

SPACE MISSION 2'S & 3'S TEACHER GUIDE

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*Our prayer for Space Mission's
Astronauts:*

**“...that they may become
BLAMELESS and PURE,
children of God WITHOUT FAULT
in a crooked and depraved generation,
in which they SHINE LIKE
STARS**

**in the universe as they hold out the
WORD OF LIFE...”**

adapted from Philippians 2:15–16

SPACE MISSION OVERVIEW

What to Expect From Space Mission

Children love Space Mission; adults love its impact! By God's grace, here's what it will do in the lives of your children, leading them to love and worship Jesus Christ!:

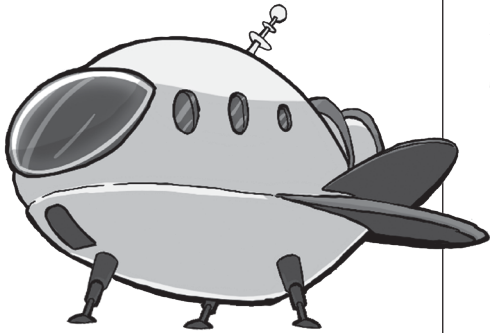
- ✧ deepen their knowledge of and love for the Word of God
- ✧ increase their enthusiasm for memorizing Scripture

Overall Focus and Bible Lesson Truth Summary

Our deep desire for the children is that they have a *life-changing encounter with the Creator God of the Universe*, an encounter that impacts their lives now and for eternity.

Through the Bible lessons the children learn:

- ✧ all things were made by God
- ✧ people were made to know and worship God
- ✧ sin has broken our relationship with God
- ✧ Jesus came to restore that relationship
- ✧ Jesus Christ is the one true "Ark" of eternal salvation



Meet the Flight Crew

Star Commander

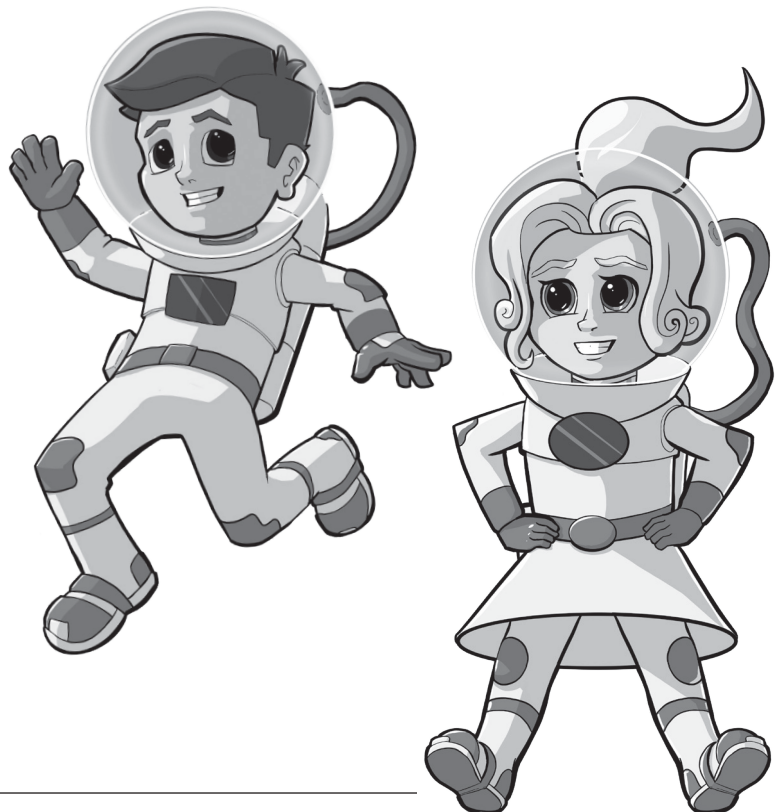
VBS Director

Squadron Teacher

Classroom Teacher

Squadron Assistant

Classroom Teacher Assistant



BIBLICAL TRUTHS AT A GLANCE

Day	(Bible Lesson)		Blast Off Cheer	Bible Memory Verse
Day 1	Crowned with Glory and Honor What does it mean that God is the Creator? Scripture: Genesis 1:1-25	Main Theme God created all things out of nothing by the power of His word. Because of that we need to listen to Him, we can know that He made the world to work following His rules, and we can know for sure that what God has declared “good” is valuable.	“Believe God’s Word!”	“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! — Psalm 8:1
Day 2	God Made Me to Know Him and Be with Him What does it mean that I am made in God’s image? Scripture: Genesis 1:26-Genesis 2	Main Theme God created me and all people in His own image to personally respond to Him in love and worship by resting in His completed work and joyfully working to extend His good rule over all of Creation.	“Worship God!”	“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! — Psalm 8:1
Day 3	Silence the Enemy What is God going to do about the evil in and around me? Scripture: Genesis 3	Main Theme Because Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, I cannot know or please God through my own efforts. But God is gracious and merciful, and He is determined not to let His children be lost in sin.	“Obey the Lord!”	“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! — Psalm 8:1
Day 4	You Have Ordained Praise How can I please God? Scripture: Genesis 1:1-25	Main Theme I was made to glorify God but because of my sin nature, I am like Cain filled with pride and self-reliance. Yet by God’s grace, I can please Him like Abel by humbly repenting of my sin and putting my faith in Jesus who alone can change my heart and make me right with God.	“We Need Jesus”	“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! — Psalm 8:1
Day 5	Mindful of Us How can I be saved from God’s just wrath? Scripture: Genesis 6:1-9:17	Main Theme Just as God gave Noah the Ark to rescue him from God’s just wrath, He has given Jesus as my only safe place to escape the judgement I deserve for my sin. Only in Jesus can I be restored to a loving relationship with my wonderful Creator and Heavenly Father.	“Trust Like Noah!”	“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens... our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! — Psalm 8:1 & 9

TEACHING 2'S & 3'S SQUADRON

Caring for E Squadron, Space Mission's 2 & 3 year olds, is a precious ministry which blesses the entire VBS program. E Squadron toddlers (and their parents!) handle separation best when these littlest of Astronauts are enjoying a simple, relaxed curriculum. Your ministry:

- ✧ allows staff parents to give themselves more fully to their VBS roles
- ✧ provides a creative, nurturing environment
- ✧ teaches these little Astronauts Space Mission's basic spiritual truths

Using this Curriculum

The most effective way to implement this curriculum will depend on your:

- ✧ facility
- ✧ number of Squadron Teachers and Assistants
- ✧ number of children
- ✧ E Squadron's specific age composition:
 - how many 2's, how many 3's?
 - do you have just-turned 2's and almost 4's?

This Teacher Guide provides you with:

- ✧ insights and guidelines for working with very young children
- ✧ a full, age-appropriate curriculum including:
 - daily schedule
 - lesson summary
 - memory work
 - lesson-related, hands-on learning activities
 - recreation plan

The key to success with 2's & 3's is:

- ✧ prayer
- ✧ good preparation & organization
- ✧ flexibility!



Space Station Rules

Clearly explain your rules concerning the use of toys and materials, snack time, obedience, and getting along with the other children. Gently but firmly discipline when necessary, according to your church's policy.



COUNTDOWN TO LIFT OFF— *Preparing for Space Mission*

Prepare Your Heart and Mind

- Prayerfully read through the Bible Lesson Curriculum which is the heart and unifying thread of the entire program.
- Attend Space Mission training meetings to be spiritually and mentally prepared for your role, and to pray and develop unity



SQUADRON LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES

Classroom Coordinators for E Squadron are responsible for the following:

Space Station Setup

■ **Location**

Ideally your class should be located in a room that is not a thoroughfare, has adequate space, easy access to a safe outdoor play area, and a bathroom nearby.

■ **Decorations**

Transform your classroom into the Astronauts' "Space Station"; consult your VBS Decorations Coordinator for ideas. Display visual aids at child level so they may be easily seen and touched when appropriate. Items not to be touched by the children should be hung from the ceiling or placed higher on walls.

■ **Furniture**

Tables and chairs should be child-sized, with plenty of room to walk around them. Have a higher table or shelf to keep materials easily accessible to Squadron Teachers.

■ **Solar Circle (circle time area)**

Use yellow 12" fabric/vinyl circles ("sun spots") or yellow tape to designate your Solar Circle for group activities.

■ **Safety**

Safety check your Space Station and remove all untouchables. Make sure all electrical outlets are covered and window cords out of reach.

■ **Cleanup**

Have a pail and sponge and/or disinfectant wipes, a broom and dust pan and/or vacuum, and garbage cans readily at hand for easy cleanup.

Space Station Supplies

- pillows, mats, sleeping bags, or blankets for rest time
- Learning Site materials

- tissues, paper towels, cleanup and diaper-changing supplies

Hands-On Activities

The daily schedule allows for two periods which provide hands-on learning experiences.

■ **Arrival Time Activities**

These may be repeated each day or rotated for variety (see list on page 8)

■ **Learning Sites**

Learning Sites are specifically designed to follow each Bible lesson presentation to reinforce the day's biblical truths. Detailed instructions begin on page 12.

Unless your Director has already appointed a Learning Site Coordinator, delegate responsibility to one or more Squadron Teachers/Assistants for planning, setup, supervision, and takedown of daily activities. Note that *it is not necessary to use every lesson-specific Site each day*; select those you believe will be most effective and manageable in your particular situation. Props can be shared between E & D Squadrons.

Landing Celebration (closing program)

Ask your Director if your Squadron will sing a song and/or recite your memory verse in the final closing program for family and friends; if so, plan to practice on Days 4 and/or 5.

Backup Ideas

Have music, relevant picture books, a list of stand-up exercises and other backup activity ideas on hand to use if the need arises.

Clock Patrol

Keep your Squadron on schedule!



- Aim to pray for each activity and every child individually before coming to Space Mission each day.

Your teaching materials include:

- Bible
- 2's & 3's Teacher Packet
 - Teacher Guide
 - Bible Lesson Curriculum
 - Bible Lesson "At a Glance"
 - 2's & 3's activity pagers (reproducible pages in the back of this book)

DEVELOPMENTAL REALITIES FOR 2'S & 3'S

- ✧ **General** — The first reality to consider for these little ones is the significant developmental span between the "just two's" and the "almost four's." Be sure to learn the age of each child and *adjust your expectations accordingly*; otherwise you may make the mistake of underestimating the petite child and expecting too much of the faster-growing child.
- ✧ **Physically** — These children are very active and need lots of space in which to move around. Be flexible about their sitting down for the Bible story; some will need to get up and touch the visual aids. Many of them will have only beginning coloring skills.
- ✧ **Emotionally** — 2's & 3's need lots of approval, some individual attention, and full acceptance of the unique person God has created each one of them to be. Allow each child to be special! Try not to hurry them, and watch for indications of frustration *before* behavior problems arise. If a child is having a difficult time, provide an alternate activity. Pressuring a resistant child usually leads to tears, class disruption, and the need to take Mom or Dad away from her or his VBS assignment.
- ✧ **Spiritually** — Coming from the homes of your VBS staff, most of the children receive their primary Christian teaching from their parents and Sunday School. Your teaching should be seen as an adjunct to their Christian education. Reinforce basic Gospel truths and reduce lesson material to an extremely simple narrative form. Encourage the children to pray. Their prayers may sound like mumbling to you, but their heavenly Father hears them very clearly!
- ✧ **Cognitively** — Children of two or three learn with simple rote—repeat, repeat, repeat! And because they learn with their whole bodies, do as much with drama, hand motions, sounds, and other sensory activities as possible! (Don't ask them to learn just by sitting and listening to accommodate an adult teaching style of "teaching by talking.") Appeal to the children's curiosity. Remember that the attention span is very short at this age, so alternate busy and quiet activities. Make learning fun and leave the children with wonderful memories of Space Mission!





MAINTAINING ORBIT — Leading Your Astronauts through Space Mission

About the Schedule

The schedule that follows breaks the day into short segments. It is wise to move young children on to the next activity before they become bored and find their own “creative” alternatives! At each transition make short, clear statements to direct your Astronauts. For example, rather than asking, “Would you like to sit down and listen to a story?” say,

*“It’s time to pick up the blocks. I see Sam putting his blocks away...
Let’s sit on our yellow circles. I like the way Sarah is sitting on a
circle....Now we’re ready to sing some songs!”*

SAMPLE DAILY SCHEDULE

Time	Activity
Pre-Start and 10 minutes	Arrival Time Activities
20 minutes	Solar Circle (<i>whole group time</i>): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greeting Game Song• Lesson Teasers• Blast Off Cheers
25 minutes	Stellar Sports (<i>outdoor play</i>)
5 minutes	bathroom break
20 minutes	Bible Storyteller, Celestial Snack, Lesson Focus
40 minutes	Learning Sites (<i>lesson-focused activities</i>)
5 minutes	cleanup and bathroom break
20 minutes	rest time
10 minutes	Solar Circle: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Memory Verse Song• singing• Blast Off Cheer review
15 minutes	Stellar Sports (<i>lesson-related recreation, pages 18</i>)
10 minutes	Solar Circle: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• singing• prayer• distribute take-home crafts



Down-to-Earth Expectations

Keep your expectations realistic!
The week will be long for these little ones and the goal is for both them and their teachers to enjoy their Space Mission experience.

“The universe is an explosion of God’s Glory. **Perfect goodness, beauty, and love radiate from God** and draw creatures to ever increasingly share in the Godhead’s joy and delight.... The ultimate end of creation, then, is union in love between God and loving creatures.”

George Marsden, Jonathan Edwards: *A Life*, pp 462-63





Down-to-Earth Expectations

Keep your expectations realistic! The week will be long for these little ones and the goal is for both them and their teachers to enjoy their Space Mission experience.

Keep the same schedule each day to give the children a growing sense of security as the week progresses and they become familiar with the daily routine.

Arrival Time Activities

- Expect staff children to arrive early because of their parents' VBS roles.
- Prior to the children's arrival, set up several arrival activities from the list below with enough space to comfortably accommodate four to five Astronauts supervised by a Squadron Teacher/Assistant. These activities should be brought out only for arrival playtime.
 - foil-covered dress-up box containing space helmets, flight-suits, space boots, etc.
 - space-themed toys (rockets, planets, etc.)
 - stuffed animals and puppets
 - picture books relating to the day's Bible lesson or space theme
 - flannelboard with creation shapes, Bible lesson figures (Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah), etc.
 - puzzles
 - building blocks
 - portable play equipment such as plastic slides, ride-on toys
 - crayons or washable markers, paper
 - rhythm band instruments
 - bean bags or soft foam balls
 - Noah's Ark toys (Day 5)

BLAST OFF CHEERS

<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Cheer</i>	<i>Motions</i>
1. Your Glory Fills the Skies	<i>Believe God's Word</i>	open hands to indicate Bible
2. Crowned with Glory and Honor	<i>Worship God!</i>	lift hands to Heaven
3. Silence the Enemy	<i>Obey the Lord!</i>	nod head "Yes!"
4. You Have Ordained Praise	<i>We Need Jesus</i>	fold hands and bow head
5. Mindful of Us	<i>Trust Like Noah!</i>	make motion of pounding a hammer

