



ELEMENTARY GROUP GUIDE PACKET

Welcome to Breaker Rock Beach!

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Breaker Rock Beach! From July 15-19 students will learn that God's truth never changes, everyone needs Jesus, and we can speak God's truth with love. Ultimately, they will be pointed to eternal life in Christ. We have an amazing opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you for serving our students. Our highest hope is that these young hearts will not only hear God's message but will believe it! As a leader, you get to be a part of that! That's so exciting! Please join us in praying for those in our care!

DAILY SCHEDULE

BEFORE KIDS ARRIVE

Arrive by 8:20 a.m. each day. We will start each morning with a quick prayer and announcement time at 8:25 a.m. in the sanctuary before drop-off begins. Make sure your huddle drop-off location is ready for the students. Check your backpack for supplies, including your lanyard, huddle time notes, and kids' lanyards. The kids' lanyards should include their name tags, Boardwalk tickets, bandana strips, and daily schedules. Make sure your huddle sign is clearly visible for families as they enter. Review the schedule for the day and, if you have any questions, seek out answers before the students begin to arrive.

Huddle guides: *Please bring a large blanket for your huddle to sit on throughout the week.*

DROP-OFF

Parents/guardians will bring their students to their designated huddle each morning. Huddle guides for K-4 students will exchange the student for a laminated pick-up card (*5/6 students will not have pick-up cards*). Any unusual pick-up arrangements need to be cleared with Erica. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to communicate to the huddle guide everything that is needed for a smooth pick-up.

Your role: Give parents/guardians their student's pick-up card (*except 5/6*). Welcome the kids by name and with a smile. Introduce the kids to each other and help them all feel included. Make sure each student has the lanyard with his/her name and his/her huddle bandana strip. Students must wear their bandana strips at all times so that volunteers can easily spot if kids are not where they're supposed to be.

BREAKER ROCK OPENING ASSEMBLY

During this time we will worship our rock-solid God! There will also be announcements and a skit to kick off the day.

Your role: Keep an eye out for late arrivals and help them find their huddles. Join the kids in singing and worship. Do the motions along with your kids! This is a great time to get them excited for the day! After the opening, gather your kids in a circle in your huddle's location for the first huddle time. This first

morning huddle time can be spent getting to know the kids and developing and growing those connections.

ROTATIONS

Your group will rotate through a series of age-appropriate stations that will engage and support the theme, including outdoor games at the Shipwreck, activity booths on the Boardwalk, Bible teaching in Sandcastle Cove, and huddle time in Fireside Chats. Each rotation is 15 minutes with a 5-minute transition time.

Your role: Encourage the kids to participate, but don't force it. Use this time to get to know your kids. Always keep your students with you. Ask questions about the teaching, and help out the station leaders.

TRUTH TALKS IN SANDCASTLE COVE

Angelica Perry will lead a time of Bible teaching in the teaching tent in back of the church. This will be about 15 minutes. We know that hungry children have a more difficult time paying attention, so we will have snacks during this time. Stop by the Seaside Snack Shack before sitting down for teaching.

Your role: Sit with your kids. Model attentive listening. Encourage them to look at the speaker. Consider how you will talk about the Bible teaching during your huddle time. Move next to kids who are having trouble sitting still and being quiet. Learn God's truth along with your students. Make sure all garbage makes it to the trash can. Guide your children through the snack pick-up line. If you have any students who have food allergies, you are responsible for making sure they receive the allergy-safe snack. This is also the job of the snack team, but having multiple sets of eyes on the situation is imperative. Lifeguards will take their breaks during Bible teaching time.

HUDDLE TIME

Huddle time (small group time) is a time to connect. This is where you shine! You will be provided with discussion questions that reinforce that day's *Truth Talks in Sandcastle Cove* Bible lesson. These questions can be found in your backpack each day. This time of connection gets to the heart of VBS - engaging with children personally as we point them to our great God and invite them to know Him and the eternal life He offers us.

Your role: Read through the questions ahead of time. Encourage participation from all children as you process the Bible lesson. Listen and be responsive.

OUTDOOR GAMES AT THE SHIPWRECK

Outdoor game time is a great chance for the kids to burn some energy and have tons of fun! The games leader will lead large motor activities on the back lawn. We would like all students to participate. If students will not participate, they will be asked by the game crew to sit under the game tent.

Your role: Encourage the kids to be attentive to the games leader. If you have a child who is struggling and does not want to play the games, take the time to sit and talk with them to see why they don't want to participate. This can be an opportunity to connect with the kids and let them know they are seen and cared about!

THE BOARDWALK

If you were with us in years past, you may remember this as the *Village Square* and *Marketplace*. Each day, kids will get to visit two Boardwalk booths. The booths will have a variety of activities that kids can choose from. They cannot repeat an activity until Thursday.

Your role: Engage with the students as they have new experiences. Model good listening skills. Keep all your huddle members in the Boardwalk area at all times. Assist students. Float around the booths to check on each of your huddle members. Your students are free to go to different booths at will. Do not participate in crafts, snacks, etc., as there are only enough supplies for students. You are responsible for assisting in supervising your students. Elementary and 5/6 huddle guides will take their breaks during

Boardwalk rotations. One guide from each huddle will take their break during the first 15 minutes, and the second guide from each huddle will take their break during the last 15 minutes. Huddle guides must check in with their lifeguard before going on their break.

BREAKER ROCK CLOSING ASSEMBLY

At the end of each day, we will gather as a large group to worship and announce the top teams in the Penny Wars missions challenge.

Your role: Participate in worship through singing and hand motions. Keep your huddle blanket area tidy. Have students put their huddle bandana strips in the pocket of their lanyards.

PICK-UP

Students will be picked up by the parent or guardian at the huddle blanket. Huddle guides will receive the laminated pick-up cards in exchange for the student (*except 5/6*). Laminated pick-up cards will be placed back into the student's lanyard pocket for the next morning's drop-off.

Your role: As students are picked up, collect their name tags/lanyards and place them in the leader backpack. Say goodbye (one more chance to use their name and remind them how loved and valued they are). Let them know you look forward to seeing them the next day. Make sure any projects go home with students. Keep all huddle members with you until each one is picked up. Remember that students are not allowed to leave with anyone unless the individual has the appropriate pick-up card (*except 5/6 students*). Bring volunteer kids who have not been picked up by 12:15 p.m. to Erin Lasky in the center of the sanctuary. If there are any issues or concerns, touch base with Erica.

PICTURES

Feel free to take pictures throughout the week! Add them to the shared VBS photo drop spot. Look for the QR code in emails and various locations throughout the building.

HUDDLE GUIDE TIPS

- **Set the tone.** Smile, welcome kids and other volunteers. We are on this journey together with individuals from within Village Church and our community.
- **Learn huddle members' names.** Let them see that they belong and have a valued place in your group.
- **Intentionally build relationships.** Use conversation starters to make the most of drop-off and pick-up time as well as during transitions throughout the day. Ask simple questions about family, vacations, pets, school, sports, interests, favorite things, friends, etc. Or ask silly or thoughtful questions about daydreams, packing for a trip to the moon, what they want to be when they grow up, the grossest ice cream flavor they could create, etc. And then really listen to their answers. Enjoy getting to know them!
- **Safety.** Be sure to follow Village Church's Child Protection Policy guidelines and seek out clarity for any questions that remain. Take group bathroom breaks when possible. Only release kids to parents or authorized pick-up people at the end of the morning. Fill out incident reports as needed. If you have any safety questions or concerns throughout the day, talk with Erica, Breanne, or another staff member.
- **Sow Scripture truths.** Continually lead your huddle group back to the Bible and the important, foundational truths found in its pages. Help the kids to see its strength and relevance in our daily lessons and in our lives. Keep reminding them that God's truth is rock-solid and never changes!
- **Dress up!** Wear your t-shirt every day! Or if you're really inspired, find creative ways to dress like a Pacific Northwesterner!

TROUBLESHOOTING

What do I do if I find myself with extra time?

- Play a quick game (Simon Says, I Spy, find items around you for every letter of the alphabet, etc.).
- Make up a group cheer.
- Ask students to share their favorite part of the day, their favorite activity on the Boardwalk, the most interesting thing they learned in Truth Talks in Sandcastle Cove, what rock-solid truth means to them, etc.
- Work on the Bible verse together. Make up motions or go around the circle saying one word at a time.

What is the bathroom policy?

Per the church's Child Protection Policy, the two-person policy is always to be in effect. This includes VBS. We have floaters who will be on hand near the restrooms. Please flag down one of the floaters to help escort kids on bathroom trips. Adults must check to make sure the bathroom is empty - no adults or threats. Adults must stand near the bathroom door with the door open until the student has completed their trip. Floaters around the bathrooms and hallways will serve as the second half of the two-person policy.

How do I deal with negative behavior?

Get ready! Perceive negative behavior for what it is. It is not orchestrated in the heart of the child, but rather by the forces of evil. It is an attempt at distraction and discouragement from the purpose of why we are at VBS - to share the gospel and experience the presence of God. May we be discerning to see what is truly at work around us.

Therefore, employ...

- Distraction
 - "Oh my goodness, did you see that bird?" "Would you rather have hairy armpits that were beaded in dreadlocks and hung out your shirt all day or toenails that were so long they went through your shoe and tapped on the ground in front of you?" Drop the pen... "Hey! could you please grab that for me?"
 - Distraction techniques employ a moment of cognitive jump in our mental process that was starting a downward spiral. Don't be afraid to sabotage a spiral and disobedience with a moment of being a weirdo. This returns cognitive energy to the prefrontal cortex and allows students to have another opportunity to employ thinking before acting.
- Light-heartedness
 - Understand you are in a battle. A battle for the hearts and minds of the students in your group to see God for who He truly is. One of the most life-giving battle tactics is to remain light-hearted and full of laughter. It may be hot, confusing, and frustrating. Your light-hearted responses will model for your students how, despite the stress of the moment, you know who is in control and that He is up to something for His glory and our good, and we can delight in that.
- Listening
 - So much of a student's poor behavior is a coping mechanism they have learned in their stories to be seen, known, or heard. Poor behavior can be exactly what we need to draw our attention to the brokenness and heart splinters a child might have. Ask questions. Make observations - "I see every time we head to our huddle group time you get a little louder and try to get people to laugh at you." Wonder with the student about their behavior - "I'm wondering what you are needing."

- Avoid “why” questions with students and instead shift them to “what” questions. “Why” questions assume we can harness a full explanation of what led us to that behavior. “What” questions help us to process pieces so we can put the whole together. Example: Why did you do that? vs What were you feeling/ thinking/ wanting right before you did that?
- Say something
 - If a child is continuously acting out of control and having a negative impact on your group dynamic, please let Erica, Breanne, or Erin know.

How do I encourage participation from the quieter group members?

- Try to ask them specific questions.
- If they do respond, ask a follow up question like, “What do you mean by that?” or “That sounds interesting! Tell me more.”
- Even if one person answers, allow others to offer answers as well to encourage more of the group to participate.
- Don’t force participation. Some students learn more by simply observing and processing at their own pace.

What if someone asks me a question I can’t answer?

Affirm their question! Help them get to the next step. Tell them you aren’t sure of the answer, but you would love to help them find the answer. If you can, find it on a reliable Christian website or ask for help from Breanne, Erin, or Erica. We can help you get to the next step.

CONTACT INFO

If you have any questions, concerns, or know you will be running late, please send a text message to Erica Smith and Breanne Fuelling.

Erica: (630) 460-0132

Breanne: (630) 292-8006