



**Building Faith's  
VBS & Summer Camp  
Curriculum Reviews**

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**2025**

# Resources Reviewed for 2025

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- Another Way (summer camp)\*
- Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace (VBS)
- Learning Together: Celebrations (VBS)\*
- Road Trip: On the Go with God (VBS)
- True North (VBS)
- Waves of Wonder (VBS)\*
- Yee Haw: Celebrating God's Greatest Gift (VBS)

\* indicates that the review consulted the full curriculum; all other reviews consulted sample materials

# Another Way

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Reviewed by Juniper LaNunziata

# Another Way: Snapshot

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Another Way is a flexible ecumenical camp curriculum from InsideOut with content for young children through older youth, as well as intergenerational options. The main theme is that there is always “another way.” It focuses on the ways that God in Jesus Christ “invites us to reimagine who we are and how we do things.” The curriculum masterfully incorporates sacred stories into each daily activity and worship session. This is a digital-only curriculum, so VBS directors may have to create their own visuals. We have included this as a viable option for VBS, with modification.

# Another Way: The Basics

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- **Theme:** “God always invites us to reimagine who we are and how we do things”
- **Publisher:** [Chalice](#), 2024 ([Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#)); curriculum produced by a multi-denominational Protestant team)
- **Intended ages/grades:** elementary children through high school youth, with intergenerational options
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 7 (with suggestions for adapting to fewer sessions)
- **Types of activities:** worship, games, arts & crafts, science projects, multi-day activities, table talk; activities grouped by ancient practices of #PLAY, #PRAY, #CREATE, #SERVE, and #LEARN
- **Cost:** \$395.00

# Another Way: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 1: Be Still**  
Psalm 46:1–3, 10
- **Day 2: Get Real**  
Luke 18:9–14, The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
- **Day 3: Know and Grow**  
Acts 9:1–22, Saul and Ananias
- **Day 4: Wild Ideas**  
Matthew 3:1–6, John the Baptist

# Another Way: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 5: Change the Rules**  
Numbers 27:1–8, 11b, The Daughters of Zelophedad
- **Day 6: All In**  
Acts 10:1–36, Peter and Cornelius's Dream
- **Day 7: Go!**  
Isaiah 43:19–21

# Another Way: Where It Shines

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## **Theological focus on justice and dynamic activities**

The theme, “Another Way,” encourages campers to explore sacred stories, to think critically about the world around them, and to make necessary changes to their own behavior and to the wider world to create a more just world. Each of the stories is well-considered, and the activities tie in seamlessly to the theme of creating a more just world.

## **Great support for volunteers and continuing relationships**

Each day includes strong devotional materials to share with camp staff, as well as journaling materials and suggestions for how to connect camp to home. There are also form letters to send to campers 3, 6, and 9 months after camp concludes.



# Another Way: What We Miss

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## **Not a “just add water” VBS curriculum**

This resource is not designed as a standalone VBS. If you're looking for a full-feature VBS curriculum that comes out of the box with everything you need, you may want to consider other options. There are no decoration guides or other similar resources.

## **More affordability**

At \$395.00, this may be prohibitively expensive for more modest budgets.

**Another Way:  
Overall  
Assessment**

**Resource  
Recommended  
for 2025**

# Egypt

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Reviewed by Molly Herman-Gallow

# Egypt: Snapshot

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[Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace](#) is one of Building Faith's top picks for VBS for 2025. The Bible comes to life in this VBS as participants experience Joseph's culture and world first-hand. All celebrate Joseph's victories, experience his heartbreaking trials and tribulations, and learn of the goodness of this unique Bible hero during this week-long VBS. It emphasizes small-group discussion and participation. Through a variety of activities, games, songs, marketplace shops to visit, and Joseph himself, all get to bear witness to how Joseph's story teaches about God's goodness, steadfastness, and love.

# Egypt: The Basics

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- **Theme:** “Joseph on his journey from prison to palace”
- **Publisher:** Group, 2025 (independent; see their Statement of Faith)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades K – 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** opening celebration, family time, visiting Egypt (pyramid playground, Joseph’s Journey, marketplace shops), closing celebration
- **Starter kit cost:** \$234.99 (standard starter kit); \$264.99 with digital starter kit
- **Video:** <https://www.group.com/childrens-ministry/vbs/egypt/>

# Egypt: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 1: God Gives Us Hope**  
Genesis 40:1–23, Joseph interprets dreams in prison
- **Day 2: God Gives Us Special Abilities**  
Genesis 41:1–40, Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge
- **Day 3: God Gives Us Wisdom**  
Genesis 41:41—42:5, Joseph leads Egypt through famine
- **Day 4: God Gives Us Forgiveness**  
Genesis 42:6—45:15, Joseph forgives his brothers
- **Day 5: God Gives Us a Family**  
Genesis 45:16—47:27, Joseph settles his family in Egypt

# Egypt: Where It Shines

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## **Engaging experience for children that fosters creativity and imagination**

This curriculum brings to life the world of Egypt and the world Joseph knew best. Through realistic backdrops, props, dialogue, art projects, and characters, this VBS asks children to explore their creativity and truly immerse themselves in a new world and way of life. Asking questions is often encouraged, and each day children learn something new about Joseph's world and his place in it.

## **Emphasis on community in small groups**

At the heart of this VBS is Family Groups, small groups of campers with a leader present that travel through the day's rotations together. This intentional community allows children to bond with one another in a smaller setting so they can create long-lasting friendships and grow comfortable sharing with one another.

# Egypt: Where It Shines

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## **Daily reflection centering on “God Sightings”**

“God Sightings” are important to this VBS curriculum. Children are encouraged to think about how God is active in their lives and share about these ways with one another. All grade levels and ages can participate in this reflection time, and these reflections alone help to continue strengthening children’s love for and relationship with God.



# Egypt: What We Miss

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## **More inclusive language for God**

Though this curriculum does a good job of emphasizing well-meaning and pertinent themes about God and God's relationship with God's people, it lacks inclusive language to refer to God. God is largely referred to using masculine pronouns. We recommend incorporating more gender-inclusive language for God when using this curriculum.

## **More simplicity in execution**

Though extremely creative and memorable, this VBS asks a lot of its leaders, director, and planning team. A large number of supplies is needed to transform any space into an Egyptian marketplace and the prison and palace Joseph finds himself in. The curriculum also requires ample space and time to bring the world of Egypt to life. Because much of this curriculum relies on the setting of Egypt alone, this VBS might be too demanding or unfeasible for some communities.

# **Egypt: Overall Assessment**

**Curriculum  
Recommended  
for 2025**

# Learning Together

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Reviewed by Marvin McLennon

# Learning Together: Snapshot

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[Learning Together: Celebrations](#) is a dynamic and flexible VBS curriculum centered on the theme of “God’s love for us is a reason to celebrate!” Through five engaging lessons, children explore biblical stories of protection, provision, surprises, inclusion, and joy—each revealing a different aspect of God’s love. The program offers a mix of storytelling, hands-on activities, music, and service opportunities, making it both interactive and meaningful. With its adaptable structure, inclusive approach, and thoughtfully curated resources, this curriculum provides a versatile tool for fostering faith and community in a celebratory and engaging way.

# Learning Together: The Basics

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- **Theme:** Celebrations: Celebrating God's Goodness
- **Publisher:** [Spirit & Truth Publishing](#), 2025 (independent; see their [Theological Guidelines](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** ages 4 – 12, with possible intergenerational use
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** storytelling, crafts, games, science, and snacks
- **Starter kit cost:** \$26 – \$302.50 (cost based on church's attendance size)

# Learning Together: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 1: God Protects Us All**  
Exodus 15:20, Miriam Celebrates
- **Day 2: God Provides for Us!**  
Esther 9:18–23, Queen Esther's Victory
- **Day 3: God Surprises Us!**  
John 2:1–10, Wedding at Cana
- **Day 4: God Invites Everyone**  
Luke 14:15–24, The Great Banquet
- **Day 5: God Rejoices in Us!**  
Luke 15:3–10, The Lost Is Found

# Learning Together: Where It Shines

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## **An enriching, inclusive curriculum that fosters joy and spiritual growth**

This is a well-rounded, creative, and inclusive curriculum that makes faith interactive and joyful.

## **User-friendly & well organized**

The lessons are short and put together well. Each lesson offers clearly written supply lists, step-by-step instructions, and creative activities to keep participants engaged.

## **Simple & versatile**

The curriculum is highly versatile and can be used for VBS programs as well as traditional or rotation-model classes. The website also mentions that some have found the lessons valuable for youth and confirmation classes.

# Learning Together: Where It Shines

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## **Remembering their “why”**

Each lesson incorporates fun activities and rotations—such as science, snacks, and music—that are all thoughtfully aligned with the day's theme.

## **Keeping the conversation going**

Each lesson includes a "For Home" take-home sheet that provides families with a summary of the day's discussion, along with conversation starters to help continue the lessons and celebrations at home. I appreciate this feature, as it equips parents with another valuable tool for discussing faith at home with their children.



# Learning Together: What We Miss

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## **No additional “misses”**

This curriculum is well-structured, flexible, and thoughtfully designed to engage children while making faith lessons accessible and meaningful.

**Learning  
Together:  
Overall  
Assessment**

**Curriculum  
Recommended  
for 2025**

# Road Trip: On the Go with God

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Reviewed by Molly Herman-Gallow

# Road Trip: Snapshot

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[Road Trip: On the Go with God](#) is one of Building Faith's top picks for VBS for 2025. It's an engaging curriculum that takes participants on a journey through the Bible and everyday life and shows how God comes along on the journey too! It is ecumenically friendly and can be enjoyed by all. The curriculum beautifully weaves together arts and crafts, activities, storytelling, and times for reflection and discussion with each Bible story of the day, so that participants walk away knowing more about how their journey of life is like a road trip and how God is on the journey with us!

# Road Trip: The Basics

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- **Theme:** “On the Go with God”
- **Publisher:** [Cokesbury](#), 2025 ([United Methodist Church](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades K – 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** Bible stories, music, crafts, science, recreation, snacks
- **Starter kit cost:** \$199.99 (digital access kit); \$249.99 with digital content
- **Video:** <https://www.cokesburyvbs.com/theme/road-trip>

# Road Trip: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 1: God Is with Us on the Journey**  
Genesis 12:1–9, Abraham and Sarah Follow God
- **Day 2: God Is with Us When We Go Off Course**  
Exodus 13:17–22, The Israelites Take the Scenic Route
- **Day 3: God Is with Us When We're Joyful**  
Luke 1:39–56, Mary & Elizabeth's Family Reunion
- **Day 4: God Is with Us When We're Lonely**  
Luke 19:1–10, Jesus Visits Zacchaeus
- **Day 5: God Is with Us Near and Far**  
Acts 18:1–11, On the Road with Paul

# Road Trip: Where It Shines

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## **Ecumenical and sound theological messages**

Road Trip isn't limited to one denomination; it can be applied in a variety of Christian contexts. It is a good choice for children coming from all different walks of faith and denominations. It also presents accurate theology that doesn't use masculine pronouns for God.

## **Variety of resources for children to learn daily themes**

This curriculum includes many resources to help children engage further with its themes, messages, and content. It provides daily take-home pages for children to complete at home. It also offers active learning components so that children can get their hands busy doing arts, crafts, and science experiments and enjoy time together while getting physically active.

# Road Trip: Where It Shines

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## **Leaders well equipped with additional resources**

The curriculum includes additional resources for VBS leaders so they feel well-versed in its material and content and confident that they can lead the children well. Bible Backgrounds are given for each of the day's Bible stories to provide additional contextual information. Leader Devotionals are also provided to ready leaders' hearts and minds before the start of each day. Road Trip is intentional about equipping leaders as best it can so they can feel prepared and execute a memorable experience for all.



# Road Trip: What We Miss

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## **More attention to social justice, service, and creation care**

Though Road Trip excels in many areas, it lacks substantial content on social justice, service, and creation care. Theological messages are presented well, coherently, and in an easy-to-follow manner, yet more attention to these three thematic elements is needed.

## **Lack of conversation around inclusivity and diversity**

The only times in which this curriculum might include such themes is in the Bible stories themselves for each day of the week. Many of the daily themes this curriculum presents are broad-scale and big picture with little to no emphasis on race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and/or economics/class. However, this curriculum is still very educational and highly engaging.

# **Road Trip: Overall Assessment**

**Curriculum  
Recommended  
for 2025**

# True North

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Reviewed by Sally Benton



# True North: Snapshot

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[True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World](#) is one of Building Faith's top picks for VBS for 2025. It is a traditional 5-day VBS program from Group. Throughout the program, children explore the beauty of the water, land, and sky in Alaska and engage stories from the gospel of Matthew and Acts. Through music, Bible stories, and all sorts of group activities, children are pointed back to Jesus and the knowledge that Jesus is our True North. While communities may need to modify some elements of the curriculum, depending on their capacities and theological perspectives, it can offer a fun, meaningful VBS for children of all ages.

# True North: The Basics

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- **Theme:** “Point Them to Jesus!”
- **Publisher:** [Group](#), 2025 (independent; see their [Statement of Faith](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** preschool & elementary children
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** music, Bible stories, Imagination Station, games, snack, scripture memorization, closing gathering
- **Starter kit cost:** standard \$289.99; standard + digital \$309.99
- **Video:** <https://vimeo.com/953606440>

# True North: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 1: When We Wonder, We Can Trust Jesus**  
Matthew 3, 11:1–6, John Prepares the Way and Baptizes Jesus
- **Day 2: When We Feel Alone, We Can Trust Jesus**  
Matthew 6:25–33, 18:12–14, Jesus Teaches about God's Love for Us
- **Day 3: When We Feel Powerless, We Can Trust Jesus**  
Matthew 8:5–13, A Roman Officer Trusts Jesus
- **Day 4: When We Need Hope, We Can Trust Jesus**  
Matthew 26:47—28:8, Jesus Dies and Comes Back to Life
- **Day 5: When We Need Help, We Can Trust Jesus**  
Matthew 28:16–20, Acts 2:1–12, The Great Commission and the Holy Spirit

# True North: Where It Shines

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## **God Sightings**

Children are encouraged throughout the week to share where they see God in their lives, including at VBS and at home. This practice helps reinforce for children the idea that God is all around them in every aspect of their lives.

## **Simplicity of costumes and decor**

Because the theme is Alaska, the clothing options are quite varied. There is a camping/hiking element, but those kinds of practical or functional props can be easier to borrow from your people in your community than more fantastical material.

# True North: What We Miss

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## **Less involved scripts for gatherings**

The opening and closing gatherings have some pretty significant scripts that take dedicated volunteers to prepare. They are a great way to engage the kids with the daily topics and Bible verses, but they take time and preparation.

## **Simplicity of programming**

This is a week-long VBS with an opening, four stations, snack, and closing. It requires a lot of adult support to make this program happen as intended. Supplies are listed and easy to find, but there are also a lot of supplies needed to present the stories and activities.

## **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. Leaders may need to modify the lesson depending on their communities' theological perspectives.



**True North:  
Overall  
Assessment**

**Curriculum  
Recommended  
for 2025**

# Waves of Wonder

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Reviewed by Juniper LaNunziata

# Waves of Wonder: Snapshot

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[Waves of Wonder](#) is one of Building Faith's top picks for VBS for 2025. It is a five-day VBS for young children through elementary schoolers. It is produced by Shine and co-published by Brethren and Mennonite Churches. Its focus is on encouraging children to experience wonder at God's creation and to see water as a sign of God's great love for the world. It uses creative, discovery-based learning experiences to engage children. The starter kit includes all of the educational materials needed and a physical USB drive that includes promotional materials, music, and music videos.

# Waves of Wonder: The Basics

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- **Theme:** Inspiration by the beauty of God's creation
- **Publisher:** [Shine](#) by [MennoMedia](#) and [Brethren Press](#), 2025 ([Church of the Brethren](#), [Mennonite Church USA](#), and [Mennonite Church Canada](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** pre-K – grade 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** worship, drama, art, science, active games, spiritual practices
- **Starter kit cost:** \$249.99
- **Video:** <https://youtu.be/U3Sz4merypl?si=uBZHA2MYwpZD1gUP>

# Waves of Wonder: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 1: Let's Enjoy God's Good Creation**  
Genesis 1:1—2:3, Making Waves
- **Day 2: Let's Join God in Caring for the Earth**  
Psalm 104:5–13, Rushing Water
- **Day 3: Let's Ask God for What We Need**  
Exodus 17:1–7, Wilderness Waves
- **Day 4: Let's Trust Jesus When Life Is Stormy**  
Mark 4:35–41, Waves on the Sea
- **Day 5: Let's Receive God's Living Water**  
Revelation 22:1–5, 16–17, River of Life

# Waves of Wonder: Where It Shines

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## **Theological focus on water and the goodness of creation**

The entire curriculum uses the lens of water to focus on celebrating God's creation, noticing God's care for the earth and responding in kind, and exploring the central importance of water in our lives and how we use water. This focus helps students to create a more just world with regard to how humans use water and other resources.

## **Strong activities section**

"Reef Rotation Stations" promote creative, discovery-based learning opportunities for children. Each day includes exploring a sacred story, art or science activities, and active games.

# Waves of Wonder: What We Miss

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## **More decoration support and supplies**

This VBS starter kit includes all of the content for VBS, including a USB drive with music and other resources. However, the online store does not include decorations, large posters, or other supplies. A Pinterest page offers suggestions, but there are no premade items for sale.

**Waves of  
Wonder:  
Overall  
Assessment**

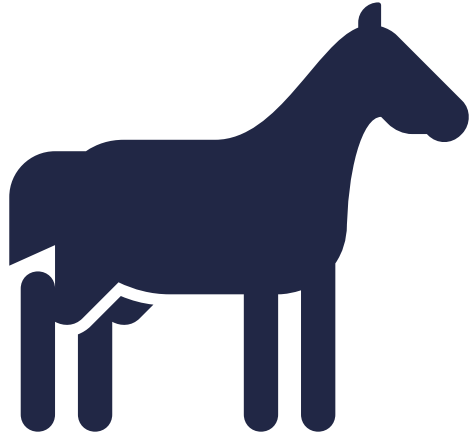
**Resource  
Recommended  
for 2025**



# Yee Haw

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Reviewed by Sally Benton



# Yee Haw: Snapshot

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Yee Haw: Celebrating God's Greatest Gift is an abbreviated VBS program from Group designed for communities that want a shorter VBS option than traditional five-day programs. Over the course of 2 days, participants dig into the idea that God loves us all. With a western, ranching flair, children encounter characters through songs, stories, and games. The hope is that everyone walks away with an understanding that God gives perfect gifts.

# Yee Haw: The Basics

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- **Theme:** “God gives good gifts”
- **Publisher:** Group, 2025 (independent; see their Statement of Faith)
- **Intended ages/grades:** pre-K – grade 5
- **Format:** weekend onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 2
- **Types of activities:** music, Bible stories, outreach projects, sports, closing gathering, Sunday celebration
- **Starter kit cost:** \$119.99
- **Video:** <https://vimeo.com/953606253>

# Yee Haw: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 1: God Sends Jesus to Earth**  
Luke 2:1–20
- **Day 2: Jesus Dies and Comes Back to Life**  
John 16—21

# Yee Haw: Where It Shines

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## **One Bible Point**

There is one key takeaway point for the entire program. This allows for the opportunity for greater impact and the ability to reinforce the point.

## **Integration for children of all ages**

All children, youth, and adults gather together for the beginning and end of each day. Preschool participants have their own programming while elementary aged children cycle through traditional stations.

# Yee Haw: Where It Shines

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## **Simplicity in design**

Yee Haw doesn't feel like an overly produced program. The theme allows for simpler decoration and clothing or costumes that are easily sourced in your own home or second-hand. The stations are also slightly truncated both in time and in number since it is only a two-day program. This significantly decreases the preparation time for adult leaders as well.

# Yee Haw: What We Miss

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## **Transparency in storytelling**

The preview material only shows the Bible scripture for each day without teaching context around it. The Day 1 sample is helpful, but there is no way to see exactly how Jesus's death and resurrection are presented. If you select this program, take note to review that when you receive the materials.

## **Greater variety of stations**

With a simplified program, there is a decreased number of stations to cycle through during the day. Leaders may find themselves missing the variety in activity and response to the lessons, but they can also benefit from a smaller number of volunteers needed.

**Yee Haw:  
Overall  
Assessment**

**Curriculum  
Recommended  
for 2025**





**Thank You to  
Our 2025  
Review Team!**

# **Sally Benton**

**(she/her/hers)**

Sally Benton is the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at St. John's in McLean, Virginia and has been ministering to children and youth for over 10 years. She and her husband are currently living in Alexandria, VA with their two small children. They have had the joy of ministering together not only in parishes, but on college campuses, at summer camp, and just about everywhere in between. Sally is passionate about faith formation for all people and helping people build confidence in exploring their faith independently as well as in community.

# **Molly Herman- Gallow (she/her)**

Molly Herman-Gallow lives in Durham, North Carolina, where she is pursuing her Master of Divinity at Duke Divinity School. She formerly worked at St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church in Brookhaven, GA as its Children & Youth Minister. In that role, she loved ministering to all of St. Martin's children and families, and she especially enjoyed aspects of curriculum creation and Christian education that her role required of her. Molly is a cradle Episcopalian and grew up in the Diocese of Atlanta. She graduated from Elon University in 2019 with a filmmaking degree and a minor in religious studies. Molly loves continuing to tell the story of the Church and discovering her identity further as a Christian formation educator.

# Juniper LaNunziata (they/them)

Juniper LaNunziata is a postulant for holy orders in the Diocese of East Carolina and currently serves as Campus Minister for The Well Campus Ministries of East Carolina University. They served as Director of Christian Formation at St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Greenville, NC for 8 years. Juniper was born and raised in Pennsylvania but has been living in the South for almost 20 years. They love to bake bread, drink boba tea, and go geocaching. Check out their blog for Christian formation and design at [www.formedbyexperience.blog](http://www.formedbyexperience.blog)

# **Marvin McLennon (he/him/his)**

Marvin is the Director of Children and Youth Ministries at Christ Episcopal Church in Little Rock, AR. An Arkansas native and cradle Episcopalian, Marvin grew up at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where he was actively involved in the youth group, held diocesan youth leadership roles, and spent summers at Camp Mitchell as a camper and Counselor in Training. He went on to attend Hendrix College, earning a degree in Communications. After graduating in 2013, Marvin joined the Episcopal Service Corps in Louisiana, where he served as Assistant Youth Director at St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge. Following his year of service, he became the Youth Director for St. James and the Diocesan Youth Director in the Diocese of Louisiana. In 2016, he returned to Arkansas to begin his work at Christ Church while also becoming an active member of the Forma Council in 2019 and part of the Forma Executive Council in 2021.

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