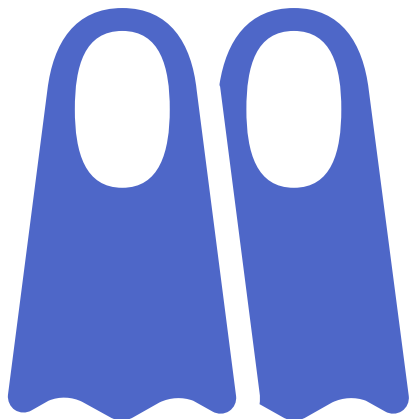


Scuba

Reviewed by Sally Benton



Scuba: Snapshot

[Scuba](#) is one of Building Faith's top picks for VBS for 2024. Its theme is friendship with God, and it uses ocean life as a fun summer backdrop to help children learn about God as a friend. It is designed for preschool and elementary age children, and it features large group gatherings and rotation stations for small groups with activities like Bible stories, crafts, games, and science. It also includes themed music and extensive decorating ideas and options to create an immersive experience. It is available in English and in Spanish. We do recommend assessing its theological messages and language to discern if and how it may be fruitful for your church context.

Scuba: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Diving into Friendship with God”
- **Publisher:** [Group](#), 2024 (independent)
- **Intended ages/grades:** preschool and elementary children with youth and adult leaders
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** opening and closing gatherings, rotating stations of Bible stories, crafts, snacks, science, and special scripture focus
- **Starter kit cost:** \$274.99; \$309.99 for plus digital; \$139.99 for digital in Spanish

Scuba: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: God Is a Friend Who's Real**
1 Kings 18–19, God shows Godself to Elijah through ups and downs
- **Day 2: God Is a Friend Who Loves**
Jonah 1–3, God shows compassion to the people of Ninevah
- **Day 3: God Is a Friend We Can Trust**
Mark 4:35–41, Jesus calms a storm
- **Day 4: God Is a Friend Forever**
John 18–20, Jesus dies and comes back to life
- **Day 5: God Is a Friend for Everyone**
Acts 16:11–15, Lydia believes in Jesus

Scuba: Where It Shines

A meaningful theme for children

The curriculum focuses on friendship with God, and it reinforces this theme with stories from the Old and New Testaments. It would help children relate positive aspects of friendships that they already have with their relationship with God.

Available in English and in Spanish

This curriculum is offered in English and in Spanish. It would be particularly fruitful for communities with both English and Spanish speakers.

Training opportunities for the curriculum

The publisher is providing regional training for this curriculum. Training can enable leaders to learn more about the curriculum and about what others are doing for their programs.

Scuba: What We Miss

More continuity among the scriptures used

While there seems to be continuity in the theme and lessons throughout the days and week, there isn't one continuous story through the week. The key Bible verses for each day are not drawn from or connected to the stories.

Attention to the emotional weight of the story of Jesus's death

The curriculum includes a lesson on Jesus's death and resurrection. This story can feel shocking for some children, especially if the lesson involves an expectation that they affirm their belief in Jesus as their savior. Leaders may need to modify the lesson depending on their communities' theological perspectives and VBS participants' development.

Attention to social justice, service, and creation care

This VBS does not focus on social justice, service, or creation care. It primarily aims to engage children with God and scripture.

Scuba: Overall Assessment

**Curriculum
Recommended
for 2024**

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