

True North

Reviewed by Sally Benton



True North: Snapshot

[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

- **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

- **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

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

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**