



UPWARD BOUND

Base Camp Assemblies Manual

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“...at the name of Jesus
every knee should
bow...and every
tongue confess
that Jesus Christ
is Lord to
the glory of
God the Father.”

Philippians 2:10–11

INTRODUCTION

Upward Bound's Base Camp Assemblies scripts "do it all" for you! Full of energy and fun, these light-hearted yet meaningful skits and select songs coordinate every element of each Upward Bound assembly with easy-to-follow directions.

The scripts:

- move quickly
- lead your VBS Backpackers through each assembly's activities
- parallel the daily Gospel presentation
- reinforce Upward Bound's profound truths through each day

Upward Bound's skits are almost entirely scripted to show churches, particularly those new to Reachout, what a thoroughly engaging VBS can look like. *Feel free to use your own words*, or adapt these lines for your own situation; merely view them as a guide in preparing your own dialog.

Your cast characters may decide to memorize their lines, or choose to creatively read or ad-lib more casually with script in hand. (Italics guide the flow of dialog.) Either way is fine. What matters is that your cast is outgoing, animated, and fun! May your Upward Bound Assemblies be fun and joyful, and have significant impact on the hearts of your young Backpackers.

Essential Upward Bound Lingo

Assistant Guide	Classroom Teacher Assistant
Backpackers	Children
Base Camp	Assembly Room
Breaking Camp	Daily Closing Assembly
Crossover to Life	Gospel Presentation
Expedition	Grade Group
Gospel Guide	Crossover to Life Gospel Presenter
Guide	Classroom Teacher
Outpost	Classroom
Setting Up Camp	Daily Opening Assembly
Song Guide	Song Leader
Summit Celebration	Final Closing Program
Trail Guide	Director and/or Base Camp MC
Trail Instructions	Announcements

Skit Cast Main Roles

Trail Guide
Song Guide
Caleb/Katie
Collin/Kolleen
Spot

Summit Celebration

Pastor
Skit Cast
Bible Lesson Storytellers

- Simon of Cyrene
- Mary (Jesus' mother)
- Mary Magdalene



Skit Copies

With the purchase of this manual, up to 9 photocopies may be made for use by cast members.



Assemblies Assistance

If you have any questions, please call us toll-free at 1-866-468-2772.

Crossover to Life Gospel Presentation

These scripts assume that the Gospel Guide is presenting Crossover to Life during Setting Up Camp. If you move this to Breaking Camp, adjust the scripts accordingly.

Singing

Theme-related songs interspersed throughout the scripts are a key element of every Upward Bound assembly:

- Songs relate to the day's Bible lesson and Crossover to Life Gospel presentation wherever possible.
- Song Guide reinforces these common themes when introducing the songs.
- Each song is introduced within the first few days so the Backpackers will know all the music by week's end.

Summit Celebration Invitations

Confer with VBS Director if invitations will be printed to be distributed as the children leave after Day 3. This is included in the final closing announcements for that day.

Base Camp Assemblies At a Glance

The final pages of this book provide a helpful chronological outline to give you a "bird's-eye view" of each assembly's activities.

STORYLINE, CAST, AND COSTUMES

STORYLINE

Accompanied by the antics of Spot, the good-natured camp dog, two siblings arrive at camp as Assistant Trail Guides with radically different attitudes. Caleb/Katie has a cheerful, obedient "Upward Bound Attitude"; Collin/Kolleen complains and misbehaves every step of his/her "Earthly Bound" way. Ignoring camp rules and all godly (Upward Bound) advice, Collin wreaks havoc (and causes Caleb and Spot to stumble spiritually and literally, respectively) until Collin's misadventures finally catch up with him. Humbled, Collin begins to see the folly of his ways and eventually becomes Upward Bound with a changed heart. A bulleted outline of the daily plot is provided on the first page of each day's script.

SKIT CAST

Trail Guide VBS Director or other staff member serving as Master of Ceremonies

Song Guide Song leader

Caleb/Katie (Assistant Trail Guide) Solid Christian camper with a servant's heart and an Upward Bound Attitude; Collin/Kolleen's sibling

Collin/Kolleen (Assistant Trail Guide) Disgruntled, non-Christian camper with an Earthly Bound Attitude who becomes a Christian later in the week; Caleb/Katie's sibling

Spot Upward Bound's friendly, playful dog

COSTUMES

Trail and Song Guides T-Shirt or short-sleeved khaki shirt; hiking shorts; knee socks and hiking boots; scout-type scarf; forest ranger hat; whistle

Caleb/Katie Similar to Trail Guide's costume but with a different color scarf, shirt, and/or hat

Collin/Kolleen Similar to Trail Guide and Caleb, varying colors where possible except for:

- *Day 1, Setting Up Camp:* "just-out-of-bed" attire (pajamas, towel, toothbrush; messy hair)
- *Day 1, Breaking Camp:* swimsuit, T-Shirt, beach towel
- *Day 2, Breaking Camp:* leaves/pine needles in hair, dirt on face, clothes unkempt, wet

Spot Full-size dog costume with collar plus:

- *Day 1:* shower/bathing cap, swimming tube, beach towel
- *Day 5:* swimming tube, beach towel



Top Secret!

Keep the identity of the actor in Spot's costume secret until the end of your Summit Celebration.

SET AND PROPS



Base Camp Gear

Campsite Set

- Trees (artificial Christmas trees)
- Potted plants
- Stuffed forest animals, birds
- "Campfire"
- Large rocks
- Camping Gear
 - tent
 - sleeping bags
 - backpacks
 - folding camp chairs, table
 - camp stove
 - coffee pot and dishes
 - cooler
 - lantern
 - hiking boots



Additional Props

Day 1

- Empty pop cans and food wrappers
- Trail Guide's backpack
- Bible
- Trail Log
- Caleb: firewood
- Spot: bundle of sticks tied to "paw"
- Caleb: torn backpack
- Collin: pajamas, towel, toothbrush
- Collin: wet swimsuit, T-Shirt, damp towel
- Spot: beach towel, shower/bathing cap, swimming tube
- Large stuffed bear

Day 2

- Binoculars
- Caleb: backpack (repaired) with gear, Bible
- Collin: backpack with gear, Bible
- Caleb: rocks
- Collin: walking stick, leaves and/or pine needles in hair; dirt on face; unkempt dirty, wet clothes
- Spot: toothpick "thorn" in paw

Day 3

- Collin: crutches, ace bandage
- Caleb: 2 backpacks
- Spot: firewood
- Caleb: comic book/handheld electronic game
- Collin: foam ball

Day 4

- Binoculars
- Collin: Bible

Day 5

- "Packed" duffel bags
- 2 backpacks
- Spot: beach towel, swimming tube

Skit Prop Summary

- Food wrappers
- 3 backpacks
- Trail Log
- 3 Bibles
- Firewood
- Bundle of small sticks
- 1 torn backpack
- Pajamas
- Towel
- Toothbrush
- Swimsuit
- Beach towel
- Shower/bathing cap
- Swimming tube
- Large stuffed bear
- Binoculars
- Rocks
- Walking stick
- Leaves and/or pine needles; dirt
- Toothpick
- Crutches
- Ace bandage
- Comic book/handheld electronic game
- Foam ball
- "Packed" duffel bags



DAY 1

Cast

Trail Guide
Song Guide
Caleb
Collin
Spot

Setting Up Camp Props

- Base Camp Gear
- Empty pop cans
- Food wrappers
- Trail Guide: backpack, Bible, Trail Log
- Caleb: firewood
- Spot: bundle of sticks tied to his “paw”
- Caleb: torn backpack
- Collin: pajamas, towel, toothbrush

Setting Up Camp Plot Summary

- Collin sleeps in while others search for him; eventually emerges from tent in pajamas
- Boys argue about Collin’s sandwich in Caleb’s torn backpack
- Collin has an “Earthy Bound Attitude”

SETTING UP CAMP

Trail and Song Guides are at front. The campsite has empty pop cans and food wrappers strewn behind the trees.

Song Guide Upward Bound March, “Upward Bound”

Welcome

Trail Guide Good morning, Backpackers! (*waits for response which is never loud enough*) I can hardly hear you! Out here in the woods, voices just vanish like the morning mist! Let’s try it again. Good morning, Backpackers! (*louder than the first time*) That was a whole lot better, but if you holler loud enough, we might be able to hear the echo off of the mountain! GOOD MORNING, BACKPACKERS! (*response*) Wow! Now that’s loud enough to cause an avalanche at the Summit! Welcome to Upward Bound!

Trail Guide I’m Trail Guide _____. How many of you know why I’ve been calling all you kids at a Vacation Bible School “Backpackers”? Because we’re going on an awesome hiking adventure this week at Upward Bound! We’re going to learn how to climb to the Summit, the very top, of a very *special* mountain!

Don’t worry if you don’t have hiking boots and bug spray, because we’re not going climbing in the great outdoors. At Upward Bound, we’re going climbing in the “great indoors!” We’re going to hike to the top of this mountain, and it’s going to be really fun and exciting! Are you up for fun? Yell and clap if you want lots of fun! (*response*) Do you want some excitement? Then stomp your feet! (*response*) Who wants to meet cool travelers from faraway places, and maybe a wild animal or two? Hoot like an owl if that sounds good! (*response*) Great! I love your adventurous spirit!

Sometimes at VBS you’ll work on your own, other times you’ll work together as we hike to the top. In some places the path will be smooth and easy, other places it can be rugged and challenging! (*mimics straining uphill*) But do we have to worry or be afraid on our adventure? Everyone say a big, loud “No!” Do you know why? Because we’re following (*really enthusiastically*) the best Guide in the whole world! God’s Son, Jesus Christ, is our Lead Guide! Who’s our Lead Guide? Yes! We’re going to follow Jesus, and He’s going to give us everything we need for our Upward Bound journey! Do you think Jesus will get us lost? No way! Jesus already climbed to the Summit ahead of us, and He’s given us a Guidebook to help us to follow in His footsteps. If we follow Jesus closely, are we going to make it to the top? You bet!

One of the great things we’re going to do a lot of on our way to the Summit is singing. Song Guide _____ is going to teach us one of our Upward Bound songs all about our Lead Guide Jesus right now!

Song Guide “Jesus, Jesus”

Introducing Expeditions, Guides

Trail Guide As you head to the Summit, you’ll work together as *Expeditions*—by grade groups (*introduces Expeditions A–D, each standing to cheers and applause*). And like every great climbing expedition, we have experienced Guides! (*Guides, Assistant Guides stand; cheers and applause*)

Introducing the Missions Project Offering

Trail Guide Backpackers, I have a special project to introduce us to:

- Explain VBS Missions Project, including goal you hope to reach
- Use a video or other visual aids to create enthusiasm for the project
- Encourage the children to bring offering money each day
- Use a creative display at front to mark progress towards goal

Trail Guide chooses four volunteers from different Expeditions to pass the offering plates; **Backpackers** sing during offering.

Song Guide

Let’s sing “Jesus, Jesus” again so we can really begin to learn it.

After offering, **Caleb** and **Spot** enter. **Caleb’s** arms overflow with firewood. **Spot** drags a small bundle of bound sticks tied to his paw.

Trail Guide Look, Backpackers! Here comes our camp dog, Spot, and my Assistant Trail Guide Caleb! Hi, you two! Great to see you! Here, let me give you a hand.

Trail Guide takes some wood from Caleb, sets it by campfire. **Caleb** deposits the rest, unties Spot’s bundle. **Spot** then sniffs around, ends up hanging around tent.

Trail Guide Looks like you and Assistant Trail Guide Collin found plenty of wood. Say, where *is* your brother?

Caleb I don’t know, Trail Guide. I haven’t seen Collin all morning. I waited for him at the lake for 20 minutes before Spot and I went to gather the wood ourselves. Maybe he’s laying low because of *this*. (*holds up torn backpack*)

Trail Guide What in the world happened to your backpack?

Caleb I think you’d better ask Collin that, Trail Guide—if we ever find him, that is.

Trail Guide Backpackers, I think we need your help to find Assistant Trail Guide Collin! On the count of three, you Backpackers yell, “Assistant Trail Guide Collin!” then listen real carefully! 1...2...3...ASSISTANT TRAIL GUIDE COLLIN!