



*Easy ideas for weekends,  
Wednesday nights,  
retreats, and other programs!*

an excerpt from the Shining Star Director's Manual

## Designing Your VBS

*Shining Star: See the Jesus in Me!* is designed to work for you and your community. Every aspect of the program can be modified to meet the goals of your church. While its optimal setting is an intergenerational Vacation Bible School program, *Shining Star: See the Jesus in Me!* can be implemented as a VBS for children alone, an after-school program or a summer enrichment program. Its components can also be utilized in mid-week and Sunday school programming. In planning for the curriculum, all staff should discuss goals in order to develop a common understanding. These discussions can include choosing a format that is most beneficial for your church.

### Traditional Children's VBS

If your church sponsors a traditional children's or children and youth VBS, *Shining Star: See the Jesus in Me!* is an excellent learning program. All children will gather for worship and then travel through the various centers as scheduled. The VBS can be in the morning, afternoon, or evening. Serve breakfast, lunch, dinner, or only a snack. While it is best not to have less than twenty minutes for each center, more time is great!

### Summer Enrichment/After-School Program

*Shining Star: See the Jesus in Me!* can be used in forming a foundation for a summer enrichment program. Many churches are attempting to supplement the academic needs of children and the child-care needs of parents during summer months and after school. This curriculum can be helpful in providing some themes for study in a way that children can have fun while increasing their knowledge base. It offers church planners a springboard from which to create a program that is unique and appropriate to their community.

### Intergenerational VBS

With an intergenerational VBS as is one of the defining characteristics of this curriculum, *Shining Star: See the Jesus in Me!* is at its best. So valued is this aspect that writers and artists created this content with the intergenerational component in mind. As children, teens, and adults interact together in worship and other group activities, bonds develop between younger and older persons. The community is reborn and renewed.

In an all-ages program, sessions begin with everyone together in opening worship. All ages participate in worship and music, learn from the MC, and even play together. Each day all learn together one of the craft, heritage or music activities. After worship children, teens, and adults separate and continue study and fun in their own activity areas. At the end of the session, the entire group gathers for closing worship.

The exchange of culture and expansion of the collective memory will strengthen identity and a sense of togetherness. Children, teens, and adults may acquire a better sense of history, cultural continuation, and connection by participating in "call and response" in community. By playing, praying, and learning together, friendships and relationships can form between the generations, creating mentoring settings for young people and building a rich and sacred time for the church community.

### Classroom-Based

Each teacher has many functions but works with only one age group. Each teacher prepares and teaches an entire lesson to one age group, including Bible storytelling, arts and crafts, music and movement, and heritage. Participants stay in one age-level location. The different age levels are:

- Preschool/Kindergarten (ages 3-5)
- Younger Elementary (grades 1-3)
- Older Elementary (grades 4-6)
- Teens
- Adults

### Activity Center Format (Schedule II)

The activity center format can work well for elementary children. It keeps the time moving and children engaged. This format allows leaders to plan one activity in an area they like best. Allot at least twenty minutes for each center. More time is great! Leaders work with one age level at a time.

- Specific locations are used for each activity.
- Evenly scheduled periods are required.
- A means of signaling the end of each time slot is needed.
- Teens and adults do not rotate.

### Less Than Five Days

Your VBS can be as few as three days. Choose the lessons on which you want to focus.

Suggestion:

Lesson One

Lesson Two

Lesson Three

Use crafts, heritage skits, and music and movement activities that fit your setting and interests. If you are only able to do two days, use Lessons Two and Three (or Four), for the most choices with Music and Movement, Arts and Crafts, and Heritage activities.

The sessions and activities that are not utilized at this time can be saved for African American History Month, Sunday school, Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations, a Harvest Celebration, church events, or Sunday worship.

### A Weekend Program

A children's or all-ages program can be conducted in one weekend. For this option, try beginning on Friday evening with the worship and activities for Session One. On Saturday, try Sessions Two and Three in the morning beginning with worship, a round of activities, re-gathering for a second worship assembly, activities from Session Three, and then a community meal at lunch time. The worship and activities for Sessions Four and Five can be completed in the afternoon. Utilize Saturday evening to rehearse performances that will be included in Sunday morning or afternoon worship. A fellowship meal can be prepared for the entire congregation on Sunday.

### A One-Day Camp

If you have one day for *Shining Star: See the Jesus in Me!*, you can accomplish this plan in a seven-to-eight hour day. Cover Lessons One and Two in the morning before lunch. After a brief resting time, start the afternoon with Lesson Three and combine Lessons Four and Five into a lesson about Christian conduct. Intersperse the activities with times to rest, especially in the afternoon. Lunch can include samplings from the Recipe Guide, or a full-fledged feast can be prepared as a kickoff to the final program on Saturday evening.

## Schedule I

- After Assembly, all age levels have 30 minutes of Bible study first.
- Elementary ages may rotate to centers OR arts and crafts will rotate to age-level classrooms.
- It is best to have Music and Movement in its own space, if possible.
- Preschool/Kindergarten, Teen and Adult are self-contained throughout the schedule.

- You may need to have a longer Worship/Assembly time on the first day in order to accommodate the intergenerational skit.
- All classes have Bible study immediately after the Opening Worship/Community time.
- The Final Program and Feast can be as long as desired for your church community. Invite parents and church members.

☆ The component or center that is used during Community time will not be in the rotation for that day's schedule.

<b>Session One: Hearing God's Call</b>			
5:30	MEAL		
6:00-6:35	WORSHIP Intergenerational Activity: Heritage/Drama		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:40-7:10	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Bible
7:15-7:35	Self-Contained Teaching	Arts and Crafts	Music and Movement
7:40-8:00	Self-Contained Teaching	Music and Movement	Arts and Crafts
8:05-8:15	CLOSING		
<b>Session Two: Keeping to God's Path</b>			
5:30	MEAL		
6:00-6:35	WORSHIP Intergenerational Activity: "It's Good" Music and Movement		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:40-7:10	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Bible
7:15-7:35	Self-Contained Teaching	Arts and Crafts	Heritage/Drama
7:40-8:00	Self-Contained Teaching	Heritage/Drama	Arts and Crafts
8:05-8:15	CLOSING		

## Session Three: Jairus' Daughter Gets Up

5:30	MEAL		
6:00-6:35	WORSHIP Intergenerational Activity: "Get Up!" Music and Movement		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:40-7:10	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Bible
7:15-7:35	Self-Contained Teaching	Heritage/Drama	Arts and Crafts
7:40-8:00	Self-Contained Teaching	Arts and Crafts	Heritage/Drama
8:05-8:15	CLOSING		

## Session Four: Living as Children of God

5:30	MEAL		
6:00-6:35	WORSHIP Intergenerational Activity: Arts and Crafts		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:40-7:10	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Bible
7:15-7:35	Self-Contained Teaching	Heritage/Drama	Music and Movement
7:40-8:00	Self-Contained Teaching	Music and Movement	Heritage/Drama
8:05-8:15	CLOSING		

## Session Five: Shining Like Stars

5:30	MEAL		
6:00-6:10	Devotions and Instructions		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:15-6:35	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Bible
6:40-6:55	Self-Contained Teaching	Arts and Crafts	Heritage/Drama
7:00-7:15	Self-Contained Teaching	Heritage/Drama	Arts and Crafts
7:20	FINAL PROGRAM with Intergenerational Activity (Music and Movement)		

## Schedule II

- Elementary classes rotate to Bible study and two other centers. All rotational segments are 20 minutes.
- It is best to have Music and Movement in its own space if possible.
- Arts and Crafts and Heritage leaders may rotate to the Bible classroom.
- Preschool/Kindergarten, Teen and Adults are self-contained throughout the schedule.

- You may need to have a longer Worship/Assembly time on the first day in order to accommodate the intergenerational skit.
- The Final Program and Feast can be as long as desired for your church community. Invite parents and church members.

☆ The component or center that is used during Community time will not be in the rotation for that day's schedule.

### Session One: Hearing God's Call

5:30	MEAL		
6:00-6:40	WORSHIP Intergenerational Activity: Heritage/Drama		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:45-7:05	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Music and Movement
7:10-7:30	Self-Contained Teaching	Arts and Crafts	Bible
7:35-7:55	Self-Contained Teaching	Music and Movement	Arts and Crafts
8:00-8:10	CLOSING		

### Session Two: Keeping to God's Path

6:00-6:40	WORSHIP Intergenerational Activity: Heritage/Drama		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:45-7:05	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Music and Movement
7:10-7:30	Self-Contained Teaching	Arts and Crafts	Bible
7:35-7:55	Self-Contained Teaching	Music and Movement	Arts and Crafts
8:00-8:10	CLOSING		

## Session Three: Jairus' Daughter Gets Up

6:00-6:40	<b>WORSHIP</b> Intergenerational Activity: Music and Movement		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:45-7:05	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Arts and Crafts
7:10-7:30	Self-Contained Teaching	Heritage/Drama	Bible
7:35-7:55	Self-Contained Teaching	Arts and Crafts	Heritage/Drama

## Session Four: Living as Children of God

6:00-6:40	<b>WORSHIP</b> Intergenerational Activity: Arts and Crafts		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:45-7:05	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Music and Movement
7:10-7:30	Self-Contained Teaching	Heritage/Drama	Bible
7:35-7:55	Self-Contained Teaching	Music and Movement	Heritage/Drama
8:00-8:10	CLOSING		

## Session Five: Shining Like Stars

6:00-6:10	<b>WORSHIP</b> Devotions and Instructions		
	Preschool/Kindergarten	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:15-6:35	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Heritage/Drama
6:40-6:55	Self-Contained Teaching	Arts and Crafts	Bible
7:00-7:15	Self-Contained Teaching	Heritage/Drama	Arts and Crafts
7:20	FINAL PROGRAM with Intergenerational Activity (Music and Movement)		

## Schedule III

- All classes have Bible study first.
- Preschool/Kindergarten and Adults are self-contained.
- Teens will share Music and Movement time with Older Elementary for Sessions One and Four.
- Teens will share Arts and Crafts time with Older Elementary for Sessions Two and Three.
- For Session Five, Teens will be self-contained.
- If you feel it more appropriate for the Teens to be alone in these sessions, then allow the Younger and Older Elementary to share the time. Many churches

have asked for a schedule that includes the Teens in rotation for Music and Crafts.

- Another option is to have an additional crafts person who rotates to the Teens.
- The Final Program and Feast can be as long as desired for your church community. Invite parents and church members.

☆ The component or center that is used during Community time will not be in the rotation for that day's schedule.

### Session One: Hearing God's Call

6:00-6:40	<p style="text-align: center;">WORSHIP Intergenerational Activity: Heritage/Drama</p>		
	Teen	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:45-7:05	Bible	Bible	Bible
7:10-7:30	Bible	Music and Movement	Arts and Crafts
7:35-7:55	Music and Movement	Arts and Crafts	Music and Movement
8:00-8:10	<p style="text-align: center;">CLOSING</p>		

### Session Two: Keeping to God's Path

6:00-6:40	<p style="text-align: center;">WORSHIP Intergenerational Activity: It's Good Music and Movement</p>		
	Teen	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:45-7:05	Bible	Bible	Bible
7:10-7:30	Bible	Arts and Crafts	Heritage/Drama
7:35-7:55	Arts and Crafts	Heritage/Drama	Arts and Crafts
8:00-8:10	<p style="text-align: center;">CLOSING</p>		



## Session Three: Jairus' Daughter Gets Up

6:00-6:25	<b>WORSHIP</b> Intergenerational Activity—Get Up! Rap: Music and Movement		
	Teen	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:30-6:55	Bible	Bible	Bible
7:00-7:25	Bible	Arts and Crafts	Heritage/Drama
7:30-7:55	Arts and Crafts	Heritage/Drama	Arts and Crafts
8:00-8:10	<b>CLOSING</b>		

## Session Four: Living as Children of God

6:00-6:50	<b>WORSHIP</b> Intergenerational Activity: Arts and Crafts		
	Teen	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:55-7:15	Bible	Bible	Bible
7:20-7:40	Bible	Music and Movement	Heritage/Drama
7:45-8:00	Music and Movement	Heritage/Drama	Music and Movement
8:00-8:15	<b>CLOSING</b>		

## Session Five: Shining Like Stars

5:30	<b>SNACK</b>		
	Teen	Younger Elementary	Older Elementary
6:00-6:15	<b>WORSHIP</b>		
6:20-6:35	Self-Contained Teaching (Bible)	Bible	Bible
6:40-6:55	Self-Contained Teaching	Heritage/Drama	Arts and Crafts
7:00	Self-Contained Teaching	Arts and Crafts	Heritage/Drama
8:00	<b>MEAL AND FINAL PROGRAM WITH MUSIC AND MOVEMENT</b>		

## Summer Enrichment Program

In a world where black children continue to lose ground academically, wherein socially it appears that black lives do not matter, the *Shining Star: See the Jesus in Me!* program can form the foundation for a summer enrichment program that helps children by strengthening academic skills, affirming cultural knowledge, and encouraging the belief that they are meant to shine through Jesus Christ. Expulsion and suspension can have profoundly negative impacts on students, including increased behavioral problems, higher risk of violence and substance abuse, and greater likelihood of academic failure.

### Did you know?

- The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights released a study stating that black students are four times more likely to be suspended than other students.
- A report released by Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children and the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative underscores the racial gap in school discipline. While African American students make up about 44 percent of the statewide population, they receive more than two-thirds of suspensions statewide, and nearly three-quarters of expulsions.
- More than 50,000 Chicago public schools students got out-of-school suspensions last year, according to a WBEZ analysis of state and district data. That's about 13 percent of the district's population.

Churches and people of faith **MUST** get involved in turning the tide! By building around the Daily Words, your community can use this guideline to develop a program. You will need to use all the components and the student books of the *Shining Star: See the Jesus in Me!* kit to carry out projects over the summer.

### SEGMENT 1: HEARING GOD'S CALL!

- Sparkle Speech: When God speaks, I will LISTEN Honing listening and attention skills, as Samuel did.
- Academic Focus: Learning of scientific methods; discovering items that can improve every day life.
- Community Concern: Developing communication skills for home and school.
- Star Power Personality: Learn more about Lewis Latimer and other black scientists and inventors.

### SEGMENT 2: KEEPING TO GOD'S PATH

- Sparkle Speech: God's word lights my way, each and every day! Affirming and practicing good STUDY habits as promoted in Psalm 119.

- Academic Focus: Space exploration, scientific research, and American history as it pertains to northern states.
- Community Concern: Learn how past injustice influences present injustice; human rights.
- Star Power Personality: Learn more about the life of Sojourner Truth; making comparisons with contemporary women.

### SEGMENT 3: JAIRUS' DAUGHTER GETS UP

- Sparkle Speech: I've got get-up-and-go, because Jesus loves me so! Understanding and meeting expectations as did Jairus' daughter. When Jesus said GET UP, she got up.
- Academic Focus: Reading, examining articles and information about current school practices.
- Community Concern: Choose projects that provide a means for students and parents to make the most of public school education.
- Star Power Personality: Learn lessons from Jennifer Hudson, who did not allow disappointment and tragedy derail her future.

### SEGMENT 4: LIVING AS CHILDREN OF GOD

- Sparkle Speech: Together we can live, 'cause like Jesus we'll forgive! Understanding that to not FORGIVE is to continue the violence.
- Academic Focus: Global history, Africa
- Community Concern: Learning about projects that bring forgiveness and reconciliation in the community.
- Star Power Personality: Nelson Mandela, first democratically elected president of South Africa. Learning about the electoral process in the United States and abroad.

### SEGMENT 5: SHINING LIKE STARS

- Sparkle Speech: This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. Identifying one's gifts and abilities to contribute to and SHINE in the community.
- Academic Focus: Vocabulary building and other literacy skills; instilling a desire for excellence despite attempts to snuff out the lights of black children; physical activity.
- Community concern: Finding out the needs of the community and developing projects that are helpful
- Star Power Personality: Gabrielle Douglas, engaging in physical activity and developing plans to develop gifts and strengths.

On the next page is a sample chart on how you might organize a one-week program utilizing Segment Two.#

## Sample Schedule for Segment Two

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00	Breakfast/Circle Time	Breakfast/Circle Time	Breakfast/Circle Time	Breakfast/Circle Time	Breakfast/Circle Time
8:30	Worship: Learn "It's Good" Movement Activity	Worship: "Speaking and Living for Jesus"	Worship: Review "It's Good"	Worship: Guest Speaker, Science field	Student-planned worship
9:00	Bible Study: Younger or Older Elementary Leader	Science Museum Visit:	Bible Study: Discussion, use Older Elementary or Teen	Library Visit: Researching interests discovered	Bible Study: Making the connection Bible/Science
9:30	Academics: Science	Focus on	Academics: Science/History	during trip to	Academics: Other Human Rights Figures
10:30	Making a "Light" lunch Use the Recipe Guide.	Outer	Arts and crafts	the Museum	Historical and
11:30	Star sandwiches, Moon pies, Sun chips	Space		Aerobics	Contemporary
12:00	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
1:00	Silent Reading	Field Trip Debriefing	Silent Reading	Silent Reading	Discuss the field trip
1:30	Academics: Sojourner Truth skit in Heritage	Academics: History of Slavery in Northern States	Academics: Math and individual tutoring	Academics: Math and individual tutoring	Academics: Reports on library project
2:30	Listening session: Human Rights (See Outreach #2)	Listening session: Human Rights (See Outreach #2)	Listening Session: Human Rights	Arts and Crafts	Making plans for outreach project
3:00				Planning Friday's worship	
3:30	Circle/Wrap-up snacks, games	Circle/Wrap-up, snacks, games	Circle/Wrap-up, snacks games	Circle/Wrap-up, snacks, games	Circle/Wrap-up, snacks, games
4:15 +	Pick-up	Pick-up	Pick-up	Pick-up	Pick-up