

## **Journey Off the Map**

As I write this, we have just finished another successful year of VBS! There is much to say on the subject, but little space to do so. I do however want to mention several things that went on.

The theme this year was “Journey off the Map.” This is the idea that God is our guide. He leads us to many places which are not on our map. It is amazing how His ways are greater than ours. He knows what we need. We often just think we know where we need to go. It is God who actually knows our needs!

The focus of VBS was on three characters: Moses, Daniel, and Jesus. God through Moses led the people through cloud and fire out of Egyptian bondage and to a place which was promised to their forefathers but they, themselves did not know. God was their guide!

God was Daniel’s guide in a different way. Instead of physically following the Lord, he trusted in Him. He, even though the laws and people were out to get him, continued steadfastly growing in his relationship with God. God saved Daniel from the mouths of lions and he showed the Persian people the true and living God through his faith.

Jesus died for our sins. The Father sent Him to be our guide. Jesus taught us how to live for Him and be saved. He now reigns at the right hand of the Father and we should be always looking and watching for his return. It could be at any minute!

We had some great students this year. We had four groups of all ages. There were several stations from crafts, snacks, instructional time, and even a lions’ den that was a big hit! Many of these things are great teaching tools to help the stories and lessons come to life.

We had some fantastic helpers too. Some made snacks. Some made crafts. Others made games and blew up a bouncy house. Some were VBS veterans, some were rookies, but all were very useful! There are so many necessary small jobs that make VBS successful. It is these seemingly small jobs that make a huge impact.

I would encourage all of us to ask one of the young ones what they learned. Ask the helpers what they saw and experienced. And if you are wondering if you should get involved next year, I would encourage it!

Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.” Isaiah 30:21

--Alex Swango