

Bible Expedition: “Journey To The Promised Land” Decorations

Preface:

This document is meant as a loose guideline in giving ideas for what decorations might be used to fit the themes. Obviously changes and additions can be made, but this is meant as a starting point. Each section will be divided by what type of room/space each decoration is used in, as well as by the three options of: **original**, **fast** and **cheap**. The first, **original**, is just the general “original” idea for that given area. The **fast** option is for when time set aside to decorate might be a larger constraint. And the **cheap** option is for when cost is a larger constraint. There will, of course, be some overlap between the last two options, but they are there for idea’s sake.

Original:

Room Decorations: This is meant primarily for the different classrooms or other smaller, possibly lesson-focused rooms.

1. Classrooms (for lessons)
For the various days, it will have the same back drop (blue sky and clouds) but will have different decorations that are moved in for each respective day.
 - a. Backdrop
 - i. Sky
 1. Blue paper taped to walls
 - ii. Clouds
 1. Poster board cloud cutouts
 2. Cotton balls glued on
 - b. Day 1: Mountain and altar
 - i. Mountain
 1. Cutout section of brown paper attached to the wall with removeable adhesive strips or leaned against the wall
 2. Painted with dark and light grey paint
 - ii. Altar
 1. Fake rocks stacked in a semi rectangular fashion
 - a. Inside-out crumpled paper bags painted with grey spray paint
 2. Sticks stacked on top
 - c. Day 2: Mountain and burning bush
 - i. Burning Bush

1. Use either a real or a fake bush. (Preferably fake if possible)
 - a. If you use a real bush, cut/prep as close to the day it will be used as possible to avoid wilting
 - b. Use wooden supports to hold it
 - c. Set bush in the middle of the room
2. Use prepped Christmas lights for “flames”
 - a. Two strands of green wired warm colored lights
 - b. Cut 5in. x 5in. squares of orange tissue paper for each of the lights
 - c. Puncture the center of each with the lights and tape them in place
 - d. Scrunch the paper around the light to give it the appearance of flames
 - e. Wrap the prepped lights around the bush to be used and plug them into an outlet using an extension cord

d. Day 3: Outside Jericho

i. Jericho

1. Cardboard cutout of a city wall (think castle-like)
2. Painted to look like stone bricks

ii. Arc of the Covenant

1. Cardboard in several layers attached by concealed tape up against the wall.
 - a. The box itself should be 3.75 ft. long and 2.25 ft. tall
 - b. As simple or as complex as you are able/willing to go
2. Cardboard cutouts of two kneeling angels with wings facing each other
3. Cut cardboard rings attached to both of the feet that are showing
 - a. A larger diameter wooden dowel set through the rings
4. Every part spray painted gold

2. Classroom (for nursery)

This room will be a separate room and will maintain the same decorations throughout the three-day VBS. It will also have a blue sky and clouds theme but will instead be decorated to look like the camp of the Israelites.

a. Backdrop

i. Sky

1. Blue paper taped to walls

ii. Clouds

1. Poster board cloud cutouts
2. Cotton balls glued on

b. Mountain

- i. Similar to the mountain in the upstairs classroom during Day 1&2
- ii. Cutout section of brown paper attached to the wall with removeable adhesive strips or leaned up against the wall
- iii. Painted with dark and light grey paint

- c. Campfire
 - i. Fake rocks
 - 1. Brown paper bags crumpled, turned inside out, and painted grey
 - ii. Sticks
 - 1. Placed in a “tent” shape
 - iii. Flames
 - 1. Use prepped Christmas lights for “flames”
 - a. One strand of warm colored lights
 - b. Cut 5in. x 5in. squares of orange tissue paper for each of the lights
 - c. Puncture the center of each with the lights and tape them in place
 - d. Scrunch the paper around the light to give it the appearance of flames
 - e. Wrap the prepped lights around the sticks to be used and plug them into an outlet using an extension cord
- d. Tents
 - i. Small pup tents covered in blankets
 - ii. Camp pop-up shelters with plastic tablecloths attached
 - iii. Try to aim for more brightly colored tablecloths/blankets
- e. Tent opening door decorations
 - i. Plastic tablecloths draped over strings attached to the wall surrounding the door and the ceiling
 - ii. Once again, aim for more brightly colored varieties
- f. Kneeling tables
 - i. Take child-sized tables and lower them further
 - ii. Cover them in wood patterned material
 - iii. Place carpet sections and pillows around the tables

Wide Open Area Decorations: This is meant primarily for a larger, more central area. For this example, we will be using our Fellowship Hall. We will be using this space for snacks, crafts, sign-in/out, photos and the lesson.

Decoration Theme: Because it is such a large area and there are so many stations needed, we are using an Egyptian theme for this space.

- 1. Wall decorations
 - a. Light sconces
 - i. Crumple orange, yellow and red tissue paper to look like flames
 - ii. Insert them between the metal housing and the glass lampshades to imitate the appearance of torches on the walls/ceiling if this design of lighting is present
 - b. Hieroglyphic panels
 - i. Cut rounded rectangular panels out of cardboard

- ii. Use gold paint to make a border
- iii. Use fat-tipped permanent marker to draw hieroglyphics on the panels
 - 1. Note: For simplicity's sake, we are using a Hieroglyphic ABC code. The patterns that we have illustrated reads "Jesus" and "Saves" respectively.
- iv. Attach the panels along the wall using removeable adhesive strips
 - 1. Note: If the paint on the wall is not durable enough or if it is a concern, place painters' tape on the wall prior to attaching the adhesive strips.
- c. Mountain (attached to/leaning up against the wall behind the stage [or main lesson area if not available])
 - i. Similar to the mountain for day 1&2 in the classroom
 - ii. Cut cardboard into the shape of a mountain with the tip going past the ceiling
 - iii. Paint using brown, light and dark grey paint to be similar to a mountain
 - iv. Cut poster board into the shape of a long cloud
 - v. Glue cotton balls onto the poster board
 - vi. Glue cloud to the top of the mountain so as to have the cloud touching the ceiling
 - vii. Attach mountain to wall using removable adhesive strips or simply lean it up against the wall
- d. "Door opening" (window between the fellowship hall and the kitchen)
 - i. Cut three strips of cardboard according to the dimensions of the opening that you are making it for
 - 1. Two strips for the vertical sides
 - a. 2 in. less than the height of your opening x 8 in. wide
 - 2. One strip for across the top
 - a. 1.5 ft. longer than the horizontal measurement of your opening x 8 in. wide
 - ii. Cover each of them with wood log patterned paper
 - iii. Attach them to the wall around your opening using removable adhesive strips
 - iv. Loosely paint a stripe across the posts using dark red paint
 - 1. Reminiscent of when the Israelites painted blood on the door posts
- 2. Stand-alone decorations
 - a. Pyramid (for pictures if parents want)
 - i. Cut four equal triangles out of cardboard
 - 1. The approximate dimensions should be:
 - a. Height: 5-6 ft.
 - b. Base width: 5-6 ft.
 - 2. Cut a rectangular hole in one of them. (This will be the opening)
 - a. Approximate dimensions:
 - i. Width: 3ft.

- ii. Height: 4ft.
- 3. Cover in sandstone patterned paper
- 4. Place gold colored foil on the top 1ft of each of the sections
- 5. Opening side
 - a. Cut strips of cardboard to be used as the “opening supports”
 - b. 3 strips: 3 ft. 11 in. x 0.5 ft.
 - c. Cover in wood log patterned paper
 - d. Attach with high temp hot glue gun
 - i. One on each side of the opening (overlap 1 in.)
 - ii. One centered on the top
 - e. “Torches”
 - i. Take two toilet paper rolls and cut a slit down one side on each
 - ii. Curl them back together at an angle as to make a cone and tape it.
 - iii. Crumple orange and yellow tissue paper to imitate flames
 - iv. Place them inside the cones
 - v. Use hot glue to attach the “torches” to the sides on the “support pillars”
- ii. Assembly
 - 1. Tape the four sides together using strong tape along the inside of each of the sections
 - 2. Set it down with the opening facing out
 - 3. Place a red blanket down on the floor on the inside
- b. Sign-in booth
 - i. Frame
 - 1. Set up a table first (the one that will be used for registration)
 - 2. Using several large panels of cardboard, form a wall that will be used on the sides and the front of the sign-in area
 - a. The panels will be mounted to the front and side of the table, so keep that in mind when determining the dimensions
 - 3. Cut a window out of the front side of the cardboard
 - a. The dimensions should roughly match those of the table
 - b. This means that the window should be roughly the length of the table and should start at the top of the table. It should be tall enough so as to allow plenty of space to work within.
 - 4. Cover the panels in wood plank patterned paper
 - ii. “Supporting beams”
 - 1. Cut strips out of cardboard similar to the kind specified with the “Door Opening”
 - a. Dimensions:

- i. Two vertical strips each roughly 8 in. wide and 1 in. short of the maximum height of the window
 - ii. One horizontal middle beam 8 in. wide and 2 in. short of the width of the window
 - iii. One horizontal top beam 8 in. wide and 1.5 ft. wider than the width of the window
 2. Cover each strip in sandstone patterned paper
 - a. Attach each strip to its corresponding spot around the window using adhesive strips. Each piece is centered on the side, but overlapping the window by 1 in.
- iii. Sign
 1. Cut out a panel of cardboard to be used as a sign
 2. Paint "Sign-In" across it
 3. Attach twine to the back with tape
 4. Hang the sign under the window using the other end of the twine

Hallway Decorations: This section is meant to describe various decorations that are either covering an extended section of hallway or are free-standing. Each of these sections are independent of the room themes in other places.



























Extended Hallway Themes

1. Parted sea
 - a. Prep work:
 - i. Set out 2ft. wide sections of blue paper on a covered surface
 - ii. Paint top sections loosely with white spray paint to imitate water cresting/waves
 - iii. Cut out paper plate fish
 - b. Cover bottom 2/3 of the hallway in question with blue paper
 - i. Use painter's tape to attach it to the wall
 - c. Attach "waves" (made in the previous step) to the top of the blue paper
 - d. Attach paper fish to the walls as looks good
 - e. Cut out and attach green steamer "seaweed" to the walls along the bottom as looks good
2. Night in the wilderness (and pillar of fire)
 - a. Place removable adhesive hooks along the ceiling in a zig-zag pattern
 - b. Cover walls in black paper just under the hooks
 - c. Place glow-in-the-dark stars along the walls
 - d. String Christmas lights along the hooks and plug them in.
 - e. Pillar of fire
 - i. Place 2 removable adhesive hooks along a vertical line over an outlet with the bottoms facing each other (the bottom one should be placed upside-down)

- ii. String several lines of Christmas lights between them
- iii. Cover it with a layer of clear sheeting and tape it to the wall
 - 1. Note: this will be a mounting surface for later
- iv. Starting from the top down, cover it in orange, yellow and red tissue paper
 - 1. Cut and crinkle the top to look like flames
 - 2. Tape only the bottom to the sheet
 - 3. Cover the previous layer with the next
 - 4. Repeat steps 1-3 until the entire column is covered.

Stand Alone Decoration Artifacts

1. Burning bush
 - a. Copy the method used in the upstairs classroom
 - b. Use either a real or a fake bush (Preferably fake if possible)
 - i. If you use a real bush, cut/prep as close to the day it will be used as possible to avoid wilting
 - ii. Use wooden supports to hold it up
 - c. Use prepped Christmas lights for “flames”
 - i. 2 strands of green wired warm colored lights
 - ii. Cut 5in. x 5in. squares of orange tissue paper for each of the lights
 - iii. Puncture the center of each with the lights and tape them in place
 - iv. Scrunch the paper around the light to give it the appearance of flames
 - v. Wrap the prepped lights around the bush to be used and plug them into an outlet using an extension cord
2. Water from rock
 - a. Cut off a section of brown paper a foot more than the height of the wall that you will lean it up against
 - i. Crumple the paper so there are plenty of creases throughout
 - ii. Lightly dust with grey spray paint
 - iii. Tape it to the wall so it sticks out a bit
 - b. Tape tufts of green easter grass in spots across the “rock”
 - c. Attach a blue plastic tablecloth to the center of the “rock” to replicate the look of a stream of water coming from it
 - d. Lean a walking stick up against or next to the rock

						
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
						
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
						
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
						
V	W	X	Y	Z		

Bible Expedition: “Journey To The Promised Land” Crafts

Day 1: The Descendants of Abraham “Star” Craft

I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and will give them all these lands, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions.” Genesis 26:4-5 (NIV)

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. Galatians 3:16 (NIV)



God promised Abraham his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. Through Abraham’s offspring, all the nations of the world would be blessed. We know that Jesus Christ was the offspring of Abraham, through whom the nations of the world are blessed.



Supplies:

1 Canvas per student (pictured is 8x8)

Silhouette of man cutout (optional)

Black craft paint

Glow in the dark stars and/or foil gold stars

Glue dots

Instructions:

Prior to craft time pre-paint canvases with black craft paint.

Give students an allotted amount of glow and/or foil stars to attach to canvas with glue dots.

Day 2 Craft: The Plagues of Egypt

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Get up early in the morning, confront Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me, or this time I will send the full force of my plagues against you and against your officials and your people, so you may know that there is no one like me in all the earth. For by now I could have stretched out my hand and struck you and your people with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.’” Exodus 9:13-16 NIV



God delivered Israel from Pharaoh by sending 10 plagues on the land of Egypt. In this craft kids make an “eye spy” bottle demonstrating each of the plagues of Egypt.



Supplies:

*All supplies were purchased from either Amazon online or a local craft store.

Plastic sensory bottles

Rice

Red glass stones (river into blood)

Plastic frogs (frogs)

Small craft balls (gnats)

Plastic flies (flies)

Plastic horses or farm animals (livestock)

Ribbon with red dots (boils)

Glass stones (hail)

Plastic grasshoppers (locust) We used shrinky dink paper to make ours.

Black puffy craft ball (darkness)

Plastic babies (death of firstborn)

String and "I-Spy" card

Instructions:

Fill bottles halfway with rice and let students add plagues in order.

Tie "I-spy" card to bottle with string.

Glue the lids on with a hot glue gun and give the bottles a good shake.

Day 3 Craft: Shofar Trumpets

Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in." Joshua 6:2-5 (NIV)



God instructed the Israelites to march around Jericho for 6 days. On the seventh day, Israel was instructed to march around the city 7 times. At the sound of the rams' horn trumpets, otherwise known as Shofars, the Israelites shouted, and the walls of Jericho fell.

For this craft, children will make "Shofar" trumpets.



Supplies:

Cardboard tubes and or paper towel rolls/ toilet paper rolls.

Masking tape

Party blowers (noise makers)

Instructions:

Take any décor off party blower.

Cut two cardboard tubes lengthwise. Attach first tube to the end of party blower with masking tape. Gently squish second tube into first and tape to attach. Connect a third tube (no need to cut) using tape. Once all cardboard tubes are connected tape entire "trumpet" using strips of masking tape.

Bible Expedition: “Journey to the Promised Land” Snacks

Day 1: Creation Snack Mix

Make a snack mix where each ingredient represents one day of creation. Provide the ingredients in separate bowls. Each child can start at Day 1 and get a spoonful of each ingredient to make their snack mix bowl.

Days of Creation:

Day 1: Light: white chocolate chips

Day 2: Sky: marshmallow clouds

Day 3: Plants and Trees: dried fruit and nuts

Day 4: Sun, Moon, Stars: cheese balls for the sun

Day 5: Birds and Sea Creatures: goldfish crackers

Day 6: Land Animals/Humans: animal crackers

Genesis 1:31 “And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”

Day 2 Snacks: The 10 plagues of Egypt Ice Cream Sunday

This snack represents the 10 plagues of Egypt. Each participant will start with a bowl of ice cream. There will be 10 bowls of toppings to choose from. Each topping represents one of the 10 plagues of Egypt. Feel free to substitute with food items based on availability.

Plague 1: Nile to Blood: cherry syrup representing blood

Plague 2: Frogs: gummy frog candies

Plague 3: Gnats: sprinkles

Plague 4: Flies: gummy bugs

Plague 5: Killed Livestock: crushed animal crackers

Plague 6: Boils: red cinnamon candies

Plague 7: Hailstorm: white chocolate chips

Plague 8: Locusts Killing Plants: fruit topping strawberries

Plague 9: Darkness: chocolate fudge topping

Plague 10: Death of Firstborn: black licorice candy

Day 3 Snacks: Battle of Jericho

Make edible walls of Jericho using graham crackers as the walls and frosting to hold the walls together. Jellybeans can represent the Israelites surrounding Jericho. Bugle chips can represent the trumpets the Israelites used the day of their final march.

Make a trumpet sound and let kids tear down the walls and enjoy with some chocolate milk.

Or

An alternate option is to make a Jericho sheet cake. Kids can each eat a slice of a wall of Jericho.

Bible Expedition: “Journey to the Promised Land” Activities and Games

DAY 1 Activities: Trust Me

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- **Blindfolds for each child (personal bandanas that can be used as blindfolds for the children).**
- **A maze is to be built which can consist of obstacles like boxes, rope, tires and other objects. These materials could also be used in the Day 3 activity.**
- **Building Blocks (signifies building material for altar at the end of the maze).**

HOW TO PLAY: Set up maze outside or in a large room. It should combine physical barriers like boxes or ropes with imaginary hazards such as mats that are meant to designate a river, etc.

Outside of the room, divide group into two teams. On each team, the children will need to pair up with a buddy. Before the game begins, explain each part of the maze and its meaning. Ask the children if they think they could do it blindfolded without any help? How will that go? A pair from each team lines up at the starting point in order to begin. One of the children in each of the pair will need to be blindfolded and the other child will be a guide who only speaks verbal commands to their teammate. The blindfolded child is to make his/her way through the maze with the guidance of his partner to completion.

The last obstacle of the maze is for each pair of children to build an “altar” using a pile of large building blocks provided (maybe 6?). When the blindfolded player gets to the blocks, they alone have to stack the blocks up in a pyramid shape (symbolizing the altar). This signifies the altar that Abraham built in order to sacrifice his son Isaac, God’s test for Abraham. Once the blocks are stacked up, the blindfold can be removed, and the pair runs back to the beginning of the line, tagging the next pair. The next pair of children will complete the maze and so on. The team that completes the maze first wins!

After-game discussion: In today's lesson, we discussed how God made a promise to Abraham. In order for God's promise to be fulfilled, Abraham would have to have a child. Abraham was 100 years old when he and Sarah had their son, Isaac. As you will learn in your lesson today, when Isaac was a little older, God tested Abraham. You will also learn that Abraham trusted God that He would provide a sacrifice, which He indeed did.

In this game, you all were presented with a test - one of you was presented with the test of completing the obstacle course while blindfolded and one of you was presented with the test of verbally leading your teammate through the obstacle course. As with Abraham, you trusted your teammate as Abraham trusted God. Is it always easy to trust? No! We know, though, that anyone who believes in Christ will be saved from eternal punishment. We trust that through Christ, we can have access to the Promised Land of heaven.

Day 2 Activities: Dodge the Plague

SUPPLIES NEEDED: 10 foam (medium-sized) balls of different colors,
Flagging tape, rope or spray paint to mark off boundary line

HOW TO PLAY: This activity is the game of Dodge Ball. Each colored ball will represent a plague that was discussed in today's lesson. There will be two children standing outside of the boundary line who represent Moses and Aaron, God's messengers, who are "sending" the plagues (i.e., throwing the balls). The rest of the children will be the Egyptians in the middle. The last two children who have dodged the "plagues" will be the new "Moses and Aaron." The game will then reset.

After-game discussion: In Lesson 2, we have discussed Moses and the Exodus. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush. The Lord sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh in order to bring His people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. Moses reluctantly obeyed and confronted Pharaoh. Did Pharaoh listen? NO! He did not listen and made it harder on the people. Pharaoh questioned God's power but would soon see just how powerful God was! God then sent the ten plagues on Egypt. Who can name the 10 plagues in order?

- Turning the water into blood (Exodus 7:14-25)
- Frogs (Exodus 8:1-15)
- Gnats (Exodus 8:16-19)
- Flies (Exodus 8:20-32)
- Disease of livestock (Exodus 9:1-7)
- Boils (Exodus 9:8-12)
- Hail (Exodus 9:13-35)
- Locusts (Exodus 10:1-20)
- Darkness (Exodus 10:21-29)
- Death of first-born (Exodus 11:1-10)

What lesson can we learn? Don't resist God - have a heart that listens to and obeys God. God can take our heart of stone and give us a new heart. He then puts His Spirit within us. We can be saved by placing our trust in Him.

DAY 3 Activities: Be Strong and Courageous Obstacle Course

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Small cup
- Bucket of water
- Pitcher with fill line marked
- Large building blocks (Legos or wood)
- Card table
- 2 X 4 boards (2) for balance beam
- Hula hoops (6)
- 2 wood pallets to be able to climb over
- 25 pool noodles
- 5-gallon buckets (2)
- Smaller buckets (2)

HOW TO PLAY: The obstacle course can be set up based on the number and ages of the children attending VBS. The children can be timed as they go through the course. The following are suggestions for the course, but this is certainly not a limited list.

STATION #1: MERIBAH WATER RELAY - Take a small cup. Run to the bucket of water several feet away. Fill the cup with water. Run back to the starting line with the cup of water on their head. Pour the water into a pitcher. Repeat until the pitcher is filled with water to the fill line.

STATION #2: BUILDING OF THE TABERNACLE – Take large building blocks (Legos or wood). Build some sort of tabernacle on the card table.

STATION #3: CROSS THE RIVER JORDAN – Cross the two balance beams without falling in!

STATION #4: HIT THE MARK – Toss the “noodle darts” through the “noodle targets.”

STATION #5: PATH TO THE PROMISED LAND – Use your fancy footwork to make your way through the hula hoops arranged on the ground.

STATION #6: CLIMBING TO HEAVEN – Climb over the pallets from one side to the other.

STATION #7: HURDLES TO OVERCOME – Jump over the noodles placed at three different heights.

STATION #8: FROM DESERT TO LEBANON – Weave your way through the standing noodles.



After-game discussion: Joshua was a courageous leader and was able to lead the Israelites. The people enter into the Promised Land. You have been strong and courageous to conquer this obstacle course. When we trust God, we have a future Promised Land that is awaiting us. What is this Promised Land?? Heaven! He has prepared a place for us who know Him.

“JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND” ACTIVITIES AND GAMES
INDOOR ACTIVITY OPTIONS

OPTION #1: ROCK AND WATER – Form two even lines of children. Have 10 water bottles placed in a row for each line of children. Place a tennis ball inside to the end of a stocking. Place the open end of the stocking on the head of the first child in each line. The children will then bend over and try to knock over the water bottles on the floor. The first one who knocks over all 10 water bottles wins. Set the water bottles back up and repeat for each child in line.

OPTION #2: MANNA CRACKER WHISTLING RELAY – Form two even lines of children. Each child will receive 3 saltine crackers. The first child in line will eat the three saltine crackers and try to whistle. Once they successfully whistle, the next child will eat his/her 3 saltine crackers and try to whistle. The first line to have all the children eat the crackers and whistle wins.

OPTION #3: The **TRUST ME** game for Day #1 can also be played indoors.