

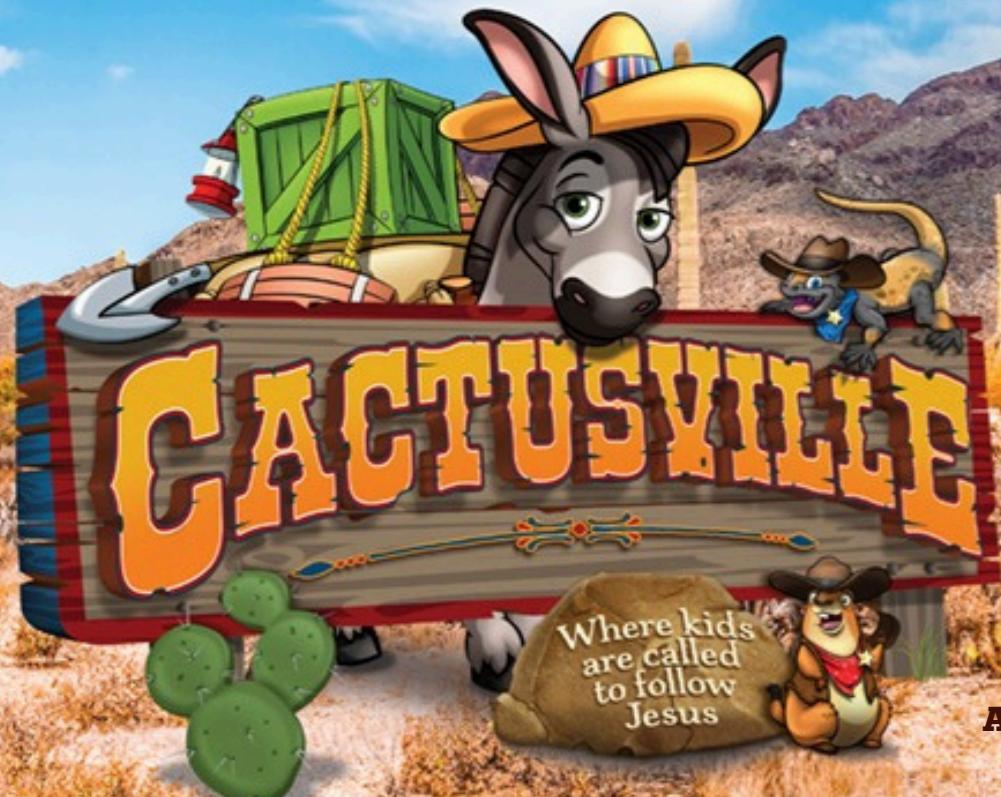
VBS LIVE 26

PRESENTER MANUAL

childmin.org



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



CACTUSVILLE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Presenter Manual

Produced by North American Division Children's Ministries Department

Download the Presenters PowerPoint

Follow these steps to download the PowerPoint presentation for presenters

:

1. Go to AdventSource.org
2. Log into your account (or create an account if you don't already have one)
3. Go to "My Account" and click on "Digital Files"
4. Enter this code: Y7FFV7ML and click "Submit"
5. Click on "Download"

Tips for the Trainer:

Thank you for sharing your passion, creativity, and time sharing the importance of Vacation Bible School!

- **Uniquely Adventist!**
- **NAD/AdventSource VBS includes a Prayer Station** teaching children to pray to their Heavenly Father! This is awesome!
- **VBS is Child Evangelism!** A child is more likely to give their hearts to Jesus between the ages of 7-13! That's VBS age!
- **Vacation Bible School involves the whole church!** It's intergenerational - volunteers from all generations!

Cactusville tried and true tips:

1. Pray that the Lord will bless every VBS participant through your words, energy, and enthusiasm. (He specializes in doing amazing things with willing hearts!)

2. Dress the part: wear your VBS theme t-shirt and your western hat—your unofficial badge of adventure.

3. Read through your script a few times to understand the flow and sprinkle in your own flair. Think of it as adding seasoning to a good pot of beans!

4. Coordinate with the AV team to make sure your slides run smoothly—either have the AV team click or grab a clicker and proceed to slide 2 before you step on stage.

5. Be stage-ready just before the promo slide wraps up—this is your cue to shine ... it will come faster faster than a herd of mustangs!

Presenter PowerPoint and script: always check your powerpoint, internet connection, and audio at least an hour before starting.

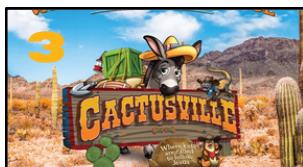
Introduction slide - when you are ready to start go to the next slide to watch the promotional video.



Theme Slide: no script



Promo Slide: no script: get ready to step onto the stage with energy!



Welcome to Cactusville ... Yeehaw! Where kids are called to follow Jesus! When I say, "Where kids are CALLED to follow Jesus! You shout, Yeehaw! Ready?

Here we go again! Welcome to Cactusville! Where kids are called to follow Jesus!

(point to the audience) Yeehaw!

That was mighty fine! Just mighty fine indeed! My name is Sheriff Dusty ... some folks call me (your name). **Please pull out your Day 1 VBS book... you can follow along as we wander around Cactusville.**

In Cactusville, adventure runs wilder than a mustang on the loose! (lean toward your audience) This dusty ol' mining town is tucked deep in the Southwest, where the sun shines brighter than a sheriff's badge, the sky stays as blue as a new pair of western denim jeans, and the mountains rise up like jagged old spurs.

Talking about spurs .. here's some good Cactusville wisdom for you: (pause for intrigue) Never, never, never ever ... squat with yer spurs on! (slap your leg and laugh)



Now, here's the heart of the matter: In Cactusville, your young Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes will discover something even more exciting than buried treasure—they'll learn that they are called by God! No matter who they are or where they come from, they are unconditionally loved and accepted. And that's not all—God's call comes with a special purpose, uniquely designed for each and every child.

Each day in Cactusville, these little cowhands will discover a new way they're called to follow Jesus. So giddy up—it's time for an unforgettable adventure in faith, fun, and a whole lot of Yeehaw!



Wait! You may be wondering Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes? Who are they? Well let me tell ya!

Li'l Cowpokes are the preschool children ages 3-5

Buckaroos are ages 6-12+ ... your teenagers love helping with VBS!

We are going to go on a whirlwind excursion experiencing God's calling on our lives... like called to be different! You know ... where kids are called to be different! (Point to audience) Yeehaw! Yes, sir-eee, you are going to make some good Cactusville deputies!

Before I can deputize ya'll (*this is where you add a little intrigue... and ham it up!*)... you must take the Deputy Pledge! Stand up straight and tall! Raise yer right hand and repeat after me!



I promise (repeat)

To uphold the laws of Cactuville (repeat)

I promise (repeat)

To be the best deputy I can be (repeat)

I promise (repeat)

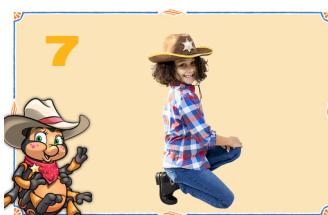
Not to eat anything (repeat)

That I find on the ground behind a horse! (repeat)

I promise (repeat)

To answer God's calling (repeat)

Wherever it takes me (repeat)



That sounded reaaaal good! In your bag is a Deputy in Training badge... pull it out and pin it to yer shirt! (1-2 minutes)

In this time and age we are living in, our kids need to know and understand that God has called each one of them for a special purpose! And as Deputies-in-trainin' you are the purrfect person to do that!



Come with me! Let's take a look at what your young'uns ... your Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes will learn in Cactusville!

The opening and closing sessions take place in the purty' little town of Cactusville. Wait! ...Shhhhh, can you hear that? (**ahead of time**, ask the AV person to start the music quietly ... then click to the next slide and turn up the volume)



I think I hear music! ... stand up and let's join the music with the Cactusville Red Band'anas!



That shore' was fun! Cactusville is where the kids sing, learn the Daily Call and Gold Nugget. AND watch a video that introduces the Daily Call! Just as we did at the beginning, are you ready? Cactusville is ... where kids are called to be different! (Point to audience) Yeehaw!



Each character helps introduce the Daily Call, and during the closing program's debrief time, kids will receive that day's character token—complete with the Daily Call written right on it. It's one more fun reminder that they are CALLED by God!



Let's meet your favorite characters: look in your bag and pull out your Day One character. Tie it to your purse, backpack, keychain, shoelace, horse collar, or your spurs! (Give your guests 1-2 minutes, then go on, pointing out each day's character)

- **Day 1:** Tarantula Tammy
- **Day 2:** Prairie Dog Pete
- **Day 3:** Chuck the Chuckwalla
- **Day 4:** Pack Mule Patty
- **Day 5:** Road Runner Roy

Each of these wild west critters helps the kids connect with the Daily Call of the day. Your Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes will love meeting them all... and let's be honest, they'll probably pick a favorite faster than a roadrunner can say "beep-beep ...yeehaw!"



All this talk about the Daily Call ... let's experience each day! Ready! When I say, " Called to be" You shout out the Daily Call **and** YeeHaw! Get ready to haller' it out!



Day 1: Called to be **Different**
Day 2: Called to be **Faithful**
Day 3: Called to **Forgive**
Day 4: Called to **Serve**
Day 5: Called to **Give**

(slap your thigh as you say ...) Wowzer! You are as exciting as a herd of thundering mustangs!

I can tell your VBS is going to be 'foot stomping, knee slappin' fun and lively!



The Golden Nugget for Cactusville is one that kids will cherish as the verse is reinforced through the each part of the program.

Let's look at the whole verse! It's powerful!

Day 1: (Jesus) ... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, ...
II Timothy 1:9 NKJV

Day 2: (Jesus) ... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace ...

II Timothy 1:9 NKJV

Day 3: (Jesus) ... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus ...

II Timothy 1:9 NKJV

Day 4: (Jesus) ... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

II Timothy 1:9 NKJV

Day 5: (Jesus) ... who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.

II Timothy 1:9 NKJV

That there Golden Nugget ... is golden! Each day adds another part of the verse!

Isn't that cool! By the end of VBS the kids will be able to say the whole verse and ... ready for this? **They will know what it means!** God's word will be hidden in their heart!

All the posters for the Daily Call and Gold Nugget are in your VBS kit (*hold up Day 1 Golden Nugget poster*)

Your Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes love to participate in introducing and reviewing the Daily Call and Golden Nugget. This is just another way to hide God's word in their hearts! YeeHaw!

Do you know the Mud Man? ...not the Muffin Man! ... Rich Aguilera AKA The Mud Man, is part of our VBS program again this year. Each day during the opening program, a black and white cinematic reel-type video is played featuring JimBob and JoeBob.



JimBob and JoeBob tried something different! I sho' wish they was here to tell all you new debutes-in-training alla bout it, but I have the next best thing.

Sit back, grab yourself a virtual snack, and enjoy Day 1 opening skit where JimBob and JoeBob go on a great adventure..

This little entertaining skit guides your Buckaroos to connect the Daily Call, Golden Nugget, and lessons learned at each station...especially the Campfire Stories!

I hear it again! Do you hear music? Before we head out, let's join the Cactusville Red Band'anas and sing (click to the next slide) another Cactusville song.



(no script ... just your energy!)



Wowee ... another great song! Did you know all our Adventist VBS songs are original? I know! Pretty cool right! We want all our Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes to know God calls them for a purpose!

Saddle up, partner—it's time to mosey on into Cactusville! With our horse gallopin' and a trail of dust kickin' up behind us, we'll head first to Campfire Stories, where some friendly folks from the Bible are waitin' to say howdy.



At Campfire Stories, a new Bible character joins us each day to shine a light on the Daily Call. Take John the Baptist, for example—he was called to stand out from the crowd so he could remain laser-focused on the message Jesus needed him to share. Every story brings a fresh adventure of activities and a powerful reminder! YeeHaw!



After an introductory activity the Master Storyteller has the option to show the included puppet skit video or use the Bible story script that is provided. (show a snippet of the puppet skit)

Kids love puppets!

And leaders love options! There is only time for one option. The VBS leader and Master Storyteller can make the decision based on what their church is able to do.



The Trading Post Crafts gives the Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes time to relax and create one of a kind craft that gives them the freedom to be artistic... and their artistic creations are amazing!

The Trading Post Craft manual lists all the supplies needed. Most of the supplies are already in your VBS or Sabbath School closet. The other supplies can be ordered or bought at your favorite craft store!



Each craft has been chosen with the daily theme in mind and field tested for age appropriateness. Each year the Craft leader has the option for a "DIY" craft as seen in the picture taken at the field test or a "Grab and Go" option that can purchased Orientaltrading.com



The Buckaroos love the Sunset Canyon! They learn the importance of individual and group prayer through activities ... like creating Cactusville flowers they attach to a cactus every time they pray By the way ... it's not a real cactus! No prickly thorns!

They will play games, and the best of all ... pray!

Each day, Buckaroos will discover different ways to connect with their Heavenly Father. YeeHaw! That is amazing!



Sunset Canyon is one of the unique parts that our Adventist VBS includes.

Teaching kids to pray is like giving them the keys to a successful life! Called to be Faithful ... YeeHaw!



Now let's mosey on over to the Wild Horse Corral! I bet you already know which station this one is! Yep! It's the game station.

The Wild Horse Corral game station is one place at VBS where kids are given permission, even expected, to run around and hoop and holler! yeehaw! Though it may seem like controlled chaos, with the help of the Wranglers and Wild Horse Corral assistant, the children are kept safe while having tons of fun!



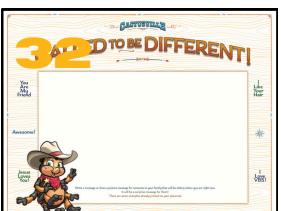
After each game there is a short debrief time where kids are reminded of the Daily Call Hmmm what is our Daily Call for today? ... God has called us ... to be ... Different! YeeHaw!



All this touring Cactusville has made me hungry as a bear! We've made it to the Chuck Wagon—where tasty, healthy snacks are the name of the game! But here's the twist: the Buckaroos don't just get their snacks... they make 'em! This station is a rootin'-tootin' mix of leader prep and hands-on Buckaroo tasty assembly.



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Each day, leaders set out the snack ingredients—either in handy individual servings or a buffet-style spread—along with special workstations for every child. These workstations are actually the daily placemats that connect the snack to the day's Bible story and help guide the Buckaroos toward the Daily Call. Every day brings a brand-new placemat with a matching hands-on activity, makin' snack time both delicious and meaningful!



* And here's a little secret! During the field test, the Chuck Wagon Snack leader taped each finished placemat to the wall so the kids could admire their creations like works of art.

You are good hikers! Take a seat and rest a bit while I give you a quick look at what is included in the Cactusville Kit.



Look at this! Your kit also includes a complete PreschoolGuide. Preschool crews can join the rest of the kids for opening and closing or there is the option to stay in their own area for their own program!



The Preschool program includes age-appropriate Bible stories, games, crafts, and snacks, **and** a great area for sensory station experiences called the Barnyard Activity Center.

Wow! we have travelled all over Cactusville! Let's relax and sing with the Red Ban'danas! Stand up Deputies in Training!

36

We have come full circle back to Cactusville where kids will sing some more songs, review the Daily Call, watch the closing skit with JimBob and JoeBob and an ADRA mission video that is informative and engaging.



In 2026, ADRA is partnering with theNAD Children's Ministry and AdventSource again to highlight its impactful efforts in aiding families and children affected by crises.(show a snippet of the video)

To our young participants and their families: How can we demonstrate compassion towards those in need?

One way is to invite kids to bring money each day to support the ADRA mission projects. And ... one day ... one of the kids from VBS will be part of the crisis solution ... bring hope, compassion, and needed resources to kids and families in need.

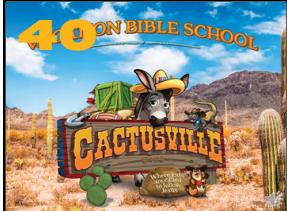


VBS is almost finished for the day! During the closing program crew time gives each child the opportunity to respond to what they learned that day and post it on the desert wall map

It is at this time that the daily character, which has the Daily Call for that day, is handed out to the children.

39

But wait ... we are not finished yet ... I hear more music! Let's stand everyone (click to the next slide) and sing with our Cactusville Red Band'anas!



Whew! What a day! We have toured Cactusvilled, played, learned about prayer, heard an amazing story, created beautiful art ... and ... we can't forget ... had a refreshing snack!

We are at the end of Day 1 of our VBS program , and before we go, we always sing the theme song, say a prayer, and invite the the kids to bring a friend the next day! YeeHaw!

41

Let's sing our theme song now!

Don't forget the motions! Here we go!



Yes Siree ... it has been a good day! Please take a seat and rest a bit while I give you a quick look at what is includedin the Cactusville VBS Kit where each piece has been updated and new pieces added! If you already have a Cactusville kit from way back yonder ... **you will still want to purchase the new and updated kit.**



Let's wrap this up Deputies in Training! And go to a message from AdventSource! Your VBS kits includes:

- Directors Guide
- All Station Guides
- **Complete** Preschool program with individual Station Guides

- 5 original songs! You'll have access to music videos, audio files and sheet music.
- Skit videos for the opening and closing programs
- Puppet videos for the Bible story station
- Mission project videos

Plus...

- Promotional materials
- certificates of attendance
- prayer station handouts
- and craft templates—and yes, the snack placemat template is included too!
- **There's even more:** a family devotional centered on Cactusville's Daily Call, designed to help families continue the VBS experience after the final day—when the church is quiet, but the message keeps going.

Option for Snack and Craft Experience:

That's all great news—but hold onto yer hats, because we're not done yet!

I reckon I'd better ask .. who's ready to experience the Snack and Craft stations? Me too! I hear the snacks are extra yummy, and the craft is something you'll be excited to take home and actually use.

So giddy up! It's time for another rip-roarin' ride to the Trading Post and Chuckwagon Snacks!



Presenter Tip: You've just wrapped up a fun and energizing VBS training, and your guests are ready to ride into Cactusville with every child God is sending their way.

Keep that enthusiasm, passion, and joy going strong as you finish the training by visiting two of everyone's favorite VBS stations!

Cactusville Terms

- **Lil' Cowpoke** – Children ages 3–5; the littlest cow riders, learning and growing as they enjoy the Wild West fun.
- **Buckaroos** – Kids ages 6–12+; strong, curious, and full of spirit—like a Deputy in Training, ready to help and lead.
- **Howdy Doody** – A friendly western way to say “hello!”
- **See ya later** – A cheerful way to say goodbye for now.
- **YeeHaw** – An excited shout of joy, fun, or celebration.
- **Rip-Roarin'** – Something that is lively, exciting, and full of action.
- **Giddy Up!** – A call meaning “Let's go!” or “Get moving!”
- **Reckon** – To guess, suppose, or think about something.

DAY 1 Cactus Rock Gardens



MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Items Needed Every Day

- Ⓐ Newspaper, Kraft roll, or plastic table covers for each craft table
- Ⓐ Paper plates or zip-top bags
- Ⓐ Wet wipes
- Ⓐ Aileen's Tacky Glue
- Ⓐ Big bowls for soapy water
- Ⓐ Shallow containers for small craft supplies
- Ⓐ Masking tape
- Ⓐ Large trash can

Items Needed for Cactus Rock Gardens (Main Event Craft)

- Ⓐ 3" clay pot—one per Buckaroo
- Ⓐ Brown crinkle-cut paper (purchase at a discount store)
- Ⓐ Large containers to hold the crinkle-cut paper—two per table
- Ⓐ River rocks
- Ⓐ Different shades of green gloss acrylic paint
- Ⓐ White gloss acrylic paint
- Ⓐ White chalkboard paint
- Ⓐ Paper towels
- Ⓐ Medium size star stickers—6–7 per child (optional)
- Ⓐ **Optional:** clear gift bags (medium size) and 10" of raffia—one per child (purchase at a discount store)

Items Need for Cactus Craft Roll Craft Kit (Grab and Go Craft)

- Ⓐ Cactus Craft Roll Craft Kit from Oriental Trading



AHEAD OF TIME

Choose one of the suggested craft projects and buy the supplies.

Cactus Rock Garden:

- Ⓐ Before the children arrive, cover the craft tables with newspaper, Kraft Paper, or plastic and set out enough clay pots upside down so that each child will have one.
- Ⓐ Put a paint sponge, a fine point paintbrush, and a paper plate with each pot. Place enough acrylic paints (white and various shades of green) in bowls at each table so groups of three to four children can share a complete set of colors.
- Ⓐ Place two large containers of the brown crinkle-cut paper on each table and have additional supplies close at hand so you can refill the containers when they're empty.

INTRODUCTION

Howdy Buckaroos, and welcome to the Trading Post! I'm so glad you have come to visit us here in Cactusville! This week as you travel from place to place in our fine town, you will learn of special ways God has called you to follow Jesus. Today we're exploring the idea that God has called us to be different. You will be hearing the story of John the Baptist and learning how he chose to be different in the way he dressed, ate, and lived. It wasn't easy, but he did it because that is what God called him to do. The portion of the Gold Nugget that we are learning today also talks about the fact that Jesus has called us with a holy calling. Which reminds me, every time you hear a leader say the words "**We are called,**" I want you to answer, "**Called to be different! Yee-haw!**" Let's practice. **We are called.** [Motion kids to respond. Kids: "**Called to be different! Yee-haw!**"]

Sometimes being different can be lots of fun, like when you have a special talent or skill that no one else has—like whistling loudly using your fingers. [Put both index fingers between your lips and clamp down on them slightly with your upper lip as though you were going to whistle.] But other times it's downright tough and challenging to be different. Life can get a little rocky, but God is always with us and gives us everything we need in order to be different for Him. I know a Bible verse that helps explain how special we are to God. It is found in 1 Peter 2:9 and goes like this: "But you [point at the children as you say this] are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession."

Our crafts today are examples of how God's creations are different and unique even in nature and the plant world. Today we are going to make The Cactus Rock Garden shows how a garden doesn't always have to have rich, fertile soil to make things grow.

In the desert a garden may consist of a collection of rocks around a tall, prickly cactus that is growing in dry, sandy dirt. Just as God created the cactus to look different from many of the other plants in our world, He may be calling you to have the courage to stick out and be different for Him so He can accomplish something special through you. So remember, **we are called!** [Motion kids to respond. Kids: "Called to be different! Yee-haw!"]

[While you give instructions, your helpers can distribute any additional supplies the children will need to assemble their craft. Continue to circulate throughout the area while they work to give assistance as needed.]



CACTUS ROCK GARDEN

Instructions

Ask the kids to print their names on the bottom of their pots with a permanent marker. While you are giving instructions, ask your helpers to hand out three to four rocks to each child.

1. Tell them to paint their rocks with the various shades of green acrylic paint using their paint sponges and to set the rocks on their paper plates to dry (not so close together that they touch).
2. While the rocks are drying, give each child half a paper towel and place small bowls of white chalkboard paint where two to three children can share them.
3. Instruct them to slowly dip their flat paper towel into the chalkboard paint and lightly wipe the paint around the outside of their clay pot. This should dry almost instantly. Then let them paint white asterisks on their rocks using the fine point paintbrushes. (Demonstrate how to make a simple asterisk.)
4. While the rocks dry a second time, instruct the children to fill their pots with the brown crinkle-cut paper (this doesn't need to be pressed down tightly into the

pot; just allow it to loosely fill the space) and then place their rocks on top.

Cactus Craft Roll Craft: Follow the instructions that come with the kit.

WRAP-UP

Well, Buckaroos, it's about time to wind up your art projects and mosey on to your next Cactusville destination. Hopefully every time you look at your cactus craft it will remind you that it's OK to be different and to stand out for God. John the Baptist was called by God to be different so He could accomplish the important task of preparing people for the coming of Jesus. Ask God to show you what His special purpose for your life is and then wait and see what He has in store for you! And don't forget, **we are called!** [Motion kids to respond. Kids: "Called to be different! Yee-haw!"] Bye for now. See you next time.



TRADING POST TIP

- For a more decorative clay pot, place star stickers on the sides of the pot before wiping on the chalkboard paint. After the paint has dried, peel off the stickers. Yee-haw! Looks like a professional paint job!
- After the children finish their Cactus Rock Gardens, you may want to put each pot into a clear gift bag and tie it securely with raffia. This will help the rocks stay in the pot!

NOTE

Kids leave their crafts behind when it's time to rotate to the next station. The station leader checks that crafts are labeled with a name or initials and then instructs the assistant leader and any volunteer helpers to carry each group's crafts to the registration area near the front entrance. There, color-coded tables (matching each group's bandana color) will be set up to hold the crafts and the kids can pick them up as they exit. **This process will be repeated each day.**



Day 1



WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Everyday Supplies

- ➊ Tin cans—to hold colored pencils
- ➋ Colored pencils for the placemat activity
- ➌ Daily Placemat
- ➍ Picnic jug for water
- ➎ Small paper cups (for water)
- ➏ Serving trays
- ➐ Napkins
- ➑ Hand sanitizer
- ➒ Hand wipes or damp paper towels to wipe sticky fingers
- ➓ Garbage can and bags

AHEAD OF TIME

Download and print the Called to be Different placemats and arrange them on the tables so each Buckaroo will have one. Each child will also need colored pencils. Choose one snack—Prairie Dog Ponchos or Waffle Blankets—and prepare the ingredients.

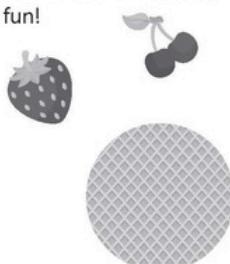
WAFFLE BLANKETS

Ingredients

- ➊ Frozen waffles (use gluten-free waffles if needed)
- ➋ Fruit jelly
- ➌ Fruit slices
- ➍ Maple syrup (optional)
- ➎ Whipped cream (use dairy-free version if needed)
- ➏ Additional toppings—have fun!

Supplies

- ➊ Toaster or cookie sheets
- ➋ Small paper plates
- ➌ Paper bowls
- ➍ Spreaders
- ➎ Serving spoons
- ➏ Forks



Instructions

1. Prepare waffles ahead of time, heating them according to the box instructions.
2. Cut each waffle into quarters and place on a heavy-duty plate for serving.
3. Put a plate holding a quarter waffle along with a plastic knife and fork at each placemat.
4. Provide all toppings in separate bowls at each table along with plastic spoons for kids to use in decorating their own Waffle Blanket.
5. Kids can top their Waffle Blankets with fruit jelly, fruit slices, syrup, or whipped cream, serving themselves from the individual bowls of toppings provided at each table. Instruct Buckaroos to use only enough toppings to "dress up" their blanket.
6. Then chow down!

PRAIRIE DOG PONCHOS

Ingredients

- ➊ Packaged crescent roll dough or small tortillas (use gluten-free version if needed)
- ➋ Vegetarian hot dogs (use gluten-free version if needed)
- ➌ Cheddar cheese, shredded (use dairy-free cheese if needed)
- ➍ Ketchup

Supplies

- ➊ Cutting knives (for adult helpers)
- ➋ Baking sheet
- ➌ Foil

Instructions

1. Cover baking sheets with foil (if using crescent rolls).
2. Cut hot dogs in half.
3. If using crescent rolls, remove dough from the package and unroll it. Cut each roll into three triangles.
4. If using tortillas, cut them into four triangles.
5. Place hot dogs, rolls or tortillas, and cheese in separate bowls.
6. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees (if using crescent rolls).
7. Provide children with crescent roll triangles or tortillas, hot dog halves, and cheese in separate bowls (three bowls for every two children) and let them

create their own Prairie Dog Poncho. To do this, kids will put half a hot dog on each crescent roll or tortilla.

8. Add shredded cheese.
9. Roll up poncho, starting at one end and working to the other.
10. If using crescent rolls, place on foil-covered baking sheets and bake as directed on the package.

NOTE: If you are baking the Prairie Dog Ponchos, the kids can complete the placemat activity while their snacks are baking.

11. If you're using tortillas, no baking is needed.
12. Serve with ketchup.

WHAT TO SAY

Introduction

SAY: Howdy Buckaroos! Welcome to the Chuckwagon! Today our Bible story is about John the Baptist and how God called him to be different. Just like John the Baptist, we are called! [Motion to kids to respond.]

KIDS: Called to be Different! Yee-haw!

SAY: One of the best things about being called by God is that not only does He do the calling, but He also is the One who gives us the courage and strength to answer His call. God called John to dress differently than other people of his day. He wore clothes made out of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist. Our snack today represents the unique aspects of John's clothes.

Today we're going to make [select one: Prairie Dog Ponchos or Waffle Blankets].

Read dialogue for the snack of your choice.

Prairie Dog Ponchos remind us that John's style of clothing was different.

— OR —

Waffle Blankets remind us that the texture, [rub thumb and fingers against each other as if feeling something] of the way his clothes felt when you touched them, was different. The first thing we need to do is make sure our hands are clean.

Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child. Prepare and serve the snack.

Prayer

[Remember to pray prior to eating the snack. In addition to blessing the food, say...] Thank You for calling us to follow You. Give us the strength and courage to be different, just

like John the Baptist was different. We love You. We pray all these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

PLACEMAT ACTIVITY

For today's placemat activity, the children are directed to choose a sentence from examples given on their placemat and write it, or a statement they create, on their placemat as a message for the next Buckaroo who will be sitting at their spot. If they prefer, they can draw a message in pictures instead. Remind them to sign their names. If you are using crescent rolls, this activity can take place while the snack is baking. Choose the dialogue that fits your VBS.

SAY: While we are waiting for our snack to bake, we are going to do something different.

— OR —

When we are all done chowing down and our area is clean, we are going to do something different. On the placemat in front of you, write or draw a picture message for the next group of Buckaroos coming to the Chuckwagon. There are some examples already printed on your placemat. Oh, and don't forget to sign your name!



WRAP-UP

SAY: Make sure your hands are clean before you mosey on to your next station.

Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child.

Hope you enjoyed making and eating your treat today, and that it helped to remind you that being different is a calling. After all, we are called! [Motion to kids to respond.]

KIDS: Called to be Different!

SAY: Yee-haw!

Optional Ending after stations



Option ending: (cue up music) Well ..it's See ya later time. Don't forget to check out Cactusville at Adventistvbs.org

Time for me to Giddy up on out of here! See ya later Debuties!

