Welcome to the Bible Rotation of Galactic Starveyors!

As Galactic Starveyors, kids will search the skies and God’s Word to uncover God’s truth etched in His handiwork. They will discover that the God who created everything there is - the knowable and the unknowable, the visible and the invisible - wants a relationship with them! And from the very beginning, God had a plan to restore the relationship He knew we would break. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior and His Holy Spirit to be our Helper. From the very beginning, to the furthest reaches of space (and beyond), nothing is outside God’s control or beyond His grasp. God loves us and will never leave us.

Scripture (NIV): Colossians 1:15-16, “The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”

Bible Rotation Overview
You will have 20 minutes to teach. Each group will be made up of parents and children of different ages. There will be 3-4 groups (depending on attendance).

Instead of teaching like you’re in a classroom, think of telling stories around a campfire. Stories have a way to sticking longer than lessons and touching hearts.

Your Personal Checklist
[] Read the Bible content for all three days:
  ● Day 1: Genesis 1:1-2,26-31; 3; John 1:1,14
  ● Day 3: John 21:1-19; Acts 1:4,8
[] Read “Leader Devotions” for each session.
[] Pray for yourself, other VBS leaders, and the families whose lives you will touch.
[] Read through each day’s session. Make notes of any changes or adjustments.
[] Gather supplies and prepare to teach.
Day 1: The Relationship Began and Broken
Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2,26-31; 3; John 1:1,14
Today’s Point: The God who created everything wants a relationship with us. Sin messed everything up, but God is still in control.
Bible Story Summary: In the beginning, there was nothing ... only God the Father, His Son Jesus, and God’s Holy Spirit. God created the world and everything in it, including man. God made man to enjoy relationships with one another and with Him. Satan tempted Eve to eat the fruit from the forbidden tree. Eve ate and offered some to Adam who also ate. Sin entered the world and every person who has ever lived has chosen to disobey God in some way—except for One, Jesus.

Day 2: The Relationship Promised and Restored
Today’s Point: God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. Jesus gave His life to be my Savior.
Bible Story Summary: Before sin even entered the world, God had a plan to fix everything sin would mess up. In Isaiah, God promised to send the Messiah. When the time was right, God sent Jesus to pay the penalty for sin. Simeon and Anna recognized that Jesus was the Messiah God had promised. Jesus literally was Immanuel—God with us. When Jesus was 33, He was put on trial, convicted of sins He did not commit, and hung on a cross to die. When Jesus died darkness covered the land and the veil in the temple was torn in two. Jesus was buried and on the third day He arose. Jesus provided the way for our relationship with God to be restored.

Day 3: The Relationship Continues
Scripture: John 21:1-19; Acts 1:4,8
Today’s Point: Even though I mess up, God still loves me and will never leave me.
Bible Story Summary: Some days after God raised Jesus from the dead, He met some of the disciples at the Sea of Galilee. Jesus prepared breakfast for the disciples. He restored Peter’s relationship and instructed Peter to take care of His sheep. Jesus told the disciples to wait for God to send the Holy Spirit so that God would always be with them to help and to guide them.
DAY 1: THE RELATIONSHIP BEGAN AND BROKEN

Bible Study

The Relationship Began (Genesis 1:1-2, 26-31; John 1:1,14) and Broken (Genesis 3)

Bible Verse

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:15-16

Today’s Point

The God who created everything wants a relationship with us. Sin messed everything up, but God is still in control.

Leader Devotion

God’s words in Genesis 1:26 and John 1:1 emphasize that nothing about creation was an accident. Jesus was with God - and was God - from the moment He released the first dazzling burst of light. Best of all, the Creator came to live in the world He created. The sheer size of the universe should make us catch our breath. But the most breathtaking truth this Bible study should communicate to kids is that God created them, cares for them, and loves them far more than anything in the galaxy!

Though the Bible doesn't tell us how long, for a time in the beginning, life was perfect. Adam and Eve’s intimate relationship with God was unimpaired. Satan found an opportunity to ruin that relationship. He caused Eve to doubt that God wanted what was best for her (Genesis 3:6). And Adam? There’s no record of his thought processes, but the result was the same. Sin. Shame, Excuses. Consequences. See if you can spot all those things as you read Genesis 3:7-19.

Aren’t you glad the end of today’s story isn’t the end of the whole story? Backtrack to Genesis 3:15. Bible scholars agree it’s the first glimmer of a twinkle of a hint that Jesus was coming and He would crush sin forever! As you share today’s Bible story with kid, don’t minimize the damage sin can do, but don’t miss the opportunity to share that God has always been and will always be in complete control!
Above and Beyond
VBS isn’t just for kids - it’s for you, too! Consider these questions as you prepare to teach:

- Every human is created in God’s image. How should that truth affect the way you treat every human - especially the hard-to-love ones?
- Is there a particular sin that you’ve been treating too lightly because you know you have been forgiven for it? What needs to change?

Get Started

1. Welcome the families as they enter your station.

2. Invite them to sit in a circle like you would around a campfire.

3. **Ask:** Have you ever seen a star up close in person? (Allow for answers)

4. **Say:** We can’t see a star up close in person because they are very far away. That’s a good thing! If they’re close to us, we’d all burn up!

5. **Ask:** Do you know what the closest star is to Earth? (Allow for answers)

6. **Say:** The closest star to Earth is the sun and it is about 93 miles away. Other than the sun, the closest star is called the Alpha Centauri. It is about 4 light years away. One light year is about 6 trillion miles. That would be about 24 TRILLION miles away!

7. **Say:** The Alpha Centauri is not actually 1 star. It is made up of 3 stars bound together by gravity. The 3 stars shine together to make 1 star bright enough so we can see it on Earth. This VBS, we’re going to learn about God. God the Father, God the Son (that’s Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. Three in one like the Alpha Centauri.

8. **Ask:** When we want to look at things in the sky, like the moon and stars, what do we use? (Allow for answers. The answer is: telescope).
9. **Say:** We use a telescope to see the moon and stars closer. If we want to see God closer, we can use the Bible! The Bible is the Word of God and it shows us the heart of God.

**Learn It**

1. **Say:** Today we’re going to hear the story about a Relationship that Began and then was Broken. Let’s sit still and be quiet. Open our ears and our hearts.

2. Tell the story below. It would be better for you to learn the story and retell it in your own words and with your own flair or personality. You can use props. You can change up your voice. You can get creative, but keep track of time!

**The Relationship Began**

The Bible begins with these words, “In the beginning.” In the beginning, there was nothing...only God the Father, God the Son (that’s Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. But “the beginning” was only the beginning for us. God never began. He has always been and will always be. That’s one way God is different from us. It’s impossible to understand completely, but it’s absolutely true!

In the beginning, God created the world. He made a beautiful world with a sky, oceans, land, plants, sunshine, moonlight, and all kinds of fish, birds, and animals. God saw all He had created was good. Then God decided to make something different from anything else He had created. God made people to live in His world. God made a man, Adam, and a woman, Eve. God put Adam and Eve in charge of everything He made. It would be their job to take care of everything God created.

God made people “in His image” which means He gave people some of the characteristics that He Himself has - things like creativity, compassion, and the ability to think and to choose. He also made people able to have and to enjoy relationships with each other and with God. That is an important part of His plan for every person.

God wanted Adam and Eve to love one another and work together as a family. God planned for them to have children. God was pleased with everything He had made. God loved and cared for the people He had created.

Genesis 1:1-2, 26-31; John 1:1, 14
The Relationship Broken

Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden called Eden that God made. Everything they needed was in the garden. There was only one rule - do not eat the fruit that grew on one particular tree. Adam and Eve knew what God said about eating the fruit from that tree.

One day, Satan, disguised as a serpent, asked Eve, “Did God really say you can’t eat from any tree in the garden?”

“No,” Eve said. “We can eat anything except the fruit on one special tree. God said we can’t eat that fruit or touch it or we will die.”

That wasn’t exactly true. God didn’t tell Adam and Eve not to touch the tree, only not to eat its fruit. Satan saw his chance!

“Oh no, you won’t die,” he said. “God doesn’t want you to eat that fruit because He knows it would make you like Him. You will know the difference between good and evil.”

Eve looked at the fruit and saw that it looked delicious. She thought about what the serpent said. This fruit would make her wise. Eve made her decision. She chose to disobey God. She took the fruit and ate it. Then she gave it to Adam and he ate it, too. By choosing to disobey God, Adam and Eve sinned. In an instant, everything changed.

Adam and Eve realized things were now different. When they heard God coming in the garden, they tried to hide from Him in the trees. God knew what had happened, but He asked anyway. Adam tried to blame Eve for his disobedience. “She gave me some fruit from the tree and I ate it,” Adam said.

Eve tried to blame Satan. “The serpent tricked me, and I ate the fruit.” But both of them had made the choice to disobey God on their own. Nobody forced them to do it.

God told Adam and Eve what the consequences for their sin would be. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve had to leave the garden and could never go back. They moved to another place, the place God told them to go, and had to work hard to grow fruit to eat.
Sin entered the world with Adam and Eve. But they certainly weren't the last people to sin. Every person who has ever lived has chosen to disobey God in some way - except for One, Jesus.

**Genesis 3**

**Live It**

1. **Say:** Some of the tiniest pinpricks of light you see in the night sky are stars hundreds of times larger than Earth. All sin, even the ones that are so small, creates a huge problem. Sin separates us from God!

2. **Say:** But even though sin separates us from God, God is still in control. He has a plan. That plan is Jesus. The next time we meet, we're going to learn how Jesus saves us from sin.

**Finish It**

1. Invite everyone to read the memory verse together.

   “The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:15-16

2. Ask the parents to pray with their kids, thanking God for loving us so deeply that even when we sin and disobey Him, He still forgives us.

3. Give each family a raffle ticket for going through your station.
DAY 2: THE RESTORATION PROMISED AND RELATIONSHIP RESTORED

Bible Study
The Restoration Promised (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 2:22-38) and Relationship Restored (Mark 15:22–16:7)

Bible Verse

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:15-16

Today's Point
God sent His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. Jesus gave His life to be my Savior.

Leader Devotion

Astronomy does play a role in Jesus’ early life: after all, a remarkable stellar occurrence prompted a group of educated stargazers to find Him! But quite some time before those travelers arrived, Jesus’ arrival was made known to a working-class carpenter, his bride-to-be, and a pair of sweet-spirited senior adults.

Joseph, Mary, Simeon, and Anna were undoubtedly familiar with God’s promises that Immanuel would come to Earth someday. Joseph and Mary welcomed God with us into the world and obediently dedicated Him at the appointed time. Simeon and Anna were at the temple on the very same day. They praised the Savior before His work on Earth was done.

Kids need to know that Jesus was in control at all times. Children are born with a strong, innate sense of fairness. What Jesus went through wasn’t fair, but Jesus wasn’t a victim. Jesus chose to set aside fairness and His rights to lay down His life on purpose for a purpose - to restore the broken relationship between God and us!

Kids need to know that Jesus died because He loves them. Mark’s short account of the resurrection (Mark 16) proves that Jesus is alive, and because He is alive, we can have a relationship with Him! As you prepare for today’s VBS, ask God to help you recognize and assist kids who are ready to receive Jesus as Savior.
Above and Beyond

VBS isn't just for kids - it's for you, too! Consider these questions as you prepare to teach:

- The Holy Spirit helped Simeon recognize Jesus as the Messiah. How did the Holy Spirit help you recognize that Jesus was your Savior?
- Practice your answer in case a VBS kid asks you, “How do you know Jesus is alive?” or “What does it feel like to be a Christian?”

Get Started

1. Welcome the families as they enter your station.

2. Invite them to sit in a circle like you would around a campfire.

3. **Say:** Last time we saw each other, we learned that God created us to have a relationship with Him. That Relationship Began with Adam and Eve and it was Broken with them, too, when they disobeyed and sin messed everything up. But remember what I told you? God has a plan. His name is Jesus.

Learn It

1. **Say:** This is the story about the Restoration Promised and the Relationship Restored. Let’s sit quietly and open our ears and hearts. I’m going to tell you the greatest story there is.

2. Tell the story below. It would be better for you to learn the story and retell it in your own words and with your own flair or personality. You can use props. You can change up your voice. You can get creative, but keep track of time!

   **The Restoration Promised**

   God was not caught off guard when Adam and Eve chose to disobey Him. Before sin even entered the world, God has a plan to fix everything sin would mess up. God would fix it all, Himself.

   God’s plan was to send His Son to Earth to live among the people He had created, and pay the penalty for their sin. God told the world about His plan through prophets in the
Old Testament. One prophet named Isaiah wrote down God’s words so that others could begin watching for God’s promise to come true. Isaiah wrote, “Here’s what to watch for - a virgin will have a baby boy.” That’s a miracle only God could do! “He will be called Immanuel, which means ‘God with us.’”

When the time was just right, God put His plan into action. He chose a young woman named Mary to be the mother of His Son. Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph. One night, as Joseph slept, God sent an angel to visit him in a dream. The angel explained to Joseph that Mary was going to have a baby and that this was part of God’s plan. Joseph was going to be part of God’s plan, too. The angel gave Joseph some instructions: don’t be afraid to marry Mary. When the baby is born name Him Jesus, because that name means “the Lord saves.” When Joseph woke up, he remembered God’s instructions and he obeyed.

The baby was born, just as God said, and Joseph named Him Jesus. Mary and Joseph took baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. At this same time there was a man living in Jerusalem named Simeon. Simeon was a righteous man who loved and obeyed God. God’s Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would get to see the Promised One, God’s Son, with his own eyes before he died. Simeon was prompted by the Holy Spirit to go to the temple while Mary and Joseph were there with baby Jesus.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the Baby in his arms and praised God for keeping His promise. Simeon knew that not only had God kept His promise to him, God had also kept His promise to send a Savior for the whole world. Mary and Joseph were amazed by what Simeon said. Then a prophetess named Anna came up to them and started praising and thanking God. She talked about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to God’s promise coming true.


The Relationship Restored

Jesus literally was Immanuel - God with us. He was 100% God walking around in a 100% human body. He grew up just like everyone does. He sometimes felt sad and He sometimes felt angry, just like everyone feels sometimes. But one major thing was different about Jesus from anyone else - Jesus never, ever sinned. Not even once. Sin separates people from God to the point that there’s nothing anyone can do on their own to fix it. That’s why Jesus came.
When Jesus was 33 years old, the people turned against Him. Even though He had never done anything wrong, they put Him on trial and then decided to kill Him. They nailed Him to a cross between two criminals (Day 1 at 9 AM). They placed a sign above His head that read, “The King of the Jews” and yelled insults at Him.

They said, “If He was really the Messiah, God’s Promised One, He would be able to save Himself!”

But they didn’t understand what was really going on. They didn’t realize that God’s Son was about to pay the penalty for sin once and for all with His own life. Of course Jesus could have saved Himself, but He was choosing instead to do something incredible for each and every person He created.

(Day 1 noon) At noon, the sky grew dark. Darkness covered the whole land and still, Jesus did not save Himself (Day 1 at 3pm). At three in the afternoon, Jesus cried out in a loud voice and then died. The curtain that hung in the temple (which was like a picture showing how people are separated from God) tore in half from the top to the bottom. The centurion (guard) who watched Jesus die realized that Jesus really is God’s Son.

(Day 1 evening) Some of Jesus’ friends took His body, wrapped it carefully in clean cloth, and buried it in a tomb. They placed a large, heavy stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. (Day 3 early morning) Early in the morning, some women went to the tomb and found that the huge stone had been rolled away from the entrance. As they went inside, they were startled to see a young man dressed in a white robe sitting there.

“Don’t be afraid,” the man said. “You’re looking for Jesus who died on the cross. But He is not here anymore. He has risen and is alive again! Go and tell His disciples!”

Not even death can stand in the way of God and His plan! God raised Jesus from the dead to be King over everything. Through His death, Jesus created a way for people’s relationship with God to be restored.

Mark 15:22-16:7

Live It

1. Reveal the Gospel Wheel and show everyone how it works.
2. Hand one Gospel Wheel per family and instruct the parents and kids to go through it together. Encourage the parents to lead their kids in a prayer to accept Jesus as their Savior if their kids want to.

Finish It

1. Invite everyone to read the memory verse together.

   “The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:15-16

2. End in prayer thanking God for sending Jesus to save us from our sins and restore our relationship with Him.

3. Give each family a raffle ticket for going through your station.
DAY 3: THE RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES

Bible Story

The Relationship Continues (John 21:1-19; Acts 1:4,8)

Bible Verse

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.” Colossians 1:15-16

Today's Point

Even though I mess up, God still loves me and will never leave me.

Leader Devotion

Astronomers agree that the gravitational pull of the moon has some effect on the rise and fall of the tides. In today’s Bible story, regardless of the lunar effect on the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee), the fish weren’t biting. Peter had a disappointing night of trawling for fish, but with the dawn came hope, purpose...and breakfast cooked by Jesus Himself!

Peter had been tagged by Jesus as the rock of the church (Matthew 16:18). When Jesus told Peter that He had prayed specifically for his strength and courage, Peter vowed he would never fail His Master (Luke 22:31-33). Within hours, Peter failed miserably. His final, silent, painful encounter with Jesus before His crucifixion is recorded in Luke 22:61-62. On the morning Jesus hailed Peter’s fishing boat, Peter had not yet had an opportunity to be alone with Him - to make things right.

After breakfast, Jesus took Peter aside - not to belittle him, but to empower him. Jesus affirmed that Peter’s career was far from over; he was being promoted from fishing to shepherding. With the Holy Spirit’s help, The Rock rocked the world for Jesus.

God has a purpose for ever fallible person He placed on this planet. We’re thanking God that your purpose this week is to share that truth with VBS kids!
Above and Beyond

VBS isn’t just for kids - it’s for you, too! Consider these questions as you prepare to teach:

● Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love Me more than these?” John isn’t clear what the “these” were. What do you think Jesus was referring to? What would the “these” be if Jesus asked you the same question?
● Consider Acts 1:8. How have your past mistakes influenced the way you share Jesus with others? Have they made you bashful and fainthearted or believable and approachable?

Get Started

1. Welcome the families as they enter your station.

2. Invite them to sit in a circle like you would around a campfire.

3. Say: *It is our last day in VBS! On the first day, we learned that our Relationship Began when God created Adam, Eve, and the whole world, but it was Broken when Adam and Eve sinned. But God has a plan! On the second day, we learned that Jesus is the plan. Jesus is the Restoration Promised, and when Jesus died on the cross and lived again, our Relationship with God was Restored. Today, we’re going to learn how our Relationship with God Continues.*

Learn It

1. Say: *When we accept Jesus as our Savior, the story does not end there! Let’s find out how our Relationship Continues. Let’s sit still and open our ears and hearts.*

2. Tell the story below. It would be better for you to learn the story and retell it in your own words and with your own flair or personality. You can use props. You can change up your voice. You can get creative, but keep track of time!
The Relationship Continues

Sometimes after God had raised Jesus from the dead, Peter, John, and some of the other disciples decided to go fishing in the Sea of Galilee. They got into their boat and sailed out into the night. They threw their net into the water and pulled it up again and again. Each time, the net was empty. They fished all night long but did not catch anything.

Early in the morning the disciples saw a man standing on the shore. The man called out to them, “Friends, don’t you have any fish?” No, they did not. The man told them to throw their net on the right side of the boat. “You’ll find fish there,” the man said.

They did what the man said. When they tried to pull up the net, it was so full of fish that they could not lift it into the boat! John shouted, “That man is Jesus!”

Peter was so excited that he jumped into the water and swam to shore. The other men followed in the boat, dragging the net full of 153 large fish. When the disciples reached land, they saw fish cooking over a fire and some bread. Jesus said, “Bring some of the fish you have caught. Let’s eat breakfast.” He gave bread and fish to His friends.

After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter, “Do you love Me?” Jesus asked this question three times.

Each time, Peter answered, “Yes, Lord, You know I love You.” Peter was hurt that Jesus kept asking him, “Do you love me?”

But just a few days earlier Peter had denied even knowing Jesus three different times! Jesus wasn’t holding a grudge against Peter. Instead, He was teaching Peter that it was time to get serious. “If you really love Me,” Jesus said, “there are some things you’ll have to do. Take care of my sheep and follow Me.”

Even though Peter had messed up, Jesus still loved him and had a plan to use Peter to help many people learn to follow Jesus, too. Jesus knew what was coming for Peter and the other disciples. He knew they would need help once He returned to heaven. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem. God was going to send His Holy Spirit to help the disciples. That way, Immanuel (God with us) would always be with them to help and to guide them.

John 2:1-19; Acts 1:4,8
Live It

1. **Say:** The help Jesus promised wasn’t only for the disciples. The Holy Spirit guides and helps all Christians (followers of Jesus) - that means you and me! Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will never leave those who trust Jesus as Savior (John 14:16)

2. **Ask:** What are some ways the Holy Spirit helps us? (Allow for answers)

3. Respond to the answers. Give some examples of your own. Some ways the Holy Spirit helps us are: gives us wisdom to know right from wrong, gives us strength to do the right thing even if the right thing is the hard thing (like, telling the truth even if the truth will get you in trouble), giving us courage to tell our friends about Jesus and inviting them to church, etc.

Finish It

1. Invite everyone to read the memory verse together:

   "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him." Colossians 1:15-16

2. **Say:** We have been reading this memory verse this whole week. What does it mean? (Allow for answers).

3. Briefly discuss what the memory verse means.

4. **Ask:** What else have you learned in VBS this week? (Allow for answers)

5. **Say:** I’m so happy to hear that you’ve learned a lot. Let’s pray and thank God for all the things He taught us.

6. Invite everyone to hold hands and pray together, thanking God for what we’ve learned in VBS and for sending us the Holy Spirit to help us.

7. Give each family a raffle ticket for going through your station.