Mighty Fortress
VBS Workshop Materials

The following items are included in your workshop kit.

VBS Workshop Materials
1 Starter Kit (see p. 17 for contents list)
1 Hubert the Hound (321781) prize drawing
4 Book holders (756335)
1 Presenters Pack (759185)
   includes script, DVD, props, pen giveaways

Table Decorations
   Ivy Garland
   Shield Décor
   Jewels
   Medieval Table Cover
   Stone Wall Table Cover

Penny/Vinegar Demo

Presenter Uniform
1 VBS T-shirt (worn over a white collared shirt)
   Black slacks
   Tennis shoes permissible

VBS Workshop Display (750062)

Handouts for Attendees

755189 Catalog
321754 Mighty Fortress Tote Bags
321720 Collectibles
Mighty Fortress Pen
Attendance-Prize Entry Form (photocopy page 8)

Supplies

- Tall, clear drinking glass (see demo video below)
- Pennies and paper clips (ask store host)
- Extension cord
- Pens/pencils
- Display stand
- Basket to collect attendance-prize entry forms
- CD player to play music at table during free time

To understand how the Surface Tension Experiment works, visit this link to watch a demo video.

http://bit.ly/PennyTen
Mighty Fortress: In Jesus, the Victory Is Won!

Key Theme: In Jesus, the victory is won!

Key Bible Verses: Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57

At Mighty Fortress VBS, children learn that in Jesus, the victory is won!

Children learn the hard way that they can’t win every race, achieve only perfect scores, or always get the blue ribbon. But they don’t have to! At Mighty Fortress, children learn that God is our sure defense who strengthens us and is our refuge in times of trouble. Together, we’ll joyfully celebrate Jesus, our champion, our Savior King, who has won the battle over sin and death. God gives us the victory in Jesus and we celebrate with our mighty fortress!

Now that’s a VBS with Purpose!

Real Theme
The “Mighty Fortress” theme is pulled directly from the Bible. It retells five Bible accounts of kings, battles, and God’s victory for His people in the stories of when God’s might tumbled Jericho’s wall, God’s rescue of King Hezekiah’s kingdom, King Josiah’s reading of God’s Word, our Savior King’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and Jesus’ victory through His death and resurrection.

Realistic Art
Research shows that when children see realistic artwork, they believe the characters and stories to be real and true. That is why CPH strategically and intentionally uses realistic artwork to bring Scripture to life and connect children with the real accounts given in the Bible.

Real Bible
VBS from CPH stands apart because it starts with our approach to the Word of God. Every VBS lesson clearly distinguishes between God’s Law and His Gospel. God Himself is present in His Word, gathering us together and holding us securely against the buffeting of sin, Satan, and death. He provides for us and leads us home through His Word. That’s why it’s called Vacation BIBLE School.

Real Savior
At the center of every lesson is God’s gracious gift of Jesus, who is the fulfillment of the Law and is our Savior from sin, death, and the devil. Inspired by real stories from the real Bible, we equip volunteers to teach kids about the real Savior, Jesus. Through God’s Word shared in every activity, kids discover that God is our mighty fortress and Jesus, God’s Son, is our champion who gives us the victory over our enemies of sin, death, and the devil.

Real FUN!
Engaging kids is easy with all the events and technologies they encounter today. But what value is left when the entertainment is gone? Mighty Fortress equips volunteers to engage kids with interactive Bible stories, hands-on crafts, high-energy music, and more. Volunteers and kids are all enriched with Gospel truths that build faith, relevant now and for a lifetime.

VBS with Purpose!
We believe that VBS should engage and enrich children not just for a week, but for a lifetime. At Concordia Publishing House, we don’t need fairy tales to make VBS fun; God’s Word stands alone with real characters and true stories. Our goal is to provide resources that support faith development to help children see Jesus clearly. Each piece is intentionally designed through that lens, from our postcard invitations to our volunteer leader guides to our witness wear T-shirts.

In the crowded VBS marketplace, there is only one choice where it all comes together to faithfully teach the saving message of God’s grace. After the craft glue dries and the snacks are but crumbs, what matters is that children leave VBS knowing their need for a Savior and that His name is Jesus. That is the CPH difference!
Workshop Details

Workshop Date and Time: ___/___/____  ____:____
Workshop Location: _____________________________________
Contact Name: _____________________________________
Contact Phone: ____-____-______
Workshop Style:  Presentation  Open House  Other _____________
Presentation Time/Allowance _____________________________________
The script and videos provided accommodate a 20-minute allotment (customary presentation time).

Display Space: _____________________________________
Expected Attendance: _____________________________________
Allow for Drawing Prize: Yes  No

See page 28 to plan ahead for completing an evaluation.

Workshop Tips

1. Workshop Lineup. A typical VBS workshop has representatives from several publishers, each taking a turn to showcase its newest curriculum. Please be strategic as to when you present. Audiences typically pay better attention to the first and last presentations in the lineup. If you are not in first position, use it to your advantage. Listen to the other presenters, take notes on your Pocket Script (p. 15), and look for opportunities to emphasize key features and strengths about VBS from CPH.

2. Presentation Time. Please check with your workshop host for the time allotment and customize the script to fit your presentation. We’ve included Starter Kit Unpacked (p. 18) in this document, so you can be prepared to offer additional information as to how CPH stands apart. Become familiar with Starter Kit Unpacked so you can also use it as a quick reference guide and answer customer questions.

3. Engage. Encourage audience participation in your presentation. See the script for an engaging activity to get your audience into the theme. Look for opportunities to ask your audience for anecdotal stories, such as “How do you make your VBS intentional?” or “What are some of your favorite VBS memories?” This will set up your presentation on hosting a VBS with Purpose! Or be personal and share a favorite childhood VBS story of your own, how it made a difference in your life. Encourage the audience to share their favorite stories. This will make your presentation more effective and memorable for participants. Come up with your own fun and interactive ideas to engage the audience. Be sure to capture your success stories on the evaluation form.

4. Be Yourself. Make the workshop fit your style and have fun. Practice the script until you know it thoroughly. Don’t be intimidated by the other presenters. Be yourself and be sincere. Your audience loves VBS, so even if they have chosen another theme, be assured they will be collecting new ideas from you. Amp up your energy and be well-informed and you’ll do a great job!

5. Attire. Please dress in the VBS Presenter’s uniform when presenting. We provide a themed VBS T-shirt in your size. Please layer over a white collared shirt or long-sleeve jersey with black slacks and tennis shoes.

6. Also Available. Be on the lookout for those who need Spanish or bilingual VBS for outreach events or mission trips. Editorial Concordia’s 2017 theme Encuentros con Jesús (Jesus Encounters), written by Hispanics for Hispanics, will be the perfect fit! Invite the bookstore to call 1-800-325-3391 for the program’s catalog.
Workshop Checklist

Before the Workshop

Call the bookstore as soon as possible.

☐ Introduce yourself as a presenter for CPH. Get acquainted with the person in charge of the workshop.
☐ Verify the date and time of the workshop.
☐ Ask about the allotted time you will have to present.
☐ Ask about display space/configuration.
☐ Ask about the expected number of attendees.
☐ Discuss the policy for handouts and prizes. We provide drawing slips and a puppet for the prize.
☐ Request a TV/DVD player and extension cord for your presentation.
☐ Identify any additional needs that the store may not be able to accommodate.

Learn about Mighty Fortress.

☐ Become familiar with the Workshop Video Segments.
☐ Memorize the script. Time yourself to ensure the presentation fits the allotted time.
☐ Read Starter Kit Unpacked (p. 18) to prepare for customer questions.
☐ Become familiar with the Starter Kit and its contents.
☐ Watch the Mighty Fortress Overview DVD (found in Starter Kit).
☐ Become familiar with the songs (found on Majestic Music Passalong CD & DVD Set).
☐ Call the bookstore the week before the workshop.
☐ Confirm the date, time, and place.
☐ Communicate any changes to vbsteam@cph.org.

At the Workshop

☐ Wear your VBS T-shirt (over long-sleeve white shirt), black slacks, and tennis shoes.
☐ Find your display space and set up. See page 6 for directions and suggestions.
☐ Find out where you will be presenting so you can have demo samples, script, and DVD ready.
☐ For an open house workshop event, use the looping function to play the Open House Presentation.
☐ Prestuffed totes (see p. 2, Handouts for Attendees) will be shipped directly to the store.
☐ Distribute bags as participants arrive or place them on each of the chairs.
☐ Mingle with guests. Identify attendees as seasoned or novice VBSers to tailor your presentation.
☐ Energize your audience with your enthusiasm!

After the Workshop

☐ Keep all materials! The cost of return shipping does not warrant returning items to CPH. Use them to present another workshop or give them to the workshop host or a church as a door prize.
☐ Return evaluation (p. 28), photos, receipt, and attendance-prize forms; a self-addressed envelope is provided in this packet.
☐ Thank you for your service. You are an integral part of sharing the Gospel with children.
Ready. Set. Display!

1. Display Supplies Needed

- VBS Workshop Kit provided (content list on p. 2)
- Tabletop display provided
- Starter Kit and provided posters (content list on p. 17)
- 4 bookstands provided to display materials
- Theme-related items from home; may include goblets, small fancy carpet, tapestry, candles, chess board, king’s robe, small decorative knight in armor, other medieval-looking items
- Hubert the Hound Puppet provided
- Puppet Poster (p. 9)
- Basket to collect the attendance-prize forms (p. 8)
- Tall, clear drinking glass (see demo video to understand how the Surface Tension Experiment works: http://bit.ly/PennyTen)
- Pennies and paper clips (ask store host if needed)

2. Display

- Use themed stand-up display on table.
- Use Stone Wall (1) Tablecover and Medieval Tablecover (provided) to cover table.
- Use Stone Wall (2) Tablecover (provided) to wrap box(es) to create fortress wall effect.
- Use Decorating Posters provided in kit. Cut Registration Table Banner from poster to decorate table.
- Use the bookstands to display leader materials.
- Mount the Puppet Poster to an easel to attract attention for the drawing (if allowed by the host).

3. Have the DVD player set up and ready to play.

- We prefer you use the Workshop DVD to showcase the music videos, but if you use the Passalong CD, be sure the audio is loud enough to be heard by all attendees.
Selecting the Attendance-Prize Winner

It’s best to give away *Hubert the Hound Puppet* at the end of the presentation. Be sure to show enthusiasm while demonstrating Hubert!

Copies of the entry forms (p. 8) are prestuffed in the attendees tote bags. Ask participants to complete the form for a chance to win Hubert. Pens are also provided in the tote bags.

Remove the Registration Sign (p. 9) to display next to a basket or other receptacle to collect all prize entries.

Collect the forms and draw a name at the end of the program. Assure participants that we will not share their information with a third party.

We would like to express our appreciation to workshop attendees, so please return completed forms with your evaluation reports in the provided envelope.

### Attendance-Prize Forms

Register for a chance to WIN

Hubert the Hound is ready to add a Mighty Fortress adventure!

$39.99 Value
Enter to win Hubert the Hound!

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Attendance-Prize Forms

Contact bookstore for permission and expected attendance. Use at display table. They are also pre-stuffed in goodie bags.
Register for a chance to WIN

$39.99 Value

Hubert the Hound is ready to sniff out a Mighty Fortress adventure!
Note to Presenter:

To understand how the Surface Tension Experiment works, visit this link to watch a demo video.

http://bit.ly/PennyTen
Presentation Script
Use this script along with the Workshop DVD for your presentation.

Be sure to note the prompts so you are comfortable with engaging the DVD player. These icons are provided in the script to prompt you accordingly.

PLAY suggested video segment

DEMONSTRATE suggested product provided in the kit

This script, with video segments and demonstrations, should comfortably fit a 20–25 minute presentation. An OPTIONAL science demonstration (3–4 minutes) has been provided to adapt as time and your audience allows. Please REHEARSE the script as we have provided it and time your presentation. If the bookstore cannot allot you the time to talk through the whole script, identify opportunities to adapt your presentation.

Introduction/Theme

Welcome to Concordia’s 2017 VBS, *Mighty Fortress: In Jesus, the Victory Is Won!* My name is _______________. I’d like to thank _______________ for hosting today’s workshop, and I’d also like to thank YOU for coming!

Vacation Bible School is a great place to have fun and engage kids with high-energy music, exciting stories, awesome games, and cool crafts.

But at Concordia Publishing House, we believe the fun of VBS has a REAL purpose! A VBS with Purpose shows kids their need for a Savior. Our sin is stuck on us like dirt is stuck on this penny. But through Jesus, kids will see that His victory is ours. In every story, every game, and every detail at *Mighty Fortress*, YOU can make a difference by teaching kids about the truth and power of God’s Word.

[Drop penny in small clear cup with vinegar and salt mixture; set aside for later.]

Concordia believes the goal of any VBS is to create a hunger for more, so children and their families come back to your church for worship and Bible study. VBS is not just another event; it’s the beginning of

• developing new relationships;
• embracing new families into your church;
• faith formation in a child; and
• building the ministry of disciples.

What better way to shepherd your congregation into your community. What better theme than *Mighty Fortress*, where children celebrate Jesus, their Savior King, their fortress and sure defense!

So let’s step into the *Mighty Fortress* theme with this preview video.

[PLAY THEME TRAILER video segment, 1:05 min]

At *Mighty Fortress*, kids learn that God is their refuge and strength. Friends may fail them. They may not ace the next test or make the team. But God promises to be their rock and their salvation—their fortress and sure defense. So raise your banner! Hold it high. Shout it loud! The battle is done. In Jesus, the victory is won!

To help you celebrate the Take-Home Points, let’s practice the call and response. Everyone stand up.

[Cup your hands around your mouth and say, “HEAR YE! HEAR YE!” Then point up and say “SHOUT! GOD IS MIGHTY!” The crowd joins you, and all of you point up and repeat, “SHOUT! GOD IS MIGHTY!” Everyone then makes a V with their fingers as they say, “THE VICTORY IS WON!”]

Great! Let’s practice some more.
Presenter: Hear ye! Hear ye! Fear not!
Crowd: Fear not! The victory is won!

Presenter: Hear ye! Hear ye! Jesus came to save!
Crowd: Jesus came to save! The victory is won!

Presenter: Hear ye! Hear ye! Jesus is our Savior King!
Crowd: Jesus is our Savior King! The victory is won!

Thank you for your help. In Jesus, the victory is won! Isn’t that something to celebrate? [Add some APPLAUSE and WOO-HOOS here.]

The “Mighty Fortress” theme is pulled directly from the Bible. It retells five Bible accounts of kings, battles, and God’s victory for His people in the stories of Jericho’s wall, King Hezekiah, King Josiah, Jesus as He enters Jerusalem, and Jesus’ victory through His death and resurrection.

Music

You can’t host a memorable VBS without high-energy music. That’s why CPH has carefully crafted a music package just for kids, using simple, repeatable lyrics while teaching key biblical truths. Three original songs, three familiar songs, and two hymns align with the lessons to keep even your ten-year-old boys engaged. Let’s preview our song-action videos to get a sample of Majestic Music.

[PLAY SONG-ACTION VIDEOS, 1:49 min.]

[DEMO the MAJESTIC MUSIC PASSALONG CD & DVD SET—2 DISCS]

Be sure to send home the Majestic Music with our Passalong CD and DVD. The CD includes all the theme songs, memory verse songs, and early childhood music, nineteen songs in all. The DVD plays the eight song-action videos you just sampled here, five memory verse song videos, and the ten theme videos shown at Opening and Closing. That is a LOT of content! Your kids will go home singing and dancing to Bible songs well beyond VBS! This might be the only connection to Scripture some kids have after VBS, so send them home with lyrics that teach Jesus’ truth. Now that’s music with Purpose!

Easy Decorating

Decorating creates an exciting environment for children to learn in, so forge ahead and think medieval: goblets, silky material, knights in shining armor, shields, and ivy. Gather up items that you may have just lying around the house. We offer easy and inexpensive decorations to help you create fortress walls and tables fit for a king, as well as ideas for creating your own medieval makeover. I bet you can’t wait to see how to decorate for Mighty Fortress. Let’s take a look.

[PLAY DECORATING video, 2:36 min.]

Decorating is a great way to get your church members excited about VBS. Surrounding them with multisensory cues helps them embrace the theme. It’s important to remember that decorations are also there to point kids to Jesus.

[DEMO a BIBLE STORY POSTER]

Showing realistic artwork, as we have with our Bible stories, helps kids believe that the accounts in the Bible are real and true.

Now, as a VBS leader, I know there is nothing more exciting than opening your brand-new Starter Kit. We’ve packed our all-inclusive kit with everything you need to host a VBS with Purpose. Let’s take a peek.
We even help you get your registration table set up, right out of the box.

At CPH, our leader resources are SO easy to use. Everything is designed and labeled so volunteers can be grab-and-go ready. Our Lessons-at-a-Glance chart, simple supply lists, scripts, and CD resources make for easy volunteer recruitment and simple, fun training.

We are so committed to making your job easy that our website is dedicated 24/7 with resources specific to every site. How-to videos show how to prepare, how to decorate, and how to maximize your time with the kids. And these resources are accessible anytime, anywhere so your volunteers can refer back to them again and again. Could we make your job as VBS director any easier? Let's watch a sample of our Games training video.

That's just a sample of the resources we provide. Each site volunteer can view a how-to video, decorating video, job description, a Facebook photo album, and samples specific to their site. It's customized to their needs, so how much easier can it be?

Now I need your help for a little fun at Science in the Square. [GET 2–3 VOLUNTEERS.] These life application demonstrations are found at our Bible Challenge site, a CPH exclusive site dedicated to digging into and memorizing God’s Word.

Right here I have an ordinary [clear] glass of water. Does someone want to try it? [If so, let volunteer put a finger in the cup and taste the water.]

We are going to take turns adding these pennies and paperclips to the water one at a time.

[Start by sliding the penny/paperclip along the inside rim of the glass. As it fills, involve the audience with questions.]

Do you think I can fit one more without spilling? [Crowd responds with shouts of Yes! No!]

[Keep adding them and asking until crowd is absolutely sure you can't add another, and then add another!]

This is pretty amazing, isn't it? It almost seems impossible, but there is a scientific reason behind why it works. Water has something called surface tension; each of the little water molecules wants to stick together. If you look really carefully, you can see that the water is over the top of the glass, but it doesn't spill! It's pretty amazing. Well, what Jesus did was way more amazing than my surface tension experiment! What He did is truly impossible for any of us, but He could do it because He is God. Jesus died on the cross and then rose again three days later! It was what He came to do because He is our Savior!

Do you remember my dirty penny? Let's see how it looks now.

[Take the penny out of the vinegar and dry it with the cloth. Show the group how shiny it is.]

Wow! That sure looks like a different penny, doesn’t it? Do you know that we are just like that penny? We are covered with the dirt of sin, but because of what Jesus did for us, when God looks at us, He sees a clean, shiny person free from sin. Let’s give thanks to God for what Jesus did to make us shiny and new.

Say it with me: (Cup hands around mouth.) HEAR YE! HEAR YE! JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR KING! 

**Audience:** (Point up.) JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR KING! (Make V with fingers.) THE VICTORY’S WON!
Wrap It Up

Concordia Publishing House provides a VBS that is truly comprehensive. We’ve covered some of the best features today—a real theme, high-energy music, and easy training and decorating ideas, all found inside your Mighty Fortress Starter Kit.

We know that no two churches are exactly alike. So whether you have twenty-five or twenty-five hundred children attending your VBS, our flexible format suggestions help you host a VBS that can last a week or even just one day.

CPH equips you to succeed from planning to the closing ceremony. Get prepared with our content-rich how-to website, be inspired by our Pinterest boards, and get connected to other directors like yourself on our Facebook page.

[PLAY the CONNECT WITH US video, 0:13 min.]

[DEMO catalog]

Check out our catalog, found in your bags, to learn more about our all-inclusive Mighty Fortress Starter Kit and all the decorating, publicity, and student essentials you need to make your VBS great. Also in your bag are our keepsake collectibles to remind kids that Jesus is our Savior King—our shield and deliverer.

Closing

Mighty Fortress gives your kids rock-solid Bible learning fun! Even after you take down the castle doors and stone walls, you can be confident that the message of Jesus remains alive in the hearts and minds of every child. At Mighty Fortress, kids learn that God is their refuge and strength. Friends may fail them. They may not ace the test or make the team. But God promises to be their rock and their salvation—their fortress and sure defense. So raise your banner! Hold it high. Shout it loud! The battle is done. In Jesus, the victory is won!

(Point up.) JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR KING! (Make V with fingers.) THE VICTORY’S WON!

Please join me in a closing prayer: Dear heavenly Father, we pray for Your blessing and guidance on these leaders, for Your provision of loving volunteers, and for children eager to invite their friends and share Your wondrous love. Bless us with wisdom and encourage our efforts as we tell others about You. To God be all the glory. Amen.

[Wrap up with puppet drawing, depending on workshop format.]

Optional

The Truth Be Told site rotation (found in the Starter Kit) may be used as an alternative rotation for churches wishing to celebrate of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Use during VBS or as a follow-up event.
POCKET SCRIPT

Introduction

VBS with Purpose

Kids leave knowing Jesus is their Savior.

VBS is not just an event; it's the beginning of
• developing new relationships;
• embracing new families into your church;
• faith formation in a child; and
• building the ministry of disciples.

PENNY EXPERIMENT

THEME PREVIEW (1:05)

Kids discover that even when they experience
hard things, Jesus, their Savior King promises to
be their rock and salvation—their fortress and
sure defense.

HEAR YE! CALL & RESPONSE

MUSIC/SONG-ACTION VIDEOS (1:00)

Lyrics teach Bible truths through fun, high-
energy songs that keep kids singing and dancing
well beyond VBS.

DECORATING OVERVIEW (2:36)

*Mighty Fortress* decorating is easy, fun, and
economical. Our how-to videos walk you
through every step of the way.

STARTER KIT (0:20)

Demo Starter Kit, All-Inclusive Posters/Features

*Ask the store if there is an offer*

24/7 TRAINING (2:21)

Our volunteer training website is easier than
ever with videos for every site leader.

SCIENCE DEMO (3:00–4:00)

Audience participation activity

PENNY EXPERIMENT RESULTS

WRAP IT UP

We are available and accessible.

VBSTeam@cph.org, website, Facebook,
Pinterest, YouTube, Vimeo, and catalogs keep
you informed and connected.

PRAYER

Dear heavenly Father, we pray for Your blessing
and guidance on these leaders, for Your
provision of loving volunteers, and for children
eager to invite their friends and share Your
wondrous love. Bless us with wisdom and
encourage our efforts as we tell others about
you. To God be all the glory. Amen.
# Quick-Find Resource List

If your question is not covered in this document, contact us at vbsteam@cph.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Need</th>
<th>Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clip art</td>
<td>Director CD, Early Childhood CD, and Open/Close DVD; some clip art available at vbs.cph.org</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing program options</td>
<td>Director CD and Open/Close DVD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crafts</td>
<td>Crafts Leader Guide; sample crafts in Starter Kit; Early Childhood Leader Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decorating ideas</td>
<td>Leader Guides and CDs; Director Guide; Program Overview DVD; catalog; <a href="http://vbs.cph.org">vbs.cph.org</a>; Facebook; Pinterest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director Guide</td>
<td>Included in the Starter Kit; also sold separately</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAQs</td>
<td>Download at vbs.cph.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission outreach</td>
<td>Mission Project Brochure; catalog; Director CD; Open/Close DVD; <a href="http://vbs.cph.org">Mighty Fortress</a> Overview DVD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Leader Guide with Music CD and Song-Action DVD comes in the Starter Kit. Early Childhood Leader Guide with CD includes 19 recorded songs (8 VBS songs, 5 memory verse songs, and 6 Early Childhood songs). Passalong CD and DVD (2 discs) includes all 19 songs on the CD and 8 song-action videos, 5 Bible Memory Songs, and 10 Theme Videos on the DVD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online registration</td>
<td>VBSMate is a FREE customizable website and registration tool at <a href="http://vbsmate.com">vbsmate.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning helps</td>
<td>Director Guide and CD; catalog; <a href="http://vbs.cph.org">Mighty Fortress</a> Overview DVD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program overview</td>
<td>Director Guide and all Leader Guides; <a href="http://vbs.cph.org">Mighty Fortress</a> Overview DVD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity ideas and samples</td>
<td>Director Guide and CD; sample poster in Starter Kit; catalog; <a href="http://vbs.cph.org">vbs.cph.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skits</td>
<td>Videos and scripts on Opening/Closing Leader DVD; puppet scripts on Early Childhood Guide CD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Starter Kit contents</td>
<td><strong>All 15 posters are included in the Starter Kit:</strong> Bible Story Posters, Decorating Posters, Bible Memory Posters, and Publicity Poster! Program Overview DVD; Director Guide with CD; Early Childhood Leader Guide with CD; Pastor Overview Guide; Opening and Closing Leader Guide with DVD; Music Leader Guide with Song-Action DVD and Music CD; Storytelling Leader Guide; Bible Challenge Leader Guide with CD; Crafts Leader Guide; Snacks Leader Guide; Games Leader Guide; Publicity Sample Pack; Student Sample Pack; Craft Sample Pack; Mission Project Brochure; Tote Bag</td>
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<td>Song lyrics</td>
<td>Opening/Closing Leader DVD; Music Leader Guide with Song-Action DVD and Music CD; Early Childhood Leader CD</td>
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<td>Volunteer training</td>
<td>Program Overview DVD; Director Guide and CD; online at cph.org/volunteers; YouTube videos; Facebook photo albums and helpful tip postings; weekly e-newsletter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship resources</td>
<td>Opening/Closing Leader Guide; Good Times Music Leader Guide with Song-Action DVD and Music CD; Director CD</td>
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See the 2017 VBS catalog

or vbs.cph.org for more information.
Starter Kit Unpacked

Your adventure awaits! Our all-inclusive 2017 VBS Starter Kit (321743) includes materials for 6 rotational sites, sample crafts, keepsakes, and other student essentials. It also includes 15 posters, 9 decorating videos, 6 how-to videos, information on our FREE VBSMate online registration tool, and more. Valued at more than $400.

Starter Kit Contents
Director Guide*
Program Overview DVD
Pastor’s Overview Guide
Early Childhood Guide*
Music Guide, plus song-action videos*
Opening/Closing Guide, plus skit scripts*
Bible Challenge Guide*
Truth Be Told (optional Reformation site)
Storytelling Guide*
Craft Guide
Snack Guide
Games Guide
Mission Project Flyer
Free VBSMate Online Registration
Decorating Posters (4—43“ × 60”)
Bible Story Posters (5—22” × 17”)
Memory Verse Posters (5—22” × 17”)
Publicity Poster Sample (1—17” × 22”)
Publicity Postcard Sample
Tote Bag
Shield Décor Sample
*Includes CD and/or DVD content

Student Essentials Sampler
Early Childhood Leaflet & Stickers
Elementary Leaflet
Passalong CD & DVD
Collectibles
Carabiner
Team Identifier
Nametag
Offering Envelope
Promise Comic Outreach Sample

Craft Sampler
Mighty Fortress Sand Art
Fear Not Flyer
Victory Medallion
Salvation Cross
Crown of Life
**Director Resources and Information**  
**Director Guide and CD**

First, let’s take a look at your Super Duper Director Guide and CD in your Starter Kit. Designed with you in mind, this how-to guide and CD gives you the tools you need to plan, prepare, and produce a VBS with Purpose! Your Director Guide and CD includes information on VBS formats and strategies, Director details, planning tools, site explanations, decoration ideas and signs, recruitment and training materials, publicity materials, and closing celebration suggestions.

Chapters guide you through each step, and the easy-to-follow calendar and checklists gauge progress along the way. The Director Guide matches the CD, with a complete PDF of the Director Guide available on the CD (321762). The following information offers an in-depth overview of what the Director Guide and CD provide.

**Decorating**

More than adding flair to your VBS, decorating has a purpose: to provide multisensory cues to help kids embrace lessons in their hearts and minds—pointing them to Jesus. Decorating is easy at *Mighty Fortress*. From our Jesus Stand-Up to our Insta-Theme backgrounds, your space can have a medieval makeover in a snap. The Director Guide gives you the basics, tips, and things to consider as you look at your VBS space. Check out our Decorating tips and tricks in our catalog for inspiration and all of our decorating items! Many of our decorating items (such as our Jesus Stand-Up and Cross Stand-Up ) can be repurposed and used for Midweek or Sunday School.

**Formats**

Your Director Guide explains different VBS formats and strategies. Our lesson format divides leader resources for each site (e.g., crafts, storytelling, snacks, Bible challenge, games) into five individual leaflets for five days. Each day’s activities are included on a separate leaflet so that volunteers can easily access the content. Additional suggested formats for VBS cover a one-day, weekend, evening-only, backyard, and one-hour/week (Summer Sunday School or Midweek) formats.

**Sites**

The *Mighty Fortress* site-rotation program has seven sites:

1. Mighty Fortress Opening (large group)
2. Stronghold Storytelling
3. Victory Village Bible Challenge
4. Festival Crafts
5. Great Hall Snacks
6. Tournament Games
7. Mighty Fortress Closing (large group)

**How does site rotation work?**

It begins at the Mighty Fortress Opening, where kids meet their Team Leaders, sing, pray, and are introduced to the Bible story through Scripture and the Opening theme video. This is also when the children learn about the Mission Project, *Sharing God’s Mighty Word: Books for Kids.*
After Opening, kids move through five rotation sites to discover how God leads us on our faith journey: Stronghold Storytelling, Victory Village Bible Challenge, Festival Crafts, Great Hall Snacks, and Tournament Games. All sites reinforce the Bible teachings and help children remember the lessons.

Why does CPH offer site rotation?

- Customers tell us their number-one problem is recruiting and retaining volunteers. Site rotation uniquely addresses the continuing challenges of staffing, recruitment, and space usage.

- Volunteers love *Mighty Fortress* site rotation because they are able to specialize in one area. Recruiting is easier because jobs match volunteers’ interests and strengths, such as crafts, music, or drama.

- Volunteers appreciate easy lesson preparation. Instead of preparing and teaching every part of a lesson, site leaders have one job. They prepare less content (about 20 minutes) and repeat it several times. Everyone works together to teach the whole lesson. Each site leader has a Leader Guide for simple, creative, and fun planning.

- VBS can utilize volunteers in areas with little to no preparation requirements. The Team Leader position is perfect for someone who has little experience or time to prepare but can be relational with kids. These volunteers lead groups of five to six kids through every site. They befriend kids and lead them in tasks assigned by site leaders.

- It’s easier to plan for spacing needs because you don’t need a classroom for every grade. Instead, you need six areas for 1 to 150 kids. (Remember, Opening and Closing share a space.)

Volunteers

**Volunteers for elementary program (children ages 6 to 12)**

Volunteers of all ages have fun at *Mighty Fortress*. Each volunteer leads one site or task, using his or her unique gifts and abilities. Together, everyone teaches the lesson. The elementary program requires one Site Leader at each of the six sites: Mighty Fortress Opening/Closing, Stronghold Storytelling, Victory Village Bible Challenge, Festival Crafts, Great Hall Snacks, and Tournament Games.

Individuals who enjoy leading large groups or have music skills are ideal for leading the Mighty Fortress Opening and Closing. Recruit your best teachers to lead storytelling and Bible challenge sites. Try to get creative volunteers for the crafts site and energetic leaders for games. Ask a foodie to lead snacks. A VBS with these six sites can accommodate up to 150 elementary-age children. For a VBS with fewer children, leaders may be able to lead more than one site.

For more than 150 children, add an extra set of five rotation sites. You will not need an additional Opening/Closing since everyone meets there together. Two sets of rotation sites serve up to 300 children. Team Leaders (small-group leaders for every 5–6 children) gather their groups at the Mighty Fortress Opening and lead them through the rotation sites before traveling back to Closing. These volunteers lead discussions with their small groups at each of the five rotations. Team Leader pages are available on the Director CD.
Directors may find it helpful to have additional volunteers at each site, a decorating crew, a music team, and administrative helpers. See the Director Guide and CD for job descriptions and recruitment aids.

**Volunteers needed for the early childhood program (Ages 3–6, nonreaders to early readers)**
The early childhood program is also rotation based. Leaders are needed for Opening/Closing, Storytelling, Bible Challenge, Snacks, Crafts, and Games. Children are divided into Early Childhood Teams of five children and a Team Leader. This structure allows 125 preschoolers. In a VBS with fewer children, leaders may lead more than one site.

**How to involve middle school youth (junior high)**
- Youth can also be helpful as Team Leaders or Team Assistants. Some mature students will be ready to serve as leaders, but others are more comfortable as assistants. They can help to engage children, get supplies, or run errands. Young teens with babysitting experience might enjoy volunteering in the Early Childhood program.

  - If needed, youth make great helpers at the five rotation sites of *Mighty Fortress*. Site Leaders need partners to help plan, set up, lead, and clean up their sites. Connect young teens with Site Leaders who share their interests, such as art, drama, music, or games. They might enjoy helping prepare crafts, props, or decorating items. With assistance, they can show groups how to make a craft or snack.

  - Middle school volunteers may enjoy helping with registration and daily administrative tasks.

  - Talented youth singers or musicians may enjoy helping with music. Before opening day, get together to learn the theme songs and actions so these students can help lead during openings and closings.

  - Many young teens are technology gurus! Involve them as sound technicians and PowerPoint operators. Many have excellent skills with computer programs and camera equipment.

**As youth get older, increase their opportunities!**
- Older teens (14 to 18 years old) may be more mature and outgoing than junior high youth. Help these teens find places where they can best use their talents, gifts, and interests.

  - Teens have a great time with skits and drama! They’ll fit right in as actors and assistants at Stronghold Storytelling or Victory Village Bible Challenge. Their help can also be used to run A/V equipment, make props, and decorate the set.

  - Teens make great small-group leaders of five to six children. Provide adequate training so they can be effective.

  - Site Leaders need partners to help plan, set up, lead, and clean up their site. Connect teens with leaders who share similar interests, such as games, music, or crafts. Successful teen assistants become Site Leaders the next year.
• Recruit teenage volunteers to play instruments or lead songs at the Mighty Fortress Opening and Closing.

• Teens with babysitting experience might enjoy working with preschoolers. They can assist the children, staff early childhood sites, and help with activities. Some skilled teens might be ready to teach a daily Bible story.

• Friendly teens with strong organizational skills make great registration workers. Teens can help with daily tasks, such as taking attendance, replenishing supplies, publishing a daily newsletter, or preparing take-home letters.

**Mighty Fortress Overview DVD**
Provides a program overview; six how-to videos that preview each site (these can be used for volunteer training); DIY decorating videos for easy décor; a recruitment commercial to inspire everyone to get involved and recruit volunteers; and an overview for the 2017 Mission Project, *Sharing God’s Mighty Word: Books for Kids*.

**Tote Bag**
High-gloss, laminated, and sporting the *Mighty Fortress* theme, our tote bags are a great way to get volunteers excited about VBS. Use as an incentive for early sign-ups, drawing prizes, or appreciation gifts. They make a lasting keepsake volunteers can use beyond VBS.

**Pastor Overview**
This is a VBS summary to give to your pastor. It covers the key theme, explains why VBS is important, and shares how, as chief catechist and shepherd, your pastor can help your church get excited before, during, and after VBS. We’ve included an overview, a sermon that ties in the VBS theme, and a resource overview.

**Majestic Music Leader Guide with Song-Action DVD and Music CD**
Share God’s Word each day through high-energy songs that remind kids of Jesus’ love for them—now and forever. Kids confess their faith in Jesus as Savior when they sing Majestic Music. Intentional lyrics teach them God’s truths and how they can share His love with the world. Leader guide includes the Song-Action DVD with eight Song-Action videos, song lyric videos, scores, lyrics, lead sheets, and more. The children on our Song-Action videos do the actions to the songs with on-screen lyrics provided! Audio recordings of all songs are found on the Music CD that comes with this Leader Guide. The song-action videos are included on the *Majestic Music CD and DVD* (321785).

**Mighty Fortress Opening/Closing Leader Guide and DVD**
Energize kids, sing songs, apply lessons through theme videos, serve with God’s *Mighty Word* mission project, and reinforce key lesson points. Mighty Fortress Opening and Closing is where it all comes together. This guide equips you to lead opening activities and review Bible lessons. The DVD includes ten theme videos, five mission-moment videos, PowerPoint slides, posters, and handouts—all formatted so you can use it as is or customize it to your needs.

Theme videos are available in the Mighty Fortress Opening and Closing Leader Guide with DVD (321745). Theme videos are intended for use in both Opening and Closing. Scripts of the theme videos are provided as an option for a live performance.
Stronghold Storytelling Leader Guide and CD

At *Mighty Fortress*, kids are actively involved in the telling of the Bible accounts from God’s Word. The kids read about and see God at work in each lesson. That experience is one you will create with simple, imaginative, easy-to-build sets and props. Though this site is called Storytelling, these are no mere stories! You will be sharing the true Word of God. Each lesson’s leaflet includes the following:

- Take-Home Point
- Bible Points to Emphasize
- Supply List
- Getting Ready
- Storytelling Script
- Ideas for using the Student Leaflets

Victory Village Bible Challenge Leader Guide and CD

Help children write Bible words on their hearts as they learn that in Jesus, the victory is won! CD contains many versatile resources divided into helpful sections:

- Teaching resources—Bible references; leader devotions; leader pages; Victory Village Bible Challenge certificate
- Computer-only video of the actions to the Bible Memory Songs
- Decorating resources—site sign and how-to video
- Music resources—lyric pages; audio files

Festival Crafts Leader Guide

Craft Leaders will use this guide or the crafts sections of the Early Childhood Leader Guide. The guide includes directions and suggestions for all of the craft components. *Mighty Fortress* crafts have a clear Gospel message to reinforce the daily Bible stories. The directions in the Festival Crafts Leader Guide have scripts for leaders to use in teaching the Bible stories and theme. All crafts are sold separately in packs of twelve.

Great Hall Snacks Leader Guide

Nourish kids’ faith and bodies for more VBS fun. At *Mighty Fortress*, snacks are yummy and easy for kids to make! Supply lists, tips for advanced preparation and making the snacks, and ideas reinforcing the Bible lesson are included.

Tournament Games Leader Guide

Reinforce the lesson while engaging children of all ages and abilities in games that focus on God’s Word. Easy-to-follow instructions for fun games, supply lists, and follow-up discussion questions provided. Tips for adapting games for those with special needs are also included.

Tower Top Early Childhood Leader Guide with CD

Age-appropriate lessons, games, and activities engage nonreaders to early readers (ages 3–6) as you teach them that in Jesus, the victory is won! The CD includes teaching visuals and nineteen recorded songs—including six Early
Childhood songs and all VBS music and Bible memory songs. Use with Little Lookouts Early Childhood Leaflets with Stickers (321760). Hubert the Hound Puppet (321781; sold separately) is sure to delight everyone! Scripts for Hubert the Hound are included in the Tower Top Early Childhood Leader Guide and CD.

**Youth and Adult Bible Study**

Discontinued in 2017.

**Student Sampler Pack**

Our Student Essentials make it easy for your campers to get excited about Jesus. Inside, you'll find these samples:

- **Little Lookouts Early Childhood Leaflets and Stickers (321760)**
  
  Ages 3–6 (nonreaders to early readers)
  
  Versatile and easy to use, Little Lookouts Leaflets with Stickers provide life-application lessons, transition activities, Bible stories, and pictures—all to appropriately engage the littlest learner. These leaflets extend beyond VBS, providing meaningful, age-appropriate faith-teaching activities for the whole family.

- **Victory’s Won Elementary Leaflets (321763)**
  
  Ages 6–12 (Grades 1–5)
  
  Appropriate for elementary students, each compact leaflet includes memory verse, Bible story, discussion questions, theme connections, fun facts, engaging activities, and realistic Bible art. Use with Storytelling. These leaflets are a great take-home item to help students share what they have learned with their families.

**Student Essentials Sampler**

- **Majestic Music Passalong CD and DVD (321785)**
  
  All the Majestic Music, Bible Memory Songs, early childhood music, song-action videos, memory verse videos, and theme videos are contained on this CD and DVD set to keep kids singing and dancing well beyond the closing ceremony. Now that’s music with Purpose!

- **Crown of Victory Collectibles (Set of Five; 321720)**
  
  Bring the Bible stories and memory verses to life with our holographic lenticular collectibles. Research shows that lenticular images capture the attention for greater retention. What better way to engage kids’ hearts and minds than with this fun keepsake. Each collectible includes two perspectives of realistic biblical art, the memory verse, and the take-home point. Set of five. Use at Victory Village Bible Challenge site or at Mighty Fortress Closing.

- **Team Nametags (321799)**
  
  Theme-inspired nametags place kids’ names front and center. Pack of ten.

- **Cornerstone Buffs Team Identifiers (321723)**
  
  Color coordinate various VBS teams with these colorful buffs! Each pack contains two each of five assorted colors. Sold in packs of ten.
⇒ **VBS Offering Envelope (861379)**

Use to encourage your church to support VBS as an outreach ministry. Or use to support the *God’s Mighty Word* Mission Project. Sold in packs of one hundred.

⇒ **Crown of Victory T-Shirts (Not included in the Student Sampler Pack)**

This VBS teaches kids and volunteers that in Jesus, the victory is won! Get your VBS witness wear from Concordia Publishing House. Use these as your VBS uniform, souvenir, or volunteer appreciation gift. Any way you use them reminds others that Jesus is the only way of our salvation. Made of 100 percent preshrunk cotton; made in the US.

Please note the following restrictions:
- T-shirts are nonreturnable and nonrefundable, except for manufacturing defect.
- T-shirts require three weeks shipping (please call if ordering outside the continental US).
- Minimum order quantity is twelve shirts (may be of assorted sizes).
- Customization/imprinting is not available.

⇒ **T-Shirt Iron-Ons (321797)** are also available separately.

**Crafts Sampler Pack**

This pack includes one sample of each lesson’s festive craft:

- **Lesson 1: Mighty Fortress Sand Art (321771)**. Connects kids to the story of God’s might that tumbled Jericho’s walls.
- **Lesson 2: Fear Not Flyer (321774)**. Reminds kids that Jesus is our refuge and strength.
- **Lesson 3: Victory Medallion (321772)**. Shows us that God gave us His true and powerful Word.
- **Lesson 4: Salvation Cross (321775)**. Hang in a window at home as a reminder that Jesus is our Savior.
- **Lesson 5: Crown of Life (321773)**. A fun way to remember that Jesus is our Savior King!

**Sharing God’s Mighty Word: Books for Kids Mission Project**

Caring for others in Jesus’ name takes on special meaning at *Mighty Fortress* when kids get to hear about the VBS mission project. This year, kids can make a big difference by simply rounding up coins for *Sharing God’s Mighty Word: Books for Kids* from Concordia Gospel Outreach. Included in the Starter Kit, the Mission Brochure provides additional information and folds out to a poster that can be used to track donations. There are five videos explaining the Mission Project to show during Opening.

**Ordering Information and Resources**

**Reference and Ordering Guide (Catalog)**

Includes product descriptions and ordering information. Read about our VBS with Purpose, get an overview, and review the lessons at a glance. Your Reference and Ordering Guide shows everything that is included in your Starter Kit, as well as any ancillary items you may need to order. Tips and tricks are included for a mighty VBS!
Order Info
Materials are sold at select local Christian bookstores. Or order directly from Concordia Publishing House by phone at 1-800-325-3040 or online at vbs.cph.org.

Missing Product
Concordia Publishing House will gladly replace missing or damaged items with no charge for the item or the freight. To replace missing or damaged product, contact Customer Service at 1-800-325-3040 or vbsteam@cph.org.

Out of Stock
If an item runs out of stock, we reprint or reorder when possible. Items that are backordered are mailed as soon as they become available. The system alerts you if an item has been backordered. Stock-outs are possible if we cannot reorder the resource within the vendor’s cycle time. We recommend you order early, especially for craft materials.

Website
Find a wealth of information about *Mighty Fortress* at vbs.cph.org.

* * * * *

Writing Songs for Future VBS Programs
Concordia Publishing House usually commissions songs for VBS. Occasionally, we purchase songs that have been submitted to us. Composers may submit songs for purchase consideration or to give the editor an idea of their style and abilities. Interested persons may contact Pam Nummela (Managing Editor) at 3558 S. Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118 or pam.nummela@cph.org.
Thank You!

Thank you for being an integral part of getting the Gospel message out to bookstores, church ministry leaders, and children. Your efforts and enthusiasm are appreciated by the Concordia family and the VBS team. We couldn’t do it without you and your partnership.

May God bless you!
The CPH VBS Team
As you look back on this *Mighty Fortress* journey, please complete the evaluation form to let us know what you think and how we could do better. Please return items in the provided envelope.

**Items to Return**
- Evaluation Form
- Mileage
- Any receipts
2017 VBS Workshop Evaluation

Date of Evaluation   ____/____/____                           Date of Workshop  ____/____/____

Presenter’s Name   ______________________________________

Bookstore Name    _______________________________________

Location (if different) ____________________________________

Address    _____________________________________________________

City         ________________________________________              State _______         ZIP__________

Attendance:            # of Churches           ________                              # of Individuals         _________

Time allotted for your presentation       _________ minutes              Other presentations _________ minutes

Number the following in order of presentations. If a competing company was not present, please leave blank.  

____ Concordia                       ____ Group             ____ Lifeway                  ____Standard  

____ Cokesbury                      ____ Other ___________________                      ____ Other ___________________

Please rate the following on a scale of 1–5.    Excellent/Agree                                     Poor/Disagree

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<tr>
<td>The presentation area was clean.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>The presentation area was large enough.</td>
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<td>I had equal time to do my presentation.</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Level of engagement of the bookstore.</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>We should attend the workshop again next year.</td>
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The presentation materials prepared me for success:

- Presenter’s Manual & Starter Kit Unpacked  1 2 3 4 5
- Script     1 2 3 4 5
- DVD        1 2 3 4 5
- Starter Kit 1 2 3 4 5
- Props & Decorating 1 2 3 4 5

Please identify at least one thing other publishers did well.
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please identify at least one area where Concordia Publishing House excels.
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Please list any additional material or assistance that would better prepare you for this event.
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________