Mound the cheese spray in a few places and place the fish there so they end up at different heights.
- For added fun, use coral reef-themed napkins and cups.

Day 2 Overview

The Wonder of Life: Made with Amazing Design

Lesson Focus		Bible Passage	
You are fearfully and wonderfully made, with a body full of awe-inspiring design features.		Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Psalm 139:13-16	
Fair Dinkum Verse	Animal Pal	Cool Contest	
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:14)	Shimmer the Coral	Team Cheers	
Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts	Top Koala-ty Treats	Hoppin' Good Games	
Experiments: Pick Your Brain and Making Sense of Senses Crafts: Crocs and Kangaroos Fitness Game and Manta Ray Bookmark	Coral Cup Thumbprint Cookie	PS139 Obstacle Course Reef Thief	

Thumbprint Cookie

Ingredients (46 cookies)

- 1 c. softened butter
- $\frac{2}{3}$ c. plus 3 T. sugar (divided)
- 2 large egg yolks at room temperature
- 1 t. vanilla
- $\frac{1}{4}$ t. salt
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. all-purpose flour, spooned and leveled

Ocean Wave Drink Ingredients

- Powdered blue drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Basic Supplies

- 2 large baking sheets
- Parchment paper
- Large mixing bowl and spoon
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Spatula
- Hand mixer
- Napkins and cups, 1 of each per child
- Stirring spoon
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Pre-prep

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a bowl, cream butter and $\frac{2}{3}$ c. sugar for 1-2 minutes. Add egg yolks, vanilla, and salt. Combine and then mix in flour. Mixture will be crumbly to start but will come together as you continue to mix it.
3. Using a tablespoon, scoop out and roll the dough into small balls. Roll in the 3 tablespoons of sugar.
4. Place on a baking sheet. Press your thumb into the center of each ball to make an indentation.
5. Bake 12-14 minutes until the cookies are set and lightly brown on the bottom. Remove from the oven and cool.



6. Prepare the drink mix according to package directions.

Teaching Tie-In

Today's snack is a thumbprint cookie. It's called that because you press your thumb into the center of it before you bake it.

Take a look at your thumb. Can you see your thumbprint? *Pause.* How does it make you feel, knowing God has never given anybody else in the world—in all of time—the same thumbprint as you? *Take responses.* But did you know your uniqueness doesn't stop at thumbprints and fingerprints? You have other features unique to you that nobody else has, like toe prints, brain wrinkles, tongue prints, lip patterns, and iris patterns in your eyes. You're a one-of-a-kind creation, dearly loved by God. He put great detail into you! Keep that in mind as we thank God for our Thumbprint Cookies.

Pray and then eat. While eating, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- Compare your hands to the hands of people sitting near you. Is anybody else's hand identical to yours?
- Have you ever broken a bone in your hand or elsewhere?
- Did you know God designed bones to heal themselves in this fallen world? A doctor can help set a broken bone with a cast or splint to keep it from moving. But God designed it so that after a bone breaks, a blood clot forms around it to protect and nourish the bone as it heals. Then special tissue called *callus* joins the broken bones together. Callus starts out soft but hardens up over time, and new bone forms. God thought of everything when he made bones!
- You have 26 bones just in your hand. They work together in an amazing way so you're able to do big, tough jobs, like changing a tire or using heavy tools, and also complex, delicate movements, like playing an instrument or threading a needle. God thought of everything when he made your hands!
- Do you know any twins? Do they look alike? Did you know identical twins aren't completely identical? For instance, they have different fingerprints.
- Fingerprints are such good identifiers, police use them a lot. When police are at a scene of a crime, trying to figure out "whodunnit," they can lift fingerprints from many surfaces and use them for identification purposes.

Tip Corner

- Thumbprint cookies sometimes have icing or jam in the middle where the thumb imprint is.
- These cookies often have nuts on the outside, but we do not suggest this option due to nut allergies.

Super Simple Option

Goldfish Colors—Give everyone some colorful Goldfish crackers and remind them that God made all the beautiful, colorful fish that we find in the coral reef. Around ten percent of the world's fish species live in the Great Barrier Reef!

Healthy Options

"Strawbs"—Cut strawberries ("strawbs" in Aussie lingo) in half to resemble hearts. Talk to the mates about an important part of the body that God created—the heart. The heart pumps about 2,000 gallons of blood around your body every day. That blood is necessary to keep you alive. The heart is also associated with love. Take time to thank God for your heart and for his love!

Noosa Greek Yogurt—This yummy yogurt was founded on the Australian coast in Noosa, Australia.

Bite of Australia Option

Tim Tams—These delicious chocolate-covered wafer cookies are favorites in Australia. Find them in select supermarkets and online.

Toddler Option

Check the Toddler Snacks for daily suggested snacks with Teaching Tie-Ins and photos.

If you choose to serve other snack options included in this book, make sure they are safe for toddlers, with no choking hazards.

Celebration Cake



Ingredients (24 servings)

- 1 boxed cake mix
- ½ c. canola oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 c. water
- Two 16-oz. cans white frosting
- 3 oz. sprinkles

Sunny Sipper Drink Ingredients

- Powdered orange drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children, or Capri Sun, 1 pouch per child

Basic Supplies

- 24 cupcake liners
- Mixing bowl and spoon
- Hand mixer
- Measuring cups
- Spatula
- Knife
- Small plates, napkins, and cups, 1 of each per child
- Stirring spoon
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Pre-prep

1. Prepare the cake mix as directed by adding oil, eggs, and water. Mix well and pour into cupcake liners, half to two-thirds full.
2. Bake cupcakes as directed till edges are golden brown. Remove from oven and cool.
3. Frost cupcakes with frosting and top with sprinkles.
4. Prepare the drink mix according to package directions.

Teaching Tie-In

Do you know when your birthday is? Share birthdates if kids know them. **Even if you don't, God does! God made you, he loves you, and he even died for you. Let's sing**



“Happy Birthday” to ourselves, and then we’ll pray and eat our Celebration Cakes.

Sing, pray, then eat. While eating, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- What’s something you do on your birthday?
- Can you remember a favorite gift you received on your birthday?
- Do you like birthday cake? What kind?
- Guess which months have the most birthdays? **Take guesses. July through October tend to be the most popular months for birthdays, with August often being the most.**
- Who do you think is better—boys or girls? After kids answer, explain that one is not better than another. God made both boys and girls in his image and of infinite value. We are all equal before God.

- **Who do you think is better—people with light skin, people with medium skin, or people with dark skin?** After kids answer, explain that no skin shade is better than any other skin shade—we are equally made in God’s image and part of the same family from Adam and Eve. We are all part of the beautiful variety of skin shades that make up the human race.
- **Do you think your value is based on what you look like? Is it based on something you’re able to do, like on being smart or athletic?** Discuss. Explain that each person’s value doesn’t come

from what he or she does or looks like or what they contribute to the world. Instead, each person has value because they are made in God’s image. You are invaluable in God’s view, and that’s why you’re special.

Tip Corner

- For an easier option, buy Hostess Birthday Cupcakes, Little Debbie Birthday Cakes, or bakery cupcakes.
- For added fun, use birthday-themed plates, napkins, and cups.

Day 3 Overview

The Value of Life: Made with Worth

Lesson Focus		Bible Passages	
God values <i>you</i> greatly! Each and every person— young, old, healthy, sick—is a priceless treasure.		Jesus’ Birth and Herod’s Reaction Matthew 1-2; Luke 2	
Fair Dinkum Verse	Animal Pal	Cool Contest	
And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. (Luke 6:31)	Bill the Platypus	Dress-Up Day	
Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts	Top Koala-ty Treats	Hoppin’ Good Games	
Experiments: Stellar Stethoscope and Toothpick Heartbeat Crafts: Life Is Precious Photo Frame and Playful Platypus	Celebration Cake Baby in a Blanket	King of the Court Let Me Help You	

Baby in a Blanket

Ingredients (16 servings)

- 8 precooked hot dogs (halved) or 16 cocktail smokies
- 8-count package crescent roll dough
- Optional: melted butter
- Dark food coloring

Sunny Sipper Drink Ingredients

- Powdered orange drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children, or Capri Sun, 1 pouch per child

Basic Supplies

- Knife
- Baking sheet
- Toothpicks
- Spatula
- Small plates, napkins, and cups, 1 of each per child
- Stirring spoon
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Pre-prep

1. Cut the hot dogs in half or use whole smokies.
2. Separate the crescent rolls along the perforations and cut each one in half so there are 16 triangles.
3. Place one hot dog half onto one crescent roll half. Fold the dough around the hot dog so it resembles a blanket swaddling a baby. Only a bit of the hot dog should be showing at the top.
4. Dip the toothpick in dark food coloring. Use it to poke two small holes in each hot dog to represent eyes and to draw on a little mouth.
5. Bake at 375 degrees, on the top or middle rack, for 12 minutes or until the crescent rolls are golden brown.



Teaching Tie-In

Have you ever held a baby? Did you like doing that? *Take responses.* Have you ever been to a nursing home to visit older people? Did you like doing that? *Take responses.* Whether a person is a new little baby or 100 years old, each person has great value. God knows and cares about each one, and we should care for them, too. Let's talk more about that as we eat our Baby in a Blanket snack.

Pray and then eat. While eating, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- **Who do you think is better—boys or girls?** After kids answer, explain that one is not better than another. God made both boys and girls in his image and of infinite value. We are all equal before God.
- **Who do you think is better—people with light skin, people with medium skin, or people with dark skin?** After kids answer, explain that no skin shade is better than any other skin shade—we are

equally made in God's image and part of the same family from Adam and Eve. We are all part of the beautiful variety of skin shades that make up the human race.

- **Do you think your value is based on what you look like? Is it based on something you're able to do, like on being smart or athletic?** Discuss. Explain that each person's value doesn't come from what he or she does or looks like or what they contribute to the world. Instead, each person has value because they are made in God's image. You are invaluable in God's view, and that's why you're special.
- **How do you think God would want us to treat our fellow image bearers?**

Tip Corner

- Hot dogs can be a choking hazard for young children, so plan an alternate snack for your little ones.
- Don't cut cocktail smokies in half; use a whole one per treat.
- For added fun, use baby-themed napkins and cups.

Super Simple Option

"Barbie" Crisps—Australia is known for its barbeque ("barbie"), so try barbequed chips ("crisps") for an easy taste of barbeque.

Healthy Options

Granny Smith Apple Slices—Granny Smith apples were first grown just outside of Sydney, Australia. Slice some and remind the kids while they eat that every life is valuable, from the "grannies" to the babies.

Orange—The architect who designed the famous Sydney Opera House used an orange as an inspiration for the roof. Peel the oranges as pictured in the Healthy Options list, then see if the kids can use the pieces of peel to mimic the roof of the Sydney Opera House. You may want to show them a picture of the Sydney Opera House as a reference.

Bite of Australia Option

Barbeque Anything—Barbequeing on the beach or in backyards is a favorite Aussie way of life. If you want to try a wild bite of Australian barbeque, grill kangaroo meat (sold in Australia) and slather with barbeque sauce. Or try anything barbequed—BBQ meatballs, BBQ wings—you name it.

Toddler Option

Check the Toddler Snacks for daily suggested snacks with Teaching Tie-Ins and photos.

If you choose to serve other snack options included in this book, make sure they are safe for toddlers, with no choking hazards.

DAY 4

SMYLE! Pizza

Ingredients (12 servings)

- 14.1-oz. premade pizza dough
- 24 mini pepperoni slices
- Optional: 1 red pepper
- 16-oz. marinara or Alfredo sauce
- Shredded mozzarella cheese
- 6 black olives
- Flour for dusting

Forest Green Drink Ingredients

- Green powdered drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Basic Supplies

- Rolling pin
- 2 baking sheets
- Parchment paper
- Circle dough cutter or round wide-mouth glass
- Spoon
- Knife
- Plates, napkins, and cups, 1 of each per child
- Stirring spoon
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Pre-prep

1. Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
2. Line baking sheets with parchment paper.
3. Open premade dough and roll out on a lightly floured surface.
4. Cut out 12 circles and place on the baking sheets.
5. Top with marinara or Alfredo sauce and cheese. Add two mini pepperoni slices for eyes, then cut an olive in half and use for the nose.



6. For the mouth, either use the mini pepperoni slices shaped into a smile or place one slice of red pepper on each pizza.
7. Bake in the oven for 15–20 minutes, until edges turn golden brown. Remove from the oven and let cool.
8. Prepare the drink mix according to package directions.

Teaching Tie-In

Before we eat, let's see if we can think why our pizzas have a smiley face on them. Take responses.

The smile is to remind us of our SMYLE! acronym. S stands for sin, M-Y stands for my sin, L stands for God's love, and E stands for eternal life. Have everyone recite today's memory verse—John 11:25. **The most important thing in all of life is being a child of God. That's what makes us smile!**

Pray and then eat. While eating, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- What kinds of things make you smile? What makes you happy?
- What food do you think would be fun to make into a smiley-face shape?
- Did you know smiling is the universal sign for happiness? People all over the world understand a smile.
- What's one thing about God that makes you smile?
- It can make you smile inside if you are a child of God. Do you have any questions about that? Leaders, you may want to share when you became a child of God, keeping it age-appropriate.

- Did you know you use over ten muscles when you smile and even more when you smile really big? Smiling is a form of exercise! Let's practice.
- There are lots of health benefits to smiling. It slows down your heart, relaxes your body, boosts your immune system, lowers your blood pressure, and can increase your productivity. I think God wants us to smile!
- God tells us a cheerful heart is like good medicine (Proverbs 17:22).

Tip Corner

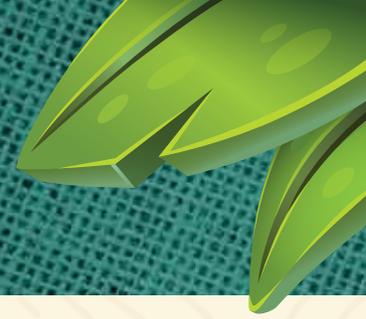
- The size of the pizzas depends on the size of your round dough cutter. Ours were 5 inches.
- For added fun, use smiley-face plates, napkins, and cups.

Day 4 Overview

Eternal Life: Made for Relationship

Lesson Focus		Bible Passages	
God loves you! He loves you so much he sent his only Son to die for you.		Gospel Presentation Select Scriptures	
Fair Dinkum Verse	Animal Pal	Cool Contest	
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)	Paula the Koala	"Beaut" of a Bible Challenge	
Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts	Top Koala-ty Treats	Hoppin' Good Games	
Experiments: Let's Get "A-Lung" and Blood Sample Crafts: Southern Cross Ornament and Koala Pen	SMYLE! Pizza Koala-fied Cookie	SMYLE! Kickball Animal Pal Dash	

Koala-fied Cookie



Ingredients (10 servings)

- 10 Hostess White Fudge Ding Dongs
- 20 large marshmallows
- 20 chocolate chips
- 10 black jelly beans
- Optional: white frosting and toothpicks

Forest Green Drink Ingredients

- Green powdered drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Basic Supplies

- Small plates, napkins, and cups, 1 of each per child
- Stirring spoon
- Drink pitchers or coolers

Pre-prep

1. Assemble the koalas as pictured.
2. Optional: To keep the eyes, nose, and ears from shifting, use a toothpick to dab some white frosting where each decoration will be placed.
3. Prepare the drink mix according to package directions.

Teaching Tie-In

Does it make you smile when you see a picture of a koala? Pause. They're so cute! What else makes you smile? Take responses. The thing that can make us smile the most is knowing we're a child of God. How can a person become a child of God? Discuss this, then pray and eat. While eating, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- What kinds of things make you smile? What makes you happy?
- What food do you think would be fun to make into a smiley-face shape?



- Did you know smiling is the universal sign for happiness? People all over the world understand a smile.
- What's one thing that makes you smile about God?
- It can make you smile inside if you are a child of God. Do you have any questions about that? Leaders, you may want to share when you became a child of God, keeping it age-appropriate.
- Did you know you use over ten muscles when you smile and even more when you smile really big? Smiling is a form of exercise! Let's practice.
- There are lots of health benefits to smiling. It slows down your heart, relaxes your body, boosts your immune system, lowers your blood pressure, and can increase your productivity. I think God wants us to smile!
- God tells us a cheerful heart is like good medicine (Proverbs 17:22).

Tip Corner

- You might want to bag the supplies needed for the mates to assemble their koala treats themselves.
- Marshmallows and jellybeans can be choking hazards for young children, so substitute a brown M&M for the chewy jelly bean and for the marshmallows, substitute a donut hole cut in half (one half for each ear).
- A mini version of this can be made with White Fudge Covered Oreo Bites for the head, two mini chocolate chips for eyes, a mini brown M&M for a nose, and two mini marshmallows for ears.

Super Simple Options

Great Value Fruit Smiles or McCain Smiles Potatoes—Purchase either of these cute smiley-faced foods from Walmart or online.

Healthy Options

Smiling “Nanas”—Bananas (“nanas” in Aussie lingo) look like a smile, and kiwi slices can pass as eyes. Place them on a plate to make a smiley face.

Cheerios Happy Heart Shapes Cereal—(This cereal comes in various flavors and is a limited edition at the time of this writing.) As the mates eat this heart-shaped cereal, ask if any of them can explain how we know God

loves us. The Bible tells us he does. God sent his Son, which is the ultimate act of love.

Bite of Australia Option

Anzac Biscuits—Many Australians like to eat these sweet biscuits (cookies) for their Australia Day celebration, which is the official national day of Australia. Make as follows:

Ingredients: 1 c. flour, 1 c. rolled oats, 1 c. brown sugar, ½ c. coconut, ½ c. butter, 2 T. golden syrup (can substitute honey), 1 T. water, ½ t. baking soda

Directions: Sift flour into a large bowl. Add the sugar, oats, and coconut. Next, melt butter over medium heat in a saucepan, then add golden syrup and water. Stir in the baking soda. Add the liquid to the dry ingredients and mix thoroughly. Roll into 2-inch sized balls and place on a parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10–12 minutes or until golden brown. The biscuits will crisp up as they cool.

Note: This recipe makes approximately 12 biscuits.

Toddler Option

Check the Toddler Snacks for daily suggested snacks with Teaching Tie-Ins and photos.

If you choose to serve other snack options included in this book, make sure they are safe for toddlers, with no choking hazards.

Dingo Puppy Chow

Ingredients (24 servings)

- 11-oz. box Scooby-Doo! Graham Cracker Snacks (bone-shaped)
- 15-oz. bag pretzel sticks
- 12-oz. box Chex cereal
- Optional: M&M's and chocolate chips

Aussie Agua Ingredients

- 1 water bottle per child

Basic Supplies

- Small white or brown treat cups (for doggy bowls), 1 per child
- Optional: sticker decorations for doggy bowls (e.g., paw prints, dog bones, tags)
- Measuring cups
- Napkins, 1 per child
- [Water label pattern](#)—see Digital Resources

Pre-prep

1. In the treat cups, mix together about 3 graham cracker bones, 10 pretzel sticks, and $\frac{1}{4}$ c. Chex cereal. Add the optional ingredients if desired.
2. Optional: decorate the treat cups to look like doggy bowls.
3. Put the labels on the water bottles.

Teaching Tie-In

Aren't you glad God made dogs? *Pause for responses.* Can you act out what dogs like dingoes look like when they eat? *Have kids do so.* Do you see a difference in how people eat and dogs eat? We're unique in all of creation, with special jobs God has planned for us to do.

Let's say our memory verse together, then we'll pray. Say Ephesians 2:10 together.



Pray and then eat. While kids are eating, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- Do you have a pet? What is it?
- What do you think is the funniest, cutest, or most interesting thing your pet does?
- How is your pet different than you?
- What do you want to do when you grow up?
- If you're a child of God, then as you grow up, he will show you more of his plan for you. But he also wants to use you now. How can you use your life to live for God and help others? What is one thing you can do this week?

Tip Corner

- Small treat cups can be found at party stores or online.
- For added fun, use dog-themed napkins and cups.

Day 5 Overview

Using Your Life: Made for a Reason

Lesson Focus			Bible Passages		
<p><i>You</i> are created on purpose for a purpose.</p>			<p>Jesus' Ascension and the Body of Christ Acts 1:6-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-26</p>		
Fair Dinkum Verse		Animal Pal	Cool Contest		
<p>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)</p>		<p>Ringo the Dingo</p>	<p>Mission Money Mania</p>		
Turtle-y Terrific Science and Crafts		Top Koala-ty Treats		Hoppin' Good Games	
<p>Experiments: Mining Cereal and Fabulous Fingerprints Crafts: Straya Sun Pillow and Clay Echidna</p>		<p>Dingo Puppy Chow Boomerang Bread</p>		<p>Teamwork Towers Dingo Fence</p>	

DAY 5

Boomerang Bread



Ingredients (8 servings)

- 8-count package crescent roll dough
- Flour for dusting
- Seasoning of choice (e.g., Everything Bagel Seasoning or cinnamon sugar)
- Butter or oil

Aussie Agua Ingredients

- 1 water bottle per child

Basic Supplies

- Rolling pin
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Pastry brush
- Spatula
- Paper plates, napkins, and cups, 1 of each per child
- [Water label pattern](#)—see Digital Resources

Pre-prep

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Open crescent roll dough onto a lightly floured surface. Separate each triangle of dough and stretch it into the shape of a boomerang.
3. Place on a parchment-lined baking sheet and brush with oil or melted butter.
4. Sprinkle on the seasoning of your choice.
5. Bake for about 10–12 minutes until the edges start to turn golden brown.
6. Remove from the baking sheet and let cool.

Teaching Tie-In

What shape does our snack look like? *Take responses.* Right, a boomerang. Boomerangs are famous for returning to where they started. As we boomerang back to the outback today, let's think about how Jesus started in heaven, came to earth, and returned to heaven. He's no longer here. So how does Jesus



accomplish what he wants? He uses us! Any of us who are followers of Jesus are part of the body of Christ. We're here to be Jesus' hands and feet to the world. Jesus cared for widows, orphans, and the sick. We can care for widows, orphans, and the sick. Jesus fed the hungry. We can feed people who are hungry. Jesus stood up for truth. (He is the truth.) We can stand up for truth. It's clear that we all have important jobs if we're members of the body of Christ!

Let's leave here remembering that God has a special role for you to play in this world. Aren't you thankful God created you *on purpose for a purpose*? Let's say our memory verse together. Say Ephesians 2:10 together.

Pray and then eat. While eating, share the Conversation Starters and Fun Facts below.

Conversation Starters and Fun Facts

- What do you like to do? Maybe it's a sport or a hobby.
- What do you want to do when you grow up?
- If you are a child of God, then as you grow up, God will show you more of what he has planned for you. But he also wants to use you now. How can you use your life to live for God and help others? What is one thing you can do this week?

Tip Corner

- Add a dipping sauce to your boomerang bread. Try marinara with savory bread and cinnamon butter with sweet bread.
- For added fun, use outback-themed plates, napkins, and cups.

Super Simple Option

“Bikkie” or “Biscuit”— Start with a graham cracker or any square or rectangular cookie (called a “bikkie” or “biscuit” in Australia). Have the kids nibble the “bikkie” into the shape of Australia, the way many Australian kids like to do.

Healthy Options

“Give a Hand” Popcorn—Fill food-safe, see-through plastic gloves with popcorn (3 c. per glove). Secure the end with a rubber band or twist tie. Discuss using your hands and feet and bodies for the Lord.

Nutritious “Nibblies”—Australians call finger foods “nibblies.” Gather an assortment of finger foods to serve to your mates.

Bite of Australia Option

Peach Melba—This famous dish is named after Dame Nellie Melba, the stage name of a famous Australian opera singer. Have fun trying a bite. Make as follows:

Ingredients: Canned or fresh sliced peaches, vanilla ice cream, raspberry jam

Directions: Place a mini scoop of ice cream in a condiment cup. Top with a peach slice and a dollop of raspberry jam.

Toddler Option

Check the Toddler Snacks for suggested snacks and Teaching Tie-Ins.

If you choose to serve other snack options included in this book, make sure they are safe for toddlers, with no choking hazards.

Healthy Alternatives at a Glance



Daily

Instead of sugary drinks, offer ice water every day. See drink label patterns on the Digital Resources.

Day 1

“Rockmelon”—Cantaloupe is called rockmelon in Australia. When serving the rockmelon, talk about Ayers Rock (also called Uluru—OO-loo-roo).

Banana Mini Muffins or Aussie Bites—Bake your favorite banana mini muffin recipe or buy Aussie Bites, which are available at Costco or online. Remind the mates that we don’t share an ancestor with apes. “They can’t make a monkey out of me.”



Day 2

“Strawbs”—Cut strawberries (“strawbs” in Aussie lingo) in half to resemble hearts. Talk to the mates about an important part of the body that God has created—the heart.

Noosa Greek Yogurt—This yummy yogurt was founded on the Australian coast in Noosa, Australia.



Day 3

Granny Smith Apple Slices—Granny Smith apples were first grown just outside of Sydney, Australia. Slice some and remind the kids while they eat that every life is valuable, from the “grannies” to the babies.

Orange—The architect who designed the famous Sydney Opera House used an orange as an inspiration for the roof. Show a picture of the Sydney Opera House and see if the kids can peel their oranges to mimic the roof!



Day 4

Smiling “Nanas”—Bananas (“nanas” in Aussie lingo) look like a smile, and kiwi slices can pass as eyes. Put them on a plate to make a smiley face and talk about the news that makes us smile—Jesus loves us. He died and rose from the dead to save us.

Cheerios Happy Heart Shapes

Cereal—(This cereal comes in various flavors and is a limited edition at the time of this writing.) As the mates eat this heart-shaped cereal, ask if anyone can explain how we know God loves us. The Bible tells us he does. God sent his Son, which is the ultimate act of love.



Day 5

“Give a Hand” Popcorn—Fill food-safe, see-through plastic gloves with popcorn (3 c. per glove). Secure the end with a rubber band or twist tie. Discuss using your hands and feet and bodies for the Lord.



Nutritious “Nibblies”—Australians call finger foods “nibblies.” Gather an assortment of finger foods to serve to your mates.



Additional Snack Ideas

The snacks suggested here are great additional ideas to use for meetings, training workshops, the carnival, or VBS week itself. For meetings, make card labels for each snack on the food table. Serve food on Aussie-themed plates. See [Pinterest.com/AnswersVBS](https://www.pinterest.com/AnswersVBS) for great pictures of thematically decorated snack tables.

Aussie Edibles

Croc-a-Dill Dip and Dippers: Make a dill dip by mixing the following ingredients: ½ c. mayonnaise, 1 T. dried onion, ½ c. sour cream, 1 t. seasoning salt, 1 T. dried parsley, and 1 t. dill weed. (Double for a larger crowd.) Refrigerate before serving.

Make the crocodile “bowl” by cutting off the top of a green pepper, taking out the seeds, then laying it on its side. Cut a V-shape out of each side of the pepper to resemble an open mouth. Stick two edible eyes on top, using two dabs of cream cheese and two Cheerios. Place the pepper in the center of a platter and fill it with dill dip. Load the tray with veggies for dipping.

Popular Fruits: Many Australians are totally bananas for bananas, which is their most popular fruit. They also like passion fruit, guava, Granny Smith apples, persimmons, and mangoes. Other fruits that are available in Australia include pears, pineapples, peaches, and blueberries. Check online (“pineapple crocodile fruit tray” or “sea turtle fruit tray”) for cute ways to make a themed fruit tray centerpiece.

Cheese and Greens: Australians sometimes call their cheese platters “cheese and greens.” Place cheese and crackers on a platter. Add other veggies or fruits as desired. If you’re serving adults (with no nut allergies), you might want to top it off with macadamia nuts, which are native to eastern Australia.

Sydney Sweets: Make these with Hostess White Fudge Ding Dongs (10 pack), 1 container of Pringles regular potato chips, 2 c. white chocolate chips, and canola oil. Melt the white chocolate chips. Stir in a little oil to make it thin enough for dipping. Break the Pringles chips in half and dip them (starting with the round edge) into the white chocolate. Leave about ¼ of the bottom of each chip uncoated. Place chips on parchment paper until coating is hardened. Insert the uncoated ends of 3–4 chips into each Ding Dong to resemble the roof of the Sydney Opera House.

Platy Pie: To resemble the head of a platypus, make this treat from a mini chocolate Moon Pie, a piece of dark fruit leather, a small dab of chocolate frosting, and two Cheerios.

Cut the fruit leather to look like a tongue and attach it to the Moon Pie with frosting. For eyes, put two dabs of frosting on top of the Moon Pie and press two Cheerios onto the frosting.

“Snags” and Avocado Toast: If you’re having a morning meeting or VBS, try these Australian breakfast (“brekkie”) favorites. For avocado toast (8 servings), gather 8 slices of bread, 1 ripe avocado, 1 T. olive oil, and salt. Lightly toast the bread. Mash the avocado and spread it on the toast. Add a drizzle of olive oil and a dash of salt to each piece. Add some sausages (“snags”) on the side.

Melba Toast: For 30 servings, use 1 loaf of thinly sliced white bread, such as Pepperidge Farm Very Thin Enriched White Bread, and two sticks of softened butter. Spread butter on both sides of each bread slice. Either leave each piece whole or cut into slices or triangles. Place the bread on a baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees for 20 minutes. Flip the bread over and continue to bake for 15–25 minutes until golden and crispy. Allow the toast to cool before serving.

Another option is to buy premade melba toast, such as Old London Classic Melba Toast.

Note: Melba toast is named after a famous opera singer in Australia, Dame Nellie Melba.

Lamingtons: These coconut cakes are well liked in Australia. You will need a yellow cake mix plus the ingredients for the cake, melted semisweet chocolate, and coconut flakes. Bake the cake according to package directions. After cooling, cut into 2-inch squares. Freeze cake squares for 15–20 minutes. Dip frozen squares into melted chocolate and then into coconut. Place on parchment lined baking sheets and chill until firm.

“Lollies”: Fill containers with fun candies (“lollies”). Use gummy snakes, Australian licorice, such as Wiley Wal-laby Licorice, Whatchamacallits, Cadbury Carmello Koalas, Trolli Sour Bite Octopus Candies, Lifesaver Gummies, and Starbursts. The people of Australia are also known to be some of the biggest chocolate lovers in the world, so be sure to add in some chocolate (“chokkie”), particularly Cadbury varieties.

Chillin' Drinks

“Lolly Water”: Soft drinks are called “lolly water” in Australia. Label soft drink cans as “Lolly Water.” See the Digital Resources for a pattern.

“Spiders”: Floats with ice cream and fizzy soda are called “spiders” in Australia. Make root beer floats or other fizzy

soda versions with one scoop of vanilla ice cream in a cup and root beer or other soda poured over it. Insert a straw and enjoy!

Water: Label water bottles as “Aussie Agua” or “Ocean Water.” See the Digital Resources for a pattern.

Leading a Child to Christ

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.” Romans 1:16

VBS presents an ideal opportunity to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ with all attending. Every leader and team member should be ready to clearly present the gospel and counsel those wanting to learn more. Children are usually soft-hearted toward things of the Lord, and some will be interested in becoming a follower of Christ. Be ready, because eternal matters matter most!

Before

- **Pray.** Salvation is God’s work, not ours. We cannot bring about salvation for anyone. We need to ask God to prepare the children and open their hearts to him.
- **Be prepared.** Learn more about presenting the gospel and counseling a child about salvation.

During

The gospel will be presented during the lesson time. Opportunities may arise, however, to share with a child one-on-one or with a small group of children. If so, keep the following in mind:

- Becoming a child of God involves repenting of one’s sin and having faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repentance involves understanding what sin is (disobeying God’s commands) and desiring to turn from that sin.
 - You can use *How Can I Become a Child of God?* to explain the plan of salvation. Along with this, use your Bible. Children need to see and hear God’s Word, so have your Bible opened and marked ahead of time with the appropriate scriptures.
 - Avoid abstract phrases like “asking Jesus into your heart.” Instead, use terminology like “becoming a child of God.” Most children still think in concrete terms and need examples that are easy to understand.
 - If a child indicates an interest to know more after hearing the gospel presentation, ask questions (such as one or more of the following) that require more than a “yes” or “no” answer:
 - » What do you want to talk to me about?
 - » Do you know what sin is?
 - » Can you think of a specific sin (wrong) you have done? Are you bothered by your sin?
- These questions are important.** A child who cannot verbalize a sin or does not seem to be repentant about being a sinner may not fully understand his need for a Savior. In this situation, you might list a child-oriented example of sin and ask him to notice any time he catches himself sinning over the next few days. Give him *How Can I Become a Child of God?* Pray with him, then send him on his way. Check back a day or two later, if possible.
- » Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did Jesus need to die? Why did Jesus rise again?
 - » Why do you want Jesus to be your Savior?
 - » Why should God let you into his family? (Make sure the child understands that salvation is not based on what

he does, but is a gracious gift of God through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.)

- Pray for discernment while listening to a child’s answers.
- When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus’ death and resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him to talk to his parents about what it means to become a child of God (if they are followers of Christ). Encourage a child who comes from a non-Christian home to verbalize his understanding to the Lord through prayer. There is no one prayer that should be prayed. Encourage him to ask the Lord to forgive him and help him know he is a child of God.
- Let him see in your words and your face that you are excited that he wants to become a child of God! Read Luke 15:10 to him.
- Some children may not want to make decisions but may want to learn more, to be assured of salvation, or to confess sin. Read Romans 10:9–10 and John 10:28–29 with children who are seeking assurance of their salvation. Encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are his children. If a child wants to confess sin, read 1 John 1:9 with him and encourage him to ask the Lord to help him know he is forgiven when he repents.

After

- Review what it means to be a child of God.
 - » How long does God keep his children? (Hebrews 13:5b, John 10:28–29)
 - » Can anything separate God from his children? (Romans 8:38–39)
 - » What happens when God’s children sin? (1 John 1:9)
 - » What do children of God believe? (Romans 10:9)
- Explain that Jesus loves his children and wants to spend time with them. Discuss practical ways to grow as a child of God. Provide him with *Growing Up in God’s Family*, and share the following:
 - » Read your Bible, and obey what you read. You can start your Bible reading with the short Bible study you will receive the last day of VBS. (Make sure he has a Bible at home, and if not, provide one. Write his name, the date, and the occasion [VBS] on the presentation page.)
 - » Pray every day. Prayer is talking to God.
 - » Go to a church that believes and teaches the Bible as the Word of God.
 - » Tell others about Jesus. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors how they can become children of God.
- Fill out a Decision Card. Turn in to the VBS director.
- Stay in touch with the child through postcards, visits, or phone calls. Invite him to upcoming church events.

SUPPLY LIST

Day 1

OUTBACK HAT (48 COOKIES)

- 13.1-oz. Oreo Thins
- 48 Rolo chewy caramels
- 16-oz. can chocolate frosting
- 16-oz. can white frosting
- Piping bag OR zippered baggie and pair of scissors

FUNKY MONKEY

(8 SERVINGS—3 CRACKERS PER SERVING)

- 24 round snack crackers, such as Ritz
- Slices of white cheese cut into twenty-four 1 to 1½-inch circles
- 24 mini pretzel pieces broken into smile shapes
- 48 Cheerios
- 48 chocolate chips
- 1 to 1½-inch round cookie cutter

LEMON SQUASH DRINK INGREDIENTS

- Powdered lemonade mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Day 2

CORAL CUP (24 SERVINGS)

- 8.5-oz. bag crunchy Cheetos
- Two 8-oz. cans spray cheese
- Two 6.6-oz. bags colorful Goldfish crackers
- 5-oz. clear blue plastic cups, 1 per child
- Optional: picture of a butterfly fish

THUMBPRINT COOKIE (46 COOKIES)

- 1 c. softened butter
- ¾ c. plus 3 T. sugar
- 2 large egg yolks at room temperature
- 1 t. vanilla
- ¼ t. salt
- 2½ c. all-purpose flour

OCEAN WAVES DRINK INGREDIENTS

- Powdered blue drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Day 3

CELEBRATION CAKE (24 SERVINGS)

- 1 boxed cake mix
- ½ c. canola oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 c. water
- Two 16-oz. cans white frosting
- 3 oz. sprinkles
- 24 cupcake liners

BABY IN A BLANKET (16 SERVINGS)

- 8 precooked hot dogs (halved) or 16 cocktail smokies
- 8-count package crescent roll dough
- Optional: melted butter
- Dark food coloring
- Toothpicks

SUNNY SIPPER DRINK INGREDIENTS

- Powdered orange drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children, or Capri Sun, 1 pouch per child

Day 4

SMYLE! PIZZA (12 SERVINGS)

- 14.1-oz. premade pizza dough
- 24 mini pepperoni slices
- Optional: 1 red pepper
- 16-oz. marinara or Alfredo sauce
- Shredded mozzarella cheese
- 6 black olives
- Flour for dusting
- Circle dough cutter or round wide-mouth glass

KOALA-FIED COOKIE (10 SERVINGS)

- 10 Hostess White Fudge Ding Dongs
- 20 large marshmallows
- 20 chocolate chips
- 10 black jelly beans
- Optional: white frosting and toothpicks

FOREST GREEN DRINK INGREDIENTS

- Green powdered drink mix and water, 1 quart for every 5 children

Day 5

DINGO PUPPY CHOW (24 SERVINGS)

- 11-oz. box Scooby-Doo! Graham Cracker Snacks (bone-shaped)
- 15-oz. bag pretzel sticks
- 12-oz. box Chex cereal
- Optional: M&M's and chocolate chips
- Small white or brown treat cups (for doggy bowls), one per child
- Optional: sticker decorations for doggy bowls (e.g., paw prints, dog bones, tags)

BOOMERANG BREAD (8 SERVINGS)

- 8-count package crescent roll dough
- Flour for dusting
- Seasoning of choice (e.g., Everything Bagel Seasoning or cinnamon sugar)
- Butter or oil

AUSSIE AGUA INGREDIENTS

- 1 water bottle per child

Basic Supplies

- Microwave-safe mixing bowls (in several sizes)
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Stirring spoons
- Spatula
- Hand mixer
- Pastry brush
- Knife
- Rolling pin
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheets
- Cooling rack
- Zippered baggies
- Plates, napkins, and cups
- Drink pitchers or coolers
- [Water label patterns](#)—see Digital Resources