



# Be Essential for Jesus

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

## VBS Leader Information Packet

### Be Essential for Jesus

### Courage, Trust, Peace and Obedience

We are so excited to share this VBS "Be Essential for Jesus" journey with you! Please take some time to review this information packet to prepare yourself and your church family for 4 exciting weeks learning about Courage, Trust, Peace, and Obedience!

There are four weeks of curriculum:

- **Shiphrah and Puah: *Courage* – God gives me strength to do what is right**
- **Elijah and the Widow: *Trust* – God provides what I need**
- **Philip and the Ethiopian Official: *Peace* – God is always with me**
- **God Uses a Servant Girl: *Obedience* – God wants everyone to be ESSENTIAL for Jesus!**

Every week of curriculum will include the following:

- **Scripture** – Opens every lesson for families and is a great way for parents to share the bible with their children
- **Bible Story Video** – Available on YouTube through Aldersgate United Methodist Church and through the Susquehanna Conference at [susumc.org](http://susumc.org)
- **Family Chat Questions** – A great opportunity to open communication within a family, based on the scripture and the bible story
- **Family Activities** – These activities will allow interaction and discussion within a family or group and are meant to be led by an adult



# Be Essential for Jesus

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- 
- **Children's Independent Activities** – These activities are geared toward independent learning allowing children to continue the fun on their own
  - **Snack Time** – Each week has its own snack ideas based upon the bible story
  - **Closing Prayer** – Brings families back to God and the lesson for the week
  - **Dive in Deeper** – These are additional activities that families can use to go deeper into their faith and includes online resources, apps, games, and family bible studies

## Make this VBS your own!

There are so many ways to use this VBS curriculum to create a fun and exciting way for your families to celebrate God and all the Essential Workers.

- **Family Challenge** – this optional challenge is a great way to bring your church families together. Each lesson will focus on an Essential Worker in the community and we encourage families to celebrate these workers. You can challenge your families to fulfill the activity and offer up a prize in return. Here are some suggestions:
  - **Shiprah and Puah** – Thank a Health Care Worker: children will create thank you cards for a local hospital, doctor's office, or family friend. You can turn this into a challenge by collecting the cards and giving them to a specific organization. A great way to encourage a local mission.
  - **Elijah and the Widow** – Say Thank You to a Grocery Store Worker and Thank you for the Delivery: families are encouraged to express their gratitude verbally to grocery store employees and children are encouraged to create a thank you poster for delivery drivers and place it at their front door or house window. To turn this into a challenge, consider encouraging your families to create thank you drawings that you can share with your local grocery store.
  - **Phillip and the Ethiopian Official** – Thank Your Teacher and Thank a Truck Driver: children will celebrate both Teachers and Truck Drivers by expressing their gratitude in cards and house window/car window posters. Turn this into a challenge by having families submit pictures via Facebook or Twitter.



# Be Essential for Jesus

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- 
- **God Uses a Servant Girl** – Celebrate Sanitation Workers: families will show thankfulness to our Sanitation Workers by making cards, doing sidewalk chalk decorations, blowing bubbles and handing out cold bottles of water, or whatever they feel led to do. Turn this into a challenge by having families submit pictures or share their plans via Facebook or Twitter.
  - **Prizes** – Family Challenges can be a great way to keep your church families connected and you do not need to have prizes. If you want to offer some incentive, consider things like pizza delivered to a winning home, a Coloring Kit which can include paper, pencils, and coloring tools; coupons from a local restaurant, etc...
  - **Mission Project** – We hope that you will choose a Mission Project for your families to work toward, especially if there is a current mission in your church that needs assistance. If you would like to make your mission projects lesson based, here are some suggestions:
    - **Shiphrah and Puah** – Contact women's shelters in your area and ask what their current needs may be or does your area have a diaper collection organization such as "Healthy Steps Diaper Banks" that you could contribute to? <https://healthystepsdiaperbank.com/>
    - **Elijah and the Widow** – Contact your local food bank or hold a food drive
    - **Philip and the Ethiopian Official** - Find a local organization such as Mission Central to see if they are collecting school supplies <https://missioncentral.org/>, local schools often have programs that have specific needs, or donate to an organization such as the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry <https://www.carlisletruckstopministry.org/>
    - **God Uses a Servant Girl** – Encourage families to select a family mission project, gather neighbors to work together to support a local mission, or donate to an organization started by a child such as Alex's Lemonade Stand <https://www.alexslimonade.org/>



# Be Essential for Jesus

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

- 
- **Music** – you're welcome to use the recorded performances provided by Revolution Youth at Aldersgate UMC from the Aldersgate UMC YouTube channel or create your own. Here are some songs and links to create or inspire your own playlist:
    - Be Essential for Jesus:
      - "This Little Light of Mine"
      - "God Made You and Me" by Kids! Sing Along! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cA7CjywHx00>
      - "Do Something!" by Matthew West [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b\\_RjndG0IX8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b_RjndG0IX8)
    - Shiphrah and Puah:
      - "Courageous" by Casting Crowns <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTVJmX-hzYw>
      - "Confidence" by Sanctus Real <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuzPOVFcFj4>
    - Elijah and the Widow:
      - "God Provides" by Tamela Mann <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GNktMWrB74>
      - "The Lord our God will provide" by Fredonia Hill Worship [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOJAgY8\\_xHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOJAgY8_xHA)
      - "In God we Trust" by Hillsong Worship <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dln-ZtjUDNY>
    - Philip and the Ethiopian Official:
      - "God with Us" Mercy Me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrajzjddeWA>
    - God Uses a Servant Girl:
      - "I will Follow" Chris Tomlin <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g02mOpdNDtY>
      - "Strong Tower" Newsboys <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ds8vcSJFe7E>



# Be Essential for Jesus

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

---

## What will you need?

This VBS curriculum, and included projects, were created in a way so that anyone could participate from home. The supplies are basic items that most homes will have readily available, but we've compiled a list for you to prepare yourselves and your families.

### Shiphrah and Puah

- Print out of the lesson and family checklist
- Dry erase marker, washable marker, or toothpaste for Mirror Message
- A baby doll or action figure and a small blanket for Baby Race game
- A piece of paper and a small string to create a Prayer Scroll
- Coloring supplies, scissors, string, optional beads for Courage Amulet necklace
- Paper and coloring supplies for Healthcare Worker Thank You Card
- Baby food or blender for Snack Time

### Elijah and the Widow

- Print out of the lesson and family checklist
- Dry erase marker, washable marker, or toothpaste for Mirror Message
- Ingredients to Make Homemade Playdough (link in lesson)
- A notebook or note cards to gather recipes for Create a Family Cookbook
- Small amounts of sugar, salt, oil, water, and a variety of spices (smelling) for Play a Kitchen Guessing Game
- A plastic water bottle, food coloring, and the oil and water from Kitchen Guessing Game, option to add glitter, beads, and small plastic items to Create a Sensory Bottle
- Paper and coloring supplies for both Delivery Driver Thank You Poster and Make Your Own Placemat
- Ingredients for edible playdough for Snack Time (link in lesson)

### Philip and the Ethiopian Official

- Print out of the lesson and family checklist
- Dry erase marker, washable marker, or toothpaste for Mirror Message
- Paper and drawing tools for Bible Pictionary game
- A large box or laundry basket and decoration supplies for Make Your Own Chariot
- Paper and coloring supplies for Thank Your Teachers and Thank a Truck Driver
- 2 plastic cups, a long piece of string, and 2 paper clips
- A large marshmallow, teddy graham or gummy bear, animal cracker horse, Gummy Life Savers to create and Edible Chariot and various fruits and/or vegetables for Snack Time



## Be Essential for Jesus

**Ephesians 2:10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

---

### God Uses a Servant Girl

- Print out of the lesson and family checklist
- Dry erase marker, washable marker, or toothpaste for Mirror Message
- Options for Celebrate Sanitation Workers include paper, coloring supplies, bubbles, bottled water, etc...
- Paper and coloring supplies for How Can I Obey God?
- A paper or plastic cup and a popsicle stick or straw for Naaman Washes in the River
- Washable paint, dish soap, paint brushes, cleaning spray and paper towels for Wash It Away
- Everyone's favorite snacks for Snack Time

We hope that VBS at Home "Be Essential for Jesus" allows for a deeper connection between your church, your families, and your community. Please keep in mind that this curriculum can be used as a template – feel free to add, remove, or make changes to any parts, so that it better fits your needs.

**Now GO and BE ESSENTIAL FOR JESUS!**