

Monday: Wave Maker

Bible Story: Creation—Genesis 1-2

Bottom Line: God made people with a purpose

God has a purpose for EVERYTHING. Think about it. God made everything we see . . . and God did it all for a very important reason.

We see that when we go all the way back to the very beginning . . . which we can read about in the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

First, there was nothing. Then God made EVERYTHING!

God made the earth . . . the sky . . . and the sun and moon. God made oceans. God made WAVES! And let's not forget the rivers, mountains, and trees. God made animals too.

In Genesis, we read that everything God made was GOOD. We can see that today, can't we? We know how good it feels to jump in the water on a hot day . . . to breathe in the fresh smell of summer grass . . . or feel a soft breeze that cools us down in the evening. God made everything on the earth to work together. God made EVERYTHING with a purpose.

GOD CREATED PEOPLE

But God saved the most important creation for last. God made PEOPLE!

God made Adam and Eve, and Adam and Eve were created in God's image. They were created to show the world what God is like.

God created human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself. Genesis 1:27

CREATED WITH A PURPOSE

And that's not all! God had a PURPOSE for Adam and Eve—good work for them to do.

God told Adam to take care of the land. God even put Adam in charge of naming the animals. This was part of the purpose God gave Adam and Eve: to take care of the land and animals throughout creation.

Here's the really cool part. Each of US is made in God's image—just like Adam and Eve. And God has given US a purpose too.

What IS our purpose? Now that's a great question!

Remember what we read in Genesis 1:27 . . .

God created human beings in his own likeness. He created them to be like himself.

You see, we're made in God's image, created to be like God. That means we can work together to show the world what God is like. God is creative, so we can be creative. God is patient, so we can be patient. God is full of love, so we can show that love to the people around us.

THAT'S how we can make a difference in the world. That's how we can 'make waves.'

Make Waves

VBS DAILY LESSON

Tuesday: Catch the Wave

Bible Story: Peter Walks on Water—Matthew 14:22-33

Bottom Line: Jesus invited people to follow Him

There's one Person who showed us EXACTLY what God is like with the way HE lived each day. Jesus—God's Son. Jesus showed love to everyone. He performed amazing miracles and showed people a completely new way to think about God. He made everyone feel like they were important and valuable—because they were!

Not only that, Jesus invited OTHER people to be part of the work He was doing in the world. Jesus had a group of close friends, the disciples, who traveled with Him and saw all the amazing things He did. Even after Jesus died and came back to life, the disciples would go on to 'make waves' by sharing Jesus' love with others. With the power of God's Spirit, they truly changed the world!

WIND AND WAVES

Jesus had just done an amazing miracle, where He fed over 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. After everyone had eaten, Jesus told the disciples to go ahead of Him in a boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus sent the crowd away, and then He went up on a mountainside to pray.

Later that night . . . when the disciples were a long way from land . . . a strong wind was blowing against their boat. They were being pounded by the waves!

WALKING ON WATER

Just before the sun came up, the disciples saw something on the water.

It was Jesus, but they didn't recognize Him at first. He was walking on TOP of the waves, and He was coming right toward them!

Matthew 14:26: "It's a ghost!" they said.

But Jesus called out to them: Matthew 14:27 "Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Then Peter did something very brave. He wanted to be sure that it was really Jesus. He said: Matthew 14:28: "Lord, is it you? . . . If it is, tell me to come to you on the water."

Matthew 14:29: "Jesus simply said, 'Come.'

Sure enough, Peter got out of the boat. He started walking on the water toward Jesus!

THAT SINKING FEELING

Peter was actually walking on top of the water. But it didn't last . . . because Peter looked away from Jesus. He looked at the wind instead. And by the way, the wind and waves were still going strong! Peter was scared. He started to sink into the water!

Matthew 14:30: He yelled out, 'Lord! Save me!'

Immediately, Jesus grabbed Peter's hand.

Matthew 14:31: *Jesus said*, "Your faith is so small! . . . Why did you doubt me?"

Jesus pulled Peter up from the water, and together, they climbed into the boat.

After Jesus and Peter were in the boat with the other disciples, the wind died down completely.

Matthew 14:33: The disciples worshipped Jesus. They said, 'You really are the Son of God!'

It's pretty amazing that Jesus asked Peter and the disciples to be part of what He was doing in the world. And you know what? Jesus is inviting US to follow Him too! That means we get the chance to 'make waves' and show everyone what Jesus is like. We can follow Jesus by living His way and showing His love to others.

Of course, we might not always get it right. We might feel like we're starting to 'sink,' like Peter did. That's why it's good to remember that Jesus is always there to help us and pull us back up.

Wednesday: Life Saver

Bible Story: Jesus is Alive—John 18-21:14

Bottom Line: You can trust Jesus with your life

Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus for us! As Jesus taught and performed miracles and showed compassion and kindness to others, He showed us just how much God loves us. When Jesus was on earth, He invited other people to follow Him and show compassion and kindness to others too.

NO GREATER LOVE

Jesus had just shared a special meal with His friends, the disciples. After they left the meal, Jesus took His friends outside to a garden to pray. Jesus went further into garden to pray by Himself.

Jesus was troubled, because He knew that saving the world would not be an easy task. After He finished praying, Jesus was betrayed by one of His friends. He was arrested and brought before the Roman governor.

Of course, Jesus knew that all of this had to happen as part of God's plan. The Roman governor questioned Jesus, but he couldn't find anything that Jesus had done wrong. He asked the people if they wanted him to release Jesus . . . but the people said no. They shouted, 'Crucify him!' (John 19:15, NIV)

Jesus was beaten and His clothes were taken from Him. Soldiers made fun of Him. And He was nailed to a cross, in between two criminals.

That's where Jesus died . . . to pay for the sins of all people. But the story wasn't over!

THE EMPTY TOMB

Jesus' body was taken down from the cross. He was buried in a tomb.

In three days' time, one of Jesus' friends, Mary, came to visit the tomb. But when she arrived, she found that it was empty! THEN, Jesus Himself appeared to Mary—in the garden outside the tomb. He was ALIVE!

Jesus told Mary: John 20:17: Go to those who believe in me. Tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'

Mary RAN to tell the news to the disciples, that Jesus was alive!

BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH

After that, Jesus appeared to His friends multiple times and showed them that He was alive. One of those times, Jesus' friends were fishing in the Sea of Galilee.

The disciples had been fishing all night, but they hadn't caught anything. When morning came, Jesus stood on the shore. He called out to them:

John 21:5-6: "Friends, don't you have any fish? . . . Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish."

When they did, they caught so many fish that they couldn't pull the net back in!

The disciples knew immediately that it was Jesus, and they rushed to the shore to be with Him.

Jesus had a campfire going, and He cooked them breakfast on the beach!

The disciples were SO excited to see Jesus and spend time with Him! This was the third time that Jesus had appeared to them after He was raised from the dead. Jesus showed them that He was alive . . . and that they could trust in Him.

Jesus had come to save the world! He died on the cross to pay the price for our sins—the things we've done wrong. And then, Jesus came back to life! He overcame sin and death, once and for all.

Jesus proved to His friends that He was and IS alive. And since Jesus is alive, that changes EVERYTHING! We can choose to put our trust in Jesus as our Savior. Because of what Jesus did for us, we can have a relationship with Him that will last forever.

"No matter what happens . . . no matter what's going on around you . . . You can trust Jesus with your life. You can put your faith in Jesus as your Savior. You can be His friend forever. And NOTHING in this world can ever take that away!

Thursday: Make a Splash

Bible Story: Love One Another/Philip and the Ethiopian Ruler—John 13:34-35 & Acts 8:26-40

Bottom Line: Love others the way Jesus loves you

When Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life, His friends knew what they had to do. They left Jerusalem and started telling others about Jesus. One of those Jesus-followers was a man named Philip.

PHILIP MEETS THE OFFICIAL

Philip was a leader in the early days of the church. He was traveling around to different places, telling people about Jesus. Philip told the people, "I have great news! Jesus is God's Son! He's the Savior of the world!"

One day, an angel of the Lord appeared and spoke to Philip.

The angel told him, "Go south to the desert road. . . It's the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (Acts 8:26, NIV)

So that's what Philip did. He started traveling on the desert road. On the way, he met a man—an official from Ethiopia. This man had a very important job. He was in charge of ALL the queen's wealth. He had traveled all the way to Jerusalem so that he could worship God, and now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot.

The Ethiopian official had decided to read Scripture from Isaiah the prophet.

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

God's Spirit told Philip to stay near the chariot . . . so that's what Philip did. Philip heard the Ethiopian official reading out loud, from Scripture. Philip recognized that the words came from Isaiah.

Acts 8:30: Do you understand what you're reading?" Philip asked.

Acts 8:31: How can I?" he said. "I need someone to explain it to me."

So the man invited Philip to sit with him. The man was reading from Isaiah 53:7:

Acts 8:32 : "He was led like a sheep to be killed. Just as lambs are silent while their wool is being cut off, he did not open his mouth."

The official asked Philip who the prophet Isaiah was talking about. In other words, WHO was led like a sheep to be killed?

Philip explained that Isaiah was talking about the Savior—the One who God had promised to send someday. And now Jesus, the Savior, had COME! Philip started with the Scripture from Isaiah and shared the good news about Jesus. He told the man how God had sent Jesus to rescue us.

MAKING A SPLASH

Philip and the man from Ethiopia traveled along the road together. Soon, they came to some water. The official told Philip, Acts 8:36-37 "Look! Here is water! What can stop me from being baptized?"

The two men went down into the water . . .and Philip baptized his new friend. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away! The Ethiopian official didn't see Philip again, but he joyfully went on his way. And Philip was seen next at the town of Azotus. From then on, Philip continued to travel around and tell people about Jesus.

Philip really showed what it meant to love others like Jesus did. Philip helped the Ethiopian official when he couldn't understand the words from Isaiah. He helped the man understand why Jesus came, and he helped the man put his faith in Jesus. Philip 'made waves' and changed this man's life forever! If you think about it, Philip really lived out what Jesus had told His friends:

John 13:34: Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."

Jesus' words for His friends are so important that they can change the way WE live today. They can change the way we treat people. They can help us 'make waves' and truly change the world!

Friday: Ripple Effect

Bible Story: Fruit of the Spirit—Galatians 5:22-23

Bottom Line: God can help you change the world around you

Jesus taught people and helped them understand God's love in a whole new way. And Jesus died on the cross so that we could have a relationship with God that will last forever! We can follow Jesus' example and 'make waves' today, by choosing to love others the way Jesus loves US.

GOD'S SPIRIT

We don't just have to do that on our own. I think if we're honest, we'd probably say that it's not always easy to love others the way Jesus loves us. That's why God has sent us a Helper: the Holy Spirit.

Who's the Holy Spirit? Part of the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And the Spirit is our Helper.

Before Jesus was arrested and put on trial, He was speaking to His friends, the disciples. He told them this, John 14:16-17: "I will ask the Father. And he will give you another friend to help you and to be with you forever. That friend is the Spirit of truth. . . . He lives with you, and he will be in you."

When we put our trust in Jesus, His Spirit comes to live inside us. And the Spirit helps us love OTHERS the way Jesus loves US.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Fast forward to many years after Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life . . . when the apostle Paul was writing a letter to the church he helped start in a place called Galatia. In the Bible, this letter is now called the book of Galatians.

Paul wrote something to the Galatians that has become a VERY famous passage of Scripture, and it's all about what happens when God's Spirit is working in our lives.

Galatians 5:22-23: "The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself."

Fruit is something a plant produces when it's healthy and growing. The same is true for the 'fruit' of the Spirit. Because we're created in God's image, any of us can show love and joy and peace—all of the 'fruit' that Paul mentioned. Yet Paul is saying that something special happens when we put our faith in Jesus. We're not just trying to do these things on our own. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit works in our life. And these things are a result of that . . . things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

These things are the RESULT of what God's Spirit does in our lives. Just like fruit is EVIDENCE a plant is growing. These things are the EVIDENCE of what God is doing inside us to change the world around us. They're what God GROWS in us as we follow Jesus.

We can show what God is like when we show these qualities. With God's Spirit as our Helper, we can live our lives this way—even when things around us might be difficult or challenging. That's how other people can see God's love through us!

CHANGE YOUR WORLD

God's Spirit can help us GROW in how we show love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." That's how we 'make waves.' That's how we can show other people what God is like. That's how we show what a difference God has made in our lives . . . as we work to make the world a better place for the people around us.

Remember, God sent His Spirit to HELP us. It's not always easy to show love, joy, peace, and patience on our own. But when we put our trust in Jesus, His Spirit comes to live inside us. Remember what Jesus said: "Whoever believes in me . . . rivers of living water will flow from within them." (John 7:38, NIV)

The Holy Spirit helps us 'make waves' and show God's goodness to the world!

Make
Waves

VBS DAILY LESSON