



PRESCHOOL 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 your care!

A FEW NOTES ABOUT PRESCHOOLERS

- They need you to set the tone. Smile! Engage! Model!
- They need short, clear, and direct instructions.
- They need to see modeling of appropriate behavior.
- They will participate when the situation feels fun and safe.
- They do not benefit from being forced to play a game.
- They love to ask questions.
- They can have trouble sitting still, but they do well when given a defined space.
- They need to know you care about and are interested in them. Learn their names and interests.
- They need you to give your all.
- They can fully understand the gospel and their need for a Savior.
- They need to hear the message that they are greatly LOVED by God and that their life is valuable because they are made in His image.

DAILY SCHEDULE

Begin	End	Activity	Location
8:20	8:45	Volunteers Arrive for Prayer	Gym
8:45	9:05	Check-in	Gym
9:05	9:20	Breaker Rock Opening Assembly	Gym
9:25	9:40	Truth Talks in Sandcastle Cove (with Goldfish snack)	Gym
9:45	11:20	4 Rotations	Rotation Classrooms/Front Lawn
11:25	11:45	Boardwalk	Outside
11:45	11:50	Transition Back to Gym	
11:50	12:00	Breaker Rock Closing Assembly	Gym
12:00	12:15	Parent Pick-up	Gym

BEFORE KIDS ARRIVE

Arrive early, especially on the first day. We will start each day with a quick prayer time at 8:25 in the gym before drop-off. Make sure your huddle drop-off location is ready for the students to arrive. Check your backpack for supplies, including your lanyard, huddle time notes, kids' name tags/lanyards, schedule, band-aids, memory verse cards, etc. Make sure your huddle sign is clearly visible for families as they enter. Check over 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 will exchange the student for a laminated pick-up card. Any unusual pick-up arrangements need to be cleared with Megan. 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. 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. The kids must wear their bandana strips at all times so that volunteers can easily spot if a kid is not where they're supposed to be.

BREAKER ROCK OPENING ASSEMBLY

During this time we will worship our rock-solid God! This will also be a time for announcements. Wendy Panye will be the MC.

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 group's location for the first huddle time.

TRUTH TALKS IN SANDCASTLE COVE

Immediately following our Breaker Rock Opening Assembly, Laurie Torres will join us in the gym for a time of Bible teaching. This will be about 15-20 minutes. Because of the time of day, we will be providing each preschooler with a Goldfish snack during this time. Huddle guides, please collect the garbage and toss on your way out of the gym.

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 quiet. Learn God's truth along with your students.

ROTATIONS

Immediately following the Truth Talks in Sandcastle Cove Bible teaching time, the preschoolers and mini-campers will rotate through a series of age-appropriate stations that will engage and support the theme. Each rotation is 20 minutes with a 5-minute transition time.

Your role: Encourage participation but don't force it. Use downtime to get to know your kids. Keep students with the group. Ask questions about the teaching or celebration times. Stay with your huddle. Help out the station leaders.

Preschool & Mini-Camp Rotations						
9:45-10:05		10:10-10:30		10:35-10:55		11:00-11:20
Snack & Huddle Time <i>Location: Kindergarten Classroom</i>	T	Crafts <i>Location: 2 Grade Classroom</i>	T	Outdoor Games	T	Sensory Room <i>Location: 3rd Grade Classroom</i>
Sensory Room <i>Location: 3rd Grade Classroom</i>	T	Snack & Huddle Time <i>Location: Kindergarten Classroom</i>	T	Crafts <i>Location: 2 Grade Classroom</i>	T	Outdoor Games
Crafts <i>Location: 2 Grade Classroom</i>	T	Outdoor Games	T	Sensory Room <i>Location: 3rd Grade Classroom</i>	T	Snack & Huddle Time <i>Location: Kindergarten Classroom</i>
Outdoor Games	T	Sensory Room <i>Location: 3rd Grade Classroom</i>	T	Snack & Huddle Time <i>Location: Kindergarten Classroom</i>	T	Crafts <i>Location: 2 Grade Classroom</i>

SNACK + HUDDLE TIME

Snack and huddle time (small group time) is a time to connect. You will be provided with discussion questions that reinforce that day's Truth Talks in Sandcastle Cove teaching time. While snacks are fun and often quite necessary, we want the focus of the time to be spent engaged with the students. 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. Keep students at the tables.

CRAFTS

Crafts at VBS are always tons of fun! This year is no different! YAY! Hooray!!

Your role: Model good listening skills while the crafts leader is giving instructions. Assist students.

Notice those with weaker fine motor skills and give them a hand. Be present. Take initiative in helping teachers and huddle members.

OUTDOOR GAMES

Outdoor Games 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 front lawn near the children's wing foyer entrance. We would like the participation of all students. If a child does not want to play a particular game, try your best to bring him or her into the activity. This is a great time to build relationships with the more active members of your huddle.

Your role: Participate as much as is physically possible for you. Keep your huddle members in the outdoor space designated for outdoor games. Encourage kids to be attentive to the games leader while they are giving directions. Pay attention to directions as well so that you can help with the day's activities. Keep kids hydrated. Help younger kids as needed. Stay positive. Join the fun.

SENSORY ROOM

This space has turned into a favorite of our preschoolers. Children will have the opportunity for multisensory free play.

Your role: Encourage participation and model good listening skills.

MUSIC ROOM

This is a new rotation! Children will get to experience combining music and motion. During this time huddle guides will be able to take their break. Huddle guides should check in with their lifeguard before going on break.

Your role: Drop off and pick up on time!

THE BOARDWALK

If you were with us in years past, you may remember this as the *Village Square and Marketplace*. Each day, students will visit one Boardwalk booth with their huddle. The booth they visit will change each day.

Your role: Engage with the students as they have new experiences. Model good listening skills. Keep all your huddle members together at all times. Have a contagious positive attitude.

BREAKER ROCK CLOSING ASSEMBLY

At the end of each day, we will gather as a large group to worship, give announcements, and review that day's learning.

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

***Mini-Camp's rotations will look a little different this year.**

PICK-UP

Students will be picked up by the parent or guardian at the huddle blanket. Huddle guides will receive the laminated pick-up card in exchange for their student. 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 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. Bring volunteer kids who have not been picked up to Megan Schiavone who will bring them to Erin Lasky in the sanctuary.

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 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 Megan, 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 the Bible lesson, 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 Megan, 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, Megan, Erin, or Wendy Payne. They 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 group message to Megan Schiavone and Wendy Payne.

Megan: (630) 440-5981

Wendy: (630) 890-1863