



Make Your Own Missions Event or VBS

A Simple DIY Guide

God's Great Big Global Church is easy to use as a launchpad for creating your own family-friendly missions event or Vacation Bible School. We've rounded up some ideas to get you started.

Each concept could be condensed and selected from for a single event, or carried out in full over several days for a longer event like a VBS week.

Big Group Teaching Idea

1. Start by asking, "What is church?"
2. Explain that the church isn't a building, but God's people working together to worship and share about Jesus. Unpack an anchor Bible verse describing the church.
3. Share the basic elements of gathering as the church: hearing God's word, worshipping in song, praying, communion, baptism, and serving one another. If you're hosting a 5-day event, revisit the big concept of church daily, then home in on one of the basic elements of gathering as a church.
4. Talk briefly about the importance of sending, whether that's supporting missionaries, local churches in other regions, or the training of indigenous pastors.
5. Send kids to small group stations to engage with specific stories.

Small Group Storytime

Set up stations for each story. Select the number of days your event is taking place over, or according to how much time/space children will have to rotate through stations.

Each station will need a copy of *God's Great Big Global Church* to read aloud from.

Station setup might include:

- A big screen or printout featuring the fictional child whose story will be shared that day (these full-size illustrations are available on our website)
- A large map with the featured location highlighted
- A sign saying "Welcome to _____!"
- Decor reflecting the unique features of the location



Station activities might include:

- Reading aloud about the location and the child's story from *God's Great Big Global Church*
- Practicing saying the common greeting in the story (i.e. "Hello! Salaam! Shani!")
- Discussing the questions at the end of the story
- Playing a video of someone speaking or singing in the language featured
- Showing a video or images of animals or beautiful scenery from the location

Bible Memory Challenge

For a single event, this activity could be incorporated at the end of each storytime station or one verse could be selected to practice repeatedly throughout. For VBS, this activity could be its own station daily.

- Recite the Bible memory verse from the end of the featured story.
- Practice the memory verse using common methods like removing one word at a time while reciting it, or dividing the verse on separate sheets of paper that must be put in order.

Ask kids questions like:

- What does this verse tell us about God's people?
- What does it tell us about God?

Game Time

Select games that are mentioned in the story, or known to be popular in the featured location, or that relate to something mentioned in the story (e.g. fishing, pumping a well).

Some common game ideas:

- Soccer/football drills
- "Go fish!" tag
- Pipeline challenge
- "I spy" guessing game
- 20 questions (you could use prompts from story)
- Telephone (you could use prompts from story)

Worship

If you know someone who speaks a featured language or is a missionary in a featured location, ask for ideas of songs to learn and sing together.

Sing songs related to celebrating and building up God's church, such as:

- *Rise with the Sun* by CityAlight (co-written by Tim Challies!)
- *O, Church Arise* by Keith & Kristyn Getty
- *King of Kings* by Brooke Ligertwood and Hillsong Worship



Eat up!

- Select snacks from the featured location or which use an ingredient common in that location.
- Go all in—host a feast! If your church is made up of people from multiple countries or cultural heritages, try a potluck and invite everyone to bring a traditional dish. If you're hosting a missions event, ask missionaries for recipes that volunteers at church can make.

Make it Stick

- Kick off your event by giving each child one of our free printable passports. Each time they hear a new story, mark it in their passport.
- Each day of your event, send kids home with one of our free printable worksheets to fill in. For each completed worksheet they bring back, award points. At the end of your event, reward those who earned the most participation points.
- Give each child the free “make your own stop” worksheet to fill in about where they live. Use this as a show-and-tell or conversation starter in small groups.
- Send every child home from your event with their own copy of *God's Great Big Global Church*. They'll have a long-lasting reminder of your event and the opportunity to keep discovering the wonder of God's global church. [Tip: The Good Book Company offers deep discounts when you buy in bulk!]

If you create an event or VBS based on *God's Great Big Global Church*, we'd love to hear about it, and so would Tim Challies!

You can email us photos or stories at hello@thegoodbook.com.

If you're sharing on social media, feel free to tag us at:

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