Jesus & Me
Vacation Bible Camp
Overview of the week

Our theme Jesus & Me was based on the books *Wonder, Auggie & Me and 365 Days of Wonder* written by R.J. Palacio. If you haven't had a chance to read them I encourage you to do so! She has also written a book for younger readers titled *We're All Wonders*. These books inspired a move to Choose Kind, it teaches empathy, compassion and acceptance. In the story the children learn from a favorite teacher about precepts (rules for very important things, mottos, and famous quotes to help motivate and guide us). We decided to focus the week of VBC on teaching our kids three precepts:

You should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you. Matthew 7:12

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made" Psalm 139:14

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As longs as you ever can.
Commonly known as John Wesley's Rule

Kick-off:
The Friday before we offered a FREE showing of the movie Wonder in our larger room (The Foundry) at the church. Everyone was welcome to come regardless if they were participating in VBC. We provided free popcorn!

Follow-up:
Every day we sent home a "challenge card" that listed the daily theme, verse and precept. It also offered a kindness challenge for the kids each day.

The Sunday after VBC we did not have Sunday school for elementary aged kids – they all came into worship. The VBC band played music and the kids all stood up and did the motions. After service everyone was given a treat of ice cream. In years past we have done a small part of the drama too. We always show a quick recap video so the entire congregation can see what the kids were up to during VBC.

Final Recap Video shown in worship: https://vimeo.com/303133868

We also send a postcard to every child who attend VBC. You can find a sample listed as VBC_FollowUpPostcard.pdf. On the postcard we invite them to join us for Sunday school in the summer and include a link to one final video message from Principal Cheekster (a main character in our drama each day) https://vimeo.com/293985887

Day 1
Theme: Chosen
Story: Zacchaeus from Luke 19:1-10
Verse: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. ***Psalm 139:14***
Precept: I am fearfully and wonderfully made
Video clip from movie: Introduced the kids to the concept of Precepts and how John Wesley's statement was going to be our precepts for most of the week.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Df8ymFH_smg

Day 2
Theme: Choose To Follow
Story: Calling Of Matthew from Matthew 9:9-13
Verse: For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. ***Ephesians 2:10***
Precept: Do all the good you can, By all the means you can
Video clip from movie: Time Stamp for this is 51:45-53:55
Jack Will is asked by his mom to show kindness to Auggie. Reluctant at first but eventually goes for it. Jesus is calling us to show kindness.

Day 3
Theme: Choose To Care
Story: Jesus Heals the 10 Lepers from Luke 17:11-19
Verse: And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God ***Micah 6:8***
Precept: Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can
Video clip from movie: Time Stamp for this is 54:17-55:40
Summer joins Auggie in the lunch room when no one else will. Talked about looking for those that are hurting and showing them kindness. Summer saw Auggie was hurting and decided to do something about it.

Day 4
Theme: Choose To Be A Friend
Story: Women At The Well from John 4:1-44
Verse: You should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you. ***Matthew 7:12***
Precept: Do all the good you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can
Video clip from movie: Time Stamp is 36:35-40:03
Jack Will and Auggie's friendship really blossoms. We talked to the kids that sometime we are called to show more than just a simple random act of kindness we called to invest in someone and be there friend.

Day 5
Theme: Choose Kind
Story: Jesus Blesses The Children from Mark 10:13-16
Precept: Do all the good you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.
Video clip from movie: no clips for today

Registration:

We do online registration for volunteers (adult & youth) and for the children. We begin our volunteer registration very early in February! We offer a $5 discount per child for adult volunteers who register before we open it up to the public. We charge $22 for children 2 years and older, that covers t-shirt, snacks and everything else! The camp is designed for children in kindergarten through 5th grade and for us that is the grade they just finished. So kids going into kindergarten and younger are only able to attend if an adult volunteers for the week.

Volunteers can be youth 6th grade and older! We could not function without all of our youth volunteers. We prefer that people volunteer for the entire week but we do have a few options for those who can't and we call them floaters. We'll stick them where we need them the most that day.

Curriculum:

Early Childhood, even though VBC is not created for these children we do provide a VBC experience for them. It is the same theme as the older kids but scaled back and made age appropriate. For example they may focus on one word for a day or two instead of introducing a new concept every day. These kids will not travel to the rotation stations like the older kids. They will have time on the playground and a recreation time with planned games and activities. They will not go into the sanctuary for drama/music/scripture but will go to their own theater and have large group time.

Kindergarten through 2nd grade – These kids will be assigned classrooms with at least 4 volunteers. They will begin and end the day in the classroom and will stay with this group all day.

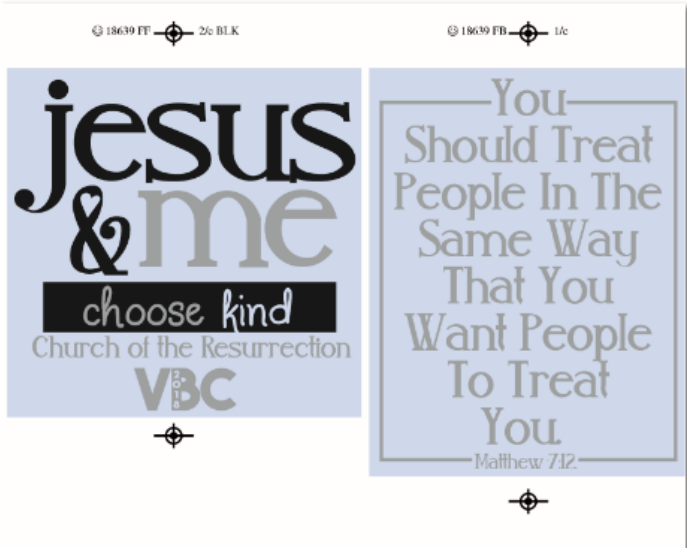
3rd – 5th grade – Is run more like a youth group. They are not assigned classrooms but begin in a large group setting. On the first day they select their own small group of 6-8 kids and 1-2 leaders. Each day they will break into their small group for about 20 minutes.

Missions Collections:
Every year at VBC we have two types of mission collections, one is monetary and the other are donated items. This past year we collected money to go to the Juan Wesley School in Ciudad Espana, Honduras. They are trying to build a multipurpose court. We used these containers for collecting mission money. They worked out great! You can have the children decorate or you can put a sticker on them that highlights the mission project they are collecting for. They are 3 by 5.5 inch containers with removable bottom. Freund Container.com, item number F94. Orders under 100 are $1.10 each. Or if you can get everyone to bring in a Pringles potato chip canister you can create your own!



We also collected new and gently used books to donate to the bookmobile which hands out the books for free at schools around the city. The kids at these schools cannot afford to purchase books and are thrilled to be able to pick out new and used books of their very own. Before we had the bookmobile we donated directly to several inner city schools. If this sounds like something you'd like to do I'm sure you can find a good place to donate.

T-shirts:
We give every volunteer a t-shirt for free, and every child receives one with their paid registration. It's super fun to see everyone wearing the shirt around town! Panel one is the front of the shirt and panel two is the back. If you would like to order something similar (obviously you'd want to take off Church of the Resurrection) you can contact Robert Besermin at Freestyle Graphics at 816-525-9191 or sales@freestylegraphics.net They can adjust the design, print on any color type of t-shirt you'd like!



Rotation Stations:
The elementary aged children will leave their classroom for Drama/Music/Missions in the sanctuary and one other rotation each day. We have four rotation stations that the kids will each visit one time, Craft, Recreation, Missions and Recess (we have also done a science station in the past). On Friday everyone kindergarten – 5th grade will have a recreation rotation ---- Shaving Cream Party!

Craft Station:
The older kids made these cute journals. The supplies were purchased from Oriental training, www.orientaltrading.com. Journals are item 56/9084 DIY White Canvas Notebooks, we ordered many different colors of washi tape from them too, item numbers 13658996. The conversation heart foam pieces are item 57/20001. The youngest kids made prayer boxes item number 48/2989.



Recess Station:
Instead of a science rotation this year we added this station. It was an unstructured time for kids to run around! We set out items like jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, kick balls, corn hole games, etc and then let the kids do what they wanted. The favorite item was a super large beach ball we found at Sam's Club for $19. The kids LOVED them. We did have youth and adults supervising. The kids loved this opportunity to do their own thing. If you have a playground make use of it!



Mission Station:
We collected new and used books for our bookmobile. You could do the same and donate them to a local charity if you wanted. Then we had the kids make bookmarks to go along with the books. We had 3 different types of bookmarks, the youngest children colored in bookmarks and placed stick on jewels on them. The oldest kids made the cute fold down faces and the middle made the paper clip with ribbons. All turned out super cute! This could also be a craft project if you don't have anywhere to donate bookmarks.





Recreation Station:
We always have outside games for the kids to play. Camp favorites are any games with the large parachutes (you can purchase decent ones at Oriental Trading). For a list of games and activities to play with parachutes http://www.playparachutes.com/pagaac.html

On hot days we create some kind of water game, another favorite is the sponge relay game. Divide kids into teams. Each team stands in their own line, facing one direction. The person in the front holds a sponge. He/she dips the sponge into a big bucket of water, which is directly in front of them. They pass this sponge over their head to the person behind them. And it goes like this on down the line. The last person wrings the wet sponge into a pitcher (which is directly behind them) & then they run up to the front of the line (with the sponge) & begin all over again. The team to fill the pitcher first, wins.

We've made fun obstacle courses for the kids to race through and those can be made with anything!

On Friday we end the day with very special outdoor parties. The younger kids have a water party. We have plastic baby pools filled with water and then we have small foam water shooters for them to squirt each other with, along with bubbles and other fun water toys. You can buy them lots of places



or online.

The kindergarten through 5th grader have a shaving cream party! We provide each child with a can of non-menthol, non-gel shaving cream (we charge for it with registration) You can have them bring their own too just make sure it's the correct kind! See the rules below. But the best part is the ending when the local fire department comes with their truck and hoses all the kids down! They love it!

Make sure kids have goggles, towels with them before heading down to the field.

There will be 4 designated areas:

Kindergarten classes (boys and girls together)
1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade girls
1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade boys
Non-participant area. There will be hoola hoops and other stuff for them

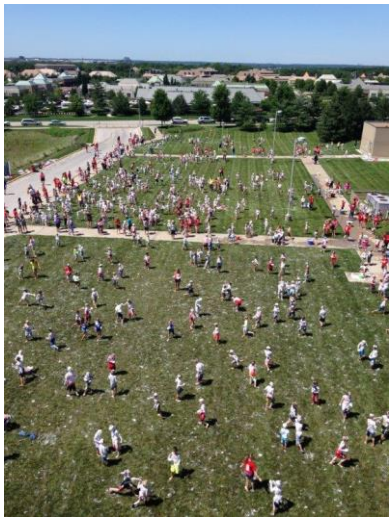
Rules of the shaving cream party: Please cover these again before you go outside

No spraying the shaving cream directly out of the can onto anyone, spray into your hand and throw it onto people.
No head shots. Kids can choose to put it on their own heads and sculpt their hair.
Goggles are great for keeping shaving cream out of their eyes. If they happen to get shaving cream in their eyes a great way to get it off is with the inside of their shirt.
Stay in your designated area unless you are going to get hosed off.

Other notes:

1. There will be some chalk and bubbles for kids not interested in the shaving cream game
2. There will be some baby pools and hoses for kids to rinse off with in addition to the fire truck (or if the fire truck is not able to be there)
3. There will be a basic "first aid" area on the service drive for kids that need eyes cleared, band aids, face wiped, etc. There will be people wearing safety vests through the field who can escort kids off if they need help.
4. When the siren blows and announcement made (after fire truck wash off), please make sure kids meet up with you to safely get back to their classrooms for dismissal.





Drama/Missions/Scripture/Music:
Everyday all of the kids gather in the sanctuary for about 40 minutes. We start with music led by teenagers! Then we have a live drama acted out by students (scripts are on the site). We introduce the mission collection that we will be doing all week long (then every day we give them the update on how much we have collected). They know what the goal is and if we reach the goal we'll do something special. This past year when they reached the goal Mr. Nick had ketchup poured all over him! Yuck. Then we teach the kids the scripture verses, this year that included the precepts. We put them to motions to help them remember them. Check out the motions by opening the file names Scripture motions.

Snack Ideas:

VBC Snack Schedule for 3rd Graders and Younger
We purchase the large bags of each snack when available and let each classroom scoop out their own servings. Saves lots of money doing it this way.

Monday: Skinny Pop
Tuesday: Veggie Straws and Raisins
Wednesday: Applesauce and Animal Crackers
Thursday: Pretzel Crisps and Cheese Sticks
Friday: Sheridan's Frozen Custard – this is donated for all the children and volunteers.

Other important information…
You will receive a roll of paper towels and a stack of Dixie cups at the start of the week. Please use the paper towels and Dixie cups throughout the week to help in scooping and serving snacks each day.

VBC Snack Schedule for 4th & 5th Graders
We give the older elementary kids treats that are a little bit better than the younger kids. Here's a sample of what we have done:

- Pizza
- Donuts and milk
- Breadsticks
- Root beer floats
- Big soft pretzels
- Nacho's (cheese & chips)
- Hotdogs