<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson One</td>
<td>The Challenge to See—Elijah in the Presence of God (1 Kings 19:1-18)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Two</td>
<td>The Challenge to Know—King Josiah and the Lost Scroll (2 Chronicles 34:1-33)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Three</td>
<td>The Challenge to Trust—King Jehoshaphat Trusts in God (2 Chronicles 20:1-24)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Four</td>
<td>The Challenge to Obey—Jonah Runs from God (Jonah 1:1—3:5)</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Five</td>
<td>The Challenge to Believe—Thomas Doubts Jesus’ Resurrection (John 20:19-29)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God, (Psalms 62:7).

Are you ready to get lost in a tropical island adventure? If so, then travel with us to the island of Castaway Key and get ready to conquer some amazing faith-building challenges!

In many ways, our lives here on earth can be compared spiritually to being marooned on a deserted island. Buffeted by storms, our entire being focused on the day-to-day struggles to survive, but we have a refuge from the storms, a provider ever-present and ready to save us. Sometimes we forget that God is our rock of strength in this shifting sands of our world strife. It can be difficult to keep our faith strong in the face of the many challenges we face. But God is always there, standing firm, just waiting for us to call on His name. “In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God,” (Psalms 62:7).

A strong and devoted faith in God is a powerful thing. At one time, the nation of Israel understood this. In fact, there was a time when Israel was the most powerful community of people on earth. Led by their faith in a present God, Israel had risen from the bondage of slavery to a prosperous and influential nation. But it didn't last. Following the reign of King Solomon, the once great nation of Israel had split into two kingdoms, neither of which was ever a shadow of the nation that had preceded them. The glory days were over. The emergence of the divided kingdom was the beginning of the end for Israel because, during this time, the only thing that was more divided than their once powerful nation was their once powerful faith. Yet, faith survived. In the midst of turmoil, wickedness, and apathy, there was always a remnant of people who remained faithful to God. Because of their circumstances and environment, these people undoubtedly had to work hard to keep their faith as strong as it should be. There were challenges they had to face and conquer in order to build their faith and keep it strong.

Today, we also have many obstacles that battle against our faith, and we must also work hard to ensure that our faith remains strong. In a world that seems chaotic, apathetic, and sometimes wicked, we too must conquer many challenges if our faith is ever to survive. Through studying Bible stories from the days of the divided kingdom, Marooned: Steady Faith in Shifting Sands focuses on five challenges that are vital in building our faith so that we will be equipped, not only to survive, but to thrive in the world in which we live.

Upon closer examination, you will notice that this manual is presented in outline form. This is to enable a teacher of any skill level to present an informative and interesting lesson with minimal preparation time. The outline provides you with all the basic points, Scripture, and illustrations without stifling your creativity.

Each lesson is divided into learning blocks, each of which provides a separate learning experience in a short time period. The purpose of the block system is to break the one long session into shorter segments, giving you more flexibility and allowing you to move freely and easily through the lesson as you see best. Each block is designed to convey the lesson to the student either by instruction, reinforcement, or application, and some blocks contain activities that allow the student to learn, firsthand, the principles being taught. Depending on your teaching style, there is enough material in each lesson to last easily an hour or more. Determine in advance the amount of time you will have your students in class, and choose the blocks or activities within the blocks that best serve your needs.

In addition to the many learning experiences provided in this manual, this VBS provides many activities to be completed outside the classroom such as crafts, skits, and Faith Survival Challenges in which the entire student body can come together to compete and share. Each activity outside the classroom is there for the purpose of reinforcing what is learned inside the classroom. Check with your VBS Director to learn the proper time schedule for such activities and for what your responsibilities are when your students are engaged in them.

Before class begins, be sure you have assembled all the items called for in the lesson and have properly studied each block of instruction. With proper preparation and motivation, we hope this series can provide a positive experience for all.
Before VBS begins, read this book in its entirety. Gather all the materials for each lesson in advance. Last-minute preparation only adds to the stress level. Each lesson has its own materials list for your convenience.

Visual Aid packets are available to help you decorate your classroom and present your lessons. You may also choose to decorate your room with the overall theme for this series. During this VBS your students are castaways on a beautiful tropical island. Go bananas with tropical decorations! Bring in all of your house plants, faux and real. The **Tropical Stand-Ups** can be scattered around your classrooms and auditorium. You can order several of the **Jointed Palm Trees** to decorate your walls, and the **Bamboo Beach Backdrop** will make a wonderful addition to your island theme. Our **Island Leis** can be used as decoration of your rooms as well as decoration of your students. You could print out several of the tropical flowers found in the clip art section of our **Multi-Media CD**. There you can also find directions to make a Sandy Tarp. Bring all of the seashells you and others of your congregation have collected on vacations over the years, and don't forget pieces of luggage that have washed up on the shore. Bring in pieces of driftwood, or learn how to make your own on our Pinterest page.

And don't forget the **Jumbo Cutouts** of our castaway, Archibald "Archie" Worthington, III, and his friends: Cameron the Chameleon, Floyd the Flamingo, Marvin the Monkey, Stella the Starfish, and Topher the Tortoise. Let our ideas be a starting point for your own creativity. Tap into those creative minds in your congregation early, and give them a chance to create a memorable setting for these lessons.

Strive to go into this teaching opportunity with a positive attitude. You will likely have many of your congregation's children in your class, along with friends and neighbors who get invited. You never know who God might bring to your class or the lasting impact you might have on students and their families. Early preparation will help your confidence and increase your effectiveness. Be flexible and have fun!

Most importantly, prepare for yourself a good attitude. Teaching can be a stressful experience, especially during Vacation Bible School, when attendance is up and your class is overflowing with students with whom you may not be familiar. Remember that preparation reduces anxiety, and the happier you are, the happier your students will be and the more they will learn. Good luck! Have fun!

Be sure to check out our Pinterest page for some great decorating and snack ideas! [pinterest.com/promiseVBS](http://pinterest.com/promiseVBS)
Lesson Four

Preparatory Considerations:
1. This class is divided into seven "blocks" of instruction. To ensure that all the material is covered, you will want to consider carefully each block of instruction in preparation for class.
2. Read all the Scripture referenced in the lesson.
3. Make sure that all materials are prepared for the students’ use. The following materials will be required for this class:
   - Student Books
   - Visuals marked Lesson Four—Survival Kit Map; Tropical Memory Verse Poster for Lesson Four
   - a set of different colors of index cards for each team (Block Five)
   - 8 different pieces of paper with a separate command on each (Block Five)
   - blindfold (Block Five)
   - index cards (Block Five)

Memory Verse:
Romans 16:19a
“For your obedience has become known to all.”

Bible Story:
Jonah Runs from God
(Jonah 1:1—3:5)

Song Suggestions:
Jonah (Who Did)
Trust and Obey
All to Jesus I Surrender
When He Leads I’ll Follow

Reproducible Pages
Available on the Multi-Media CD!
Block One

The Challenge to Obey

• Introduce the lesson topic, The Challenge to Obey God.
• Explain that to build a strong faith we must learn to obey God.
• Discover the importance of obeying everything God tells us to do.

A. Begin by welcoming the students to class.

B. Review the VBS theme verse: “In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God,” (Psalms 62:7).

Review how our lives on earth can be compared to being marooned on a deserted island and how God is our salvation, our rock of strength in this world’s shifting sands. Review why it is so important to have faith in God as we look forward to being rescued, or going home to heaven one day. Review and discuss the definition of faith. Review and explain the importance of having faith in our lives. It is only through faith that we can conquer many of the challenges of this world. As we conquer many of these challenges, our faith will also continue to grow stronger. Review that we have already learned the importance of seeing God, knowing God, and trusting God.

C. Bring out the Survival Kit you have previously assembled as described in Lesson One. Reach in the bag, and pull out all of the fourth item, the map from the Visual Aid Package. Explain the importance of a map.

In our last lesson, we learned that it was important to stay close to our campfire. However if you were marooned on an island, there would be times it would be necessary to leave the confines of your base camp. There would be times when it was necessary to find food. There would be times when it was necessary to find fresh water. There would be times when it was necessary to find wood for the fire. There might be other items you needed to collect or you may simply feel the need to scout out the area so that you are aware of what is around you. Obviously, you will want to remember where to find the necessary items for survival. You will also want to remember which areas on the island are dangerous and should be avoided. Show the map to the students. The map illustrates where many of these supplies can be found as well as the dangers that have been charted on the island. When completed, the map becomes an important tool for safety and survival. If you had a map such as this one, how smart would you be if you chose to ignore it? Conclude that ignoring the map would be foolish and dangerous.

D. By this point, the Five Tropical Memory Verse posters should have been placed on the walls of the classroom. One of the challenges we must conquer in order to make our faith strong is the challenge to obey God. Ignoring God’s commands is much like ignoring this map of the island. The map is there to protect you from the dangers of the island and to help you gather items crucial for survival. God’s commandments are much like the map. Although the world in which we live can be dangerous, it is all the more so in which we live. There are times when you must go out into the world and be exposed to many pitfalls. God’s commands should not be viewed as a list designed to make us miserable. In contrast, God’s Word provides a map for spiritual survival and protection against the pitfalls of the world around us. Ignoring it would be fatal. Direct the students’ attention to the Tropical Memory Verse poster for Lesson Four and introduce the memory verse: Romans 16:19, “For your obedience has become known to all!” This verse tells us that God wants us to obey Him, and when we obey Him, everyone will see that we know Him, that we trust Him, that we have faith in Him. What would you think if you knew someone had a map that would lead them safely through a dangerous land, but they didn’t follow it. You might think they didn’t have faith in that map. It’s the same when people around us who know we follow God see that we don’t obey God’s Word. They will think we don’t have faith in God. Not only will obeying God’s commands keep us safe and blessed, it will also show the world around us that we have faith in God, that we have faith that His will for us is good and obeying His will is the safest way through this world’s shifting sands.
A. Ask the students to discuss the Divided Kingdom. What were their weaknesses? What was their downfall? How did a lack of faith bring suffering and calamity to their nation? Were there those who lived during the Divided Kingdom that remained faithful to God? What were some of the challenges that they faced? What lessons can we learn from them?

B. Instruct the students to turn to page 13 in their Student Books where the lesson text has been written and allow them to read the text at this time. Text is taken from Jonah 1:1-17, 2:1,10, and 3:1-5.

C. Examine the Bible story with the students by discussing the following questions and answers. The answer that follows each question below is often merely an opinion. Allow the students time to discuss their own answers before leading them toward a conclusion.

- From the provided text, what do we know about the city of Nineveh? We know that the people of the city were wicked (Jonah 1:2). We also know that the city was very large (Jonah 1:2 and 3:3) Jonah 3:3 states that Nineveh was “an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent.” The city was huge. It would take three days just to walk across it or walk through all its streets. Although we do not read it in the provided text, Nineveh was the city under the rule of the Assyrians. The Israelites did not like the Assyrians, who were known for the cruel manner in which they treated the people of other nations.

- Considering the answers above, what might some of the reasons be that Jonah didn’t want to do what God told him to do? Jonah may have run because he was afraid to tell wicked people about God. Jonah may have run because he thought the job was too big for him. Jonah was one man. This would have been an awfully big task to evangelize such a city, especially a city that was as wicked as Nineveh. Jonah might have run because he was not capable of such a task or he may have even feared for his life. Jonah may have run because he didn’t like the people of Nineveh and did not want them to be saved. Unfortunately, we often think we know better than God.

- Which of the following do you believe is the biggest factor in our failure to share the Gospel with others: the fear of rejection, the fear of inadequacy, a dislike for certain people, or a lack of opportunity? Allow the students to discuss each factor. Are there other factors?

- Do we ever react to God’s command to share His message with others in the same way that Jonah reacted? How so? Allow the students to share their personal experiences. Most of us also have tendencies to run or hide from this task. Instead of boarding a ship, we hop aboard a wide range of excuses.

- What are some of the lessons Jonah might have learned from his experience at sea? Jonah undoubtedly learned that you cannot run or hide from God. He may have also learned that failing to do what God tells us to do has consequences. He may have also learned that God takes care of us, because the big fish provided a means of salvation for Jonah. He may have also learned that God wants all people to hear His message.
A. Discuss rules with the students. What are some of the places we must obey rules? These places might include home, school, roads, parks, sporting events, etc. What are some of the rules you must obey in each of these places? If you wish, you might record their lists on a chalkboard or dry erase board. Discuss the value of the rules. You will probably discover that most of the rules are in place to keep them safe or to provide a fair opportunity for everyone. Typically, rules are good for us. They should not be viewed negatively as a list of “things we cannot do.” Instead, they should be viewed as positive boundaries for our safety, health, and enjoyment of life. The Bible also has rules for us to follow. We should not view the rules we read in the Bible as a list of dos and don’ts. When followed, these rules make our lives better, both physically and spiritually.

B. Instruct the students to turn to page 14 in their Student Books to the section titled Surf Survival. There they will find two passages: Revelation 22:14 and John 14:15. Instruct the students to locate Revelation 22:14 in their Bibles, and have one student read the verse aloud. (The verse is recorded in the Student Book using the New King James Version. It is best if everyone uses the same version.) Instruct the students to fill in the words of the verse that are missing in their Student Books. Repeat the action with John 14:15. Discuss each verse, and arrive at the conclusion that we should obey God for at least two reasons: 1) Because obeying God has benefits, in particular, according to Revelation 22:14, eternal benefits, and 2) Because we love God and, therefore, do what He tells us to do.

C. Also on page 14 of the Student Book are four starfish. Next to each starfish is a Scripture, and inside each starfish is a place for the student to record the commandment given in the Scripture. Look up the Scriptures as a class, and discuss each commandment that is given. Discuss not only how each commandment offers a benefit but also how each one should be followed out of a love for God.
**The Challenge to Obey**

During each session, your students will have the opportunity to participate in a Faith Survival Challenge. These challenges are designed to be performed in open spaces with large numbers of students from every age level competing together. More information can be found in the Director’s Manual, including information on forming teams. Check with your VBS Director for scheduling of these events. If your Director chooses not to perform these challenges, they have been included here so you may do so in your class. You may need to adapt the activity to fit the number of students and space available to you.

Materials needed: a set of different colors of index cards for each team (or Multi-Media CD printable file). 8 different pieces of paper with a separate command on each (some available as Multi-Media CD printable files)

Create a set of 8 Memory Verse Word Cards for each team by using a different color of index card for each team. Write one word of the memory verse, Romans 16:19a, and draw a flower on each card. (There is a printable file on the Multi-Media CD. If you choose to print them, use a different color of printer paper for each team.)

Clear a large open area in which to play. Place 8 stations randomly around the area. Assign one command and one adult to each station. Give the adult all of one word of the Memory Verse Word Cards for each team. For instance, at one station the adult will be given all of the cards with the word obedience. At another station, the adult will be given all of the cards with the word become. The adult at each station will be required to make sure each team completes the command before they give the team their Memory Verse Word Card.

Divide students into teams of 7 to 15 students per team, but teams can be as large as you wish. However, for this activity you should have no more than 8 teams. (See the Director’s Manual for team formation information.) Read the memory verse aloud, although by this point the students have already heard it. In the Faith Survival Challenge to Obey, each team must obey several commands before you are able to assemble your memory verse. Upon the word Go, each team will run to an open station. You can choose any station you wish. Once there, you will be given a command which you must obey. When you successfully obey the command of that station, you will receive your Memory Verse Word card and may move on to the next open station. Once you have obeyed all 8 commands, you may begin assembling your memory verse in order. The first team to do so, wins.

**Commands**

Suggested commands for each station are:
- Line up according to height, shortest to tallest
- Line up according to age, youngest to oldest
- Line up alphabetically according to first name
- Line up alphabetically according to last name
- Line up according to birthday (not by year), from January 1 to December 31
- Arrange flowers in order of the colors of the rainbow (Don’t forget to use the mnemonic device, Roy G. Biv!)
- Arrange seashells from smallest to largest
- Arrange bananas from green to most spotty
- Pass the Lei—Have students stand in line, and place a lei around the neck of one student. That student should take it off and put it around the next of the next student.
- Hula Hoop Relay—Stand in a line, join hands, and pass a hula hoop down the line without letting go.
- Pick the Coconuts—Write a letter of a word on each coconut then scramble them. Students must unscramble the words to discover what they spell. Suggestions: Elijah, Josiah, Jehoshaphat, Jonah, Thomas. See the Multi-Media CD for the Coconut Printable file.
- Creature Limbo—Have your students Limbo under a stick, imitating a island animal. They can swim like a fish, crawl like a crab, fly like a parrot, swing like a monkey, etc.
Hidden Rules

Instruct the students to sit in a large circle facing inward, either in chairs or on the floor. Ask for a volunteer to be the Guesser. The object of the game is for the Guesser to discover the rules of the game by asking the other students questions that can be answered either yes or no. Have the Guesser leave the room for a moment. While the Guesser is out of the room, the other students will decide on one silly rule of the game. Here are some suggestions:

- Each time the Guesser asks a question that is answered “No,” all the students will cross their legs.
- Each time the Guesser says the words, “Me” or “I,” all the students will laugh.
- When the Guesser asks a girl a question, all the boys cross their arms. When the Guesser asks a boy a question, all the girls cross their arms.
- The students may choose another student to be the trigger. When the trigger yawns, everyone else should scratch their heads.

Once the rule has been established, bring the Guesser back into the room. The Guesser can then ask up to five questions before he must identify the rule. He can ask any question that can be answered yes or no. He could even ask questions such as, “Does the rule have anything to do with me?” Choose another student to be the Guesser, and play again. Continue until all the students have had an opportunity to be the Guesser. Upon conclusion, discuss how wonderful it is that we don’t have to “guess” which things God wants us to do. He has told us plainly in the Bible.

Materials needed: blindfold
index cards

Before class, write each word of the memory verse on a separate index card. Clear a large open area in the classroom, and instruct the students to stand in a large circle around the edge. Ask for a volunteer, and blindfold him. Ask for another volunteer to be his guide. Scatter the memory verse cards on the ground inside the circle.

SAY: There are so many people who think they know the best way to live, but there is only one true way. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” How hard is it to follow the one true way when so many others are telling us the way? Let’s find out.

Your guide will use verbal directions to guide your blindfolded student around the play area, telling them where to find the memory verse cards. Have other students call out conflicting directions. When the blindfolded student has picked up all the cards, have his guide tell him how to lay the cards out in order to assemble the memory verse.

If you have time, allow for two more volunteers, and play again. Continue as long as there is interest. Upon conclusion, SAY: So many people think they know the best way to live, but we learn by reading God’s Word that there is one true way. The guidelines He sets out for us are for our protection, not to punish us. God wants us to obey Him, not for His sake, but for ours.

One Way

Block Five Survival Handbook

Allow the students to complete the activities from Lesson Four in their Student Books.