



Chapel Project

Taking Aim at the HEART of the Matter

Children's Evangelism

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

1. Introduction

The purpose of this package of materials is to outline the Children's Evangelism (Vacation Bible School) used in conjunction with the chapel building project; a great deal of care has been put into its development. Its content considers the culture in which you will be ministering, the materials available in Romania and the Dominican Republic (and those that you can easily bring with you), and the presentation of the gospel to children in the one week that the mission team has with them. We have tried to provide you a number of alternatives for each day's activities, based on what has worked well for us.



2. Daily Schedule

The local pastor will tell Church members about the CE program and will help you set a time and location for you to meet. However, on our first day, we spent a few hours both at the chapel construction site and walking the surrounding streets with translators and inviting any children that we met to come to our CE program. After the first day, the children themselves spread the word and more children came each day. Mid-day time schedules 11:00 to 1:00 have worked well, but may fluctuate according to each site. Locations are usually outdoors in empty fields, so tables and chairs are not available. As you make your preparations, consider additional alternatives that you may have available that will appeal to the children, such as dramas, puppetry and felt boards.



Each day we covered a different topic as follows:

- Day One: The Creation and the Fall of Man
- Day Two: Noah's Ark
- Day Three: Daniel and the Lion's Den
- Day Four: Jesus Life
- Day Five: Salvation

Games: We began each day with a half hour of games. This served to begin activities while stragglers joined our group. It also allowed us to meet the children and for them to run off some of their energy so they could sit for a while and listen to our Bible stories. Children were divided into two

groups, over 5 and under 5 - as the games for each group differed and we did not want to see small brothers and sisters trampled. A section is included in the back with several games and their instructions

that worked well for us. The translators will be able to add some games but they will like learning American games too.



Songs: After it appeared that all who were coming were there, we gathered all of the children together to sit in a group and we began with songs. The children loved the songs with hand motions best. Most of the songs we taught were in the local language, but we did have a simple English song "I Love You Jesus" that worked well because it was not too complicated. The translators do a great job in helping in this area. We actually had the children perform two songs at the beginning of the dedication service - which brought many parents to the dedication to see their children perform.

Bible Story: After songs, we told a different Bible Story each day which was translated by

our translators. Before we told the story, we asked all the children to listen carefully because we would ask questions about the story when we were done.

Bible Verses: We also taught the children a different Bible verse each day. The verse we learned was also glued to their craft project and another copy was given them to take home to memorize. They are encouraged to recite it correctly the next day, with help if needed. The verses are at the back of this package for you to copy and bring with you. They will need to be cut apart so each verse can be given to the children to take home and another copy glued to their craft project.

Salvation Bracelets: We showed the children the power bands that we brought and explained what each bead meant several times during the week. On the last day, if they could recite back to us (with our help if needed) what each bead meant - we gave them a power band. We hoped this would help them to learn what the salvation bracelet meant - and made it more special to them because they earned it.

Crafts: Each day we had a craft after our story time. The crafts we recommend are listed and explained later in this summary. The craft should be given to the child to take home each day.



Awards: Stickers may be given as a reward for daily attendance. Stickers should have pictures rather than words.

Power bands: Our team made and brought 500 and used them all. A Romanian description of the power bands (bead colors and meanings) is found later in this section. Teams should make a supply of photocopies of this to pass out along with the bracelets. Once in Romania or the Dominican Republic, you most likely will not be able to make the copies in the quantities you will need (you may not be able to make them at all).

3. [Games:](#)

OVER 5 - The children liked to learn new games - so don't hesitate to bring some American classics. Games must be for any number of children which eliminates throwing frisbees and football, although these can be fun after VBS and with the entire group.

Red Rover - The object of the game is to break through a line of players in order to capture, for your own team, a member of the opposition. Two equal lines of children face one another, each with a team captain, and hold hands. The leader of the team selects a member of the opposite team by calling out, "Red Rover, Red Rover - Let _____ come over." The player whose name is called runs over to the line and tries to break through the line of arms and hands. If successful, a member of the team holding hands must be given to the other team. If unsuccessful, the player must join the team he tried to break through. The other team then calls a player over and the process is repeated. The team with the most players, after a given playing time, wins.



Simon Says - A translator leader gives the children instructions that they must follow only if Simon Says. If they follow them when Simon does not say they are eliminated and must sit down. The last ones standing win the game.

Tag - With over 100 children this was tricky but we selected 4 children to try to tag the other children who were "out", once tagged. The last four to be tagged became the "taggers" for the next game.

5 AND UNDER - We made a circle of the smaller children and asked them to sit and then helped them play with us.

Drop the Handkerchief - The object of the game is for the player with the handkerchief to catch "It" before "It" gets around the circle and into that player's spot in the circle. One player is designated as "It" and is given a handkerchief. The rest of the group sits in a circle. "It" walks slowly around the outside of the circle and drops the handkerchief behind one of the other players. When the player realizes that the handkerchief has been dropped behind him or her, he or she must take off at a run in pursuit of "It". "It" must try to get around the circle to the empty spot in the circle before being tagged. If "It" is tagged before reaching the other player's spot, he must continue to be "It" and drop the handkerchief again. If he reaches the empty spot before being tagged, the player outside the circle becomes the new "It". This works well with taps on shoulders and folded papers also.

4. [Songs:](#)

We use songs in the children's native language. The translators will help with teaching these to you and the children:

The Creation Song - on the first Day
Who is the King of the Jungle
Hallelujah, Hallelujah
My God is So Big
The Noah Song

5. Crafts:

TRACING THEIR HANDS: On the first day, we let them trace their hands onto a piece of construction paper - which they colored. We later glued a Bible verse to the paper.

ARK ANIMALS: We cut out a lot of different animals (ahead of time) and gave two to each child. We also made a great big ark for the front of the VBS area. We let children decorate their two animals. One animal was glued to the ark in the front and the other was glued to a piece of construction paper for them to decorate.

LION'S FACES: Using paper plates, we glued a lion's face to each plate and gave them to the children to decorate. We cut yarn and let them glue 6 yarn whiskers to their plate. They colored the rest of the picture. Some groups cut out the lion's eyes so the plates could be used as masks. A Bible verse was later added to the back.

HEARTS: We glued a large white heart to a piece of construction paper and gave one to each child. We then gave them many small cut-up pieces of construction confetti to glue to the white heart.

BUTTERFLIES: We used claw clothespins and gathered tissue paper in the center of the clothespin to resemble a butterfly. Claw clothespins have a knob at the top and do not have a spring. They are footed and will slide on a clothesline. A small string was also added to make the butterflies fly.

These crafts are only suggestions of what we've done in the past. The common thread is that they don't require cutting by the children because we don't have 200 pairs of scissors and they can be made without tables and a few crayons that they can trade. They also lend themselves well to advance preparation and don't take too long to complete. We gave each child a few crayons each day that they exchanged to get the right color combinations. We collected them each day so we would be able to use them again and again. On the last day, we let the children take home the crayons.



This sounds silly, but try to do as much preparation as you can before you come. There are few xerox machines in Romania and

in the evening when you think you'll do the animal cutouts you'll find you'd rather be evangelizing with the group or are tired from a long day at the job-site. All Bible verses and power band explanations that need to be copied and cut out should be done before you come so you do not have to worry about this once you arrive. The only scissors may be the ones that you bring. They also do not have crayons or construction paper - so anything you may want - you need to give thought to before you come. Teams have left extras of their materials - so we are hopeful that we will be able to provide a small stash of supplies if needed. But what happens more often - is we find uses for everything we bring - to the point where we give the children the crayons they have worked with all week.

Advance preparation:

Tracing their hands - None

Ark animals - Cut out many small construction paper animals before you come. We have used children's coloring books to find simple animal patterns. Obviously, the more variety the better for

your ark. You should also make a large ark from construction paper to glue the children's animals onto.

Lion's faces - We xeroxed a lion's face that we glued onto each plate before we came. Naturally, we had more children than we had plates so we used a black permanent marker to quickly draw more faces on blank paper plates. Yarn we cut at home and brought over in a zip-loc bag. We used many bright colors that the kids liked such as red, blue and green rather than boring brown.

Hearts - We made large white hearts, which we xeroxed before we came, and glued them to construction paper at home. We also made confetti before we came and brought that in a zip-loc bag.

Butterflies - Have tissue paper and string cut for your butterflies and then help the children assemble them with the colors they select.



We strongly urged our construction volunteers to each pick the day that works best to participate in the VBS program so that they can see VBS at least once. For example, the painters in our group had a few available hours on Wednesday - as painting was done and glass was not ready to be installed - so they joined us on Wednesday, etc. It is truly a joy to participate and watch the children experience VBS. Helping hands are always needed with glue bottles, etc.

Speaking of glue bottles - we gave one to each adult, translator, and Church parent that helped us. Giving the glue to the children to handle did not work well.

6. [Craft Supply Listing](#): Get your home churches to help collect these!

- Stickers with pictures (not words)
- Construction paper - 1000 sheets - this allows for 200 children a day
- Glue - 15 large bottles - allowing a number of adults to assist the children.
- Crayons - 400 - 1000 various colors
- Paper plates - 200
- Claw clothespins - 200
- Yarn - for lion's whiskers
- Tissue paper in many colors - for butterflies - plan for 200
- String - for flying butterflies
- Scissors for last minute cut-outs (a couple of pairs)
- Markers for adding names to projects

7. Salvation Bracelets - Power Bands:

These bracelets are tremendously popular and we urge you to make them before you come as you will



use them for the children and in your evangelism programs. There are several variations on how they can be made - and all work equally well. Plan for 200 for the children and - possibly 500 more for evangelism and church members/visitors.

Some groups had the translated explanation of the power bands (with what each color means) on a small sheet of paper along with the power band in a small snack-size zip-loc bag. In the frenzy of giving out power bands, this worked well to make sure everyone received the explanation as they were prepackaged that way. We tried to have different sizes - small for children - and

large for adults - but they do get easily mixed up - so this might not be a good idea. The translation for the meanings for each color in the bracelet is the sheet with the butterfly. This too should be copied before you come.

We are stapling an example of a power band to these directions, with the thought that a picture is worth a thousand words. We used 3/8" Tandy leather strips in a variety of earth colors from natural to browns - as we found we depleted the store's supplies. We then bought beads from local craft stores. We cut the leather to approximately 12" and strung the beads in the order black, red, white, blue, green and last yellow. The beads were fastened to the middle of the bracelet with a knot tied on each end. Many groups were able to add a clear bead to the two ends, however, we ended up knotting them on the children/adults either in the fashion shown or simply leaving the ends open to tie onto their arms with a square knot.

Beads meanings:

Olive Green	Our sin
Red	Jesus died for our sins
Clear	His death cleanses us of sin
Blue	Our believers baptism
Green	Our growth as Christians
Yellow	Heaven

8. [Schedule:](#)

Day One - The Creation

Story The story of the creation of the world, Adam and Eve, and the original sin and the fall of man (Genesis 1:1)

Songs The Creation Song

Craft Tracing the Hand

Day Two - Noah's Ark

Story The story of Noah's ark (Genesis 7:1)

Songs Who is the King of the Jungle

Craft Animal cutouts and the Ark of animals

Day Three - Daniel and the Lion's Den

Story The story of Daniel and the Lion's den (Daniel 6:16)

Songs Who is the King of the Jungle

Craft Lion's faces

Day Four - Jesus's Life

Story The story of Jesus - his birth and life (John 3:16)

Songs I Love You Jesus

Craft Hearts

Day Five - Salvation

Story Jesus death and resurrection - our salvation through his death (John 3:3)

Songs I Love You Jesus

Craft Butterflies

Example Stories for Each Day

Creation (Day 1)

A long time ago, before God made the world, there was nothing to see! Darkness was everywhere. God said, "let there be light and there was light." Day 1 God called the light (day) and the darkness (night). Day 2 Next God made the blue sky with air, clouds, and wind. He put the clouds up high in the sky. He sends the lightning, thunder, rain, and snow with the clouds in the sky. He made the four seasons. He called it Heaven. Day 3 On the next day, God divided the water from the land. He called the land "Earth" and the water "Seas". God made the trees, the grass, all types of plants, sand, soil, and rocks. He made the beaches, shaped mountains and hills. Everything God made was beautiful. Day 4 Next God made the sun, moon, and stars. The sun gives us light and keeps us warm. At night when we look up in the sky we can see the moon and the stars twinkling all around. Day 5 The day after God made the sun, moon, and stars. He put all kinds of animals in the oceans, lakes, and rivers. He made a big whale to live in the ocean, crabs that live on the bottom of the ocean. He made frogs to jump on the land and swim in the water. God also made the birds. He made big birds and small birds that could fly above the earth. Day 6 Next God made the animals that live on the land. He placed some of the animals in the high mountains. Ex. (mountain goat) He made animals that live on flat land. Ex. (cows, horses, pigs, sheep, chickens) He made small animals like the lizard to run on the ground. Insects that crawl and fly. God made animals to live in all the parts of the wonderful world he made. God said, "This is good but there needs to be someone to take care of the world I have made. Last of all God created people. People are God's special creation. God made a man named Adam and a woman named Eve. God looked at everything he had made. It was very good. On the seventh day, God rested from all of His work.

God placed Adam and Eve in a beautiful garden called Eden. There were many kinds of trees and plants that grew fruit. He told Adam to take care of the garden and to name all the animals and birds. God told Adam he could eat from any tree of the Garden except for one special tree, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Anyone who ate from this tree would know the difference between good and evil. One day Eve went to look at that very special tree. All of a sudden she heard a strange voice nearby. She knew it was not God or Adam. She knew their voice. She turned around and there was a serpent talking to her. He said to Eve, "Did God say you couldn't eat from any tree in the garden?" Eve said to the serpent, "God said we could eat from any tree in the garden but this one very special tree. If we eat from this tree we will die. The serpent said, "You will not die. You will become very wise." Eve eyed the ripe fruit on the tree. She reached out and picked a piece of fruit off the tree, took a bite and it tasted good. Then she decided to share some of the fruit with Adam. He ate the fruit too, even though he knew that God had said he shouldn't do it. But right away both of them knew they had done something wrong. They had disobeyed God.

In the evening that same day they heard God's voice as he walked in the Garden. Adam and Eve were frightened and hid behind some trees. God called to Adam, "Where are you?" Adam said, "I heard your voice and was afraid." Did you eat the fruit I told you not to eat? Eve gave me some and I ate it. God spoke to Eve, "Why did you do this?" "The serpent tricked me," Eve replied. Then God told Adam and Eve that they could not stay in the beautiful Garden any more. Adam and Eve had to be punished because they had sinned. Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. Now they would have to work hard for their food and some day die. Although life would be much harder for them, Adam and Eve knew God still loved them and cared for them. God would take care of all their needs.

Noah (Day 2)

Adam, the first man, had lived for a long time. His children grew up and had children, and soon the earth was filled with people. But instead of obeying God the people were doing all kinds of bad things. God looked at the people He had created and He was very sad. He decided to destroy all the wicked people on earth.

Only one man and his family were doing what was right. One day God spoke to Noah. I want you to build an ark. God told Noah exactly how to make the ark, which was like a large houseboat with three decks. God told Noah how high, how long, and how wide it was to be. He told Noah what wood to use and where to place the door and window. God also told Noah that his wife, and his three sons and their wives, would be the only people on the ark. They would take some of every kind of animal. They would take enough food for them and the animals.

After a very long time the ark was finished. Noah's family was ready to go into the ark. Then God said to Noah, "Now take all the animals into the ark as I have told you. The birds flew, the ducks waddled, the monkeys dawdled, the lions marched, the elephants thundered, the cows mooed, the tigers growled, and turtles crawled toward the ark that Noah and his sons had built. Some of every kind of bird and animal went inside the ark.

When all were safely inside, God shut the door. Then the rain started! It rained all day and night for forty days. The water began to rise. The ark began to float on the water. The water got deeper and deeper, and the ark rose higher and higher. Even the tops of the highest mountains were covered with water. But Noah's family and all the animals were safe and dry inside the ark.

Finally the waters started to go down, and the ark stayed on the top of a mountain. Noah, his family, and all the birds and animals stayed inside the ark until the land was dry. Noah sent a raven out but it just flew back and forth over the waters. He sent the dove out three times before it did not return. God told Noah and his family and all the animals to leave the ark. Noah did what God commanded.

The animals can leave the ark like they went inside of ark (if you like).

After Noah and his family were on dry land once again, Noah built an altar to the Lord. Noah and his family were happy because they had been saved from the great flood. They prayed to God, thanking Him for taking care of them. God made a promise. He said, "I will never again send a great flood over the earth." God put a beautiful rainbow in the clouds. Every time you see a rainbow, you can remember the agreement God made with Noah.

Daniel in the Lion's Den (Day 3)

Daniel was an important man. He was also very smart and kind. The king liked Daniel so much that he wanted to give Daniel a special job - to be leader over all the kingdom - lots and lots and lots of people! But there were some other men who didn't like Daniel

- mean men who wanted that same job. They were jealous of Daniel (make a mean face and cross arms) and one day they got together to figure out a way to keep the king from giving the special job to Daniel.

The wicked men knew that three times a day Daniel knelt by his window in his house and prayed to God. So they went to the king and said, "O King, we think you should make a rule that anyone who prays to any god except you should be thrown into the den of lions." The king thought that that was a good law, so he signed the paper. Now the law could not be changed.

Daniel heard about the law. He knew immediately the right thing to do. He couldn't worship or pray to any other god except the one true God, so he went to his window, threw it open and knelt down - right where everyone could see him! Sure enough, the mean men (make a mean face) caught Daniel praying to God and took him to the king. Although the king was very sad because he liked Daniel so much, he had to obey his own law. He ordered that Daniel be thrown into the den of hungry lions. "I hope the God you always serve will rescue you!" the king shouted into the den, just as a large rock was placed over the mouth of the den. Now the den was DARK! And Daniel was alone in that dark den full of hungry lions.

The poor king could not sleep all night. He was so worried about Daniel. He didn't want Daniel to get eaten but he couldn't change the law. Early the next morning the king hurried to the den. "Daniel, did your God Whom you serve deliver you from the lions?" Soon he heard a voice. "Oh king! My God sent His angel and He shut the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me at all!" They have not hurt me because I am innocent in God's eyes. And neither have I done anything against you, O king. It was Daniel. He was alive! The king was full of joy. He ordered that Daniel be brought out of the den and that those mean men be thrown to the lions instead!

The king made a new law. "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must honor and worship the God of Daniel." God took care of Daniel. Daniel had done the right thing, even though it was hard, and God had rescued him!

Jesus Life (Day 4)

Long ago Jesus was up in Heaven with His father, God. God said that he would send his Son Jesus to earth from Heaven. One day God sent an angel from Heaven to a special young woman who loved and obeyed God. The angel told Mary she would have a baby Son. His name will be Jesus. Baby Jesus was born in a stable-barn. Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger. Mary and Joseph loved taking care of God's son. Joseph and Mary knew that they were a part of some wonderful plan that God was working on.

As Jesus grew up, he obeyed his parents and pleased God. When he was twelve, he went with his family to God's house. Jesus stayed with Joseph and Mary and listened very quietly. He watched everything that the teachers did and heard God's Word being read.

Later Jesus talked with the priests and teachers about God's teachings and God's love. They were amazed at how much Jesus understood.

Jesus lived with His parents and grew and grew until He was a Man. And then it was time for Him to do the work that God had sent Him to earth to do. So He started teaching people about God. He told them to love God and to love each other. And people loved to

listen to Him, to be near Him, and to see His miracles, so they followed Him everywhere. Jesus became known as a wonderful teacher. Mothers and fathers brought their children to Jesus so he could bless them and pray for them. Jesus showed God's care and concern for people. (show pictures) He made sick people well and made blind people see again. He even made lame people able to walk. Jesus performed miracles that only God's son and God can do.

One day when it was very late and all the people were hungry Jesus fed them by taking 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread from a small boy. Jesus prayed and thanked God for the bread and fish. Then He began to break up the bread and fish into small pieces and gave them out to the people. They all ate as much as they wanted. What a miracle? Only Jesus had the power to do that kind of wonderful miracle. All of these stories come from God's word the Bible.

Salvation (Day 5)

Jesus was ready to finish the work that God had planned for him. That meant he must die. This was part of God's plan for saving people from sin. You see not everybody liked God's son Jesus. Some people became very angry with Jesus because they didn't like His followers listening to Jesus tell the truth about God and believing that He was God's Son. The people who didn't like Jesus made a plan to kill him. So they had Him arrested. Jesus was crucified and died on a cross. He let them do this because he loves us and wants us to live with Him in Heaven one day. His followers were very sad. They buried Jesus' body in a tomb and closed it with a heavy stone.

But when some women went back to Jesus tomb, they were surprised to find the stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty! An angel from heaven said, "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified on a cross." He is not here. He is alive again. Many people saw Jesus after he had risen. Jesus spent a lot of time talking to a few of his followers. He told them he was going away. He said His Spirit would always be with them, even though they couldn't see Him and they needed to tell others about Him. Jesus returned to Heaven.

Everyone is important to Jesus. (moms, dads, brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles, friends and you and me) He took the punishment for each one of us. And because He died on the cross and came alive again, He can give us something that no one else can give us. We may not be able to see Jesus but we can ask Him to come live in our hearts. We do that by believing what the Bible tells us. All of us have done wrong things. These wrong things are called sin. The bible (God's book) Romans 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. All of us are sinners. Our sins keep us from being a part of God's family. Admit you are a sinner.

God loves us. He wants us in His family. He wants to be the boss of your life. John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only son, that whoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. Believe in your heart that Jesus did die on the cross for our sins and rose again on the third day. Our only way to heaven is through Jesus.

God sent Jesus to die for the wrong things we do. He died to take away our sins. We need to tell Jesus we are sorry for the wrong things we do. We can tell Jesus we love Him and want to become part of God's family. John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. When we do this, He is glad to have us in His family.

9. Additional Information

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