

Hometown Nazareth

Reviewed by Molly Herman-Gallow

Hometown Nazareth: Snapshot



[Hometown Nazareth](#) is one of Building Faith’s top picks for VBS for 2024. This curriculum aims to bring ancient Nazareth to life, and it teaches children stories about Jesus through his mother Mary’s perspective. It includes immersive settings, experiential storytelling, crafts, games, and worship. It is an engaging curriculum that can offer children a memorable experience. We do encourage leaders to modify the key point for Day 4 by not referring to the Jewish temple as a church. We also recommend taking stock of how many activities you want to implement so that the Bible stories don’t get lost in the “everything else.”

Hometown Nazareth: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Where Jesus Was a Kid”
- **Publisher:** Group, 2024 (independent)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades K – 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** worship, celebration, crafts, fun and games
- **Starter kit cost:** \$224.99; \$264.99 with digital starter kit

Hometown Nazareth: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Jesus Had a Family**
Luke 1:26–38, Mary is chosen to be Jesus's mother
- **Day 2: Jesus Had a Name**
Luke 2:1–40, Jesus is born and gets his name
- **Day 3: Jesus Had a Home**
Matthew 2:13–14, 19–23, Jesus's family escapes to Egypt
- **Day 4: Jesus Went to Church**
Luke 2:41–52, Jesus goes to temple
- **Day 5: Jesus Served Others**
John 2:1–12, Jesus does a miracle in Cana

Hometown Nazareth: Where It Shines

Engaging and immersive experience for children

This curriculum brings to life Jesus's hometown through intricate sets, props, costumes, and stations. You meet characters from the time in which Jesus was growing up, and children can be fully present and engaged in an entirely different world than what they're used to.

Unique approach to Bible storytelling and learning

In this curriculum, Mary is the teacher for the week. She shares all about Jesus and what it was like to raise the Son of God. It's a fresh, alternative way to present the Bible stories. Children aren't observers only but get to be participators and ask Mary questions.

Suite of materials provided to equip facilitators

All the materials that you need for this curriculum are provided in the starter kit. The various leader and director guides are helpful for reviewing each day's content and the curriculum as a whole to ensure the week's theme and Bible stories are being revisited.

Hometown Nazareth: What We Miss

More connection between additional activities and daily lessons

Some additional activities seem a bit random and used to fill time, rather than related to the Bible story or daily message. They could create a sense of “busyness” that might fill the day with a lot more chaos and moving parts than needed.

More care with differences between Christianity and ancient Judaism

One of the key daily points describes Jesus as going to church when he visits the Jewish temple, which does not attend sufficiently to the differences between ancient Judaism and contemporary Christianity. We encourage leaders to modify their teaching on this point to be more historically accurate and mindful by not referring to the temple as a church.

More simplicity in execution

Though creative and memorable, it involves a lot of setup and participants as well as adequate spaces to ensure its success, and it might not work in a shorter daily timeframe.

**Hometown
Nazareth:
Overall
Assessment**

**Curriculum
Recommended
for 2024**

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