

# Operation Restoration

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Reviewed by Marvin McLennon

# Operation Restoration: Snapshot

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[Operation Restoration: Mending God's World](#) is a thematically rich and engaging Vacation Bible School curriculum that focuses on healing, repairing, and restoring relationships with God, others, and creation. The program also is designed to help children become “menders” in God’s world by engaging in Bible stories and activities that encourage care for others, self, and creation.

# Operation Restoration: The Basics

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- **Theme:** Being “Menders in God’s World,” Restoration
- **Publisher & date:** [Augsburg Fortress](#), 2022 ([Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** pre-K – grade 12
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** art, music, science, service and storytelling
- **Cost:** \$140 for base curriculum with options to buy single guides
- **Video:** <https://youtu.be/8zXvjuYWX48?si=fdm6LksbpiQpNIII>

# Operation Restoration: Scope & Sequence

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- **Day 1: Feed**  
Exodus 16:1–36, God Gives Enough Food for All
- **Day 2: Heal**  
Luke 13:10–17, Jesus Heals Those Who Are Sick and Hurt
- **Day 3: Forgive**  
Matthew 18:21–22, Jesus Forgives Us and Tells Us to Forgive
- **Day 4: Pray**  
Luke 11:1–4, Jesus Teaches Us to Pray
- **Day 5: Rest**  
Exodus 16:23–30, 20:8–11, 23:10–12, God Gives Sabbath for All Creation

# Operation Restoration: Where It Shines

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## **Value for money**

One of Operation Restoration's strongest aspects is the abundance of materials included in the curriculum, making it a worthwhile investment for churches and VBS organizers. The package comes with a wide variety of resources, including signs, posters, décor, promotional materials, forms, and teaching aids—all of which help streamline the planning and execution of the program.

## **Engaging presentations and stations**

Each day comes with a series of PowerPoints that include fun chants to begin the small group gathering time along with effective illustrations to support the day's Bible story.

# Operation Restoration: Where It Shines

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## **Family engagement**

The Family Page is a standout feature, offering activities for families to do together, including ways to care for the environment. Rather than limiting faith-based discussions to the church setting, this feature encourages continued engagement at home, helping families deepen their conversations and reinforce key lessons together.

## **High-quality illustrations**

The artwork throughout the curriculum is fun, engaging, and visually appealing!

# Operation Restoration: What We Miss

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## **Needs more discussion questions**

While activities are strong, additional discussion prompts for parents to use could help extend lessons beyond the VBS setting and encourage more conversations in the car or at home.

## **Deeper engagement with Bible stories**

While the Bible story selections are well-chosen and align with the overall theme of Operation Restoration, some of them feel surface-level, lacking deeper engagement with the text. The lessons often focus on broad, easily digestible messages rather than encouraging participants to explore the richness of the biblical narratives in a meaningful way.

# Operation Restoration: What We Miss

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## **Cultural sensitivity in music selection**

The inclusion of songs with African languages and a “Caribbean Lord’s Prayer” traditions felt somewhat uncomfortable. A more thoughtful approach that fully acknowledges why those songs were selected and their cultural and historical significance would enhance inclusivity and respect.

## **Activity options or modifications that are appropriate for all ages**

Some activities, like the Day 1 Lab Station, may be too complex for younger participants to fully grasp or engage with effectively. Providing alternative, age-appropriate modifications or clearer guidance on how to scale the activity for various age levels would help ensure all children can participate meaningfully.



# **Operation Restoration: Overall Assessment**

**A comprehensive  
and resource-rich  
VBS experience,  
but prep-heavy  
and missing a  
deeper dive into  
the Bible stories**