The Marooned skits are designed to position your students in the center of your VBS theme. During the skits, your students will be castaways, marooned on a tropical island after their cruise ship sinks. They will be led ashore by the captain of their shipwrecked cruise ship as they explore the island and discover it isn’t as deserted as they think. They will discover a castaway already living there, Archibald J. Worthington, III, also known as Archie.

Archie has been marooned on this island for years, months, or at least a few days. He has felt alone and scared, and he has given up faith that anyone was still looking for him or cared about him. As Archie, Cap (the cruise ship captain), and your students work together to survive on the island, they will discover that their struggles on the island mirror their struggles to build a strong faith in a world that is not their home.

Our VBS theme verse tells us that, “In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God” (Psalm 62:7). 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, we have little refuge from the storms, a Provider ever-present and ready to save us. Sometimes we forget that God is our rock of strength in the shifting sands of this world’s strife. It can be difficult to keep our faith strong in the face of the many challenges we encounter. But God is always there, standing firm, not waiting for us to call on His name.

In a world that seems chaotic, apathetic, and sometimes wreaked havoc, it is easier to forget that our faith is a survival strategy. Through studying four Bible stories from the days of the Divided Kingdom and one during the life of Christ, 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.

There are five skits within the Marooned Skit Manual, one skit for each VBS session, and each skit prepares the students for the upcoming lesson. Each skit will take place in the same basic setting, Castaway Key.

The most important thing is to find the best, uninhibited person to fill the role of Archie, whose moods can range from the heights of joy to the depths of despair. Cap’s moods are more level, though the struggle to be patient with Archie’s antics can become wearing.

Each of the Marooned skits takes place at Castaway Key, the name Archie has given to his campsite. You can use the same basic set design and change the look for each skit using a few different props.

The best presentation of any skit occurs when each person who plays a part in the skit has memorized his lines. However, in the busy world in which we live, most people do not have the time to do so. That is okay. There are several ways in which you can help the characters present their lines without forcing them to memorize them. The best idea is to make cue cards on posterboard and assign one person the duty of sitting in front of the set and holding the cue cards, possibly behind a large rock or bush. Another idea is to hide scripts around the set in places such as on note cards taped to props the characters are using like a coconut or an item that has washed up on the shore. Each person playing a part in the skits should at least become familiar with the script so that he is able to give the best presentation possible.
The skits are designed to be performed at the beginning of each VBS session. Each skit is approximately 10 minutes in length. The impact the skits will have on your students will far surpass the amount of work that must be done to implement them. Have fun while presenting the skits! Although each skit is designed to present a lesson, each one is also designed to be fun. The more fun your actors have, the more enjoyable the skits will be for those who are watching. Inside this book are the five skits as well as ideas for creating a tropical island. Feel free to make duplicate copies of the skits for VBS needs within your own congregation only. (Pages which may be duplicated are marked at the bottom of the page.) However, copying the contents of this book for any other purpose is prohibited. So what are you waiting for? DIVE IN!
Setting the stage is an important part of the Marooned skits. In reality, the entire room is a part of the stage since the students are marooned in Castaway Key. Even though no students will be called up to take special impromptu parts in any of the skits, the characters speak to them during the skits. The front stage area, Castaway Key, is where the majority of the action will take place. It should be made to look as if it is the center or the entrance to the beachfront.

So what should Archie's campsite look like? It can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. An island camp would probably be surrounded by trees and bushes. Ask members of your congregation to bring in as many houseplants as they can spare. And what office doesn't have a fake ficus tree? Order several units of the Jointed Palm Tree, and place them around Castaway Key. They are double-sided, so you could hang them from the ceiling or simply tape them to a wall or post.

Drape tan bed sheets over the floor to give it a "sandy" look. Or use the instructions from the Multi-Media CD to make a Sandy Tarp. You could even fill a wading pool with water and surround it with potted plants to create a small lagoon. Don't forget to drape vines around your lagoon. To make a tropical vine, simply twist a length of brown craft paper into a vine and attach paper leaves along its length. Or print out several of the Tropical Flowers from the Multi-Media CD, and string them along yarn or twine to make a flower garland you can string from tree to tree.

Use the Bamboo Beach Backdrop in the background to lend your island a tropical feel. And don't forget the Castaway Key sign! (It's found in the Marooned Sign Assortment package.) Scatter around the Pineapple, Coconut, and Seashell from the Tropical Stand-Ups for a truly tropical feel.

If you're blessed with a long, creative team of volunteers, they could build an impressive tiki hut for Archie to live in using scraps of wood, cardboard, rolls of brown paper, and a raffia table skirt for a thatched roof. You could also consider creating a shipwrecked tour boat near the beachfront area, showing the vessel the students were on before marooning them on the island.

Once again, the choice is up to you. The skits can still be performed effectively with little decoration. Whatever you choose is okay. At the bottom of this page is an illustration of what a simple version of Archie's campsite might look like. Purposefully, it has not been illustrated by a professional artist. It has been plainly drawn using simple lines, a task that virtually anyone can complete. On the following page, you will find a depiction of Castaway Key enhanced with some of Marooned Support Materials. (Jumbo Cut Outs, Bamboo Beach Backdrop, Marooned Sign Assortment, Jointed Palm Tree, Tropical Stand-Ups, Island Leis, Multi-media CD)
CHARACTERS

You could have a lot of fun with Archie, one of the MAROONED characters. He is astounded and excited to see all of the new castaways (your students). He has been stranded on Castaway Key by himself for months—or at least a few days. How would he know? He can’t find his smartphone and doesn’t have electricity anyway!

There are several options for Archie’s costume. He is a business man in the outside world, so if you have a suit that has seen better days, help it along. Cut a few inches off the legs and sleeves, and fray the edges. Rumple it up, and paint on a few stains. If you still want to keep the stranded businessman look but don’t have a suit, just use an old button down shirt and a pair of khakis.

Or Archie could have been on vacation when he went overboard. He could be wearing shorts and a tropical print shirt, or even one of the official Marooned T-Shirts. You could even add an Island Lei to complete the effect.

Don’t forget a hat to help keep Archie cool! A hat is used as a prop in a couple of the skits. It could be a battered fedora that Archibald wore as a businessman, a lovely straw hat with flowers rescued from the cruise ship, or a loosely woven hat that looks like it could have been made from palm leaves right there on the island.

If you have the available resources (congregation members or teens who love to wear costumes or play a role), you can really have a lot of fun with this VBS. A simple everyday costume could be a Marooned T-Shirt paired with shorts, flip-flops, and a colorful floral Island Lei available from Promise VBS. If you want to really go all out, have your volunteers wear ragged cut-offs and weathered button-down shirts, as if they have been stranded on a island for quite some time. Sundresses that are a little tattered around the edges would fit right in. You might even have some of your guys let their beards grow, after all, their razors went overboard with the rest of their luggage. Straw hats or beat-up ball caps will complete their look. If you want to go crazy, find some old formal wear that you don’t mind destroying. Use scissors to make rips and tears and maybe smear on a little fabric paint to mimic dirt stains. Your castaways’ ship will have run aground during one of the formal dinners.
Your Welcome Center can be set up as the Tiki Hut Hangout. Have someone be the “travel agent” who will sit at a desk and stamp or punch every castaway’s card (Name Badge) each session. He or she could wear a brightly colored shirt (and even an Island Lei) and have items salvaged from the ship around them: piles of luggage, pieces of a lifeboat, kegs of water, an inflatable raft, first-aid kit, crates of supplies salvaged from the kitchens, piles of fruit that have been collected on the island. What would you salvage from a cruise ship if you were marooned on an island? You may also choose to use this area for distribution of other items such as official Marooned T-shirts or Student Certificates, also available for purchase.

Island Leis &Leader’s Cinch Backpacks

The Island Leis are a wonderful way to accessorize your VBS characters. They will lend a tropical island feel to whatever costume direction you take whether it be ruined suits or frayed tee shirts and pants. They can also be draped around your stage as extra decoration items.

The Marooned Leader’s Cinch Backpacks could be used to contain supplies gathered from the beach or fruit gathered from the trees. If you don’t have a picnic basket, which will be used in a couple of the skits, you could substitute this handy backpack!
Props: Cameron the Chameleon, either from the Jumbo Cutouts or printed from the Multi-Media CD, Castaway Key sign from Marooned Sign Assortment

Cap: (panting, crawling onto stage as if crawling from ocean) It’s okay, guys! We made it. Everyone check your swimming buddy. Everyone good! (encourage kids to shout they are okay) Great! That’s wonderful. I’m just going to take a little breather. (flops onto beach)

Archie: (creeps onto stage, Looks at audience, amazed) People? Real live actual people? (face falls) Oh no! You’re just another hallucination, aren’t you? Yup. That’s it. I’m seeing things again. Just like the other day, I thought I saw this lizard then, POOF, it vanished. It just changed color and faded into the underbrush. Like a, like a…(searches for word)

Cap: Chameleon?

Archie: Yeah! Like a chameleon!

Cap: No, a real chameleon. There’s one sitting right over there. (points to Cameron)

Archie: Oh. Yeah. Well. (mutters) I knew that. Anyway, you, my good sir, are just another creation of my fevered brain. A mirage. A hallucination. (Cap pinches Archie) OW!

Cap: Do your hallucinations usually pinch you?

Archie: (rubs arm) Well…no. (pinches Cap)

Cap: OW!

Archie: You’re real, aren’t you? Are they real? Maybe I should pinch them to be sure. (grabs Archie’s arm and holds him back) Just take my word for it. They’re real.

Archie: (squints suspiciously at audience) How can I be sure?

Cap: You can see them, can’t you? Seeing is believing.

Archie: Yeah, but I thought I saw a waiter the other day. Had a tray and one of those fruity drinks with the umbrella and everything. And obviously he wasn’t real. I mean, I’m all alone on a deserted island, right? (drops to the ground and cups his head, sad)

Cap: (claps Archie on the back, cheerful) Well you’re not alone any more. We’re here now. We can be marooned together.

Archie: (grumpy) Hooray. So your boat sank too?

Cap: Yes, but I have faith that we’ll be rescued soon. A lot of people knew where we were going.