

CACTUSVILLE PRESCHOOL GUIDE

Everything the
Cactusville Ranch
Leader
Needs to Know



Table of Contents



Introduction to Cactusville Ranch

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Pony Express Letter | 5 |
| Gold Nugget | 6 |
| Cactusville Facts | 6 |
| Station Descriptions | 8 |
| Scope and Sequence | 10-11 |

What to Expect at Cactusville Ranch

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Creating the Ranch | 12 |
| ★ Sample Floor Plan for Stations | 12 |
| Decorations and Set Up | 13 |
| Staffing Needs and Job Descriptions | 14 |
| ★ Director/Leader | 14 |
| ★ Station Leaders | 15 |
| ★ Ranch Hand Wranglers | 15 |
| Children with Special Needs | 17 |
| Preschool Safety Tips | 19 |

Director's Overview

| | |
|--|----|
| Target Audience | 20 |
| Scheduling Options- Big Picture | 20 |
| Meet the Critters | 22 |
| Step by Step Preparations | 25 |
| ★ Prayer | 25 |
| ★ Arm yourself with information | 25 |
| ★ Station rotation options | 25 |
| ★ Wild Horse Corral, Ranch style | 26 |
| ★ Create a Materials and Supplies List | 26 |
| ★ Recruitment | 26 |
| ★ Staff training | 26 |
| ★ Registration tools | 26 |
| ★ The registration process | 26 |
| ★ What to wear | 27 |
| Director's To Do List During Cactusville Ranch | 28 |

Table of Contents

Cactusville Ranch: Station Manuals

Each manual includes: Program Overview, Daily Station Activities, Individual Materials/Supplies Lists

| | |
|--|------------|
| Round Up - Opening & Closing | 35 |
| Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon | 69 |
| Wild Horse Corral | 100 |
| Trading Post Crafts | 120 |
| Chuckwagon Snacks | 139 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Let's Go Shopping! Complete Materials and Supplies List | 172 |
|--|------------|

Operation Wheels

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Parent Letter | 177 |
| Pastor Letter | 178 |

ONLY Letters PRES!

Welcome TO ONE OF THE MOST ADVENTURE-PACKED, exciting towns in the Southwest! Cactusville is a mining town tucked away in the desert where the sun is always shining, the skies are bright blue and the surrounding mountains look like broken spurs! *Yee-haw!*

It's time to sharpen y'er spurs, pull on those dusty Western boots, and get ready for a rollicking ride through Cactusville! But first, a bit of old Cactusville wisdom: **DON'T SQUAT WITH Y'ER SPURS ON!**

Your children will be introduced to the imaginary town of Cactusville where they will learn that they are called by God! They are called to be unconditionally loved and accepted, whoever they are. God's calling includes a revelation of the unique purpose He has for each and every child. Each day your Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes will learn of a special way in which they have been called to follow Jesus.

- 1 Day One *🌻* Called to be Different just like John the Baptist was called to be different.
- 2 Day Two *🌻* Called to be Faithful in the same way God called Abraham to be faithful.
- 3 Day Three *🌻* Called to Forgive like Joseph was called to forgive.
- 4 Day Four *🌻* Called to Serve just as God called Deborah to serve.
- 5 Day Five *🌻* Called to Give in the same way Jesus was called to give.



Just as God called each of these Bible characters, He is calling your Cactusville Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes! They will learn how they can accept and live out this calling in their own lives while participating in rip-roarin', Bible-treasure-hunting Cactusville adventures!

GOLD NUGGET

(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, ... II TIMOTHY 1:9 [New King James Version]

Cactusville Facts

- 1. The Gold Nugget is the only Bible verse that will be memorized during the week.** It is 2 Timothy 1:9, which says, "... (Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." Each day the children will practice this verse with the goal of having it memorized by the end of the week.
- 2. Every day, a Cactusville Critter will introduce the Daily Call,** which demonstrates a specific way the children are called to follow Jesus.
- 3. There are five reference verses (one for each day)** that leaders can use to coordinate with the Daily Call and each day's Bible story character.
- 4. During the closing programs of the Round Up, children will be encouraged to bring money the next day to contribute towards the Operation Wheels mission project.**
- 5. A few other terms you should know:**
 - a. Li'l Cowpokes**

These are the **pre-school children, ages 3-5**. You can choose to have the Li'l Cowpokes join the older children (Buckaroos) for the Round Up opening and closing sessions each day. If so, after the opening they will go to another area and receive special preschool programming with age-appropriate station activities created to maintain the interest and participation of this age group. They will be assigned to groups directed by crew leaders (Ranch Hand Wranglers) who will be with them for the entire week.
 - b. Buckaroos**

These are the children **5-12**. They will be assigned to groups directed by crew leaders (Wranglers) who will be with them for the entire week.
 - c. Cactusville Ranch**

This is the area in Cactusville specifically designed for the Li'l Cowpokes.

d. **Wranglers**

This is the name given to the **Buckaroos' crew leaders**, crew leaders, each of whom is in charge of 6-8 children. Wranglers' daily responsibilities include taking their groups from station to station and leading out in small group discussions during station activities.

e. **Ranch Hand Wranglers**

This is the name for the **Li'l Cowpokes' crew leaders**, each of whom may have as many as 8-10 children in their groups. Two Ranch Hand Wranglers are always assigned to each group. Their daily responsibilities include helping the children rotate from station to station and assisting as needed with all activities.

f. **Red Band'danas**

These are the members of the **Cactusville Praise Team**. This fun-loving group uses joyful music to make the Daily Call (theme) come to life during the Round Up opening and closing sessions.

g. **Cactusville Critters**

These are **kid-friendly animals** with unique characteristics that are introduced each day during the opening session to provide a visual link to the Daily Call.

h. **Daily Call**

This is the name for **each day's special message** that describes how the children are called to follow Jesus. The Daily Call is introduced by a Cactusville Critter and reinforced by a call and response sequence led by the Red Band'danas and Leaders from the other stations. Whenever a Leader says, "We are called," the kids respond by repeating the Daily Call (e.g. "Called to forgive! Yee-haw!").

i. **Gold Nugget**

This is the Cactusville term for **the memory verse**. At the Ranch, the children will practice saying a smaller portion of this verse and repeat it each day, so by the end of the week they will have it memorized. Make sure to use the hand motions that go along with this verse each time you review it. (See AdventistVBX.org.)

j. **Reference Verse**

This is a **Bible verse that helps reinforce the Daily Call and that day's Bible story**. Children are not required to memorize these verses (there is one for each day), but Station Leaders may wish to incorporate them in their daily lesson plans.

k. **Operation Wheels**

This is the **North American VBX mission project for this year**. During the week, the Li'l Cowpokes will learn that Jesus loves all the children in the world. Outstanding videos that introduce them to children from many parts of the world will help emphasize this point. Each day the children will be encouraged to bring their money so that they can help other children. The money will be used to purchase a bus that will provide refugee families in Arizona with transportation to school, adult English classes, work, church, and shopping destinations.



Station Descriptions

Overview

In the past, our preschoolers have experienced the daily opening and closing VBX programs with the big kids. In response to the evaluation and comments received from our preschool team, we have simplified our preschool program and made it more age-appropriate. We have also created a richer, fuller VBX preschool program that includes its own opening and closing programs, Bible story station, craft station, snack station, and a game station with a brand new sensory component. This format allows preschoolers to stay in their own preschool-friendly play space from start to finish, and the new sensory activities at the game station provide time and opportunity for unstructured free play within a safe and nurturing environment.

Round Up

Here the Li'l Cowpokes gather together to sing lively songs, practice the Gold Nugget, and meet the daily Cactusville Critter. The children start and end their time at Cactusville Ranch with Round Up, where they first explore and later review the lesson for the day.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

At this station, the daily Bible story character comes to life. The Li'l Cowpokes use their senses to explore the Bible story more fully through fun, hands-on activities. They also learn new ways to connect personally with Jesus through prayer.

Trading Post

This is the station where children make fun crafts that help remind them of the Daily Call and that day's Bible story.

Wild Horse Corral

This multisensory station gives the children new ways to experience the lesson for the day through unstructured play as well as the chance to participate in a teacher-led group activity that reinforces the Daily Call.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy tasty treats at the Chuckwagon station every day. Here the day's lesson is illustrated through a tasty snack. At Cactusville Ranch one snack option will be available per day.

PRESCHOOL GUIDE

Handwriting practice area consisting of 20 horizontal wavy lines.

CACTUSVILLE

Cactusville Critters

Daily Theme

Round Up Opening & Closing

Campfire Stories Bible Story Station



DAILY CALL / Called to be **Different**
BIBLE CHARACTER / **John the Baptist**

GOLD NUGGET / *(Jesus) . . . who has saved us and called us with a holy calling. . .*
— II TIMOTHY 1:9 (NKJV)

REFERENCE VERSE / *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people.*
— I PETER 2:9 (NIV)

OPENING Kids sing, memorize the first section of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to Tarantula Tammy and the Daily Call to be Different.

CLOSING Kids sing; discuss questions about the Daily Call; are introduced to Jessica, a refugee girl from Burma; learn about the Operation Wheels mission project; and are encouraged to bring money each day to support this project.

MUSIC "We Are Called" (theme song)
"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
"We Are Different"

The story of **JOHN the BAPTIST** shows kids they are Called to be Different. He chose to live differently from other people of his time, and God used him to reach many people for Jesus.



DAILY CALL / Called to be **Faithful**
BIBLE CHARACTER / **Abraham**

GOLD NUGGET / *(Jesus) . . . who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace. . .*
— II TIMOTHY 1:9 (NKJV)

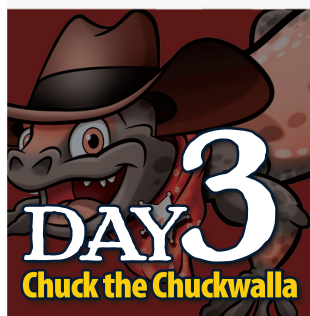
REFERENCE VERSE / *By faith Abraham . . . obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.*
— HEBREWS 11:8 (NIV)

OPENING Kids sing, learn the second section of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to Prairie Dog Pete and the Daily Call to be Faithful.

CLOSING Kids sing; answer questions about the Daily Call; are introduced to Josef, a refugee from Iraq; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

MUSIC "We Are Called" (theme song)
"We Are Different"
"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
"I Will Follow"

Kids follow **ABRAHAM** as he leaves his comfortable home and all his friends. They see how he was faithful to God's calling as he journeyed to an unknown land.



DAILY CALL / Called to **Forgive**
BIBLE CHARACTER / **Joseph**

GOLD NUGGET / *(Jesus) . . . who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus. . .* — II TIMOTHY 1:9 (NKJV)

REFERENCE VERSE / *For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.*
— MATTHEW 6:14 (NIV)

OPENING Kids sing, learn the third section of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to Chuck the Chuckwalla and the Daily Call to Forgive.

CLOSING Kids sing; discuss questions about the Daily Call; learn about June Lily, a refugee from Malaysia; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

MUSIC "We Are Called" (theme song)
"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
"Forgive"
"We Are Different"

Kids follow the story of **JOSEPH** as he models forgiveness. They see how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers in spite of how badly they treated him.



DAILY CALL / Called to **Serve**
BIBLE CHARACTER / **Deborah**

GOLD NUGGET / *(Jesus) . . . who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. . .* — II TIMOTHY 1:9 (NKJV)

REFERENCE VERSE / *Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others. . .* — I PETER 4:10 (NIV)

OPENING Kids sing, repeat the entire Gold Nugget, meet Pack Mule Patty, and are introduced to the Daily Call to Serve.

CLOSING Kids sing, have small group discussions about the Daily Call, meet Juliette from Malawi and Ben and his sister from Republic of Congo, and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

MUSIC "We Are Called" (theme song)
"I Will Follow"
"Let's Serve"
"We Are Different"

Kids hear the story of **DEBORAH** and how God helped make her brave enough to serve Him in battle. Kids learn to use their talents to serve God.



DAILY CALL / Called to **Give**
BIBLE CHARACTER / **Jesus**

GOLD NUGGET / *(Jesus) . . . who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. . .* — II TIMOTHY 1:9 (NKJV)

REFERENCE VERSE / *Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us. . .* — EPHESIANS 5:2 (NIV)

OPENING Kids sing, repeat the entire Gold Nugget, meet Road Runner Roy, and are introduced to the Daily Call to Give.

CLOSING Kids sing, have small group discussions about the Daily Call, meet a refugee family from Syria, and learn the total amount of money raised for the Operation Wheels mission project.

MUSIC "We Are Called" (theme song)
"We Are Different"
"What Can We Give" / "Forgive"
"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Kids hear the story of **JESUS** and how He gave of Himself so they could live with Him forever. They also learn that God calls us to give.

Scope & Sequence

Sunset Canyon Prayer Station

Kids learn how the things that make them unique can be used by God to benefit others. They experience this through a prayer activity called Different Trots.

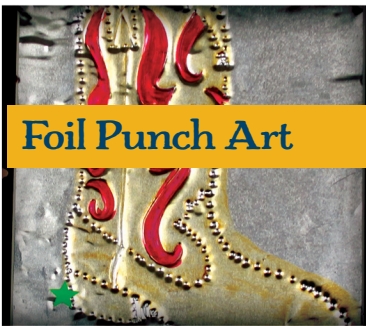
Kids make pictures with their Prayer Lassos to help them reflect on all the ways they can be faithful to God.

Kids discover the power of prayer through the Forgiveness Fizz activity that helps them seek God's forgiveness and gives them strength to forgive others.

Kids explore ways they can serve God using the gifts He's given them in Acts of Service Charades.

Kids learn to share their gifts at today's prayer station. They make gift boxes as they consider what they can give to Jesus and to others.

Trading Post Craft Station



Wild Horse Corral Game Station

Kids have a blast with grasshoppers in today's games. As they throw and catch the grasshoppers, kids are reminded that they are Called to be Different, just like John the Baptist ate food that was very different (grasshoppers).

Kids learn to follow directions in these fun games — Turn to the West and Four Corners. As they play, they are reminded that they are Called to be Faithful.

The games today highlight Joseph's work as overseer of Egypt in Grain, Grain, Everywhere and Goblet Stack. As they play, they are reminded that they are Called to Forgive.

Kids explore Deborah's great adventure. They are reminded that they are Called to Serve as they enjoy Dodge Battle and Chariots.

Kids are reminded that they are Called to Give as they play today's high-spirited games, Give Your Heart Away and Total Giveaway.

Chuckwagon Snacks Snack Station

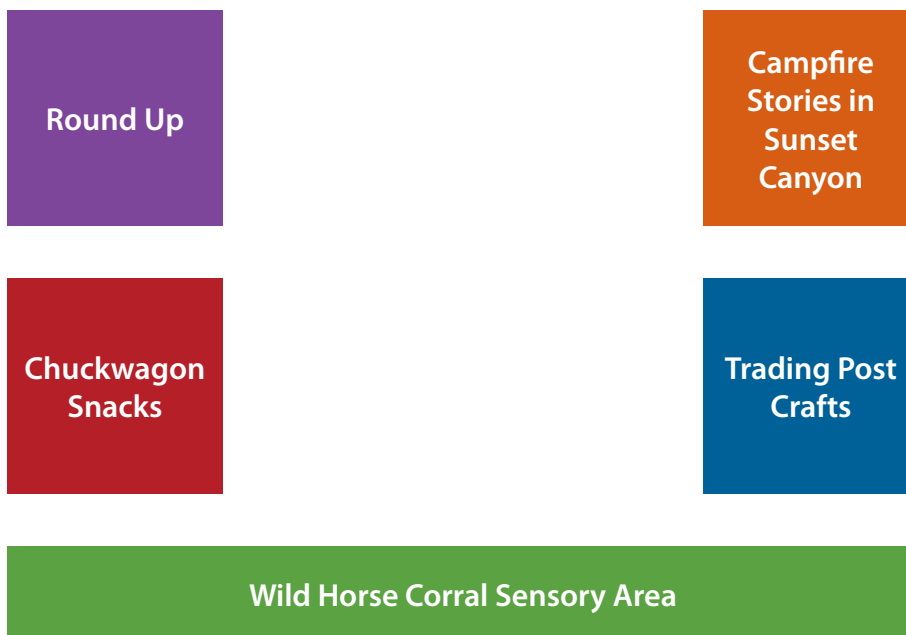


What to Expect at Cactusville Ranch

Creating the Ranch

1. Work with the Cactusville Director to choose a large room for Cactusville Ranch. This needs to be a place where you can set up all your decorations and stations and be assured that no one will touch or dismantle anything during the course of the week. Inside this room, you will need to designate areas for each station. Refer to page ? for ideas for room set up. Keep in mind that you will want Cactusville Ranch to be close to the bathrooms if possible and having a sink in the room would be very helpful.
2. Work with the Cactusville Director to choose a large room for Cactusville Ranch. This needs to be a place where you can set up all your decorations and stations and be assured that no one will touch or dismantle anything during the course of the week. Inside this room, you will need to designate areas for each station. Refer to page ? for ideas for room set up. Keep in mind that you will want Cactusville Ranch to be close to the bathrooms if possible and having a sink in the room would be very helpful..
3. If you decide to have your own Round Up opening and closing, set up one dual-purpose area that can serve both as a station and the place for the Round Up opening and closing.

Sample Floor Plan For Cactusville Ranch



Point to Ponder

If your church children's division already has a supply of things for a farm program, you may choose to create your ranch scene from those items. The Cactusville Pinterest board is also a great place to gather ideas.



Decorations & Set Up

So much is in store for the Li'l Cowpokes at the Cactusville Ranch! The decorations for your preschool area will lasso them right into your program with its bright colors, familiar farm animals, and simple yet fun design.

A great barn backdrop can be found at BackdropFantastics.com in their Western theme section. This backdrop includes all the necessary details to set the stage for your farm: a big red barn, a silo, a tractor, hay bales, and a windmill. Add to this a few extra details that will bring the Ranch to life for your preschoolers. A few examples include:

- Large stuffed standing animals such as a horse, cow, and a sheep
- A stuffed chicken roosting on a straw bed with eggs (raffia works well for creating a straw bed)
- Wooden planter filled with hay or raffia to look like a feeding trough
- Large burlap sacks filled with paper or other soft stuffing
- A small milking stool and tin bucket beside the cow
- Metal milk can
- A stuffed cat
- Large hay bales
- Large tin bucket
- Pitchfork in a hay bale



Cactusville TIP

Decorating your Cactusville Ranch can be easy! Wagon wheels, barrels, old saddles, life-size barn animals, lizards, and small stuffed cats and dogs make great additions. Just let your imagination run wild! Remember to keep all decorations kid-friendly and safe. If you do not want your kids to climb on it, then don't have it in your room!

Staffing Needs & Job Descriptions

Staffing Needs

You will need a Preschool Director who can also function as the Leader. An Assistant Leader is also very helpful, but is not absolutely necessary to the success of your program. You will need a Station Leader for each of your four stations (Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon, Wild Horse Corral, Trading Post, and Chuckwagon), and volunteers to serve as Ranch Hand Wranglers (similar to the Wranglers in Cactusville). These volunteers can be young teens, senior citizens, or any age in between. The main prerequisite is that they love working with young children.



Cactusville TIP

If you choose to have a Round Up opening and closing at the Ranch, several of your Station Leaders can team up to lead out in the Round Up. That way you will not need to have a separate opening and closing station leader—a decision that will greatly simplify the recruiting process!

Job Descriptions

Preschool Director/Leader — This individual will work closely with the Cactusville Director when it comes to schedules (when to hold VBX, timeline for recruitment, training, setup, and tear down, etc.), promotional details, registration, and other pre-event organizational particulars. The Preschool Director will also partner with the Cactusville Director to compile materials and supplies lists for both areas, so that the major shopping or borrowing only needs to be done once. If the Cactusville Director already has volunteers on board to decorate and set up each station, the Preschool Director could also tap into that assistance unless specific volunteers are available to work solely with the preschool area.

The Director is responsible for:

- Supervising and overseeing the day-to-day operations of Cactusville Ranch
- Supervising and encouraging Cactusville Ranch staff and volunteers
- Coordinating and cooperating with the Cactusville Director, especially if the preschoolers are attending the Cactusville Round Up opening and closing sessions each day
- Coordinating and cooperating with the Cactusville Chuckwagon Station Leader to plan the Cactusville Ranch snack schedule and logistics (e.g. whether to have their snack at Cactusville or at the Ranch)
- Keeping record of daily attendance, the parents/guardians who will be picking up each child, allergy or special needs, and the paperwork that will need to be submitted to the conference at the end of VBX

- Maintaining an adequate supply of materials needed to successfully operate each station
- Handling any emergency situations (medical, parental) that arise
- Serving as a liaison between the parents, the preschoolers, the Cactusville Director and staff, and the local pastor
- Troubleshooting any unexpected situations that arise and working with the Cactusville Director to prevent or remedy the issue
- Potentially leading out in the entire Cactusville Ranch program if the number of Li'l Cowpokes is ten or fewer
- Ultimately, everything that pertains to Cactusville Ranch!

Station Leaders (four) — Each of these four volunteers will be totally in charge of an area (station). This includes managing decorations, materials and supplies, daily programming, volunteer staff (Ranch Hand Wranglers, etc.) who come to assist, and the children (Li'l Cowpokes) while they are at your station.

Station leaders are responsible for:

- Setting up and decorating their areas
- Providing the props and supplies they need on a daily basis
- Memorizing as much of the script as possible so they aren't tied to the page
- Taking care of program special features such as making contact and arrangements with special guests, arranging special snacks, or organizing activities in addition to the daily programming
- Keeping the children safe and protected at all times
- Tearing down their area, taking care of post-VBX paperwork, and following up with parents/families of preschoolers
- Leading out in the Round Up opening and closing session if the Preschool Director decides to hold the Round Up at Cactusville Ranch (at least two people must do this)

Ranch Hand Wranglers – There should be two Ranch Hand Wranglers for every group of Li'l Cowpokes, or a minimum of one Ranch Hand Wrangler for every 4-5 children. These volunteers, be they young or old, are the heartbeat of the Ranch. They are with the children from the moment they arrive until they go home.

Ranch Hand Wranglers are responsible for:

- Helping the Li'l Cowpokes rotate from station to station
- Helping the Li'l Cowpokes stay on task during activities and stay attentive (as much as possible) during stories or skits
- Assisting Station Leaders with anything that needs to be done at the station their group is visiting (since there are two Ranch Hand Wranglers for each small group of preschoolers, they can take turns assisting the Station Leaders so that one Ranch Hand Wrangler always remains in close contact with their small group)

Point to Ponder

If the Cactusville Ranch schedule is set up so that all children go to one station simultaneously and then rotate as an entire group from station to station, the Station Leaders who are not actively leading out at the moment can serve as Assistants to the Station Leader who is currently working with the children.



PRESCHOOL GUIDE

- Keeping the children safe and protected at all times
- Keeping their group of Li'l Cowpokes with them at all times until a parent or guardian comes to pick them up at the end of each day's program
- Interacting/communicating with the Li'l Cowpokes during down time or while assisting them with an activity or craft, as well as looking for opportunities to connect with the children in general
- Maintaining a loving and gentle demeanor when speaking to and dealing with your preschoolers; even if you're having a bad day, leave your ill humor at the front door and model kindness, patience, gentleness and the other fruits of the Spirit to your children

Children with Special Needs

You may notice great diversity in skill levels among the pre-school-age children that come to Cactusville Ranch, and you want to ensure that it is a safe place for everyone to experience and learn about how they are each uniquely called by God. Adding to this marvelous diversity you may also have some kids coming to the Ranch who are diagnosed with special needs, or are yet to be diagnosed. Here are some important things to remember about each of these children:

- Kids are here to learn about Jesus and how much He loves them. Show His grace and love through your interactions with them.
- Special needs kids have similar traits as other kids their age but may need accommodations and/or adaptations due their disability. Some of these disabilities will be more visible than others. If possible, familiarize yourself with the nature of their disability and anticipate simple adaptations you will make to help them be most successful.
- Special needs kids may have more anxiety or less confidence regarding certain activities. They may respond best to gentle encouragement and clear directions of what to do or what to expect. You may want to give them another option/role to play in an activity.
- Special needs kids may become frustrated more easily due to their disability or because they have difficulty expressing themselves or understanding the directions. Be sure to use simple, concrete instructions; a picture communication board or schedule may be helpful.
- Kids want to be loved and accepted by others. Model your acceptance to the other children in their group, making sure they hear, see, and feel how happy you are that God brought them to VBX.
- Special needs kids may benefit from having a partner come alongside them to help understand the directions, give advanced warning about an upcoming transition or change in routine, participate in an activity or task, or assist in making accommodations for success at VBX.



Cactusville TIP

A more detailed description of specific adaptations that can be made for special needs children is available at AdventistVBX.org.

A Word of Caution Regarding Competition

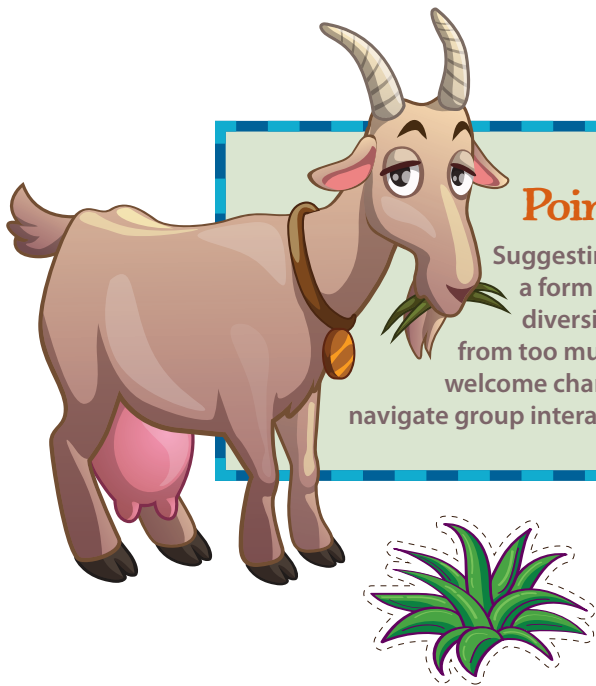
Competition can be a difficult experience for many children, but additional sensitivity and care should be taken for a child with a disability. They may have physical limitations that aren't immediately obvious to you, and may already experience feelings of frustration when attempting to complete physical tasks. (For example, children with ADHD or autism are frequently less coordinated than their peers.) VBX should be a positive experience for everyone, and you can ensure that it achieves this objective by using a bit of additional creativity, encouragement, and care with wording. Make sure the focus of these games or activities is not on who finishes first or whose projects looks the most amazing, but on the children doing their best and learning about the theme of the day. Use encouraging words and verbally recognize when specific efforts are put forth (e.g. "You really helped your team when you...").

Sensory breaks

If a child becomes overly excited or agitated, taking a break to participate in an alternate way such as a coach, cheerleader or teacher's assistant may be helpful. If a sensory break is needed, a trip to the Sunflower Oasis could be the perfect solution (see the VBX Director's Guide). If that is not available, you may want to create an area in your preschool room that provides soothing sensory activities.

Suggested Soothing Sensory Objects

Some soothing objects we suggest you include in your sensory area are containers of dried pasta, beans, or rice with hidden plastic toys inside (this may not be appropriate if the children put things in their mouth), soft blankets, a bean bag chair, stretchy putty or stress balls, textured foam puzzle mats, a play tunnel to crawl through, a play tent or large cardboard box to climb into and reduce lighting and visual stimuli, exercise resistance bands, a weighted ball to roll, ankle weights, a weighted stuffed animal, and noise-cancelling headphones.



Point to Ponder

Suggesting that a child take a sensory break should not come across as a form of punishment (like a time out, etc.), but rather as a welcome diversionary tactic for children who are temporarily overwhelmed from too much stimuli. The brief change of scenery is a much needed, welcome change for them and will allow them to return to the Ranch ready to navigate group interactions and activities successfully.

Preschool Safety Tips

Making Cactusville Ranch safe for the Lil' Cowpokes

- Inspect your room and remove any small objects or sharp furniture that could harm your Li'l Cowpokes. It's just good plain ol' cowpoke wisdom to remove anything smaller than a 50-cent piece, just in case you have children who are younger than three years old wandering through the Ranch.
- If you plan to take your Li'l Cowpokes outside, prearrange an area with a small fence for boundaries. If your church doesn't have a fenced-in area, you may want to mark off an area with a rope border, a hay bale border, or colorful cones. Always point out the boundaries to your Li'l Cowpokes..
- Make sure all Li'l Cowpokes stay together with their Ranch Hand Wranglers. When leaving the Cactusville Ranch to go outside or to other activities, Ranch Hand Wranglers should have their Li'l Cowpokes hold onto their rope. Never, never, never pull or jerk the rope while they are grasping it. Those actions could cause your Li'l Cowpokes to stumble and fall.
- Go over the details of release time with your volunteers. Li'l Cowpokes should only be released to a designated parent or caregiver. Get to know your parents and caregivers so that if an unfamiliar adult comes to pick up a child, you will know it immediately. Check and double check the registration forms to ensure that the adult picking up each child is listed on the registration form.

Director's Overview

Target Audience

In Cactusville we offer special programming for our smallest participants. These are the Li'l Cowpokes, ages three to five. While the Buckaroos travel through the mining town of Cactusville and rotate from station to station, the Li'l Cowpokes are just out of town at the Cactusville Ranch. Here, even the littlest learners participate in activities which help solidify the Bible stories in their minds. They repeat the Daily Call, memorize scripture, pray, play games, make crafts that reinforce each day's theme, and enjoy a light snack. Each day they are putting their discoveries about God into practice. This manual gives you the rip-roarin' Cactusville Ranch tips and tools you need to make the most of every second with your Li'l Cowpokes! We have partnered with preschool specialists to design a format that gives preschoolers a little less structure and more time spent engaged in hands-on activities. These age-specific modifications produce smoother transitions and an environment where they feel free to wiggle and giggle! Leaders will love the interactive format! Every activity, song, and story has been field-tested for age appropriateness and designed with your Li'l Cowpokes in mind. Yee-haw! Get ready for a knee-slappin', toe-tappin', Bible learnin' time with your Li'l Cowpokes at the Cactusville Ranch!

Scheduling Options - Big Picture

Cactusville Ranch comes with two broad scheduling options.

Option #1

Li'l Cowpokes begin their adventures with the Buckaroos at the Cactusville Round Up, where they sing and do fun motions to exciting spirit-filled songs created to introduce kids to important concepts they will be learning that day. Every day the kids will meet a new Cactusville Critter who presents the Daily Call, demonstrating a specific way they are called to follow Jesus. They also get to meet Sheriff Dusty and his trusty deputies, Crusty and Digger, who help them memorize the Gold Nugget and teach other important Biblical truths through entertaining and amusing skits. From there, the Buckaroos begin their journey through the various stations in Cactusville and the Li'l Cowpokes mosey on over to the Cactusville Ranch for their station activities. Later, they return to Cactusville for the Round Up closing session where they'll sing more songs and learn fun facts about this year's VBX mission project, Operation Wheels.

Option #2

Your Li'l Cowpokes go straight to Cactusville Ranch, where they participate in their own rip roarin' Round Up opening and closing sessions.

Both scheduling options include:

- Bible and prayer activities at Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon
- Craft activities at the Trading Post
- Snack activities at the Chuckwagon
- Games and sensory activities at the Wild Horse Corral

Cactusville Ranch is designed to operate for three hours each day. It is suggested that the Li'l Cowpokes spend 30 minutes at each station, followed by a five minute transition time for groups to rotate between stations, take bathroom breaks, get a drink of water, etc. In order to coordinate the start and finish times for the two programs (Cactusville Ranch and Cactusville), the Round Up opening and closing sessions at Cactusville Ranch should be only 20 minutes in length. If you want a longer time period for the opening and closing programs, simply decrease the amount of time spent at the other Cactusville Ranch stations.

Meet the Critters

These kid-friendly animals are introduced each day during the Round Up opening session. A large poster of each critter is displayed as a leader describes distinctive characteristics that uniquely qualify these animals to announce the Daily Call. The critters provide a visual link to the Daily Call, which illustrates a specific way children are called to follow Jesus.

Here are the names of the five critters along with a brief description of their special attributes.

Day 1 ★ Tarantula Tammy

If Tarantula Tammy could talk, she might say...

"I am a very hairy spider, or arachnid, and I have a whole lot of relatives (more than 800!) that live all over the world. Some people are afraid of me because I look so hairy, but most of my relatives are harmless to humans. In fact, some people like to keep me as a pet! Did you know that tarantulas come in all sizes? We can be as small as the tip of your thumb or as large as a dinner plate when all our legs are fully extended. Speaking of legs, I have eight of them! At the end of each leg I have retractable claws that help me hold on tight while I climb. I am very impressive to look at. I may look different but God made me for a special purpose! He called me to be different!"



Day 2 ★ Prairie Dog Pete

Prairie Dogs are part of big family groups or clans that all work together to take care of each other.

If Prairie Dog Pete could talk, he might say...

"You are probably very familiar with some of my relatives—squirrels, chipmunks, and marmots. Did you know that I am a vegetarian, and I only eat herbs and grasses? I also love to slurp up the water that drips from plants. Yummy! I live in tunnels with underground rooms. Why, I might even live under Cactusville! During the colder months, I take a very long nap that usually lasts from January to April! Even though I sleep a long time, that doesn't mean I move slowly when I'm awake. I can run 35 miles an hour if I have to! I live with my large family. When there is danger, I quickly sound the alarm to warn my family with my high-pitched yips and barks. God has called me to be faithful...faithful to my prairie dog family!"



Day 3 ★ Chuck the Chuckwalla

If Chuck could talk, he might say...

"A chuckwalla is a large lizard that belongs to the iguana family. You can find me, the common chuckwalla, in the deserts of the Southwest, in places like Cactusville! I am not fat, but I have a stocky body with loose folds of skin around my neck and shoulders. I also have a thick tail covered with tough scales. I grow to be as long as 18 inches, but some of my chuckwalla relatives in other parts of the world are as long as 30 inches! Yee-haw! That's almost as long as a yardstick! Most of my diet consists of plants and flowers, although I occasionally eat an insect or two. I especially love to eat the yellow desert flowers! I'm always looking for a sunny spot on a rock where I can sit and soak up the heat. I feel the best when my body temperature warms up to 105 degrees! All that heat gives me energy. My favorite place to get warm is on a nice rock in the sun. Sometimes other chuckwallas try to keep me off of my favorite rock, but I forgive them. I will gladly share my rock with you. God has called me to forgive. Did I hurt your feelings by running away and hiding? I'm so sorry; please forgive me. I will gladly share my rock with you."





Day 4 ★ Pack Mule Patty

If Patty could talk, she might say...

"I carry heavy loads on my back or in side saddlebags as I cross steep slippery slopes or climb narrow rocky trails. Some of my bigger pack mule friends can carry as much as 360 pounds! My four legs are strong and I can go places where it would be difficult for a wagon to go. I am even stronger than a horse and I can go for miles and miles without having to stop for food. Just point me in the right direction and I will go that way until it's time to stop. God has called me to serve and that is what I do best!"

Day 5 ★ Road Runner Roy

If Roy could talk, he might say...

"Howdy Buckaroos and Li'l Cowpokes! I am called a road runner because of my unnerving habit of running on roads straight at cars. Road runner is my most common name, but some people call me a chaparral bird. I sit on the eggs at night, gather food for the hatchlings, and help watch over my family. I have a long tail, a distinctive head crest, and an oversized bill. From the end of my beak to the tip of my tail I am 20 to 24 inches long. God has called me to give, so that's exactly what I do!"



Step by Step Preparations

1. **Prayer** — Pray for your team and pray for all the Li'l Cowpokes that will be coming to Cactusville Ranch.
2. **Arm yourself with information** — Grab yourself a hot drink and a muffin! Settle in and read through this preschool director's manual. All the information you need to plan, create, and facilitate a rip-roarin' experience for your Li'l Cowpokes is right here.
3. **Choose a station rotation option** — Work with the Cactusville Director to determine how to set up your preschool schedule. You have several options to consider:

a. **Option 1**

If you have a small group of Li'l Cowpokes (fewer than ten), you can lead all the activities yourself. Simply rotate the entire group from one activity to the next. Recruit at least two volunteers to assist you as Ranch Hand Wranglers.

b. **Option 2**

If your preschool class is twenty or fewer, recruit Station Leaders for each of the four main areas (Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon, Wild Horse Corral, Trading Post, and Chuckwagon). Then subdivide your Li'l Cowpokes into four groups with no more than five children and two Ranch Hand Wranglers in each group. Have all preschool groups visit each station at the same time.



Cactusville TIP

If you choose this option, you will just need to post the schedule at each station.

c. **Option 3**

For preschool classes of twenty or more, recruit a leader for each of the four main stations. Form four groups of Li'l Cowpokes with no more than eight to ten children and two Ranch Hand Wranglers per group. Have the groups rotate between stations one at a time. Be sure to give each Ranch Hand Wrangler a schedule to refer to. **SEE PAGE [?].**



Cactusville TIP

Option 3 can also work for preschool classes smaller than twenty if you assign fewer Li'l Cowpokes to each group.

Once you have decided on your station rotation option, it's time to discuss with the Cactusville Director and the Chuckwagon Snack Leader the options for the Li'l Cowpoke Chuckwagon schedule.

d. **Option 1**

The Cactusville Chuckwagon Snack Leader serves as Leader for both Cactusville and Cactusville Ranch, so the Li'l Cowpokes join the Buckaroos for snack time.

e. Option 2

The Cactusville Chuckwagon Snack Leader takes the daily snack to the Cactusville Ranch, so the Li'l Cowpokes can eat their snack in their own area.

- 4. Decide how to set up your Wild Horse Corral** — Carefully look through each station manual included in the preschool guide. At the Wild Horse Corral, children play a group game and then are free to wander and explore a variety of sensory activities. You can select several specific sensory activities for each day, or you can choose to set them all up for the entire week. Your Li'l Cowpokes will love whichever choice you make!
- 5. Create a materials and supplies list** — Take care of your volunteers by providing them the resources they need to be successful in planning and implementing their stations. (Check out AdventistVBX.org for extra resources.) Meet with your preschool team to review activities offered at each station and decide which materials and supplies are needed. Make a list of those items. Now it's time to plan your shopping trip! Meet with the Cactusville Director to go over your list. Let the Director know what supplies you already have on hand and what supplies you'll need to collect from church members or purchase. Some of the supplies on your list are the same as the ones needed for Cactusville, and you and the Cactusville Director can order or request them from church members at the same time. Working as a team always makes the setup smoother and more budget-friendly.
- 6. Recruit** — Work with the Cactusville Director to recruit volunteers. Working with preschoolers requires special people who love little children. That can be anyone from a young teen to a senior citizen. Be intentional and selective as you recruit for the Ranch.
- 7. Organize the staff training** — Work with the Cactusville Director to set a schedule for all staff training meetings. These meetings are important for two reasons: bonding with your volunteers and casting the vision for VBX. At these training meetings your volunteers will learn how Cactusville works and get useful advice on helping children enjoy their experiences in Cactusville and at Cactusville Ranch. If your volunteers cannot make the training meeting, encourage them to watch the promo video on AdventistVBX.org and look at each station's decorations.
- 8. Take advantage of the registration tools** — Your Cactusville Director has the option to use the VBSPlus online registration tool located at AdventistVBX.org. VBSPlus is an online VBS event management system that makes the job of VBX Director a breeze! It stores all your registration information in one place and promotes your VBX at the same time.

Point to Ponder

If you choose to have your own Round Up opening and closing at the Cactusville Ranch, several of your Station Leaders can team up to lead these sessions. That way you won't need to have a separate opening and closing Leader—a decision that will greatly simplify the recruiting process!

9. **Familiarize yourself with the registration process** — Instruct the registration workers to put preschoolers and pre-K children into mixed-age preschool groups, not with the Buckaroos.

Registration for Cactusville Ranch is a two-step procedure. Your Li'l Cowpokes first register at the main registration table and receive their bandana and nametag. Each pair of Ranch Hand Wranglers has a rope with bandanas tied to it that signify the color of their group; for example, the blue group has a rope with blue bandanas tied to it. The Li'l Cowpokes hold onto this rope as their Ranch Hand Wranglers lead them to Cactusville. Once at the Ranch, the door greeter checks their names off a list provided by the main registration workers.

10. **Decide what to wear** — Plan your wardrobe! Of course Western outfits are always appropriate. Adult and youth-size staff t-shirts are available at AdventistVBX.org. Designate a specific color bandana for each pair of Ranch Hand Wranglers and red bandanas for your Red Band'dana praise team. Add a Western hat and/or boots and you're all set! Yee-haw!



Cactusville TIPS

Remind your registration staff that the activities in Cactusville Ranch stations are designed for children who haven't been to kindergarten yet. Children will be excited to return each day to participate in these age-appropriate activities and will be much more likely to understand, remember, and apply the Biblical truths.

To avoid confusion and anxiety, create several posters that outline your registration process. Post them at the main registration area and the Cactusville Ranch area.



Director's To Do List During Cactusville Ranch

- If you are joining the Cactusville Buckaroos for Round Up opening and closing, ask the Red Band'dana Leader to reserve places up front for the Li'l Cowpokes each day. You may want to post a sign that says "Li'l Cowpokes" at your designated area. The preschoolers won't be able to read the sign, but the older kids will!
- Spend time with your volunteers. Meet 15 minutes before your Li'l Cowpokes arrive to have a short team worship and to talk about that day's Bible story and how it applies to each activity. (For example, you could discuss how the daily Bible theme can be reinforced at the Wild Horse Corral Sensory Station.) Give the Ranch Hand Wranglers and Station Leaders practical suggestions and ideas on how to make the Bible theme come alive at each station.
- Check in with the registration staff each day. Pick up extra forms for Li'l Cowpokes who register during the VBX week. Assign one of your volunteer staff to stay and greet latecomers at the registration table. Once the latecomers are registered and assigned a group's bandana color, help the Li'l Cowpokes find the right Ranch Hand Wranglers and group.
- Empower and equip your Ranch Hand Wranglers. Provide them with pre-packed Ranch Hand Wrangler bags containing wet wipes in a resealable plastic bag, hand sanitizer, a permanent marker, and a rope (about 10' long) with their color bandanas tied to it about two feet apart. Li'l Cowpokes will hold on to the rope as they travel from registration to Cactusville Ranch and, if needed, as they rotate to each station. Remind your Ranch Hand Wranglers that they are important to their Li'l Cowpokes. They are familiar faces for the Li'l Cowpokes who show signs of separation anxiety.
- Learn your Li'l Cowpokes' names and warmly welcome them as they arrive. Make sure each Li'l Cowpoke feels welcomed and loved! Some of your Li'l Cowpokes may feel anxious about leaving their parents or caregivers, so your smiling, welcoming presence is important. Give each one a yee-haw and a high five! Learning your Li'l Cowpokes' names is a super simple connection that helps build relationships and reinforce the fact that each Li'l Cowpoke has been specially called to follow Jesus. Yee-haw!
- Help the Li'l Cowpokes to learn the Gold Nugget, the memory verse for Cactusville. At the Ranch, the Li'l Cowpokes will learn the first portion of the same verse all week long, which says, "... (Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." (2 Timothy 1:9, NKJV). Encourage your staff to learn the motions as seen on AdventistVBX.org. Your staff's excitement and joy will be contagious, motivating the Li'l Cowpokes to participate and learn the Gold Nugget themselves. You are helping them hide God's Word in their hearts, something that will stay with them as they grow older.

PRESCHOOL GUIDE

- Introduce your Li'l Cowpokes to the daily Cactusville Critter during the Round Up opening session. The Cactusville Critters remind kids of the Daily Call. Your Li'l Cowpokes will receive each day's Cactusville Critter cut-out at the Round Up closing session.
- Designate a table to hold and display each day's crafts. Also, specify an area where the Ranch Hand Wranglers can place their kids' take-home works of art.
- Purchase a cowbell for you to ring when it is time to rotate. Teach the Li'l Cowpokes to recognize the sound as a signal to stop what they are doing and either stand in a line or hold their Ranch Hand Wrangler's rope so they can transition to the next activity.
- If you decide to do your own Round Up opening and closing, coordinate with the Cactusville Director when the Red Band'danas need to come and lead the praise music at Cactusville Ranch.

Cactusville Station Overview

Day One Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing, memorize the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Tarantula Tammy** and the **Daily Call to be different**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; play a game; are introduced to **Jessica**, a refugee girl from Burma; learn about the Operation Wheels mission project; and are encouraged to bring money each day to support this project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **John the Baptist** and learn how he was called to eat, dress, and live differently from the people of His time, and God used him to reach many people for Jesus.

Wild Horse Corral

Li'l Cowpokes play the game **Jump to Me** and then choose between several sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids make beautiful designs with their **Swirls of Color** craft. Each swirl is different and unique just like Jesus has called each child to be different and unique for Him.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Prairie Dog Ponchos**, which illustrate how John the Baptist dared to be different.

Daily Call ★ Called to Be Different

Bible Story ★ John the Baptist

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people"* ★ 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

Day Two Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Prairie Dog Pete** and the **Daily Call to be faithful**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; learn about **Josef**, a refugee from Iraq; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow **Abraham** as he leaves his comfortable home and all his friends. They see how he was faithful to God's calling as he journeyed to an unknown land.

Wild Horse Corral

Li'l Cowpokes play the game **Round 'Em Up** and then are free to wander from one sensory activity to another.

Trading Post

Kids use their imaginations while making the **Paper Plate Pony** craft. Playing with their Paper Plate Ponies will remind them of Jesus' call to be faithful.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Tacos in a Cup**. The variety of ingredients in this snack, represents all the belongings Abraham had to pack up when God called him to leave his home.

Daily Call ★ Called to be Faithful

Bible Story ★ Abraham

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"By faith Abraham obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."* ★ Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

Day Three Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Chuck the Chuckwalla** and the **Daily Call to forgive**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; learn about **June Lily**, a refugee from Malaysia; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow the story of **Joseph** as he models forgiveness. They learn how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers in spite of how badly they treated him.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play **Storing the Grain** and spend time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids enjoy the sensory experiences involved in creating **Sunrise Art** masterpieces. The happiness they feel while viewing a beautiful sunrise reminds them of the happiness that comes from forgiving others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy Howdy **Pard'ner Trail Mix** and are reminded that a heart willing to forgive can overcome a multitude of challenging circumstances.

Daily Call ★ Called to Forgive

Bible Story ★ Joseph

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) ...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* ★ Matthew 6:14 (NIV)

Day Four Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Pack Mule Patty**, and the **Daily Call to serve**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; meet **Juliette, Ben and his sister**, three young refugees from Africa; and are reminded to continue to bring money for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Deborah** and how God helped make her brave enough to serve Him in battle. Kids learn to use their talents to serve God.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play a fun group game of Snakes in Boots and then spend the remaining time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Li'l Cowpokes will tailor their own **At Your Service Sheriff Vest** complete with sheriff badge as they are reminded of God's call to serve others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Cactus Pops**. The variety of fruits remind them that they can use their different gifts and talents to serve in many ways.

Daily Call ★ Called to Serve

Bible Story ★ Deborah

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."* ★ 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Day Five Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing, repeat the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Road Runner Roy** and the **Daily Call to give**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing, meet a refugee family from Syria, and learn the total amount of money raised for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Jesus** and how much He loves them. They also learn that God calls us to give love to others.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play the game **Broken Hearts** and then are free to spend time experiencing a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Today kids will make a beautiful **J Is for Jesus Stand-up Cross** to remind them of how much Jesus loves them.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Wagon Wheels**, sugar cookies with a tasty twist. Jesus' life was one of tireless giving just like a wagon wheel rolling on and on.

Daily Call ★ Called to Give

Bible Story ★ Jesus

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."* ★ Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

ROUND UP

Opening and Closing



Day One Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, memorize the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Tarantula Tammy** and the **Daily Call to be different**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; play a game; are introduced to **Jessica**, a refugee girl from Burma; learn about the Operation Wheels mission project; and are encouraged to bring money each day to support this project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **John the Baptist** and learn how he was called to eat, dress, and live differently from the people of His time, and God used him to reach many people for Jesus.

Wild Horse Corral

Li'l Cowpokes play the game **Jump to Me** and then choose between several sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids make beautiful designs with their **Swirls of Color** craft. Each swirl is different and unique just like Jesus has called each child to be different and unique for Him.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Prairie Dog Ponchos**, which illustrate how John the Baptist dared to be different.

Daily Call ★ Called to Be Different

Bible Story ★ John the Baptist

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people"* ★ 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)



Materials and Supplies

- Cowbell
- Variety of stuffed animals (or pictures of animals) you'd see on a farm
- Hand motions for the Gold Nugget (see AdventistVBX.org)
- Mystery bag
- Large cutout of Tarantula Tammy, the critter of the day
- Scarves – one per child
- Coins – minimum of three coins per child
- Ranch Animals game board and game pieces – one complete game for each group (free download from AdventistVBX.org). Be sure to assemble the game boards and prepare the game pieces in advance.
- Small Tarantula Tammie cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end of VBX; available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Music DVD (available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Operation Wheels DVD (available at AdventSource.org)

Opening at the Ranch – Day 1

[Cue the Music DVD and have it ready.]

Welcome to Cactusville Ranch, Li'l Cowpokes! I'm glad you're here today. We will be spending the next five days together having lots of fun learning about the different ways God calls us to follow Jesus. Since we've just arrived at the Ranch, I'm curious to know what kind of animals we have around here. *(Look dramatically around the room.)* Do you see any animals? *[Encourage kids to answer.]*

Oh yeah! I see a (horse) too! Look over there; it's a (chicken). We do have all kinds of amazing animals here at Cactusville Ranch.

Let's play a little game. When I count to three, I want you to make the sound of your favorite animal that you see here at the Ranch. Ready? One...two...three.... *[Cup one hand to your ear to show you're listening as the kids make animal sounds.]*

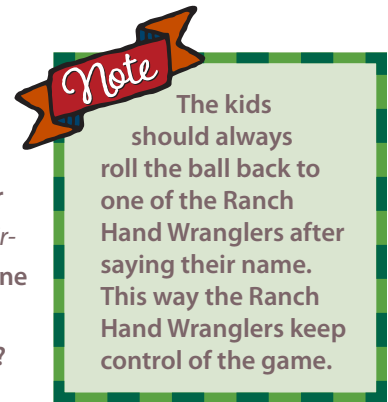
[Ring the cowbell.] Oh, that was fun! And noisy too! *[Hold up the cowbell.]* Does anyone know what this is? That's right! It's a bell, a cowbell! A mommy cow wears a bell like this around her neck so her owner can hear her moving around and find her easily. I'm going to use this cowbell when I need to get your attention. So every time you hear me ring this bell, I need you to stop whatever you're doing, look at me, and listen carefully, OK? *[Wait for kids to respond.]* Let's practice. Everyone get up and start wiggling and shaking your bodies. *[Demonstrate.]* When I ring the cowbell I want you to stop immediately and look at me. *[Ring the cowbell. Repeat several times.]* Good job! Thank you for being good listeners! You may sit down again.

[Lower your voice expectantly and bend down to look at the Li'l Cowpokes.] Did you know that God calls you and me every day? Yes, He really does! Right here [touch your temple]. This week we are going to learn to listen to His holy calling and find out what He is calling us to do.

Every day as we meet here at Cactusville Ranch you will have some special people helping you. Those special people are called Ranch Hand Wranglers. Can you say that with me? *[Pause and practice with the kids.] Great job! [Give a thumbs-up sign.]* If you need anything, one of your Ranch Hand Wranglers will help you. You'll also have some friends, other Li'l Cowpokes just like yourself, who will travel with you from one fun activity to another. Can you say, "Yee-haw"? Let's all say it together! *(Lead the kids in saying, "Yee-haw!" and pump one fist upwards as you say it.)*

Meet and Greet Activity

You've already met your Ranch Hand Wranglers, so let's give them high-fives and say, "Howdy pard'ner!" *[Pause while they do this.]* Nice job, Li'l Cowpokes! Let's play another game. Listen carefully while I tell you what to do. Ranch Hand Wranglers, make a circle with your group, shoulder to shoulder with your feet about as far apart as your shoulders. *[Pause to give the groups time to form circles.]* Everybody ready? In your Ranch Hand Wrangler bag is a ball. Get it out. One of your Ranch Hand Wranglers will roll the ball to you and when you have the ball in your hands, I want you to say your name. Ready, Ranch Hand Wranglers? Ready, set, go! *[Ranch Hand Wranglers play the game with their group, helping the smaller kids say their name and roll the ball back. Allow 5 minutes to play the game.]*



That was fun! Now it's time for your Ranch Hand Wranglers to put the ball back in the bag.

Gold Nugget

Let's have the Yellow Bandana group come up and help us learn the Gold Nugget along with hand motions. *[Pause while the group comes up.]*

"(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." 2 Timothy 1:9. *[Say the words to the Gold Nugget slowly and lead out in the hand motions so the kids can follow. Repeat three times.]*

Memory Verse Motions
see AdventistVBX.org

Thank you, Yellow Bandana crew, for helping us learn our Gold Nugget. Tomorrow we'll call up another group to help us.

Sing-along and Critter Time

It's time for our Red Band'dana song leader to come up and help us learn some fun songs! Are you ready? Yee-haw! *[Assign one of the other station leaders the job of being the Red Band'dana song leader.]*

Let's sing our theme song, **We are Called**. *[Turn on the Music DVD and teach the kids the chorus and motions.]*

Next let's sing **I Have Decided to Follow Jesus**. *[Teach the motions; give each child a scarf and show them how to slowly wave the scarf back and forth while singing.]*

Each day this week we are going to have a special guest who will tell us a way that God calls us. How many of you have pets? *[Raise your hand and pause while kids raise theirs.]* What kind of pets do you have? *[Pause while kids call out responses. Have an assistant bring out a poster or the large cutout of Tarantula Tammy to center stage for everyone to see.]* Let me introduce you to today's special guest, Tarantula Tammy. *[Point to poster or cutout.]* Can you say, "Hi, Tarantula Tammy"? *[Pause and repeat the words slowly, so the children can say it with you. "Hi, Tarantula Tammy!"]* Not only is she a very unusual kind of pet; she is our Cactusville Critter for today. As you learn a little about Tammy, you will also discover today's special calling.

Tammy is a big, hairy spider! Did you know that God created Tammy with four sets of legs? That's right! That means Tammy has eight legs! Let's pretend our fingers are Tammy's legs. Can you wiggle your fingers like a spider's legs? *[Lead the children in wiggling all the fingers on both hands.]* That's not all. God gave Tammy claws that can go in and out *[demonstrate by curling your fingers in and then extending them]* so that when she climbs tall trees she can hang on tight! Can you pretend your fingers are claws and make them go in and out? *[Lead the children in alternately curling and extending their fingers.]* Now let's pretend we are tarantulas climbing a big, tall tree. *[Lead the children in wiggling their fingers while moving them up and down.]*

Tarantula Tammy may look different from other spiders you've seen, but God made her that way for a special reason. He called her to be different! And Li'l Cowpokes, just like Tammy Tarantula, you have been called to be different. Throughout the day you may hear a leader say, "We are called." Every time you hear someone say those words, you need to answer, "Called to be different," and shout, "Yee-haw!" Let's practice this a few times. *[Call out, "We are called!" Kids respond, "Called to be different. Yee-haw!" Practice several times. Tip: Each time you want the kids to respond, cup one hand to your ear like you're listening.]*

Nice job, Li'l Cowpokes. I think you are all practiced up, so let's sing another song. This song can help us get excited about being different for Jesus!

Let's sing **We are Different**. *[Teach the motions and show the children how to turn round and round in a circle, clap their hands, and stomp their feet at the appropriate times.]*

Prayer Time

[In preparation for prayer, teach this little song and its motions to the children.] As we get ready to pray, let's sing this little song.

Let's sing **I Listen to the Lord** to the tune of *It's Raining, It's Pouring* *[adapted by Francini Reis]*.

I listen *[right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]*

I listen *[left hand on left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[fold hands]*

And I close my eyes *[close eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we listen to the Bible story and do many other fun things here at the Ranch. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Closing at the Ranch – Day 1

Howdy Li'l Cowpokes! Today has been a busy day here at Cactusville Ranch. Yes sireee! *(Bend down, lean forward, and look intently at the children.)* Did you have fun learning about John the Baptist? *[Pause and encourage them to answer loudly by your gestures.]* Whoa there now! That was purty loud! God called John the Baptist to be different and just like John the Baptist, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond. Kids: "Called to be different. Yee-haw!"]* Have another station leader help lead the children in the response.]

Sing-along Time and Operation Wheels

It's time for some more singing, Li'l Cowpokes. Come on up, Red Band'dana praise leader! *[Cue Music DVD.]*
Let's start with We are Called. *[Include the motions.]*

God has called us to be different by being kind and loving to all our friends! Cross your arms and put a hand on each shoulder *[American Sign Language sign for "love"]* and say, "I love all my friends!" *[Pause while kids cross their arms, then lead them in saying, "I love all my friends!"]* Now let's sing about how Jesus loves all the children all over the world.

Let's sing **Jesus Loves the Little Children** *[lyrics modified by Shane B.]. [Stop in the middle of the song to teach the children the new words. Practice that line several times.]*

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.

[Say the new words with job and sparkle and ask the children to repeat them.]

Every color, shape, and size, they are precious in His eyes.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? What kind of animal wears this bell? *[Pause and allow children to answer.]*

That's right, a cow wears this kind of bell. Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Sit down right where you are. We are going to watch a DVD that shows some of our friends that came to our country from far, far away; friends that need our help! Today we are going to meet Jessica. *[Play DVD. While DVD is playing bring the Operation Wheels bucket to the front.]*

We learned that our friend Jessica is from a country far, far away called Burma. Jessica and her family need our help. Your Ranch Hand Wrangler is going to give each of you some money. When I call the color of the bandana that your group is wearing, you can bring up your money and put it in the bucket. Let's see how heavy we can make our bucket! *[Call up the groups one at a time and watch as they put their money in the bucket. Then call a Li'l Cowpoke to come up front to hold the bucket.]*

Whoa! This bucket 'shore is heavy! Thank you kindly, Lil' Cowpokes, for showing your love to our friends!

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? When you hear the cowbell ring, remember it means that we are going to do something different.

Ranch Hand Wrangler Activity *[Prepare the Ranch Animals game and have it ready for the Ranch Hand Wranglers. See AdventistVBX.org for a free download of the game and instructions.]*

It's time to circle up, Li'l Cowpokes. Sit in a circle with your Ranch Hand Wranglers. You get to play a game with your friends and your Ranch Hand Wranglers called Ranch Animals.

Ranch Hand Wranglers, please give a farm animal game piece to each Li'l Cowpoke in your group. *[Continue speaking while they hand out the game pieces.]* Listen carefully while I tell you how this game is played.

Game Instructions:

1. When your Ranch Hand Wrangler says the name of a farm animal that you might see at Cactusville Ranch, all of you need to make the sound of that animal. Here's an example. If your Ranch Hand Wrangler says, "Cow," you need to say, "Mooooooo." Let's all try that together. *[Have the children practice saying "Moooooo" before continuing with the instructions.]*
2. Then the Li'l Cowpoke that is holding the cow game piece *[hold it up so everyone can see it]* will come up and place it on the game board on top of a Velcro dot so it sticks to the board. *[Demonstrate how to place the game piece on a Velcro dot.]* By the time we finish the game, all the farm animals will be stuck to the board.



[Play the Ranch Animals game for 10 minutes. Ranch Hand Wranglers lead out in the game while the station leaders circulate throughout the area to assist or offer encouraging comments as the children make the animal sounds and get up to place the game pieces on the board.]

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

It's time to put away the Ranch Animals game as we get ready to welcome back the Red Band'danas! Yee-haw! Let's sing a clean up song while we put away our game.

We're going to sing **Horses, Cows and Chickens too!** *[Sung to the tune of Clean Up, Clean Up.]*

Clean up, clean up
Horses, cows, and chickens too
Clean up, clean up
Away they go, the game is through



Cactusville TIP

Do not take the cutouts off the game board until all the children have gone home. Your Li'l Cowpokes will enjoy seeing the game board and may want to show their parents. This also shows that you value their participation.



On the count of three, let's give our Red Band'dana leader a big "Yee-haw!" *[Lead the children in shouting "Yee-haw!"]*

You sounded great! Are you ready to turn round and round, clap your hands, and stomp your feet? Let's sing **We are Different** *[include the motions].*

Now let's sing our theme song, **We are Called** *[include the motions].*

That sounded really pretty. I'm sure the angels were singing along too! Isn't it wonderful to know that Jesus has saved us and called us with a holy calling? Yes siree! Can we say our Gold Nugget together one time before we go? *[Say the words to the Gold Nugget slowly and lead out in the hand motions so the kids can follow.]*
"(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." 2 Timothy 1:9.

Prayer Time

It's time to pray. Let's sing **Listen to the Lord**, our little song that helps us get ready to pray. *[Sung to the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring.]*

I listen *[right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]*

I listen *[left hand on left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[fold hands]*

And I close my eyes *[close eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for a fun day at Cactusville Ranch. Thank You for being with us here today and for helping us learn how we can be different for You. Keep us safe as we go to our homes and bring us back again to learn more about You. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Goodbye, Li'l Cowpokes. See you again soon! And remember, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond. Kids: "Called to be different. Yee-haw!"]* Have another station leader help lead the children in the response.]





Day Two Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Prairie Dog Pete** and the **Daily Call to be faithful**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; learn about **Josef**, a refugee from Iraq; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow **Abraham** as he leaves his comfortable home and all his friends. They see how he was faithful to God's calling as he journeyed to an unknown land.

Wild Horse Corral

Li'l Cowpokes play the game **Round 'Em Up** and then are free to wander from one sensory activity to another.

Trading Post

Kids use their imaginations while making the **Paper Plate Pony** craft. Playing with their Paper Plate Ponies will remind them of Jesus' call to be faithful.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Tacos in a Cup**. The variety of ingredients in this snack, represents all the belongings Abraham had to pack up when God called him to leave his home.

Daily Call ★ Called to be Faithful

Bible Story ★ Abraham

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"By faith Abraham obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."* ★ Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

- Cowbell
- Variety of stuffed animals (or pictures of animals) you'd see on a farm
- Hand motions for the Gold Nugget (see AdventistVBX.org)
- Mystery bag
- Large cutout of Prairie Dog Pete, the critter of the day
- Scarves – one per child
- Coins – minimum of three coins per child
- Horse Food game board and game pieces – one complete game for each group (free download from AdventistVBX.org). Be sure to assemble the game boards and prepare the game pieces in advance.
- Small Prairie Dog Pete cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end of VBX; available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Music DVD (available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Operation Wheels DVD (available at AdventSource.org)

Opening at the Ranch – Day 2

[Cue the Music DVD and have it ready.]

Welcome back to Cactusville Ranch, Li'l Cowpokes. I'm glad you came today. Oh, we had a lot of fun yesterday learning about John the Baptist and how he wasn't afraid to be different for God. We also learned that God has called us to be different for Him. Today we get to learn another special way that God calls us to follow Jesus. I can hardly wait to find out what it is! *[Clap your hands.]* And we will get to hear another Bible story. Yippee! I wonder who it will be about today? Today is going to be such a fun day! Are you ready to get started? *[Pause while the children respond.]*

[Ring cowbell.] Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Meet and Greet Activity

Give your Ranch Hand Wrangler a high-five and say, "Yee-haw!" Let's get ready to play our game. Listen carefully...here are the instructions. Ranch Hand Wranglers, get your group in a circle with you, standing shoulder to shoulder. Everybody ready? In your Ranch Hand Wrangler bag is a ball. Get it out. Your Ranch Hand Wrangler will toss you a ball and when you have the ball in your hands I want you to say your name. Ready, Ranch Hand Wranglers? One...two...three...go! *[Ranch Hand Wranglers play the game with their group, helping the smaller kids say their name and throw the ball back. Allow 5 minutes to play the game.]*

That was fun! Now it's time for the Ranch Hand Wranglers to put the ball back in their bag.



Since today we will be learning to listen and follow God's calling, I want to play Follow the Leader with you. If you don't know this game, it's very easy. All you need to do is to follow your leader. I'm going to be your leader *[or call one of the Ranch Hand Wrangler groups to lead out]*. *[Do some motions, like clap hands three times, turn around, jump up high, touch the ground, etc. and encourage the children to copy you. Play this game a couple of times.]*

Gold Nugget

Our Gold Nugget is found in 2 Timothy 1:9. I think the Blue Bandana group can do a good job helping us with our verse today. Come on up, Blue Bandanas! Let's all say our verse together *(lead kids in saying the verse and performing the motions)*. "(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." That was fun. Let's do it again! *[Repeat verse and motions.]*

Memory Verse Motions
see AdventistVBX.org

Sing-along and Critter Time

Who remembers our theme song from yesterday? Yeah! We are going to sing it again *[clap joyfully]*.

Let's welcome the Red Band'danas to lead us in singing We are Called! *(Clap and say, "Yee-haw!" Turn on music video and lead the kids in singing and doing the motions.)*

I'm ready to swing *[or turn around]* my partner! Let's sing We are Different! Don't forget to pick your partner to swing round and round *[or turn round and round]*, clap your hands, and stomp your feet. Let's go!

Now we are going to learn a new song called I Will Follow. *[Lead kids in singing and doing the motions.]*

Next let's sing I Have Decided to Follow Jesus. *[Teach the motions. Give each child a scarf and show them how to slowly wave the scarf back and forth while singing. After the song is over, ask the children to put their scarves away in a basket or tin bucket.]*

Now I want to introduce you to our Cactusville Critter for today *[point to poster or standup]*. And it has a fun name: Prairie Dog Pete! Can you say that with me? Prairie Dog Pete! That was great! Pete is a chubby little prairie dog! Did you know that God provided Pete with a loud, shrill voice to use to warn his friends of danger? Pete just lifts up his chin and starts to yip and bark.

Let's pretend we are prairie dogs. Ready? *[Make sounds to imitate a prairie dog.]* Yipppppypip, bark, bark! *[As you are yipping and barking, shake your head up and down.]* Whoa! You sounded just like prairie dogs! That was really good!

I think we make really good prairie dogs! Don't you? Prairie Dog Pete reminds us of our special Bible verse. Let's say it again! "(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." 2 Timothy 1:9. *[Lead the kids in saying the verse and learning the motions.]*

God made Prairie Dog Pete with a loud shrill bark for a special reason. Do you remember why? *[Pause and raise your hand. Call on several children for an answer.]* Yes! To help warn his friends of danger! God called Prairie Dog Pete to be faithful!

[Lower your voice expectantly and bend down to look at the Li'l Cowpokes.] Did you know that God calls you and me every day? Yes, He really does! Right here *[touch your temple]*. This week we are going to learn to listen to





His holy calling and find out what He is calling us to do.

Throughout the day you may hear a leader say, “We are called.” Every time you hear someone say those words, you need to answer, “Called to be faithful,” and then shout “Yee-haw!” Let’s practice this a few times!

[Practice two times with lots of joy!]

Nice job, Li’l Cowpokes. I think you are all practiced up, so let’s sing another song. This song will help us remember to be faithful and to follow Jesus wherever He leads.

Today our Bible story is about someone who was asked to move to a different place. They were asked by God! And they listened and did exactly what God asked them to do...even though it a very long way away! They were faithful! Join me in singing I Will Follow. *[Teach motions.]*

Prayer Time

[In preparation for prayer, teach this little song and its motions to the children.] As we get ready to pray, let’s sing our prayer song, **I Listen to the Lord** *[This song is sung to the tune of It’s Raining, It’s Pouring, adapted by Francini Reis.]*.

I listen *[right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]*

I listen *[left hand on left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[fold hands]*

And I close my eyes *[close eyes]*

Now I’m ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we learn the lesson today. We love you! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Closing at the Ranch - Day 2

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we learn the lesson today. We love you! In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Sing-along Time and Operation Wheels

Howdy Li’l Cowpokes! Today has been a busy day here at Cactusville Ranch...yes sireee! *[Bend down and lean forward, looking at Little Cowpokes.]* Did you have fun learning about Abraham? *[Encourage the children to say, “Yes” real loud.]* Whoa there now...that was purty loud! You are strong Li’l Cowpokes indeed! God called Abraham to be faithful and he listened to what God asked him to do! Just like Abraham, we are called! *(Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond. Kids: “Called to be faithful. Yee-haw!”)*

Ready to turn round and round, clap your hands, and stomp your feet? Come on up, Red Band’danas! Let’s sing **We are Different**. *[Teach motions, pick a partner to swing round and round or just turn round individually, clap your hands, and stomp your feet.]*

Let’s sing our theme song, Li’l Cowpokes! Join me in singing **We are Called**. *[Do motions.]*

[Cue Operation Wheels Day 2 DVD.]



God has called us to be faithful by being helpful to all our friends! Hold out your hands and say: "I want to be helpful to all my friends!" *[Give time for kids to repeat after you.]*

Now let's sing **Jesus Loves the Little Children** *[lyrics modified by Shane B.]*.

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.

[Say the new words with joy and sparkle and ask the children to repeat them.]

Every color, shape, and size, they are precious in His eyes.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Sit down right where you are. We are going to watch a DVD that shows some of our friends who moved here from far, far away; friends that need our help! Today we are going to meet Josef who is from Iraq.

[Play the video clip for Day 2. While DVD is playing bring the Operation Wheels bucket to the front.]

We learned that our friend Josef is from Iraq – a country far, far away. And he needs our help. Your Ranch Hand Wrangler is going to give you some money. When I call your color group you can bring your money and put it in the bucket. Let's see how heavy we can get our bucket!

[Call a Li'l Cowpoke up front to and ask them to show how strong they are by flexing their arm muscles.] Wow! Look at those muscles! I'm sure *[child's name]* is strong enough to hold our Operation Wheels bucket! *[Pick up bucket and hand it to the Li'l Cowpoke; then set it down.]* Wowwee! This bucket 'shore is heavy! Thank you, Li'l Cowpokes, for loving our friends from far, far away!

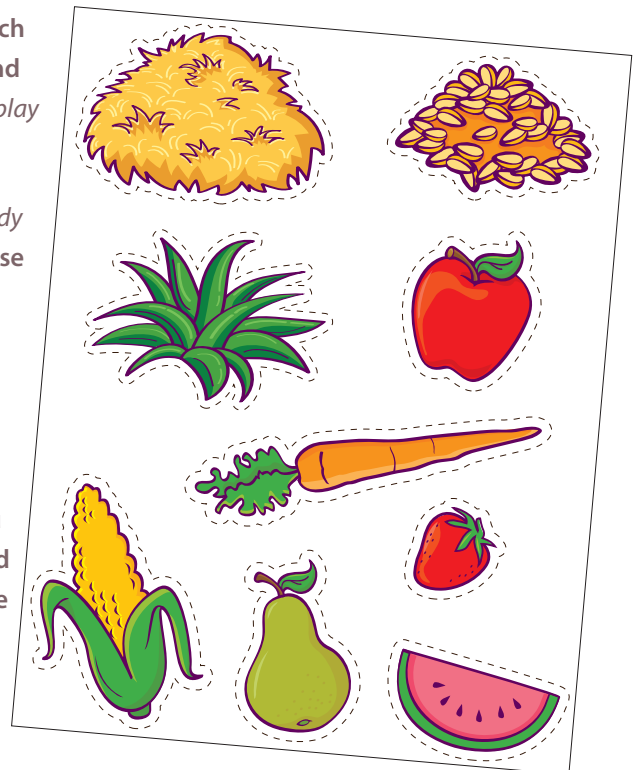
[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

It's time to circle up, Li'l Cowpokes. Sit in a circle around your Ranch Hand Wrangler. You are going to play a game with your friends and your Ranch Hand Wrangler called Horse Food. *[Give 10 minutes to play game.]*

Ranch Hand Wrangler Activity *[Prepare game and have ready for Ranch Hand Wranglers.]* We are going to play a game called Horse Food. Ranch Hand Wranglers, hand a Horse Food game piece to each child.

Here are the instructions.

1. Ranch Hand Wranglers will say the name of a food that Happy the brown horse likes to eat. Li'l Cowpokes, when you hear the name of a food a horse would eat, I want you to make chomping sounds and say, "Yummy, yummy!" And if you have the game piece with a picture of the food we're talking about, you will attach it to the game board with the Velcro dot. *[Ranch Hand Wranglers will say the name*



ROUND UP

of a food that Happy the brown horse likes to eat. Li'l Cowpokes, when you hear the name of a food a horse would eat, I want you to make chomping sounds and say, "Yummy, yummy!" And if you have the game piece with a picture of the food we're talking about, you will attach it to the game board with the Velcro dot.]

[Play the Horse Food game for 10 minutes. Ranch Hand Wranglers lead out in the game while the station leaders circulate throughout the area to assist or offer encouragement comments as the children make the sounds and place the game pieces on the board.]

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Time to put away the Horse Food game as we get ready to welcome back the Red Band'danas! Yee-haw! Let's sing a clean up song while we put away our game.

First we're going to sing **Carrots, Apples, Watermelon Too!**

[This song is sung to the tune of Clean Up, Clean Up.]

Clean up, clean up

Carrots, apples, watermelon too

Clean up, clean up

Away they go, the game is through

Welcome back, Red Band'danas! Let's sing our theme song, We Are Called. [Do the motions. Red Band'danas exit when the song is over.]

That was pretty...I'm sure the angels were singing with us too! Isn't it wonderful to know that God has saved us and called us to a holy calling? Yes siree! Let's say our Gold Nugget together one more time before we go. [Say the words to the God Nugget slowly and lead out in the hand motions so the kids can follow.]"(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." 2 Timothy 1:9.

Prayer Time

It's time to pray. Let's sing our little song that helps us get ready for prayer. It's called **Listen to the Lord.**

[Sung to the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring, adapted by Francini Reis.]

I listen [right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]

I listen [left hand on left ear]

I listen to my Lord [both hands on both ears]

I fold my hands [fold hands]

And I close my eyes [close eyes]

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we leave the Cactusville Ranch for today. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Goodbye, Li'l Cowpokes. See you tomorrow! And remember, we are called! [Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond. Kids: "Called to be faithful. Yee-haw!"]



Cactusville TIP

Do not take the cutouts off the game board until all the children have gone home. Your Li'l Cowpokes will enjoy seeing the game board and may want to show their parents. This also shows that you value their participation.



Day Three Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Chuck the Chuckwalla** and the **Daily Call to forgive**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; learn about **June Lily**, a refugee from Malaysia; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow the story of **Joseph** as he models forgiveness. They learn how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers in spite of how badly they treated him.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play **Storing the Grain** and spend time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids enjoy the sensory experiences involved in creating **Sunrise Art** masterpieces. The happiness they feel while viewing a beautiful sunrise reminds them of the happiness that comes from forgiving others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy Howdy **Pard'ner Trail Mix** and are reminded that a heart willing to forgive can overcome a multitude of challenging circumstances.

Daily Call ★ Called to Forgive

Bible Story ★ Joseph

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) ...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* ★ Matthew 6:14 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

- Cowbell
- Hand Motions for the Gold Nugget (see AdventistVBX.org)
- Bird Food game board and game pieces – one complete game for each group (free download from AdventistVBX.org). Be sure to assemble the game boards and prepare the game pieces in advance.
- Mystery bag
- Stuffed animal dog or puppy
- Large cutout of Chuck the Chuckwalla, the critter of the day
- Coins – minimum of three per child
- Small Chuckwalla Chuck cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end of VBX; available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Music DVD (available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Operation Wheels DVD (available at AdventSource.org)

Opening at the Ranch – Day 3

[Cue the Music DVD and have it ready. Place the Mystery Bag somewhere on stage where you can easily reach it.]

Welcome back to Cactusville Ranch, Li'l Cowpokes! I'm glad you came today. *[Give high-fives to several of the children.]* We had a lot of fun yesterday learning about Abraham and our message was that God has called us to be faithful. We are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond. Kids: "Called to be faithful! Yee-haw!"]*

That was great! Give your Ranch Hand Wrangler a high-five!

Now we are going to learn a new call and response for today! *[Clap your hands.]* Are you ready? Every time you hear someone say, "W" you say, "Called to forgive. Yee-haw!" Let's practice: We are called! *[Dramatically point to the children. Kids: "Called to be faithful! Yee-haw!"]* *[Slap your knee.]* You are mighty smart kiddos!

Today in our Bible story station, we will be learning about someone who struggled to learn to forgive, but he could do it, because God called him to forgive.

[Ring the cowbell.] Remember what it means when I ring the cowbell? Who can tell me? *[Pause and let children answer.]* That's right! Every time you hear me ring this bell, I need you to stop whatever you're doing, look at me, and listen carefully, OK? Let's practice. Everyone get up and start wiggling and shaking your bodies *[demonstrate]*. *[Ring the cowbell. Repeat several times.]* Good job! Thank you for being good listeners! You may sit down now with your Ranch Hand Wrangler.

Meet and Greet Activity

Give your Ranch Hand Wrangler a high-five and say, "Yee-haw!" Now we are going to play a game. Listen carefully...here are the instructions.



ROUND UP

Ranch Hand Wranglers, get your group in a circle with you, shoulder to shoulder. *[Pause to give the groups time to form circles.]* Everybody ready? In your Ranch Hand Wrangler bag is a ball. Get it out. One of your Ranch Hand Wranglers will roll the ball to you and when you have the ball in your hands, I want you to say your name. Ready, Ranch Hand Wranglers? Ready, set, go! *[Ranch Hand Wranglers play the game with their group, helping the smaller kids say their name and roll the ball back. Allow 5 minutes to play the game.]*

That was fun! Now it's time for your Ranch Hand Wranglers to put the ball back in the bag.

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different. That game was fun! Now it's time for your Ranch Hand Wrangler to put the ball back in the bag.

[Start setting up a very simple obstacle course on stage: jump from carpet square to carpet square or stretch out masking tape in two rows close together – 8-12' long.] Do you wonder what I am doing? *[Wait for kids to respond.]* It's an obstacle course! I know you are fast...and strong! Today we are going to do an obstacle course where we help each other and if someone slips off the line that's OK! Everyone line up with a partner, two by two. *[Wait for all kids to find a partner.]* Now...hold hands. That's right...perfect! As you go through the obstacle course you are going to help each other! Don't let go! Hurray! *[Allow all groups to complete the obstacle course.]* Everyone did a great job! We are called! *[Cup your hand on one ear and wait for kids to respond. Kids: "Called to forgive! Yee-haw!"]*

Gold Nugget

The Bible is full of treasure! Look right here *[hold up an open Bible]* in 2 Timothy 1:9. It says, "(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."

Wow! That is good news! Let me see...let's have the Purple Bandana group come and help us with the motions. *[Teach the motions.]* That was fun. Let's do it again! *[Repeat memory verse with motions.]*

Sing-along and Critter Time

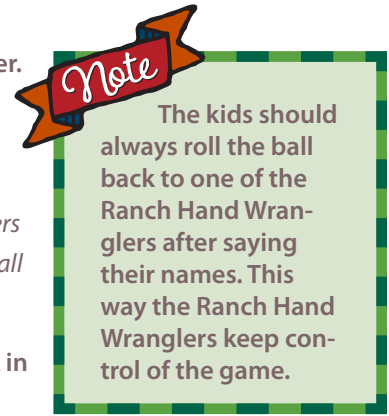
It's time for our Red Band'dana song leader to come up and help us learn some fun songs! Are you ready? Let me hear you say, "Yee-haw!" Here they come!

Are you ready to sing our theme song? I know I am! Let's sing **We are Called**. *[Sing and do motions.]*

Next we're going to sing **We are Different**. It's time to pick a partner to *[swing round and round or turn round and round]*, clap your hands, and stomp your feet. Let's go! *[Sing and do motions.]*

Now let's sing **Forgive**...because forgiveness is what we are learning about today! Just like we helped each other in the obstacle course and didn't worry if we slipped, we love each other and forgive each other! *[Sing and do motions.]*

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.



ROUND UP

Sit with me. *[Pat carpet or floor around you and in front of you. Pick up the Mystery Bag with a stuffed dog inside.]*

Listen carefully and see if you can guess what is inside my bag. *[Pantomime a dog's bark, trying not to move your lips at all. Call one of the children up to reach in the bag and pull out the mystery animal.]* **You guessed it! Hur-ray! It's a puppy!** *[Ask volunteer to go back to their group.]*

Dogs are very special creatures. Who has a puppy or a dog at home? *[Wait and listen to children's responses.]* **If you have one at home, you know that dogs are always happy to see you. They lick your face** *[demonstrate puppy kisses with the stuffed animal]* **and they love to follow you wherever you go! Oh, and they loooove to have you pet them.** *[Pet the stuffed dog gently.]* **Did you know that dogs are very forgiving? Yes! They are! Even when we get mad at them, they come back to you wagging their tails, licking you, and wiggling with joy!** *[Demonstrate tail wagging and licking with the stuffed animal.]* **We are called!** *[Motion to kids to respond. Kids: "Called to forgive. Yee-haw!"]*

[Lower your voice expectantly and bend down to look at the Li'l Cowpokes.] **Did you know that God calls you and me every day? Yes, He really does! This week we are going to learn to listen to His holy calling and find out what He is calling us to do.**

But first let's play a game! Everyone get in two big circles. *[Ranch Hand Wranglers can help form circles and then sit with their kids in the circle.]* **We are going to play a game called Puppy, Puppy, Forgive!** *[This game is similar to Duck, Duck, Goose.]*

[Select one child from each circle to be the Puppy. The Puppy walks around the circle, tapping each child on the head, saying, "Puppy" until he or she decides to tape someone and say, "Forgive!" Say, "Run, Puppy, run!" and both children run around the circle and sit together in one of the open spaces. Now select another child to be the Puppy.]

Yee-haw! We are called! *[Cup your hand over one ear and encourage children to respond. Kids: "Called to forgive. Yee-haw!"]*

[Ring cowbell.] **Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.**

That was a fun game. Now we'll catch our breath! Everyone go back to your Ranch Hand Wrangler group.

I want to introduce you to Chuck the Chuckwalla. He is our Cactusville Critter for today *[point to poster or standup].* **Our Cactusville Critter helps us remember that we are called!** *(Motion to kids to respond. Kids: "Called to forgive. Yee-haw!")*

And our critter has a fun name too! Chuck the Chuckwalla. Can you say "chuckwalla" with me? Let's say it faster! Can you say it even faster? Chuckwalla! Chuck is a great big lizard! *[Open your arms wide.]* **You know, a chuckwalla is a fast runner but he likes to lay in the sun the best.**

Let's lay on the ground like a lizard. *[Demonstrate.]* **Roll this way...now roll that way...the sun feels really good! Can you wiggle back and forth? OK...you can sit up now.** *[Smile at the Li'l Cowpokes.]* **It was fun pretending to be Chuck the Chuckwalla!**

Chuck the Chuckwalla reminds us of our Gold Nugget Bible verse, 2 Timothy 1:9: "(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." *[Teach motions and repeat.]*



Prayer Time

*[In preparation for prayer, teach this little song and its motions to the children.] As we get ready to pray, let's sing our prayer song, **I Listen to the Lord** [This song is sung to the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring, adapted by Francini Reis.]*

I listen *[right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]*

I listen *[left hand on left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[fold hands]*

And I close my eyes *[close eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we leave the Cactusville Ranch for today. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Closing at the Ranch - Day 3

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we learn the lesson today. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sing-along Time and Operation Wheels

Howdy Li' Cowpokes! Today has been busy here in Cactusville Ranch...yes sireee! *[Bend down and lean forward, looking at the Li' Cowpokes.]* Did you have fun learning about Joseph? *[Encourage the children to answer loudly.]* Whoa there now...that was purdy loud! God called Joseph to forgive and he listened to what God asked him to do! Just like Joseph, God is calling you and me to be forgiving too!

Ready to turn round and round, clap your hands, and stomp your feet? Come on up, Red Band'danas!

Let's start by singing **We are Different**. *[Teach motions, pick a partner to swing round and round or just turn round individually, clap your hands, and stomp your feet.]*

Now let's sing our theme song, **We are Called**. *[Sing and do motions.]*

Next let's sing **Forgive**. *[Sing and do motions.]*

[Cue Operation Wheels Day 3 DVD.]

God has called us to forgive when our feelings are hurt. Hold out one hand and brush your fingers across your palm and say, "I want to be forgiving to all my friends!" *[Allow time for kids to do this.]*

Jesus loves all children! That means you and me! Let's sing **Jesus Loves the Little Children** *[with lyrics adapted by Shane B.]*

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.

Every color, shape, and size, they are precious in His eyes.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.



When you brush your fingertips along the length of your base-hand palm twice, that is the American Sign Language sign for "forgive." If you use a single, large, firm movement it means to pardon or release from obligation

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Sit down right where you are. We are going to watch a DVD that shows some of our friends who moved here from far, far away; friends that need our help! Today we are going to meet June Lily who is from Malaysia.

[Play video. While DVD is playing bring the Operation Wheels bucket to the front.]

We learned that our friend June Lily is from Malaysia, a country far, far away. And she needs our help. Your Ranch Hand Wrangler is going to give you some money. When I call your color group you can bring your money and put it in the bucket. Let's see how heavy we can get our bucket!

[Call a Li'l Cowpoke up front to and ask them to show how strong they are by flexing their arm muscle.] Wow! Look at those muscles! I'm sure [child's name] is strong enough to hold our Operation Wheels bucket! [Have the child lift the bucket and then set it down.]

Wowwee! This bucket sure is heavy! Thank you, Li'l Cowpokes, for loving our friends from far, far away!

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

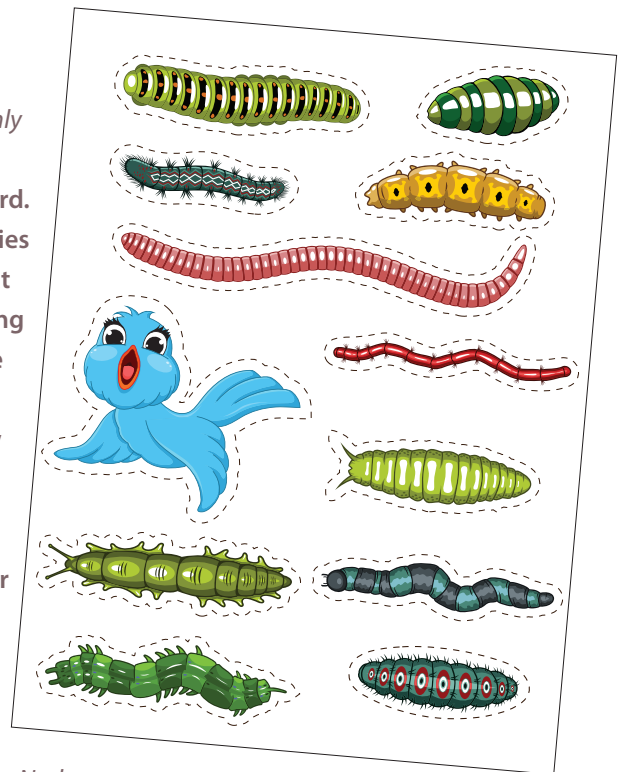
It's time to circle up, Li'l Cowpokes. Sit in a circle around your Ranch Hand Wrangler. You are going to play a game with your friends and your Ranch Hand Wrangler called Bird Food.

Ranch Hand Wrangler Activity

[Prepare game and have ready for Wranglers.]

[Show kids the game pieces. Hand out game pieces to each child. Only one child per group will have a bird game piece; the rest will have worms.] First we are going to listen to a story about Mrs. Bluebird. Mrs. Bluebird went out looking for food for her three little birdies and told them to stay in the nest. But brother decided to go out of the nest...he didn't even know how to fly yet. It's a good thing [name of Li'l Cowpoke] came along to help him back in! When he saw how worried Mrs. Bluebird was, he said, "I'm sorry; I will listen better next time." Mrs. Bluebird said, "I forgive you...now let's eat!"

Look at Mrs. Bluebird. She is feeding her three hungry little birdies...let's count them. One...two...oh my! Where is number three? Who has the other little blue bird? [Name of Li'l Cowpoke with bird game piece] does! Hurray! Can you put it back in the nest? [Have child place bird in nest.] Good job! Mrs. Bluebird was really worried about her missing blue birdie...where did he go? Where do you think he went? [Listen to kids' responses. Nod with agreement. Smile. Look your Li'l Cowpokes in the eyes while they are talking.] I wonder if Mrs. Bluebird was worried about him?



ROUND UP

If you have a worm game piece, come and place it on one of the Velcro spots. *[Allow 10 minutes to play game.]*

Blue Birdie asked for forgiveness and Mrs. Bluebird forgave him. *[Leave the worms on the board for the next day.]*

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Time to put away the Bird Food game and welcome the Red Band'danas! Yee-haw!

Let's sing **Bluebird Mommy Babies Too!** *[Sung to the tune of Clean Up, Clean Up.]*

Clean up, clean up

Bluebird mommy babies too

Clean up, clean up

Away they go, the game is through

Next let's sing our theme song, We are Called *[do the motions].*

That was pretty...I'm sure the angels were singing with us too! Isn't it wonderful to know that God has saved us and called us to a holy calling? Yes siree!

Prayer Time

Let's pray before we leave Cactusville Ranch. *[Invite a volunteer or two or three to come and help with the motions.]* Let's sing our little song that helps us get ready for prayer. It's called I Listen to the Lord. *[Sung to the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring, adapted by Francini Reis.]*

I listen *[right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]*

I listen *[left hand on left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[fold hands]*

And I close my eyes *[close eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we leave the Cactusville Ranch for today. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Goodbye, Li'l Cowpokes. See you tomorrow! And remember, we are called *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond. Kids: "Called to forgive. Yee-haw!"]*



Day Four Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Pack Mule Patty**, and the **Daily Call to serve**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; meet **Juliette, Ben and his sister**, three young refugees from Africa; and are reminded to continue to bring money for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Deborah** and how God helped make her brave enough to serve Him in battle. Kids learn to use their talents to serve God.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play a fun group game of Snakes in Boots and then spend the remaining time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Li'l Cowpokes will tailor their own **At Your Service Sheriff Vest** complete with sheriff badge as they are reminded of God's call to serve others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Cactus Pops**. The variety of fruits remind them that they can use their different gifts and talents to serve in many ways.

Daily Call ★ Called to Serve

Bible Story ★ Deborah

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."* ★ 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



Materials and Supplies

- Cowbell
- Hand motions for the Gold Nugget (see AdventistVBX.org)
- Bird Nest game board and game pieces – one complete game for each group (free download from AdventistVBX.org). Be sure to assemble the game boards and prepare the game pieces in advance.
- Mystery bag
- Stuffed animal horse or pony
- Basket with plastic cups – two cups per child
- Large cutout of Pack Mule Patty, the critter of the day
- Coins – minimum of three coins per child
- Small Pack Mule Patty cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end of VBX; available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Music DVD (available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Operation Wheels DVD (available at AdventSource.org)

Opening at the Ranch – Day 4

[Cue the Music DVD.]

Welcome back to Cactusville Ranch, Li'l Cowpokes. It sure is good to see you today. Oh, we had a lot of fun yesterday learning about Joseph and our message was: We are called! *[Cup hand over your ear and encourage the kids to respond. Kids: "Called to forgive. Yee-haw!"]* Give your Ranch Hand Wrangler a high-five! Ready? Let's do it again! We are called! *[Kids: "Called to forgive. Yee-haw!"]*

Today we are going to learn a new calling! *[Clap your hands.]* Ready for the new word for today? Every time you hear someone say, "We are called" you are going to say, "Called to serve. Yee-haw! Let's practice: We are called! *[Dramatically point to the children. Kids: "Called to serve. Yee-haw!"]* *[Slap your knee.]* You're mighty smart kiddos!

[Lower your voice expectantly and bend down to look at the Li'l Cowpokes.] Did you know that God calls you and me every day? Yes, He really does! This week we are going to learn to listen to His holy calling and find out what He is calling us to do.

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Meet and Greet Activity

Give your Ranch Hand Wrangler a high-five and say, "Yee-haw!" Let's play a game. Listen carefully...here are the instructions. Ranch Hand Wranglers, get your group in a circle with you, shoulder to shoulder. Everybody ready? In your Ranch Hand Wrangler bag is a ball. Get it out. Your Ranch Hand Wrangler will toss you a ball and when you have the ball in your hands I want you to say your favorite color. Ready, Ranch Hand

ROUND UP

Wranglers? One...two...three...go! [Wranglers play the game with their group, helping the smaller kids saying their favorite color and throw the ball back. If there is time, change the command to, "Whoever has the ball has to say your favorite food!" or "Say your favorite ice cream!"]

That was fun! Now it's time for the Ranch Hand Wranglers to put the ball back in their bag.

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.



The kids should always roll the ball back to their Ranch Hand Wrangler after their turn. This allows the Ranch Hand Wrangler keep control of the game. Allow 5 minutes to play the game.

Gold Nugget

The Bible is full of treasure! Look right here (hold open Bible) in 2 Timothy 1:9. It says, "(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." [Teach the motions.] That was fun. Let's do it again! How about the [choose a group color that has not been up yet] group come and help us with the motions? [Say the words to the Gold Nugget slowly so all can fully participate.]

Memory Verse Motions
see AdventistVBX.org

Sing-along and Critter Time

Are you ready to sing our theme song? I know I am! Here come the Red Band'danas! Yee-haw!

Let's start with **We are Called**. [Do motions.]

Next let's sing **We are Different**. Ready to sing? Don't forget to pick your partner to swing round and round (or turn round and round), clap your hands, and stomp your feet. Let's go! [Do motions.]

We have another new song and it 'shore is fun! It's called **Let's Serve** and that's what we are going to be learning about today! We love [cross arms over chest] each other and serve each other! [Sing and do motions.]

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Sit with me. [Pat carpet or floor around you and in front of you. Pick up the Mystery Bag with a stuffed horse inside.]

Listen carefully and see if you can guess what is inside my Mystery Bag. [Pantomime a horse's "neigh," trying not to move your lips. Call one of the children up to reach in the bag and pull out the mystery animal.]

Any guesses what is in the Mystery Bag? [Allow time for the children to respond.] You guessed it! Hurray! It's a horse! Horses are very helpful! They serve us all the time. We can ride a horse and horses can carry heavy loads. They pull wagons and work really hard around the ranch.

Horses make a clip clop sound...let's see if we can make a clip clop sound using these cups [show basket of cups and demonstrate tapping your cup, one in each hand, on the floor one after another]. Let's do this while singing **Trust the Lord** [sung to the tune of Frere Jacques with lyrics adapted by Francini Reis].

Trust the Lord, trust the Lord,
Every day, every way
Talk to Him and pray,
Listen and obey,
Every day, every way



We 'shore have a big herd of horses here! Neigh, neigh!

*[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different. It's time to put our horsey clip clops away [cups] away. While we put our cups away, let's sing **Cups Away** [sung to the tune of Clean Up, Everybody Everywhere].*

Cups away, cups away

Everybody, everywhere

Cups away, cups away

Everybody do your share.

I want to introduce you to Pack Mule Patty. She is our Cactusville Critter for today *[point to poster or standup]*.

Our Cactusville Critter helps us remember important words: We are called! *[Motion to kids to respond. Kids: "Called to serve. Yee-haw!"]*

And she a fun name: Pack Mule Patty! Pack Mule Patty is very strong! *[Bend your arms and show your muscles on each arm.] Can you show me your muscles? Hold your fists tight. [Demonstrate while saying, "Grrrr!" and encourage kids to bend their arms and say, "Grrrrr!"] Yes! You are very strong too! Pack Mule Patty is even stronger than a horse! Yiiiisers! That is very strong! She can carry heavy loads for a long, long time.*

Pack Mule Patty reminds us of our Gold Nugget Bible verse, 2 Timothy 1:9: "(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a Holy Calling..." *[Teach motions and repeat.]*

Prayer Time

*[In preparation for prayer, teach this little song and its motions to the children.] As we get ready to pray, let's sing our prayer song, **I Listen to the Lord** *[[Sung to the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring, adapted by Francini Reis.]**

I listen *[right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]*

I listen *[left hand on left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[fold hands]*

And I close my eyes *[close eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we learn the lesson this today. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Closing at the Ranch - Day 4

Howdy Li'l Cowpokes! Today has been a busy day here at Cactusville Ranch...yes sireee! *[Bend down and lean forward, looking at the Li'l Cowpokes.] Did you have fun learning about Joseph? (Encourage the children to say, "Yes" real loud.) Whoa there now...that was purty loud! God called Deborah to serve and she listened to what God asked her to do! Just like Deborah, we are called! [Motion to kids to respond. Kids: "Called to Serve. Yee-haw!"]*





Sing-along Time and Operation Wheels

Ready to turn round and round, clap your hands, and stomp your feet? Come on up, Red Band'danas!

Let's start by singing **We are Different**. [Teach motions, pick a partner to swing round and round or just turn round individually, clap your hands, and stomp your feet.]

Now let's sing our theme song, **We are Called**. [Do motions.]

Next let's sing **Let's Serve**. [Do motions.]

[Cue Operation Wheels Day 4 DVD.]

God has called us to serve when we see someone who needs our help. Move your hands in and out and say, "I want to serve all my friends!" (Memory tip: Think of handing someone various plates of food.)

Jesus loves all children! That means you and me! Let's sing **Jesus loves the Little Children** [with lyrics modified by Shane B.].

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Every color, shape, and size, they are precious in His eyes.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Sit down right where you are. We are going to watch a DVD that shows some of our friends who moved here from far, far away; friends that need our help! Today we are going to meet Ben from Democratic Republic of Congo.

[Play DVD. While DVD is playing bring the Operation Wheels bucket to the front.]

We learned that our friend Ben is from Democratic Republic of Congo, a country far, far away. Ben and his friends need our help. Your Ranch Hand Wrangler is going to give you some money. When I call your color group you can bring your money and put it in the bucket. Let's see how heavy we can get our bucket!

[Call a Li'l Cowpoke up front and ask them to show how strong they are by flexing their arm muscles.] Wow! Look at those muscles! I'm sure [child's name] is strong enough to hold our Operation Wheels bucket! [Have the child pick up the bucket and then set it down.] Wowwee! This bucket 'shore is heavy! Thank you, Li'l Cowpokes, for loving our friends from far, far away!

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

It's time to circle up, Li'l Cowpokes. Sit in a circle around your Ranch Hand Wrangler. You are going to play a game with your friends and your Ranch Hand Wrangler called Bird Nest.

[Give 10 minutes to play game.]



When you brush your fingertips along the length of your base-hand palm twice, that is the American Sign Language sign for "forgive." If you use a single, large, firm movement it means to pardon or release from obligation

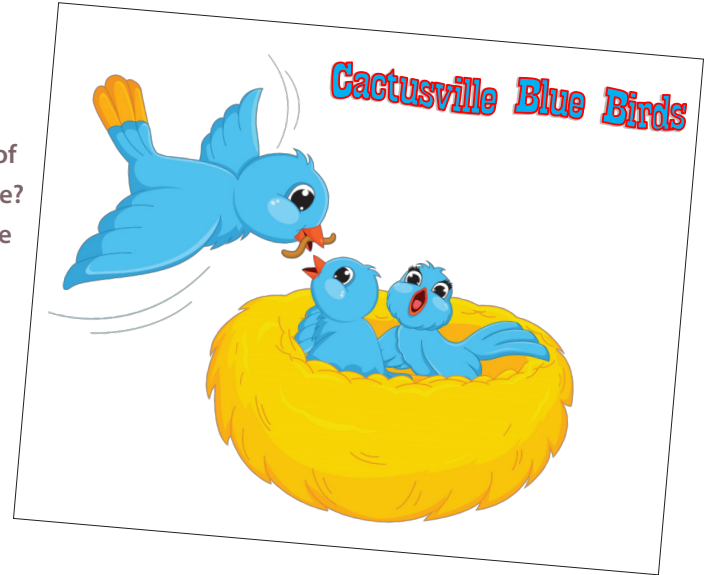


Ranch Hand Wrangler Activity

[Prepare game and have ready for Wranglers. You will reuse the game board from Day 3 for this game.]

[Show game to children.] Mrs. Bluebird sure does have a lot of food! Remember she was worried about brother Blue Birdie? She was worried because he was hungry and because there was a wind storm coming and she didn't want him out in the cold. Let's help Mrs. Bluebird get her nest all ready for the cold weather. I'm going to give each of you a piece of yarn that you can press into some glue on Mrs. Bluebird's nest. Let's make their nest nice and cozy!

[Give each Li'l Cowpoke a piece of yarn. Draw your glue lines on the nest. Instruct them to put their string on the line of glue, one child at a time.]



Thank you for helping Mrs. Bluebird get her nest ready for the cold weather. Feel how nice and soft it is. *[Instruct children to gently pat the yarn on the nest one child at a time.]*

We did a good thing by helping Mrs. Bluebird. Serving others is showing how much we love them...and this is exactly what Jesus wants us to do. Give me high-five! *[High-five the kids.]*

Remember our Gold Nugget? Say it with me: "Jesus...(who) has saved us and called us with a Holy calling..." 2 Timothy 1:9. *[Do motions.]*

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Time to put away the Bird Nest game and welcome the Red Band'danas! Yee-haw!

Let's start by singing **Worms, Yarn, and Love Too!** *[Sung to the tune of Clean Up, Clean Up.]*

Clean up, clean up
blue birds, worms, and mommy bird
Clean up, clean up
Away they go, the game is through

[When game is all put away start theme song.] Next we'll sing our theme song, **We are Called.** *[Do motions.]*

That was purty...I'm 'shore the angels were singing with us too! Isn't it wonderful to know that God has saved us and called us to a holy calling? Yes siree! Before we leave for today let's say our Gold Nugget one more time. *[Say the Gold Nugget slowly and lead out in the hand motions so all the kids can follow.]* "(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." 2 Timothy 1:9.



Prayer Time

Let's pray before we leave Cactusville Ranch. *[Invite a volunteer or two or three to come and help with the motions.]* Let's sing our little song that helps us get ready for prayer. It's called **I Listen to the Lord**. *[Sung to the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring, adapted by Francini Reis.]*

I listen *[right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]*

I listen *[left hand on left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[fold hands]*

And I close my eyes *[close eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we leave the Cactusville Ranch for today. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Goodbye, Li'l Cowpokes. See you tomorrow! And remember, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond. Kids: "Called to forgive. Yee-haw!"]*





Day Five Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, repeat the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Road Runner Roy** and the **Daily Call to give**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, meet a refugee family from Syria, and learn the total amount of money raised for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Jesus** and how much He loves them. They also learn that God calls us to give love to others.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play the game **Broken Hearts** and then are free to spend time experiencing a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Today kids will make a beautiful **J Is for Jesus Stand-up Cross** to remind them of how much Jesus loves them.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Wagon Wheels**, sugar cookies with a tasty twist. Jesus' life was one of tireless giving just like a wagon wheel rolling on and on.

Daily Call ★ Called to Give

Bible Story ★ Jesus

Gold Nugget ★ *“(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling...”* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *“Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.”* ★ Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

- Cowbell
- Music CD/DVD
- Hand Motions for the Gold Nugget (see AdventistVBX.org)
- Parachute
- Scarves
- Large cutout of Road Runner Roy, the critter of the day
- Coins – minimum of three coins per child
- Small Road Runner Roy cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end of VBX; available at AdventSource.org)
- Paper plate
- 9 oz. hard plastic tumbler cup
- Food coloring
- Cactusville Music DVD (available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Operation Wheels DVD (available at AdventSource.org)

Opening at the Ranch – Day 5

[Cue the Music DVD.]

Welcome back to Cactusville Ranch, Li'l Cowpokes. I'm glad you came today. Oh, we had a lot of fun yesterday learning about Deborah and our message was that we are called! *[Cup hand on one ear and encourage kids to respond. Kids: "Called to serve. Yee-haw!"]* Give your Ranch Hand Wrangler a high-five! Let's say it again! We are called! *[Kids: "Called to serve. Yee-haw!"]* Now we are going to learn a new one for today! *[Clap your hands.]* Every time you hear someone say, "We are called" you are going to say, "Called to give. Yee-haw!" Let's practice: We are called! *[Dramatically point to the kids. Kids: "Called to give. Yee-haw!"]* *[Slap your knee.]* Y'er mighty smart kiddos!

[Ring cowbell.] What does the cowbell mean? Yes! All eyes on me! We are going to do something different.

Meet and Greet Activity

Give your Ranch Hand Wrangler a high-five and say, "Yee-haw!" Let's play a game. Listen carefully...here are the instructions. Ranch Hand Wranglers, get your group in a circle with you, shoulder to shoulder. Everybody ready? In your Ranch Hand Wrangler bag is a ball. Get it out. Your Ranch Hand Wrangler will toss you a ball and when you have the ball in your hands I want you to say your name. Ready, Ranch Hand Wranglers? One...two...three...go! *[Ranch Hand Wranglers play the game with their group, helping the smaller kids say their name and throw the ball back. Alternative options: "Say your friend's name" or "Say your Ranch Hand Wrangler's name" or "Say Yee-haw!"]*



The kids should always roll the ball back to their Ranch Hand Wrangler after their turn. This way the Ranch Hand Wrangler keeps control of the game. Allow 5 minutes to play the game.



That was fun! Now it's time for the Ranch Hand Wranglers to put the ball back in their bag.

Gold Nugget

The Bible is full of treasure! Look right here *[hold up open Bible]* in 2 Timothy 1:9. It says: "(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." *[Teach the motions.]* That was fun let's do it again!

Wow! You know this Bible Gold Nugget real well! Let's see...whose turn is it to come and help with the motions? Oh yes, let's have the *[color group not yet called up to the front]* help us! *[Repeat Gold Nugget.]*

Thank you (color) Bandana group for helping us learn our Gold Nugget.

Sing-along and Critter Time

Are you ready to sing our theme song? ! I know I am! Here come the Red Band'danas! Let's sing We are Called *[do motions]*.

Next let's sing What Can We Give because that is what we are going to learn about today! Jesus gives us lots and lots of love! *[Cross arms over chest. Do motions.]*

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

[Helpers have parachute ready.] Saying "I love you" is a nice way to talk to your family and friends. As we sing Jesus Loves Me, I want you to think about God's love for you today...because...*(pause dramatically and whisper)* He loves you lots and lots!

[Spread out the parachute and ask the children to hold onto the handles and the edges.] Hold on tight to the edges! We are going to sing **Jesus Love Me** and the parachute is going to fly! Hang on!

Jesus loves me this I know *[lift the parachute up]*
For the Bible tells me so *[lift the parachute up]*
little ones to Him belong *[walk down]*
They are weak, but He is strong *[lift the parachute up and jump]*
Yes, Jesus loves me *[shake the parachute]*
Yes, Jesus loves me *[shake the parachute]*
Yes, Jesus loves me *[shake the parachute]*
The Bible tells me so *[lift the parachute up]*

That was fun! Let's do it again! *[Repeat song and activity.]*

Whew! Thank you for playing with the parachute with me! We are going to put it away now. *[Put away parachute.]*

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

I want to introduce you to Road Runner Roy. He is our Cactusville Critter for today *[point to poster or standup]*. Our Cactusville Critter helps us remember that we are called! *[Motion to kids to respond. Kids: "Called to Give. Yee-haw!"]*





And it has a fun name: Road Runner Roy! Road Runner Roy is the fastest running bird ever! He is so fast that he could run right past you and you wouldn't see him! Are you a fast runner? *[Allow kids to respond.]* You are?

Let's pretend we are fast running birds like Roy! *[Pump your arms back and forth and run in place.]* Run in place, Li'l Cowpokes...just like me! Faster! Faster! Faster!

Whew! I'm all tuckered out! *[Dramatically wipe your brow.]* That was fast running and I think you were the fastest! Whew!

Road Runner Roy reminds us of our Gold Nugget Bible verse, 2 Timothy 1:9: "(Jesus)...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." *[Do the motions and repeat.]*

Prayer Time

[In preparation for prayer, teach this little song and its motions to the children.] As we get ready to pray, let's sing our prayer song, **I Listen to the Lord** *[This song is sung to the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring, adapted by Francini Reis.]*

I listen *[right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]*

I listen *[left hand on left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[fold hands]*

And I close my eyes *[close eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we learn the lesson this today. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Closing at the Ranch – Day 5

Howdy Li'l Cowpokes! You have had a busy day here at Cactusville Ranch...yes sireee! *[Bend down and lean forward, looking at Little Cowpokes.]* Did you have fun learning about Jesus? *[Encourage the children to say, "Yes" real loud.]* Whoa there now...that was purty loud! God called Jesus to give love and He listened to what God asked Him to do! Just like Jesus, we are called! *[Motion to kids to respond. Kids: "Called to give. Yee-haw!"]* That means Jesus gives us love...all the time! Wrap your arms around yourself and say, "I love you too, Jesus!"

Sing-along Time and Operation Wheels

Are you ready to turn round and round, clap your hands, and stomp your feet? Come on up, Red Band'dan-as!

Let's start by singing **We are Different**. *[Teach motions, pick a partner to swing round and round or just turn round individually, clap your hands, and stomp your feet.]*

Next let's sing our theme song, **We are Called**. *[Do motions.]*

Now let's sing **What Can We Give**. *[Do motions.]*

Let's sing **Let's Serve**. *[Do motions.]*

[Place basket with scarves within easy reach. Hand out scarves to children to gently wave.] Now we're going to pick



up our scarves and sing **I Have Decided to Follow Jesus** [Wave scarves gently. Collect scarves when the song is over..].

[Cue Operation Wheels Day 5 DVD.]

God has called us to give when we see someone who needs to be loved. Cross your arms over your chest and say, "I want to give love to all my friends!"

Jesus loves all children! That means you and me! Let's sing **Jesus loves the Little Children** [with lyrics adapted by Shane B.].

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.
Every color, shape, and size, they are precious in His eyes.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Sit down right where you are. We are going to watch a DVD that shows some of our friends who moved here from far, far away; friends that need our love and friendship! Today we are going to meet Gesell from Syria.

[Play DVD. While DVD is playing, bring the Operation Wheels bucket to the front.]

We learned that our friend Gesell is from Syria, a country far, far away. Gisell and her friends need our friendship and love. Your Ranch Hand Wrangler is going to give you some money. When I call your color group you can bring your money and put it in the bucket. Let's see how heavy we can get our bucket!

[Call a Li'l Cowpoke up front to and ask them to show how strong they are by flexing their arm muscles.] **Wow! Look at those muscles! I'm sure [child's name] is strong enough to hold our Operation Wheels bucket!** [Have Li'l Cowpoke lift the bucket and then set it down.] **Wowwee! This bucket sure is heavy! Thank you, Li'l Cowpokes, for loving our friends from far, far away!**

[Ring cowbell.] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

It's time to circle up, Li'l Cowpokes. Sit in a circle around your Ranch Hand Wrangler. You are going to do an experiment with your friends and your Ranch Hand Wrangler called Color Mountain!

Ranch Hand Wrangler Activity

[Set up supplies ahead of time.] Are you ready to do an experiment? Everyone needs to circle up in his or her group. Ready?

Ranch Hand Wranglers, set your clear glass of water in front of you on your paper plate. Now take the shaving cream and shake it up. You may need a volunteer to help you shake it really well. [Encourage Ranch Hand Wranglers to let their kids give it a shake.] All done?

Ranch Hand Wranglers, take the cap off and spray shaving cream in your half-filled glass of water until it mounds out just a little bit. Wow! That's great!



Crossing both hands over the middle of your chest is the American Sign Language sign for "love."

ROUND UP

Let each Li'l Cowpoke squeeze a little food coloring on top of the shaving cream. Let everyone take a turn.

Now bend low, you can even lay down, and watch as the color moves through the shaving cream and swirls into the water. Cool! Ranch Hand Wranglers, discuss with your Li'l Cowpokes what colors they see.



[Listen to kids' responses. Nod with agreement. Smile. Look your Li'l Cowpokes in the eyes while they are talking.]

See all those colors? Those swirly colors make me happy! The colors represent the love that we give to others. And it makes us happy to give love, just like Jesus gave love to you and to me! Hurray!

[Give 10 minutes for experiment.]

[Ring cowbell] Did you hear that? Remember when you hear the cowbell it means that we are going to do something different.

Time to put away our experiment and welcome the Red Band'danas! Yee-haw! *[Instruct Ranch Hand Wranglers to carefully place their experiment on the counter out of reach.]*

Let's sing **Red and Blue and Yellow Too!** *[Sung to the tune of Clean Up, Clean Up.]*

Clean up, clean up

red and blue and yellow too

Clean up, clean up

Away they go, the game is through

Now let's sing our theme song, **We are Called.** *[Do motions.]*

That was pretty...I'm sure the angels were singing with us too! Isn't it wonderful to know that God has saved us and called us to a holy calling? Yes siree! Let's pray before we leave Cactusville Ranch.

Prayer Time

Let's pray before we leave Cactusville Ranch. *[Invite a volunteer or two or three to come and help with the motions.]* Let's sing our little song that helps us get ready for prayer. It's called **I Listen to the Lord.** *[Sung to the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring, adapted by Francini Reis.]*

I listen *[right hand on right ear; keep your hand there]*

I listen *[left hand on left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[fold hands]*

And I close my eyes *[close eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for being here with us today. Help us to listen and understand Your calling as we leave the Cactusville Ranch for today. We love You! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Goodbye, Li'l Cowpokes! It's been a pleasure visiting with you this week! You are the best Li'l Cowpokes ever! Give your Ranch Hand Wrangler a high-five! And remember, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond. Kids: "Called to give. Yee-haw!"]*

SUNSET CANYON

Bible Story

Decorating Sunset Canyon

Create a visual divide for your story area by setting up a small freestanding fence or child gate (available on Amazon.com) or an 8' x 8' EZ UP Pop-up Canopy (available at Walmart for \$49). The focal point of your station is a campfire. You can order this from Oriental Trading (Campfire Cardboard Stand-Up # IN-36/2212). Place blankets, mats, or individual cushions on the floor for the children to sit on and you're good to go!



Day One Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, memorize the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Tarantula Tammy** and the **Daily Call to be different**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; play a game; are introduced to **Jessica**, a refugee girl from Burma; learn about the Operation Wheels mission project; and are encouraged to bring money each day to support this project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **John the Baptist** and learn how he was called to eat, dress, and live differently from the people of His time, and God used him to reach many people for Jesus.

Wild Horse Corral

Li'l Cowpokes play the game **Jump to Me** and then choose between several sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids make beautiful designs with their **Swirls of Color** craft. Each swirl is different and unique just like Jesus has called each child to be different and unique for Him.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Prairie Dog Ponchos**, which illustrate how John the Baptist dared to be different.

Daily Call ★ Called to Be Different

Bible Story ★ John the Baptist

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people"* ★ 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

Materials and Supplies

- Blankets, mats, or cushions to sit on
- Go Fish card game (available at Walmart) or free memory game (download from <http://www.dltk-cards.com/memory/>)
- Bible time costume and beard
- Story props (piece of fur, leather belt, fake grasshopper or picture of one)
- Honey sticks ★ one per child
- Cups of water or small water bottle ★ one per child—to drink after eating the honey sticks
- Wipes for sticky hands
- Just Buggy Bugs (available at OrientalTrading.com # IN-58/39) ★ 5–10 bugs per group
- Small magnifying glasses ★ one per 2–3 children
- Small objects to examine with the magnifying glass (insects, leaves, pieces of food, small shells, nuts, small flowers, etc.)

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! Welcome to Sunset Canyon, the home of our Cactusville Ranch Bible stories. I'm tickled pink to see all of you here today! And I see that you've brought some friends with you! Hot diggity dog! That's terrific!

You're in for a great time learning about our great big God *[Stretch your arms wide]* and how much He loves you! *[Cross your arms and place each hand on its opposite shoulder—the sign for "love" in sign language]*

Did you know that God wants you to be His special helper? Yes siree, He sure does! Together, you and God are going to do great big things! Did you know that God wants you to get to know His son Jesus, who is calling you to follow Him? It says that right here in the greatest book ever written, the Bible! *[Put your hands together, then open them like a book and point to one palm]*

Can you open your pretend Bibles with me so we can read what it says? *[Pause while you repeat the gesture so the kids can imitate you. Then use an index finger to point to one of your palms as pointing at a verse.]*

Here's the verse I was looking for. 2 Timothy 2:9 tells us, "(Jesus) who has saved us and has called us with a holy calling..." *[Nod your head]* Yep, that's exactly right!

Every day we're here at Sunset Canyon, we'll be meeting a special person from the Bible! These are men and women who were saved and called with a holy calling, just like you! Every day, these special people will show us a way we have been called to follow Jesus. Now let's play a fun game that also shows us how being different is fine and dandy.

Instructions: Match 'Em!

Gather all the children in one big group. Give every child one Go Fish card, and be sure that at least one child receives a card that doesn't have a match. Show them how to go around the room looking for their match and finally stand beside them when they do. Explain that some children will find matches and some will not, and the ones who don't should come to the center of the room and raise their hand. (Have a Ranch Hand Wrangler stand in the center and wait for them.) Collect all the cards, shuffle them, and repeat the activity until most of the children have had a chance to be "different." Then have the children sit down while you discuss the following questions with them: "Was it hard trying to find your match?" and "How did you feel when you didn't have a match? Did it make you feel different?" Listen carefully and affirm each response.

What to Say: Match 'Em!

Wow! Those were great answers! This little game can help us remember that God calls us to be different from other people. This can mean looking or acting differently than most of the people around us. Let's say our Daily Call together. You ready? *[Pause slightly]* We are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to be different! Yee-haw!

Today our Bible story is about someone who was asked to look and act very different from most people he knew. Let's find out what God asked him to do!

Story Time

Come sit down. It's time for our story! Sit on our story blankets *[Say "mats" or "cushions" instead if that's what you're using]* around the campfire. I can hardly wait to introduce you to John the Baptist! He was a very different sort of fellow. He dressed differently, ate differently, and even had a job that was different. He was called to be God's special helper!

[Dramatically put on a biblical costume]

[Use a mysterious whisper and put on a dramatic facial expression as you start your story]

There was once a man who lived in the wilderness next to a river. *[Move your hands horizontally like a flowing river]* Can you make a river like I'm doing? *[Pause so the children can imitate you]* His name was John the Baptist. He was....well....different!

John's clothes were different. *[Point to your biblical costume]* He wore clothes made from camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist! *[Show the fur piece and belt and encourage the children to touch them]*

John the Baptist's job was different. His family was from the tribe of Levi. Can you say Levi? *[Pause while the children say it]* And they all lived in the mountains of Judea. Can you say Judea? *[Pause while they say it]* From the moment he was born, *[Cradle your arms like you are holding a baby]* God told John's parents that John would



Cactusville TIP

Encourage children to imitate your gestures (cradling your arms like you are holding a baby, waving goodbye, etc.).

be His special helper! John was to tell everyone that Jesus was coming. Wow! That's an important job! And that is exactly what he did when he grew up. Once John was all grown up, he said goodbye to his parents *[Wave goodbye]* and went to live in the wilderness near a river, *[Move your hands back and forth horizontally]* right where God had told him to go. John would look this way and then that way *[Shade your eyes and look left, then right]* and whenever he saw someone, he would go over to them and tell them Jesus was coming soon! This was the job that God had called John to do, so he did it!

John the Baptist was a simple man. He wasn't worried about being popular or well-liked by everyone. He always told the truth and tried to do exactly what God wanted him to do! He listened *[Cup your ear]* to God's call *[Point up]* to be different.

Not only did John look and dress differently, he even ate food that was different. Matthew 3:4 says that John the Baptist ate locusts, or bugs, and wild honey. Would you eat that? *[Pause while the kids answer]* Well, he did! *[Show honey and grasshoppers]*

[As you open the sticks] Just like John the Baptist, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to be different! Yee-haw!

[Give children time to taste the sweet honey] God made the honey to be sweet! Too much honey is not good for you, but a small taste is sweet, yummy, and just right! Mmmm, good!

Guess who John the Baptist's cousin was? Can you guess? *[Pause while the children guess]* His cousin's name was Jesus! Wowie! Isn't that great? *[Clap several times in excitement]*

One day Jesus walked down to the river where John was. He went up to His cousin and asked John to baptize Him! That meant Jesus wanted to be lowered down under the water and lifted back up again to show that He was clean. *[Demonstrate with your hands, lowering an invisible figure into the water and back up again]* Jesus had never done anything wrong and didn't have any sins that needed to be washed away, but He wanted to make an example for us. So John baptized Jesus. *[Nod your head]* When Jesus came up out of the water, God spoke and told everyone that Jesus was His son, and that He was very pleased! It must have been exciting to actually hear God's voice! *[Point up]* John the Baptist was happy! *[Clap your hands]* Jesus was happy! *[Clap your hands]* And God the Father was happy too! *[Clap your hands]* Hurray!

This reminds me of our God Nugget verse. Let's say it together! "... (Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling" (2 Timothy 1:9 NKJV). *[Say the words slowly and lead out in the hand motions so the kids can follow along]*



Cactusville TIP

If you can find a real piece of honeycomb, it makes a great addition to the story!



Before feeding the children honey, check the registration cards for any honey allergies ahead of time and offer an alternative (like reduced sugar maple syrup) to children who have one. Hand out a wild honey stick to each child. Show them how to open the honey stick by using their teeth or use scissors to cut it open for them. (Be sure to put the scissors away or give them to a helper to put away afterwards.)

Memory Verse Motions
see AdventistVBX.org

Instructions: Grasshopper Activity

Grasshopper Activity

Have the children sit in small groups of 3-4 and have your Ranch Hand Wranglers give each group 5-10 Just Buggy Bugs. Ask the children to sort ones that look similar into piles. You can instruct them to sort by color, wings or no wings, size, type of bug, etc. As they are sorting, ask them questions like, “Do you have any bugs that are different from the ones in this pile or that pile? What is different about them?” and “Where should we put these bugs?”

Got the Point! Grasshopper Activity

Grasshopper Activity

I have something to show you! Remember, our story said that John the Baptist ate bugs and wild honey. We don’t have to eat bugs, but we can play with them!

[After the game is finished] You are different too! Look around you! [Point out some features that make the children both similar and different from one another, such as shirt color, eye color, height, gender, etc.] It’s fun to have things that are the same as what other people have, but it’s also really fun to be different. Just like John the Baptist.

John the Baptist was called to be different, and so are you! People who love Jesus are called Christians. As followers of Christ, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to be different! Yee-haw!

We are different because we are God’s helpers! The way we talk and act can help people around us follow Jesus. What are some things you can do that helps others know you love Jesus? *[Pause and let the children answer. Affirm each response.]*



Cactusville TIP

Always be affirmative about these differences. For example, you could say, “Carolyn has a beautiful green T-shirt on today. Oh, it is very nice. And Brandon has a yellow T-shirt. Oh, very nice indeed!”

Wrap Up

[Hand out the magnifying glasses and small objects. If you don’t have enough magnifying glasses for each child, have two or three children cluster together and designate when it’s time to share it with the next child. Be sure there are enough objects for the children to examine.]

Use your magnifying glass and look at each object. When you look through a magnifying glass, it makes things look bigger and clearer. It helps you see more details. Isn’t that cool? Two shells can look pretty much the same when you don’t have a magnifying glass, but when we look up close like this, we can see that they are different. *[Allow enough time for each child to see one or two items]*

This is true for each of us too. While we all have things about us that are the same—we all have noses, *[Touch your nose] two eyes, [Point to your eyes] and ten fingers [Wiggle all your fingers]*—when you look more carefully, you can tell that each of us are different in special ways. Some of us are tall *[Stretch up tall with your arms up]* while others are short *[Bend your knees and lower body]*, and some of us have curly hair *[Point at*

someone in the room with curly hair] while others have straight hair [Point at someone with straight hair]. I'm really glad God made me different! [Point to yourself] Are you glad God made you different? [Nod you head and give the children time to respond] After all, we are called! [Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]

Kids: Called to be different! Yee-haw!

Prayer Time

As we get ready to pray, let's sing this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring)

I listen *[Put your right hand on your right ear]*

I listen *[Put your left hand on your left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[Put both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[Fold your hands]*

And I close my eyes *[Close your eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Thank you for calling us to be different, just like you did with John the Baptist. We want to be your special helpers just like John the Baptist was. We love you! In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Now, Li'l Cowpokes, it's time to rustle up and scurry on to your next station! Be sure to stay with your Ranch Hand Wranglers! Thanks for coming to spend time with me today. See you again real soon!



Day Two Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Prairie Dog Pete** and the **Daily Call to be faithful**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; learn about **Josef**, a refugee from Iraq; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow **Abraham** as he leaves his comfortable home and all his friends. They see how he was faithful to God's calling as he journeyed to an unknown land.

Wild Horse Corral

Li'l Cowpokes play the game **Round 'Em Up** and then are free to wander from one sensory activity to another.

Trading Post

Kids use their imaginations while making the **Paper Plate Pony** craft. Playing with their Paper Plate Ponies will remind them of Jesus' call to be faithful.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Tacos in a Cup**. The variety of ingredients in this snack, represents all the belongings Abraham had to pack up when God called him to leave his home.

Daily Call ★ Called to be Faithful

Bible Story ★ Abraham

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"By faith Abraham obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."* ★ Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

- Blankets, mats or cushions to sit on
- Lizard
- Bible time costume and beard
- Sack or suitcase ★ one per small group
- Flashlight, water bottle, or canteen as well as other items you would take on a trip ★ an equal number of similar items per group
- Some silly items you would NOT take on a trip
- Bandana ★ one per small group
- Bible

Introduction

[Place the lizard on your shoulder before you speak] Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! Welcome back to Sunset Canyon! I'm happier than a lizard soaking up the sunshine to have you back again for another story about an unforgettable Bible character. *[Give a sudden startled look at your shoulder where the lizard is sitting]* Whoa there, Li'l Cowpokes! Where did this lizard come from? I guess he wants to hear today's Bible story too! I wonder which special person from the Bible we get to meet today? Each of them are people who were saved and called with a holy calling, just like you! *[Point at the children]*

Let's open our pretend Bibles to 2 Timothy 1:9, where it talks about our holy calling. *[Put your hands together, then open them like a book and point to one palm]* Here it is. I found it! Since this is our God Nugget that you are in the process of learning, let's say it together: "... (Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." 2 Timothy 1:9 (NIV). *[Say the words slowly and lead out in the hand motions so the kids can follow]*

Nicely done! *[Clap your hands]*

Memory Verse Motions
see AdventistVBX.org

Instructions: Pack 'Em Up

Pack 'Em Up

The Ranch Hand Wranglers in each group lead out. Look at each item in your pile—some should be silly—and discuss with the kids which items should be packed and why you need to take them. For example, hold up an object, ask the children what it is and after they tell you, ask if you should pack it. Talk about why you need it, etc. Do this for each item, whether or not it was chosen. Allow 5 minutes for this activity.

What to Say

Pack 'Em Up

Today we are going to pretend that we are about to go on an adventure way over in the land where many of the people from the Bible lived. The first thing we need to do is pack our bags. *[Distribute a backpack, suitcase,*

or pillowcase to each group's Ranch Hand Wrangler. Each group should also have a pile of 10-12 items to choose from.] Let's choose the items that you think we would need for our trip and put them in our bags.

[After the game is finished] Now that our bags are packed, we can start on our adventure. I hope you're ready for a long ride! Our horses are all saddled up and waiting for us. Let's get on. [Motion for the children to stand up so they can imitate you while you pretend to put one leg up and over a horse's back, and then sit as though you're in a saddle and holding the reins.] If you're ready to ride, let me hear a loud "Yee-haw!" [Cup your hand and listen while the kids shout, "Yee-haw!"] Here we go! [Gallop in place, even circling, while making horse sounds and encouraging the children to do the same. Do this for at least ten seconds.] Whew! [Wipe your brow] That was a long trip. Look where we are now! [Shade your eyes with one hand and look all around] Can you imagine having to pack all your belongings for a really long trip, without having the faintest idea where you are going? That's exactly what happened to the person in today's Bible story. Let's find out what God called him to do!

Story Time

It's time for our story! Come sit down on our story blankets [Say "mats" or "cushions" instead if that's what you're using] around the campfire and get comfortable. I can hardly wait to introduce you to Abraham! He was a very faithful sort of fellow—one of God's very special helpers.

[Dramatically put on your Bible costume. Remind the kids to follow along with your gestures.]

We are at Abraham's house, or I should say tent! Abraham lived in a big tent. [Spread your arms out wide] Today we are going to see what God called Abraham to do! What do you think Abraham looked like? Did he have long hair? [Touch your hair] Did he have a beard? [Dramatically put on the beard] Was he tall? [Point way up] Or was he short? [Bend over and gesture low]

Get nice and cozy-like around the fire and I'll tell you all about it! But I'm going to need your help telling this fine story!

When I say *Abraham*, I need you to stand up and say, "I'm faithful!"

When I say *Sara*, make praying hands and say, "I want a son!"

When I say *Lot*, shade your eyes with one hand and say, "Wow, look at the view!"

[Practice saying this and modeling the motions slowly so the children can do it with you]

I'll help you remember what to do as we go along. Are you ready? [Pause while they respond]

A long, long time ago, Abraham ("I'm faithful!") lived in an area that was flat, like where we are now. He was old and had lots of money. What he wanted more than anything was to have a son, but he was already 75 years and still had no children. (Hold out empty hands and shake your head with a sad face)

But wait! [Hold out your hand in a signal to stop] God told Abraham ("I'm faithful!") to pack up his things and move from the big city where he was living in his nice comfortable tent to a faraway place called Canaan. Even though Abraham didn't know anything about Canaan, he obeyed God and got ready to move. And even though he did not know why he was supposed to go to Canaan, he was willing to go.

So Abraham ("I'm faithful!") packed up his things, took his wife Sara, ("I want a son!") his nephew Lot, ("Wow, Look at the view!") and a few other friends and relatives, and hit the dusty trail! He had no idea that the place he was going to would change his life forever. [Hold your hand over your mouth in surprise] You see,

when God called Abraham, (“I’m faithful!”) God made him a promise that someday he would be the father of a great nation. Abraham (“I’m faithful!”) was answering God’s call to be faithful! And just like Abraham, (“I’m faithful!”) we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to be faithful! Yee-haw!

[Hold out a Bible opened to Hebrews 11:8] Listen to what the Bible says about Abraham (“I’m faithful!”) in the book of Hebrews. “By faith Abraham (“I’m faithful!”) obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going” (Hebrews 11:8). Imagine leaving where you had grown up your whole life with all of your family and friends to follow God. Imagine leaving behind most of the things you owned and just packing one or two suitcases before starting on a long trip to a place you’d never heard of before! Wowsers!

Instructions

The Bandana Shuffle

Choose two Li'l Cowpokes from your group. Tie a bandana around one Li'l Cowpoke's right ankle and around the other Li'l Cowpoke's left ankle. Place a Bible five to ten feet in front of them and instruct them to work together to reach it and bring it back to you. Do this several times with different Li'l Cowpoke partners.

Got the Point!

The Bandana Shuffle

Li'l Cowpokes, we are going to take a break from our long journey and play a little game.

[After the game is finished] Wow! You Li'l Cowpokes did a great job of working together! Sometimes it takes team work to get a job done. In today's story, Abraham had to learn to work together with God and trust God to lead him and his family to a new and safe place to pitch their tents! When you have faith and trust in God, you'll never be afraid of what lies ahead and you will be ready for whatever God calls you to do.

Now, back to our story! Remember to help me out by imitating the gestures I make! A lot happened during the big move and it wasn't all fun and games, that's for sure! There was a time when there was not enough food! Sara (“I want a son!”) was almost taken from Abraham, (“I’m faithful!”) and there was war. But after many years had passed, God kept his promise. When Abraham (“I’m faithful!”) was 100 years old, Sara (“I want a son!”) had a baby *[Cradle an invisible baby in your arms and rock it back and forth]* and they named him Isaac. Sara (“I want a son!”) was 90 years old. Oh my! What rejoicing and great celebration there was! *[Clap your hands with joy]* Abraham (“I’m faithful!”) and Sara (“I want a son!”) answered God's call to be faithful. Yee-haw!



Wrap Up

Just like Abraham (“I’m faithful!”) and Sara (“I want a son!”) in our Bible story today, we are called! [*Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond*]

Kids: Called to be faithful! Yee-haw!

Can you think of ways you can be faithful? [*Pause and see if any children raise their hands. Listen to their answers and affirm them.*] See if you can guess what I am doing now. [*Go through motions of making your bed. Give clues if they don’t guess correctly.*] That’s right. I can be faithful by making my bed every day. See if you can guess what I’m doing now. [*Go through the motions of setting the table for supper—silverware, napkins, plates, etc. Give clues if they don’t guess correctly.*] You guessed it! I’m helping set the table for supper. That’s another way I can be faithful to God’s calling. You can practice being faithful by obeying your mommy or daddy when they ask you to do things like picking up your toys, brushing your teeth, or taking out the trash. You can listen and obey and faithfully do just what they asked you to.

That’s exactly what Abraham (“I’m faithful!”) did. He obeyed when God asked him to pack up and move to a new place. He was faithful to follow God’s calling even though he didn’t know where he was going to live. How many of you would like to ask God to help you be faithful to Him? [*Raise your hand and wait while the children raise theirs*]

Prayer Time

As we get ready to pray, let’s sing this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It’s Raining, It’s Pouring)

I listen [*Put your right hand on your right ear*]

I listen [*Put your left hand on your left ear*]

I listen to my Lord [*Put both hands on both ears*]

I fold my hands [*Fold your hands*]

And I close my eyes [*Close your eyes*]

Now I’m ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Thank you for calling us to be faithful, just like you called Abraham. We want to be your special helpers. We love you. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

Well Li’l Cowpokes, it looks like our campfire flames are starting to die down a bit. It must be time for you to mosey on to your next station. Be sure to stay with your Ranch Hand Wranglers. Thanks for coming to spend time with me today! I look forward to seeing you next time!



Day Three Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Chuck the Chuckwalla** and the **Daily Call to forgive**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; learn about **June Lily**, a refugee from Malaysia; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow the story of **Joseph** as he models forgiveness. They learn how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers in spite of how badly they treated him.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play **Storing the Grain** and spend time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids enjoy the sensory experiences involved in creating **Sunrise Art** masterpieces. The happiness they feel while viewing a beautiful sunrise reminds them of the happiness that comes from forgiving others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy Howdy **Pard'ner Trail Mix** and are reminded that a heart willing to forgive can overcome a multitude of challenging circumstances.

Daily Call ★ Called to Forgive

Bible Story ★ Joseph

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) ...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* ★ Matthew 6:14 (NIV)



Materials and Supplies

- Blankets, mats, or cushions to sit on
- Emotion faces (Download for free at AdventistVBX.com)
- Bible time costume and beard
- Colorful bathrobe or piece of soft fabric
- *My Bible Friends, Book 1, Story 4: Joseph and His Brothers* or a tablet or screen to stream this link on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/28529552> (optional)
- Bible
- 2 marbles
- Large plastic cup ★ one per small group

Introduction

Howdy Li'l Cowpokes! Welcome back to Sunset Canyon, our campfire story station. We've had two great days at Cactusville Ranch already, isn't that right? *[Nod your head and pause to allow them to respond]* And I think today is going to be totally terrific! Let me hear you say a big yee-haw if you agree with me! *[Pause and cup one hand to your ear while the children shout, "Yee-haw!"]* I wonder which special person from the Bible we get to meet today? Each of them are people who were saved and called with a holy calling, just like you! *[Point at the children]*

Let's open our pretend Bibles to 2 Timothy 1:9, where it talks about our holy calling. *[Put your hands together, then open them like a book and point to one palm]* Here it is. I found it! As you probably know, this is our Gold Nugget. I'm guessing that some of you know it by heart by now. Let's say it together. "...*(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling...*" (2 Timothy 1:9). *[Say the words slowly and lead out in the hand motions so the kids can follow along]*

Memory Verse Motions
see AdventistVBX.org

Nicely done! *[Clap your hands]*

What to Say

Faces and Feelings

[For this activity, download the pictures of faces showing different emotions from AdventistVBX.com for free]

Can you guys show me a happy face? *[Smile and show a picture of a happy face]* Can you show me a sad face? *[Frown and show a picture of the sad face]* What about an angry face? *[Scowl and say, "Grrrr," and show a picture of an angry face]* Wow! You guys really know how to use your faces to show your emotions! *[Clap several times]*
Nice job!

Have your parents ever done something super special for you that was a big surprise? Maybe they gave you a special gift that you weren't expecting, or took you on a special trip to your favorite water park without

telling you ahead of time? What did your parents do to surprise you? *[Pause, allow time for responses, and affirm their answers]*

Show me the expression on your face when you opened that special gift and discovered exactly what you had been wanting for so long. *[Pause and let the children make surprised looks. Affirm their efforts.]* Now, what about going to your favorite water park? Show me what your face would look like if you realized you were finally being taken to the water park you like so much! *[Pause and let the children make surprised and/or excited looks. Affirm their efforts.]*

What if a friend did something mean to you that really hurt your feelings, and they didn't even say they were sorry? Would you be able to forgive that friend for what they did to you? Today we're going to hear a story about someone who had many mean things done to him, but God called him to forgive anyway.

Story Time

It's time for our story! Come sit down on our story blankets *[Say "mats" or "cushions" instead if that's what you're using]* around the campfire and get comfortable. I've been keeping the fire nice and hot until you got here. *[Rub your hands over the pretend campfire]* Before we start today's story, let's see how good your memories are. If you think you know the answer to my question, raise your hand and I will call on one of you. On our first day at Sunset Canyon, we talked about a man who God called to be different. Can anyone tell me his name? *[Pause and look for raised hands. Select one, listen to the answer, and affirm it. If the first answer is incorrect, call on someone else.]* Very good! You are exactly right, it was John the Baptist. Are you ready for the next question? *[Pause and wait for the children to answer]* Here it is. Yesterday our story told us about someone God called to be faithful. Does anyone remember who that was? *[Pause, raise your hand, and look for the children's raised hands. Select one, listen to the answer, and affirm it. If the first answer is incorrect, call on someone else.]* That's right, yesterday's story was about Abraham. Nice job! You guys have great memories!

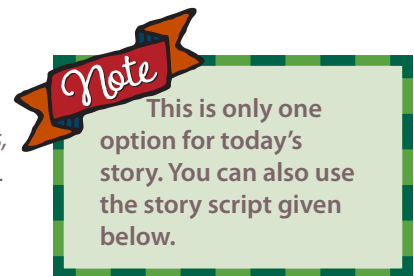
I can hardly wait to introduce you to our Bible story character for today! I think you're really going to like him. Today's story is all about how God called a boy named Joseph to be His special helper. Joseph's life was full of adventures—some that made him happy, some that made him sad, and some that even made him feel kind of mad! But through it all, God called Joseph to forgive. Just as we are called!

Kids: Called to forgive! Yee-haw!

Li'l Cowpokes, we can watch and listen to our story today! Let's see what happens with Joseph and his brothers. (Read the story out of *My Bible Friends, Book 1, Story 4: Joseph and His Brothers* or stream the Vimeo link at <https://vimeo.com/28529552>.)

[Dramatically put on your Bible costume]

Our story starts with a boy named Joseph and his family! Joseph's parents really loved him. His father wanted to give Joseph something extra special to show him how much he was loved. Can you guess what it was? I'll give you some clues: It was warm and it had many colors! Any guesses? Raise your hand if you think you know. *[Scan the group looking for raised hands. Call on someone and affirm their answer.]* That's right, it was a beautiful coat. It may have looked like this. *[Hold up a colorful robe or piece of fabric. Have the kids touch it, may-*



SUNSET CANYON

be try it on.] If you were Joseph, would you have liked it? [Pause while the children respond] Well Joseph liked it a lot, but he had eleven other brothers who did not get a coat like this one! They were grumpy and jealous. Would you have been grumpy if you were his brothers? [Pause while they respond]

Li'l Cowpokes, I need your help while I'm telling this story.

When you hear the word *coat*, **put your arms around your shoulders and give yourself a hug.**

When you hear the word *jealous*, **make your most jealous face.**

When you hear the word *prison*, **put your wrists together.**

When you hear the word *food*, **rub your tummy and say, "Mmm, mmm!"**

When you hear the words *forgive* or *forgave*, **say, "Yee-haw!" and shake someone's hand.**

When you hear the words *oh no*, **put both hands on your cheeks and shake your head no.**

I'll help you remember what to do as we go along. Are you ready? *[Pause while the children respond]*

When Joseph was twelve years old, his dad gave him a beautiful, colorful coat (**hug**). The other brothers were very jealous (**jealous face**). It wasn't a pretty sight. When we feel jealous (**jealous face**), it doesn't make us happy at all. *[Shake your head no and frown]* To make things worse, Joseph started to have dreams about himself and his brothers with him standing in the center and his brothers bowing down all around him. Joseph didn't know what these dreams meant, but he made the mistake of telling his brothers about them.

This made Joseph's brothers jealous (**jealous face**) and very angry, *[Make an angry face and say, "Grrr"]* so they decided to do a really mean thing to Joseph. They sold him, their own brother, to a group of strangers on camels that was passing by on their way to Egypt. Can you imagine your brother or sister selling you to a total stranger? Oh no! (**shake head**). That would be awful!

A long time went by while Joseph was away from his family, but God watched over him and took care of him the whole time. One of the adventures Joseph had was going to prison (**wrists together**) for something that he didn't even do.

After a long time in prison (**wrists together**), Joseph was called to tell the Egyptian king, Pharaoh, what the dreams he had been having meant—something no one else had been able to do. With God's help, Joseph was able to tell Pharaoh the meaning of these dreams: seven years of rain and good harvests would be coming soon and the people of Egypt would be able to grow as much food as they wanted! Then, seven years of famine would come after that, and all the rain would stop and no one would be able to grow anything at all. Oh no! (**shake head**) The Pharaoh was so impressed that he made Joseph his second in command over all of Egypt!

Joseph had a big job to do now. God gave Joseph instructions to grow as much food ("Mmm, mmm!") as he could during the first seven years and store it all up, so that when the seven bad years came after that everyone would have enough to eat. Sure enough, thanks to all of Joseph's hard work, even after the rain stopped and nothing would grow, nobody in Egypt went hungry! Soon the news spread to even the faraway countries that there was plenty to eat in Egypt, so people from all over traveled there to buy food ("Mmm, mmm!").

Joseph was now a very important man in Egypt and it was his job to make sure all the people had enough to eat. To his surprise, one day his older brothers came all the way to Egypt to buy food ("Mmm, mmm!")! His older brothers! Joseph could have felt very angry about this *[Make a mad face]*. He could have been mean

back to them to get even. But Joseph didn't. Instead, he decided to test them to see if they were still mean people or if they had changed over the years. After they paid for their food ("Mmm, mmm!"), Joseph had his servants put his brothers' money back into their food bags ("Mmm, mmm!"). Joseph also tested them by putting his special silver cup in Benjamin's, his youngest brother's, bag.

Got the Point!

Cup, Cup, Who's Got the Cup?

We're going to play a little game that goes along with the tests Joseph gave his brothers. I need everyone to come sit in a circle. *[Pause while kids come over and sit down]* I'm going to hand two of you a small marble. *[Do so while continuing to talk]* Keep the marbles hidden in your hands so they can't be seen. I also need one Ranch Hand Wrangler to volunteer to be my steward. *[Pause and select one Ranch Hand Wrangler]* Li'l Cow-pokes, you are going to pass the marbles around the circle. Try not to drop them and or let anyone see them as they pass from person to person. While you are passing the marbles, each of you should pretend like you're holding a marble at all times, even if you have nothing in your hands! *[Mime how to secretly pass a marble to the next person]*

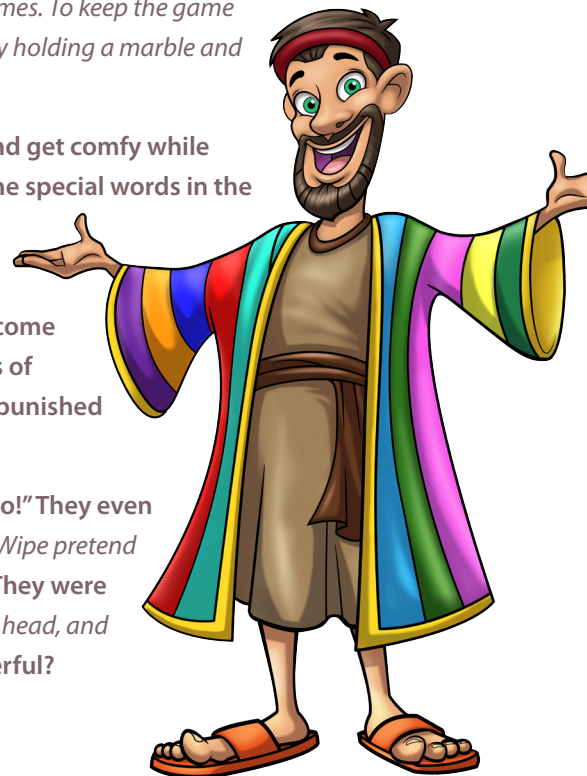
Meanwhile, our steward is going to walk around the outside of the circle and try to see who is holding the silver cup (our marbles). While walking, the steward will say, "Cup, cup, who's got the cup? My best guess is the cup is here!" *[Say the words slowly and rhythmically. Put a great emphasis on the word "here."]* On the word "here," the steward will stop behind one player and tap them on the shoulder. That player must then open both hands and show if the cup—or one of the marbles—is in them. If he or she is caught holding the cup, that player must stand, put both hands together as if they're praying, bow slightly, and say "I'm so sorry." The other children in the circle will then respond by saying, "We forgive you!"

If the player's hands are empty, everyone goes back to passing the marbles around and the steward will continue to walk around the circle. *[Repeat this sequence at least five or six times. To keep the game exciting, the steward should alternate between choosing a child that is obviously holding a marble and one whose hands are empty.]*

[After the game is over] Now you can go sit on your cushions again. Relax and get comfy while we finish the story of Joseph. And remember to help me when you hear the special words in the story!

The brothers were on their way home with their bags of food ("Mmm, mmm!") when soldiers from Egypt caught up with them and made them come back. They were brought in before Joseph, where he accused the brothers of being thieves and told them their youngest brother, Benjamin, would be punished because of what they had done. Oh no! *(shake head)*

The other brothers begged Joseph, "Please, please, please, let Benjamin go!" They even asked Joseph to punish them instead of Benjamin. With tears in his eyes *[Wipe pretend tears from your eyes]*, Joseph saw the change in the hearts of his brothers. They were not mean anymore. Can you guess what Joseph did next? *[Pause, nod your head, and wait for the kids to respond]* He forgave them! ("Yee-haw!") Isn't that wonderful?





Joseph accepted God's call to forgive. ("Yee-haw!") He opened his arms *[Open your arms wide]* and told them, "I am your brother Joseph. I forgive you!" ("Yee-haw!")

Wrap Up

Li'l Cowpokes, let's see what the Bible has to say about forgiveness. *[Hold out a Bible opened to Matthew 6:14. Point to the verse so the children can see]* Right here in Matthew 6:14, God says, "For if you forgive [**'Yee-haw!' Shake someone's hand]** men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive [**'Yee-haw!' Shake someone's hand]** you."

So you see, Joseph wasn't the only person that God called to forgive. The Bible tells us that we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to forgive! Yee-haw!

Sometimes bad things may happen to us that don't seem fair. Maybe there's someone you know who is mean to you, but God can help us forgive them just like He helped Joseph. God is always right there with you no matter what happens. And even though it's a hard thing to do, God wants us to forgive the people that are mean to us. The good news is God will help us do this hard thing and even make us want to forgive others! Isn't that terrific?

Can you think of someone that you need to forgive? You can ask God to help you. Let's do that right now.

Prayer Time

As we get ready to pray, let's sing this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring)

I listen *[Put your right hand on your right ear]*

I listen *[Put your left hand on your left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[Put both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[Fold your hands]*

And I close my eyes *[Close your eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Thank you for calling us to forgive, just like you called Joseph. We love you. Please help us to forgive others just as you have forgiven us. In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.

Well, Li'l Cowpokes, looks like our campfire flames are starting to die down a bit. It must be time for you to mosey on to your next station. Be sure to stay with your Ranch Hand Wranglers. Thanks for coming to spend time with me today! And remember, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to forgive! Yee-haw!

See you next time!





Day Four Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Pack Mule Patty**, and the **Daily Call to serve**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; meet **Juliette, Ben and his sister**, three young refugees from Africa; and are reminded to continue to bring money for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Deborah** and how God helped make her brave enough to serve Him in battle. Kids learn to use their talents to serve God.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play a fun group game of Snakes in Boots and then spend the remaining time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Li'l Cowpokes will tailor their own **At Your Service Sheriff Vest** complete with sheriff badge as they are reminded of God's call to serve others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Cactus Pops**. The variety of fruits remind them that they can use their different gifts and talents to serve in many ways.

Daily Call ★ Called to Serve

Bible Story ★ Deborah

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."* ★ 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



Materials and Supplies

- Blankets, mats, or cushions to sit on
- Guitar, ukulele, or other small instrument
- Rhythm sticks ★ 2 per child
- Bible time costume
- Bible costumes for approximately 7 children (optional)
- Bible

Introduction

Welcome back, Li'l Cowpokes! I see you've returned to Sunset Canyon for another campfire story. I'm glad you're here! Are you enjoying yourselves at Cactusville Ranch? *[Pause, nod your head, and allow the children to answer]* Are you having fun? *[Pause, nod your head, give a thumbs up, and allow the children to answer]* What have you enjoyed doing the most here at the Ranch? *[Pause, allow for several responses. Affirm each answer, such as by saying "Yeah, me too!" or "I agree, that was fun!" etc.]*

I wonder which special person from the Bible we get to meet today! Each of them are people who were saved and called with a holy calling, just like you! *[Point at the children]*

Let's open our pretend Bibles to 2 Timothy 1:9, our Gold Nugget, where it talks about our holy calling. *[Put your hands together, then open them like a book and point to one palm]* Here it is. I found it! I'm guessing that quite a few of you know our Gold Nugget by heart now. Let's practice saying it together. "... (Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." (2 Timothy 1:9). *[Say the words slowly and lead out in the hand motions so the kids can follow along]*

Memory Verse Motions
see AdventistVBX.org

Great job! *[Clap your hands]*

What to Say

"I can _____, can you?"

I know that God made me with special things I can do! This little game lets us show each other some of the special things that all of us can do. It is called, "I can _____, you?" All you need to do is say those four words and add something special in the middle that you can do and want to show us. When you're done, we will all try to do it too.

Watch me; I'll go first. "I can wink, can you?" *[Wink and pause so the children can copy you. Some will be able to, others won't. Affirm everyone for trying. Other examples you can use include: "I can curl my tongue, can you?" and "I can touch my toes, can you?" and "I can whisper, can you?" Give as many examples as you feel the children need to grasp the game, then choose a child to go next. Encourage everyone to take a turn and help the children who can't think of anything by giving them a suggestion. Affirm the other children for attempting whatever the task is, and make the observation that there are things that some people can do and some can't. You can say something like, "Wow, you can do something not everyone can! That's a special talent that God gave you!"]*

[When all the children have had a chance to play] Boy, howdy! You Li'l Cowpokes can sure do a lot of unique things! Did God make us so we could all do the same things? [Pause, shake your head, slowly, and give them time to answer] Why not? [Pause to see if they can come up with any answers. Affirm any answers they give] I think it is because God made each of us special and gave each of us special talents or abilities. Can you use the special talents God gave you to serve others and make them happy? [Pause, nod your head, and allow them to answer] I think that's exactly what God wants you to do.

Our campfire is ready and waiting for us. Are you ready to hear a really good story? *[Pause, clap your hands in excitement, and allow them time to respond] We are going to learn about a very special lady. Her name is Deborah. God called her to serve others in some very interesting ways! Let's get ready to meet her!*

Story Time

[You will be role-playing today's story, so select children from the group to play the following roles: Deborah, Barak, Jabin, and Jabin's army (2-3 kids). Give each of them Bible costumes to wear (optional).]

Come sit down on our story blankets *[Say "mats" or "cushions" instead if that's what you're using] around the campfire and get cozy and comfortable. Oh, I can hardly wait to introduce you to Deborah! She was an amazing lady who was very wise and very kind! Best of all, she was one of God's special helpers!*

[Dramatically put on a Bible costume]

There was once a lady who had lots of jobs to do. Her name was Deborah! *[Call up the child who is dressed as Deborah and have her stand in front of the group] She lived a long time ago in a land called Israel, where there was no king or queen or president to rule her country. God was Israel's King. And just like Deborah, we are called!* *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to serve! Yee-haw!

Deborah said yes to God's call! She sat under a big palm tree near the city gate and served as a judge for God. *[Instruct "Deborah" to sit down] That means she helped people solve their problems when they had arguments or disagreements with each other. That's a real talent!* *[Nod your head] God called Deborah to do another job too! She often studied God's Word* *[Hand "Deborah" a Bible]* and she learned to listen for God's messages. After she heard a message from God and was told who it should go to, Deborah would go give that person God's special message. That job is called being a prophetess. Can you say that with me? *[Pause and say "prophetess" slowly so the children can say it with you] Nice job! God called Deborah to serve as a prophetess, just like we are called!* *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to serve! Yee-haw!

Wow! I'd like to hear special messages from God too! *[Pat your chest and nod your head in agreement] One day, God used Deborah to give a really important message!* *[Have "Deborah" stand up in front again] You see, there was a king named Jabin* *[Have the child dressed as Jabin stand in front of the children] that was not very nice. And he had a great big army!* *[Have the three children dressed as Jabin's army stand beside the king] All the people were afraid of the king's army. No one knew what to do.* *[Widen your eyes and put one hand over your mouth. Encourage the children to copy your expression and gesture.] Oh no!*





So Deborah talked to God *[Fold your hands as if in prayer]* and God told her exactly what to do. She called for a man named Barak *[Have the child dressed as Barak stand beside Deborah]*, a leader in Israel's army, to come hear God's message. Let's read the message in the Bible that Deborah told her friend Barak. It is found in Judges 4:6, 7. *[Bend over and hold the Bible in front of "Deborah" and "Barak" while pointing to the verse]* "The Lord, the God of Israel's people commands you to take ten thousand men from the tribes and go fight Sisera, the leader of Jabin's army. I will make him go to the Kishon River. He will go with his chariots and his army. I will give you success."

Wow! That was a brave thing that God was asking Barak to do! *[Bend over so you're down at your Li'l Cowpokes' level and lower your voice to a whisper while you ask the next question]* Have you ever been afraid to do something you were told to do? *[Widen your eyes and nod your head yes]* I have! When Barak heard God's message, he was afraid too! He told Deborah he couldn't go fight the army by himself *[Hug yourself and shiver]*, but if she would go with him, he would do it. What! Can you believe that? But just like we are called... *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to serve! Yee-haw!

...Deborah was called to serve too, so she went with Barak. They put together a small army *[Cup your hands together as if to show something small]* and went up to fight Jabin's huge army *[Spread your arms wide apart]*. They did exactly what God said to do, and they won the battle!

Everyone in Israel was mighty happy that Barak and Deborah had won the battle! *[Clap your hands]* Hurray! Deborah and Barak knew who they needed to thank. Can you guess who that was? *[Pause and allow the children time to answer]* Yes, it was Jesus! Hurray for Jesus! Hurray for Jesus! *[Encourage the children to cheer with you and clap. Thank the children for their roles in the play and ask them to sit down again by the fire. Your helpers can help them take their Bible costumes off.]*

Instructions:

Create a Song Activity

Give each child a set of music sticks. Say, not sing, the words first and have everyone tap their sticks in time (four taps per line). Practice Judges 5:12 line by line, saying the words and tapping the sticks. Practice a line 3-4 times before going on to the next line. Once the children have learned the words, you can try adding the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star to it and singing the song. If it works better just to speak it while tapping the sticks, don't worry about singing it just yet.

Have the Ranch Hand Wranglers collect the sticks. Now using a guitar, ukulele, or other instrument, you can lead the children in singing the words of the song to the melody of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." Repeat it several times. As a finishing touch, you can make up hand motions to go along with the words.



Got the Point!

You know, Deborah served God with all her talents. Not only was she a judge and a prophetess, the Bible also tells us she was a poet and a songwriter! After the battle against Jabin's army, Deborah and Barak wrote a song about being called by God! Do you want to hear part of that song? *[Read Judges 5:12]* I wish we knew what that song sounded like. I bet it became one of the people's favorite songs after the battle was over! I think we can come up with a tune so we can sing her song too! Let's try!

Song: Judges 5:12

(To the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

Wake up, wake up, Deborah!

Wake up, wake up, sing a song!

Arise, Barak! God is calling!

Arise, Barak! God is calling!

Wake up, wake up, Deborah!

Wake up, wake up, God is calling!

Wow! We just made up a song! I wonder if it was anything like Deborah's song? You know, writing songs and being a prophet are neat ways to serve God. It makes God happy when you use your talents to serve others. After all, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to serve! Yee-haw!

Wrap Up

Li'l Cowpokes, let's see what the Bible has to say about serving others. *[Hold out a Bible open to 1 Peter 4:10. Point to the verse so the children can see.]* Right here in 1 Peter 4:10 it says, "Each one should use whatever gifts he has to serve others." So you see, God is asking each one of us to obey His calling to serve others. That's why He gave each of us different abilities, unique talents, and special gifts.

One of the ways I answered God's call was by telling you today's Bible story! You can answer God's call and serve others by singing or repeating a verse from the Bible! Can you think of other ways you can serve others? *[Affirm each answer with a positive comment such as "Yes, that's a good way!"]*

Those were great ideas of how you can serve others! You can also ask God to show you other ways to serve that maybe you haven't even thought of yet. Let's do that right now.

Prayer Time

As we get ready to pray, let's sing this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring)

I listen *[Put your right hand on your right ear]*

I listen *[Put your left hand on your left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[Put both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[Fold your hands]*

And I close my eyes *[Close your eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us. Thank you for calling us to serve, just like you called Deborah. Help us to realize we don't have to wait until we are grown-ups to serve You. We can do that right now! Please help us to find ways we can serve others every day. We love You. We thank you for hearing our prayer. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Well Li'l Cowpokes, thanks for stopping by Sunset Canyon for another campfire story today. We can't wait to see you again tomorrow! Now it's time to hit the dusty trail to your next station! Be sure to stay with your Ranch Hand Wranglers. I'm so glad you were here with me today! And remember, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to serve! Yee-haw!

See you next time!

Day Five Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, repeat the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Road Runner Roy** and the **Daily Call to give**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, meet a refugee family from Syria, and learn the total amount of money raised for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Jesus** and how much He loves them. They also learn that God calls us to give love to others.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play the game **Broken Hearts** and then are free to spend time experiencing a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Today kids will make a beautiful **J Is for Jesus Stand-up Cross** to remind them of how much Jesus loves them.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Wagon Wheels**, sugar cookies with a tasty twist. Jesus' life was one of tireless giving just like a wagon wheel rolling on and on.

Daily Call ★ Called to Give

Bible Story ★ Jesus

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."* ★ Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

- Blankets, mats, or cushions to sit on
- Laminated paper hearts ★ at least one per child
- Basket of dry-erase crayons or markers
- Small pieces of cloth or damp paper towels
- Bible
- Picture of Jesus taped to the wall at Li'l Cowpoke eye level
- Small pieces of tape to attach hearts to the Jesus picture

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! It's good to see you again. Can you believe this is our last day at the Ranch? This week has gone by so quickly! I'm so glad you came to see me at Sunset Canyon for our final campfire story. We have had four great stories so far this week. Can you tell me who our story was about on the first day? Raise your hand if you know the answer. *[Pause, look for raised hands, and select a child to answer. Affirm the answer even if it's wrong. Call on more raised hands until you get the right answer.]* Yes, you're right! Our first story was about John the Baptist. Can you tell me who the story was about on the second day? *[Pause, look for raised hands, and select a child to answer as before]* Great job! That's correct. Our second story was about Abraham. How about the story on the third day? Who was God's special helper then? *[Pause, look for raised hands, and select a child to answer]* Wow! You guys have great memories. You're exactly right. The story on the third day was about Joseph. Now for the easiest question of all. Who was our story about yesterday? *[Pause, look for raised hands, and select a child to answer]* Right again! It was about Deborah. You Li'l Cowpokes did a terrific job of remembering all the people from the Bible we've had stories about this week. Each of them were men and women who were saved and called with a holy calling, just like you! *[Point at the children]*

I wonder which of God's special helpers from the Bible we get to meet today? *[Bend forward and speak in a whisper]* I heard that today's story is about a very, very special person. You won't want to miss a word of this story!

All week long we've been working on learning our Gold Nugget. I bet that a bunch of you know this verse by heart now. Let's open our pretend Bibles to 2 Timothy 1:9, where it talks about our holy calling. *[Put your hands together, then open them like a book and point to one palm]* Did you find the verse? As we say it together, I'm going to talk softly so I can hear all of you say our Gold Nugget loud and clear. Ready? *[Pause slightly]*

Here we go! "... (Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..." (2 Timothy 1:9). *[Say the words slowly and lead out in the hand motions]*

Wow! That sounded great! Good job, everyone! *[Clap your hands]*

Memory Verse Motions
see AdventistVBX.org

What to Say

Let's Imagine!

We're going to play a little game that uses your imagination! That sounds exciting, doesn't it? Your imagination is right up here in your thinking place. *[Tap your temples with your pointer fingers]* Can you say this and tap your temples with me? "This is my imagination place!" *[Kids repeat after you and tap their temples]*

I want you to help me imagine the most perfect place in all the world! That place is heaven. Close your eyes and put your hands over them. Using your imagination, what do you see? I will go first. I see a beautiful tree with different kinds of fruit on each branch. What about you? When you feel me give you a little tap on your shoulder, it will be your turn to say something you imagine is in heaven. *[Slowly walk around the outside of the circle and gently tap each Li'l Cowpoke on the shoulder one by one]* and say, "What does *[insert Li'l Cowpoke's name]* see?" *[Most kids will have answers such as "sunshine," "animals," "God," or "streets of gold." If they have trouble thinking of something, you can assist them by asking questions or giving hints.]*

Heaven is so amazing! And the exciting news is that heaven will be even better than the very best things we can imagine! We will have to see it for ourselves to fully understand how totally amazing it is! That gives us something to look forward to, doesn't it? *[Pause, nod your head yes, and wait while the children respond]*

Our campfire is ready and waiting for us. Are you ready to hear the best story ever? *[Pause, clap your hands in excitement, and allow them time to respond]* We are going to learn about a very special person. He is God's son, Jesus, who God called to give to others in an unforgettable way. Let's get ready to meet Him!

Story Time

Come sit down on our story blankets *[Say "mats" or "cushions" instead if that's what you're using]* around the campfire and get cozy and comfortable. Oh, I can hardly wait to introduce you to Jesus! He is the most amazing Person who ever lived. Not only was Jesus one of God's special helpers, He was also God's only Son.

[Dramatically put on a Bible costume]

Our story is all about Jesus and how much He loves us! Today we are going to see how God called Jesus to be His helper. Just like we are called... *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to give! Yee-haw!

...Jesus was also called to give. Today's special Helper not only lived here on earth, but was also one of the three most important Beings in all of Heaven. *[Hold up three fingers one at a time]* Can anybody tell me the names of any of these three important Beings? Raise your hand if you think you know any of Their names. *[Pause and look for raised hands. Call on children until you get all three answers. If you don't, give the answers yourself.]* Yes, that's right! The names of the three most important Beings in heaven are God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.



God created a perfect world full of beautiful trees and flowers, birds and fish, and all kinds of animals. After He finished creating all those things, He created a man and a woman whose names were Adam and Eve. God loved Adam and Eve very much and every day He would come to the beautiful garden where they lived to walk and talk with them. Adam and Eve loved God too and looked forward to spending time with Him each day. Just like God had a heart full of love for Adam and Eve, He also really, really loves you and me!

[Wrap your arms around your shoulders and give yourself a hug]

What to Say

Activity Part 1 — Hearts to Share

I have a little job for you to do. There are small, laminated paper hearts lying all around this campfire story area and we are going to take a few minutes to see if we can find all of them. If you find two hearts, keep one for yourself and share the other one with someone who doesn't have a heart yet. We want everyone to end up with one heart. Ready? Let's go and look. *[When the time is up, ask the children to sit back down on their campfire story blanket and hold on to their paper hearts. Make sure that each child is holding a heart.]*

Our story has a sad part. Can you show me your saddest face? *[Pause while children make sad faces]* Oh, yeah! Those are very sad faces! You see, this is what happened. Soon after God the Father and Jesus created the perfect world, it got really messed up because the two people He created decided not to obey what God had asked them to do. *[Place a hand on each cheek and encourage the children to do the same. Invite them to say "oh no" with you.]* Oh no! When Adam and Eve chose not to listen and obey God, but instead did what they wanted to do—that's called sin! *[Shake your head no very sadly]* Uh-oh! By doing this, what Adam and Eve were really saying was, "We know more than you, God. We can be our own bosses. We don't need You to tell us what to do!"

Do you want to know what happened after that? Things got really messed up. People stopped listening to what God was telling them. They started doing and saying whatever they wanted to, even if it was exactly what God had said not to do! Oh dear! *[Place a hand on each cheek]* After being their own bosses for a while, people stopped loving God or wanting to follow Jesus. Oh my! *[Shake your head sadly]* As more time passed, it became really hard to find any good people that still loved Jesus! People began to fight and hurt each other. That's what sin does to people. When they stopped loving God, their hearts became filled with ugly sin! That was not good! *[Shake your head from side to side]*

What to Say

Activity Part 2 — All Marked Up

[Pass out a dry-erase crayon or marker to each child. Have them make big stripes on their hearts with different colors.]

The marks you made on your hearts are to remind us of the mean and hurtful things that people did to each other and to the beautiful world God and Jesus had made for them. But you know what? God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit had a plan! *[Clap your hands several times with joy]* They knew how to get people to follow Jesus again and how to make their hearts clean again! Yep, they sure did! This was their plan. Listen carefully! *[Lean forward and whisper]* It was decided that Jesus would leave heaven, the most awesome place you could imagine, and He would come down to this earth. Jesus would make Himself into a little human baby *[Cradle*

an invisible baby in your arms and rock it side to side] that would be born to a human mother here on this earth. He would grow up into a big and tall man. [Stretch your arm up as tall as you can] And He would walk around and talk to as many people on earth as He could. He showed great love for every person He met, no matter if they were young or old, rich or poor, mean or nice. He told everyone [Stretch your arms out wide] how much God loved them, and through the kind things that He did, Jesus showed people how letting their hearts love and trust God again was the only way to be happy. Wowee! What a great plan! [Clap several times with joy]

Got the Point!

Activity Part 3 — Wiped Clean

[Use a damp paper towel to clean off your laminated heart. While you continue to talk, have your Ranch Hand Wranglers give each Li'l Cowpoke a piece of damp paper towel.]

Look at my heart now! When I love and trust God again, it makes everything so much better! Now that all the ugly sin is gone from my heart and it's all clean again, it makes it much easier for me to love and trust God and be ready to answer His call to give. Because just like Jesus, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to give! Yee-haw!

Now it's your turn to wipe all the ugly sin off your hearts. *[Give them time to wipe their laminated hearts clean. The Ranch Hand Wranglers can assist any children who need help and then collect the used paper towel pieces and throw them away.]* Remember, Jesus is the only One who can take away the sin from our hearts. It's not something we can do for ourselves. We are wiping our hearts clean today to remind us of what Jesus can do for each one of us.

Jesus knows we need to stay close to Him so He can help our hearts stay clean. He tells us we will be happiest when we let Him be the Boss of our lives! After all, Jesus created us so He knows what is best for us. Another piece of good news is that as part of His special plan, Jesus is preparing a place for us in Heaven so we can live forever with Him. Isn't that exciting? Hurray! *[Clap your hands and encourage the children to mimic you]*

Wrap Up

You might be wondering what you need to do in order to be ready to live with Jesus forever. Well, guess what? Jesus has already done all the hard work for you. *[Smile and nod your head]* You just need to listen and obey when God speaks to you. One way He does that is through the words written in the Bible. That is God's special love letter to you! Let's see what the Bible has to say about loving others. *[Hold out your Bible opened to Ephesians 5:2. Point to the verse so the children can see]* Right here in Ephesians 5:2, it says, "Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us." So you see, God is asking each one of us to obey His call to love others and be willing to spend time doing nice things for other people. As we've learned today, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to give! Yee-haw!

When we do nice things for members of our families, our friends, the people who live on our street, or the people we see at church, we are answering God's call to give.



Jesus showed His love for us when He came and lived on this earth so He could tell everyone how much God loves them too and wants them to come live with Him forever. Jesus loves you very much and will always love you. Isn't that nice to know? There's nothing you can do or say that will make Jesus stop loving you. No matter who you are, how you look, what language you speak, or where you live, He loves you! Let's hold up our clean hearts and say, "Thank you Jesus!" Let's say it together. Ready? *[Pause, lift up your paper heart, and lead the children in saying, "Thank you Jesus!"]* The Bible tells how Jesus made it possible for us to keep our hearts clean. That was Jesus' gift to every one of us! All we have to do is tell God we are sorry when we do or say something not nice and He will forgive us. The instant we are forgiven, our hearts are wiped clean again, just like when we wiped all the marks off our paper hearts.

When we ask Jesus to be the Boss of our lives, and tell Him we want to listen and obey the messages He gives us in the Bible, it's called giving our hearts to Jesus. Let's show Jesus how much we love Him by bringing up our paper hearts and taping them near the picture of Jesus.

[Ask the Ranch Hand Wranglers to help each child put a piece of tape on the back of their hearts and show them how to stick their hearts on the wall next to the picture of Jesus. Allow enough time for each child to go up and put a heart on the wall.]

Let's pray and thank God that He gave us Jesus so we could get to know and love Him better, and that we can give our hearts to Him and let Him be the Boss of our lives.

Prayer Time

As we get ready to pray, let's sing this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring)

I listen *[Put your right hand on your right ear]*

I listen *[Put your left hand on your left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[Put both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[Fold your hands]*

And I close my eyes *[Close your eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, we love you very much and want to give You our hearts. Thank you for taking the ugly sin out of our hearts and making them all clean again. We want You to be the Boss of our lives and we want to show other people Your love too. Thank You for giving so much to us. Help us to always be ready to answer Your call to give. We ask all these things in Jesus' name. Amen!

Well Li'l Cowpokes, thanks for stopping by Sunset Canyon for another campfire story. We have heard stories about some real heroes of the Bible this week! I hope that you will remember these stories and remember that we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to give! Yee-haw!

Now it's time to hit the dusty trail to your next station! Be sure to stay with your Ranch Hand Wranglers. Enjoy your last day at Cactusville Ranch, and I hope to see you again next year!





WILD HORSE CORRAL

The Wild Horse Corral at Cactusville Ranch is designed to give children unstructured exploration time at several sensory stations in addition to participation in one teacher-led group activity. The sensory stations allow the Li'l Cowpokes to have some free time where they can choose the activity/activities that appeal to them. They can spend the entire unstructured exploration time at one sensory station or they can move freely from one activity to the next. The group activity will tie into the Daily Call or that day's Bible story character, while the sensory stations provide tactile experiences more in keeping with the Cactusville Ranch setting—a ranch with animals located near a mining town in the Southwest desert.

Keep three points in mind as you set up your Wild Horse Corral sensory stations:

1. **Keep it simple.** Use the axiom “less is more” as your rule of thumb. Many of the supplies that you will need for the sensory stations are probably things you already have on hand.
2. **Everyone can help!** Keep your preschool team (Station Leaders and Ranch Hand Wranglers) nearby to help facilitate at the sensory stations if needed.
3. **Plan to lead out in your group activity first.** The teacher-led activity allows the children to practice their listening skills and to play together for several minutes. Be sure to cover the sensory stations during this time so the children aren't distracted by the sight of the appealing activities that will soon follow. The best course of action is to cover all the sensory stations before your Li'l Cowpokes arrive each day. Start with the group activity and only uncover them when you're ready for free time. When it's time for each group of children to leave, cover the sensory stations again before the next group arrives.

Note

We have included more sensory stations than you will need. Look them over and select the ones which are the best fit for your children's personalities and your available space.



Examples of Popular Sensory Stations

Your Li'l Cowpokes are attracted to things that they can touch, feel, squish, and pour! Here are some suggestions for sensory stations you can add to your Wild Horse Corral.

1. **Rice bin:** Purchase a half-size under-the-bed box from Walmart. Fill it with 5 lb. or more of rice. Provide plastic farm animals, plastic domestic animals, a barn, fences, and trees. Li'l Cowpokes will have fun digging roads, arranging the animals, and building their own Cactusville Ranch!
2. **Water trough:** Water play is always a favorite activity! It usually takes minimal accessories and supplies and can be set up (and cleaned up!) in just minutes. Purchase a half-size under-the-bed box from Walmart. Fill the container with water and add plastic shapes that float well, such as ice cube star shapes, plastic fish, and boats, as well as shapes that do not float, such as shells. Also provide plastic tongs, hand colanders, and sorting cups.



3. **Water pouring:** Another water play station! The inclusion of two different water play areas is always a big hit! Purchase an under-the-bed box from Walmart. Place plastic pitchers of various sizes (filled up about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way) and a variety of different sized plastic containers in the large box. For added enjoyment, add food coloring to the pitchers of water and watch your Li'l Cowpokes mix and match as they pour water from one container to another! Keep a large pitcher full of water handy to refill the smaller pitchers. As soon as it is empty, fill up the large pitcher again so extra water is always available.
4. **Magnetic letters and shapes:** Take a large oil pan (25" x 47", available for purchase at Walmart) and lean it against or mount it to the wall. Add magnetic letters and shapes. A favorite is the TOMY Gearation Fridge Magnet Set available at Walmart. You may need to purchase several sets of magnets and oil pans if you have a large group of preschoolers.
5. **Jumbo blocks:** Colorful blocks with an interlocking design allow your Li'l Cowpokes to create unlimited designs and possibilities. In addition to having loads of fun at this station, this activity helps children develop hand-eye coordination and practice other fine motor skills.
6. **Gold mining:** Fill a small toddler-sized swimming pool with sand, gold nuggets (river rock sprayed gold) mixed in with the sand, and gold sifting pans made from pie pans with holes punched in the bottom. Then let your Li'l Cowpokes go at it, sifting for gold!
7. **Horse racing with pool noodle ponies:** Provide an area where your Li'l Cowpokes can mount their horses and gallop around to get the wiggles out. Pool noodle ponies spark the imagination!
 - a. Purchase pool noodles from the Dollar Tree or your favorite discount store.
 - b. Make cuts on each side of the end of a pool noodle about 3" long. This will create the mouth as well as where you will place the rope to hold the head down. It is your choice how long you want your horse's head and neck to be.
 - c. Place the rope through the mouth, pull it towards the long end of the noodle, and tie it off. Leave some rope to make reins or to make a loop to put around your child's body.
 - d. To attach the mane and the ears, make a slit about 1" deep into the noodle. You will insert the mane into the slit. It will hold the mane in tight.
 - e. To make your mane, just take a piece of fleece and cut a 4" section. The length of your horse's mane will vary depending on the length of your slit.
 - f. Once you have it inserted snugly in the slit, make 1" cuts in the fleece so the strips look more like hair.
 - g. Use fleece scraps, brown or black felt, or scrapbook paper for the ears. Make shorter 1" deep slits (one on each side of the face) and insert triangular pieces of whichever material you've selected into the slits. Hot glue helps the ears stay in place.
 - h. Don't forget the eyes! Hot glue large googly eyes in place.



8. **Sensory drawing table:** Purchase an extra-large cake pan from an arts and crafts store or second hand store. Pour five cups of extra fine sand or Sandtastik Colored Play Sand into a large Ziploc bag and dot it with food coloring (must be gel). Knead the sand until the food coloring is thoroughly mixed in, then pour it into the cake pan. Using their fingers, kids will draw and redraw as they concentrate on their own ideas or copy a picture from drawing cards. Place the drawing cards beside the cake pan. (You can download these cards at AdventistVBX.com.)



Cactusville TIP

Lay out a plastic tablecloth under each sensory station. This will save you a lot of time with clean up and preparation for the next day.

Decorating the Wild Horse Corral

There are no official decorations needed for this station. Setup for each day consists of putting down four orange traffic cones to define the boundaries of the activity space and then making sure the specific materials and supplies for each day's game are set out in their proper places. The sensory stations should also be stocked with the necessary materials and arranged throughout the available space.



Day One Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, memorize the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Tarantula Tammy** and the **Daily Call to be different**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; play a game; are introduced to **Jessica**, a refugee girl from Burma; learn about the Operation Wheels mission project; and are encouraged to bring money each day to support this project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **John the Baptist** and learn how he was called to eat, dress, and live differently from the people of His time, and God used him to reach many people for Jesus.

Wild Horse Corral

Li'l Cowpokes play the game **Jump to Me** and then choose between several sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids make beautiful designs with their **Swirls of Color** craft. Each swirl is different and unique just like Jesus has called each child to be different and unique for Him.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Prairie Dog Ponchos**, which illustrate how John the Baptist dared to be different.

Daily Call ★ Called to Be Different

Bible Story ★ John the Baptist

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people"* ★ 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

Materials and Supplies

- 4 orange traffic cones
- Carpet tape, painter's tape, or masking tape (sidewalk chalk if outdoors on cement)
- Cowbell
- Specific materials or supplies needed for each sensory station

Ahead of Time

Arrange and prepare your sensory stations. Cover them with tablecloths or sheets until it's time for free exploration in each group.

Set up your activity area for the group game using four orange cones to define your activity space. Use carpet tape, masking tape, or painter's tape to mark two parallel lines ten to 15' apart somewhere within the boundaries formed by the four cones.

Instructions

Jump to Me

Have the Ranch Hand Wranglers divide the children into four equal groups and line them up in single files behind one of the tape lines. Stand on the opposite line and start the first group of four by saying, "Jump to me."

Once the first group has jumped to you, start the next four and so on until everyone has had the chance to jump across to the other line. Then have the kids line up again on that side and jump again like jackrabbits, bigger and farther than before. This time stand on the starting line before saying, "Jump to me." If your time (5 minutes) isn't up, continue having the children jump back and forth, going in one direction like grasshoppers and the other like jackrabbits.

What to Say

Welcome to the Wild Horse Corral! We are going to play a fun game today. Before we get started, can you show me how to jump like a bunny? *[Pause and let the children jump around for a few seconds. Then hold up your hand like a stop sign and tell them to stop.]*

Here in the desert near Cactusville Ranch, we have really big bunnies called jackrabbits. They have very big ears and powerful back legs that help them jump really far. Pretend you're a jackrabbit and show me how far you can jump. *[Pause and allow the children to practice jumping far in any direction]* Oh my! You really can jump far! I think you are the best jackrabbit jumpers I've seen!

Today our Bible story is about John the Baptist. Some people think that John ate locusts, which are like grasshoppers. I don't think I would like to eat grasshoppers, *[Make a face]* but I bet I can jump like one! Their jumps are a little smaller than a jackrabbit's since they're not as big or powerful, but they can still jump pretty far for their size.

WILD HORSE CORRAL

Come over to my starting line. We're going to let four of you grasshoppers jump across to the other line at the same time. Can you do that without bumping into each other? *[Pause and wait for the kids to answer]*

I'm going to go stand on the other line. When you hear me say, "Jump to me," you can start jumping. You will jump all the way to me and stop once you cross the second line. The rest of you who are standing in line will just wait right there until I call your group to jump to me. Ready? First group, jump to me!

Wow! You were good grasshoppers! And when you were pretending to be jackrabbits, you jumped really far! Nice job! Did you know that just like you jumped a lot during our game, John the Baptist had to walk really far each day to tell more people about Jesus? His legs must have gotten tired from all that walking just like yours did from jumping, but John the Baptist was happy to do it because he wanted as many people to hear about Jesus as possible.

Thank you for being such good grasshoppers and jackrabbits! Now we are going to go over to our sensory station area and you can play at any station you want. Remember, when you hear the cowbell, it's time to line up to go to your next station. *[Uncover the sensory stations]*



Wrap-up

Thank you for coming to the Wild Horse Corral today! Now it's time to mosey on over to your next station. I hope to see you again soon. Yee-haw!

Day Two Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Prairie Dog Pete** and the **Daily Call to be faithful**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; learn about **Josef**, a refugee from Iraq; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow **Abraham** as he leaves his comfortable home and all his friends. They see how he was faithful to God's calling as he journeyed to an unknown land.

Wild Horse Corral

Li'l Cowpokes play the game **Round 'Em Up** and then are free to wander from one sensory activity to another.

Trading Post

Kids use their imaginations while making the **Paper Plate Pony** craft. Playing with their Paper Plate Ponies will remind them of Jesus' call to be faithful.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Tacos in a Cup**. The variety of ingredients in this snack, represents all the belongings Abraham had to pack up when God called him to leave his home.

Daily Call ★ Called to be Faithful

Bible Story ★ Abraham

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"By faith Abraham obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."* ★ Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

- 4 orange traffic cones
- 25 pink balloons and 25 white balloons, inflated
- 4 medium-sized cardboard boxes (2' x 3')
- 4 pieces pink construction paper and 4 pieces white construction paper
- Tape
- 10 fly swatters with plastic handles
- Tambourine or small hand drum
- Cowbell
- Specific materials or supplies needed for each sensory station

Ahead of Time

Arrange and prepare your sensory stations. Cover them with tablecloths or sheets until it's time for free exploration in each group.

Set up your activity area for the group game using four orange cones to define your activity space. Prepare for the group game by inflating 25 pink balloons and 25 white balloons. Scatter the balloons across the floor of the entire space, making sure the colors are well mixed. Arrange two medium-sized boxes (2' x 3') on each end of your activity area at least 15'-20' apart. Tape pieces of pink construction paper to the boxes on one side, and pieces of white construction paper to the boxes on the other end. Lay the boxes on their sides so balloons can be pushed into them. Have ten fly swatters ready for the children to use.

Instructions

Round Up

Divide the children into two groups and give ten fly swatters to each group. Tell one group that it's their job to drive all the white cattle (or white balloons) into the white corrals, and the other that it's their job to drive all the pink cattle (or pink balloons) into the pink corrals. Give five children from each group a fly swatter to tap or push the balloons into the boxes. Give a demonstration of how to move a balloon into a box using the fly swatter. Tell the ten children with the fly swatter that they can corral as many cattle as possible, but when they hear two taps on a tambourine (or two hand claps), they need to return to their groups and share the fly swatters with five other children. Give each group of ten approximately one minute to corral cattle. If all the balloons end up in the boxes before all the children have had a turn, scatter the balloons around the activity space and begin again. Spend a full five minutes doing this activity so the children have as many turns as possible.

WILD HORSE CORRAL

Keep the Ranch Hand Wranglers nearby to supervise the children using the fly swatters and make sure they don't raise them too high and hit another child. They can also assist any children who may be having difficulty guiding a balloon into the box and remind children which color balloon they are supposed to be corraling. When the signal is given to hand off the fly swatters to other children in their group, the Ranch Hand Wranglers can help that transition go smoothly.

When the time is up, some of Ranch Hand Wranglers can collect the fly swatters while others go uncover the sensory stations.

What to Say

Welcome back to the Wild Horse Corral, Li'l Cowpokes! I'm glad to see you again! Our Bible story today is about Abraham. God called Abraham to leave his comfortable home, pack up his belongings, and travel to a place he knew nothing about. Abraham obeyed God's call and took his family and all his cattle with him. They would travel during the day and then set up a tent to sleep in each night. In order to keep his cattle safe from wild animals during the night, Abraham would herd his cattle into corrals. It was hard work getting all that cattle into their corrals. Today we're going to pretend these cardboard boxes are the corrals for the cattle. As you can see, we have two pink corrals and two white corrals. All the pink balloons are the cattle that need to go into the pink corrals and all the white balloons are cattle that need to go in the white corrals.

Are you ready? Let's go corral that cattle!

Good job! That was fun! Now that our cattle is safe, you may go over to our sensory stations and play at any station you want. Remember, when you hear the cowbell, it's time to line up to go to the next station.

Wrap-up

Thank you for coming to the Wild Horse Corral today! Now it's time to hit the dusty trail and move on to your next station. See you next time. Yee-haw!

Day Three Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Chuck the Chuckwalla** and the **Daily Call to forgive**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; learn about **June Lily**, a refugee from Malaysia; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow the story of **Joseph** as he models forgiveness. They learn how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers in spite of how badly they treated him.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play **Storing the Grain** and spend time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids enjoy the sensory experiences involved in creating **Sunrise Art** masterpieces. The happiness they feel while viewing a beautiful sunrise reminds them of the happiness that comes from forgiving others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy Howdy **Pard'ner Trail Mix** and are reminded that a heart willing to forgive can overcome a multitude of challenging circumstances.

Daily Call ★ Called to Forgive

Bible Story ★ Joseph

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) ...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* ★ Matthew 6:14 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

- 4 orange traffic cones
- 2 large buckets
- 5–10 lbs. of red beans (amount depends on size of your group)
- Stack of paper or 8-10 Styrofoam drinking cups
- Cowbell
- Specific materials or supplies needed for each sensory station

Ahead of Time

Arrange and prepare your sensory stations. Cover them with tablecloths or sheets until it's time for free exploration in each group.

Set up your activity area for the group game using four orange cones to define your activity space. Prepare for the group game by setting a large bucket full of red beans (10 lbs. for larger groups, 5 lbs. for smaller groups) on one end of the activity space. (If you want, mark a starting line on the floor with masking tape or painter's tape.) Place a stack of paper or Styrofoam drinking cups beside the bucket. Place a large empty bucket 8'-10' away.



Instructions

Storing the Grain

Have two of your Ranch Hand Wranglers fill the cups with beans. Reuse the empty cups the children bring back and only fill each cup half full. When the first two children return to the starting line, have them hand their empty cups to the Ranch Hand Wranglers and then go to the end of the line while two more children go. It is likely that the children will have time for several turns carrying the cups of beans to the other bucket.

If you see the children starting to rush and spill beans or becoming too competitive, remind them that this is not a race; rather, they are just working together to get all the beans from one bucket to the other. Encourage your Li'l Cowpokes with affirming phrases such as "Nice job!" or "High five!" Continue transporting beans until the bucket at the starting line is empty. Play for five minutes.



What to Say

Welcome back to the Wild Horse Corral, Li'l Cowpokes! I'm glad to see all of you again! Today's Bible story is about Joseph. Although Joseph had a lot of adventures in his life and had to go through some really tough times, God was with him the whole time. In fact, God had a special plan for Joseph. During the seven years of good weather in Egypt, the people were able to grow lots of grain for food. God told Joseph how to store the grain so that he would be able to give it to people during the years when there wasn't enough food to eat. Because Joseph listened to God and made big storage barns for all the extra grain, Joseph was able to help a lot of people. His own brothers came from far away to get grain when they didn't have any more food and Joseph helped them too, even though they had been mean to him many years before. God helped Joseph forgive his brothers.

We are going to pretend to be Joseph's helpers today and help store some grain. Let's imagine that this big bucket of beans is grain and that we need to store it all in that bucket way over there! *[Point to the empty bucket]*

We will let two Li'l Cowpokes go at the same time. Ranch Hand Wranglers will fill your cups with our pretend grain and then you can carry it over to our storage container (the empty bucket), and pour it in. Be very careful not to spill any of your grain on the way over! Once your cups are empty, please bring them back with you. Are you ready? The first two may go!

Wow! Look in our bucket! We emptied this big bucket of beans and filled our storage container over there! Way to go, Li'l Cowpokes! You are very hard workers! Joseph would have been happy to have you as his helpers! *[Give them a thumbs up sign. While you continue to talk, have your Ranch Hand Wranglers uncover the sensory stations.]*

That was fun, wasn't it? Even hard jobs like storing grain can be fun if we all work together. Good job, everyone! *[Clap hands]* Now that all our grain is safely stored, you may go over to the sensory stations and play. Remember, when you hear the cowbell, it's time to line up to go to your next activity.

Wrap-up

The cowbell is telling us that it's time to leave the Wild Horse Corral. Thank you for coming, Li'l Cowpokes! We had lots of fun today. I look forward to seeing you again real soon! Happy trails to you!

Day Four Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Pack Mule Patty**, and the **Daily Call to serve**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; meet **Juliette, Ben and his sister**, three young refugees from Africa; and are reminded to continue to bring money for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Deborah** and how God helped make her brave enough to serve Him in battle. Kids learn to use their talents to serve God.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play a fun group game of Snakes in Boots and then spend the remaining time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Lil' Cowpokes will tailor their own **At Your Service Sheriff Vest** complete with sheriff badge as they are reminded of God's call to serve others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Cactus Pops**. The variety of fruits remind them that they can use their different gifts and talents to serve in many ways.

Daily Call ★ Called to Serve

Bible Story ★ Deborah

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."* ★ 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

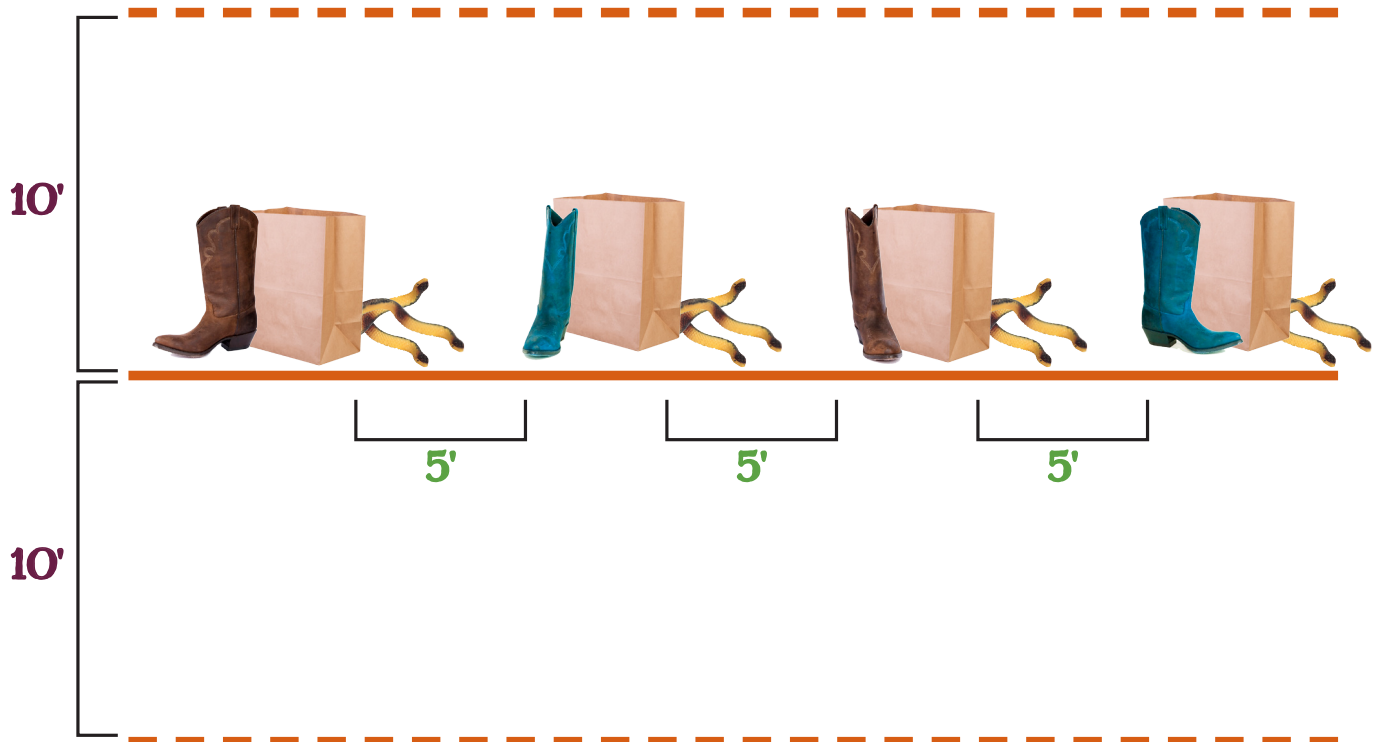
Materials and Supplies

- 4 orange traffic cones
- 2 pairs of adult size cowboy boots or draw-and-color boots on both sides of four plain brown grocery sacks
- Masking tape, carpet tape, or painter's tape
- Several bags of party store rubber snakes (50-60 snakes total)
- Cowbell
- Specific materials or supplies needed for each sensory station

Ahead of Time

Arrange and prepare your sensory stations. Cover them with tablecloths or sheets until it's time for free exploration in each group.

Set up your activity area for the group game using four orange cones to define your activity space. Prepare for the group game by setting out one real cowboy boot or draw-and-color boot on each side of four plain brown grocery sacks. Place each boot about 5' feet apart on a line you've marked with tape so you can have four children participating simultaneously. Use tape to make two more lines. These lines are 10' away from and parallel to the line where the boots are sitting—one on each side. (See the diagram.) Place 12-15 rubber snakes near each boot.



Instructions

Snakes in Boots

Have the Ranch Hand Wranglers divide the children into four equal groups and line them up in four single files behind one of the tape lines, facing the boots. (See the diagram.) Assign one Ranch Hand Wrangler or Station Leader to be in charge of each line of children. At your signal to begin, have the first child in each line walk to the boot in front of them. Have a Ranch Hand Wrangler follow each one and hand them three rubber snakes, then supervise while the child drops the first snake into the boot, moves backward and tosses the second snake, and either stays in place to toss the third one or move backward again. If they forget what to do, the Wrangler can assist them. When that child finishes, the Ranch Hand Wrangler should direct them to walk forward to the line on the other side of the boot and wait there, then motion to the next child in line to come up and try next. Continue in this manner until all children have had a turn. Play for five minutes. If time permits, start again and let everyone have a second turn.

What to Say

Welcome back to the Wild Horse Corral, Li'l Cowpokes! I'm tickled pink to see you again!

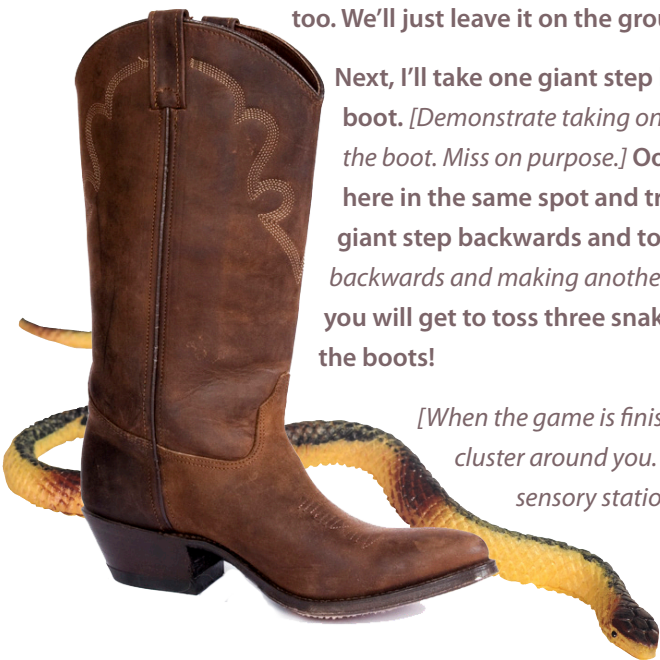
I think you'll like the little game we're going to play today! Out here in the desert around Cactusville Ranch we have a lot of wild critters. Some of them are friendly, while others are a little dangerous. One of those more dangerous types of critters is the rattlesnake. Because they can slither around and hide almost anywhere, every morning before you put on your boots, you need to turn them upside down and give them a shake to make sure a snake didn't crawl into them during the night! *[Pick up one of the boots, turn it upside down, and shake it]*

Today, instead of shaking snakes out of our boots, we're going to try to toss snakes into the boots! This is how we'll do it. If I'm the first person in my line, I will walk up to the boot that's in front of me and pick up three rubber snakes. Then I'll stand right in front of my boot and try to drop one of my snakes into it.

[Demonstrate dropping a snake into the boot] Yee-haw! I made it! If the snake misses the boot, that's okay too. We'll just leave it on the ground.

Next, I'll take one giant step backwards and try to lightly toss my second snake into the boot. *[Demonstrate taking one step backwards and then making a low underhand toss towards the boot. Miss on purpose.]* Ooops, I missed! That's okay. Since I missed, I can choose to stay here in the same spot and try to toss my third snake into the boot, or I can take one more giant step backwards and toss my snake from there. *[Demonstrate taking one more step backwards and making another underhand toss—it doesn't matter if you make or miss it]* Each of you will get to toss three snakes, just like I did. Let's see how many snakes we can toss into the boots!

[When the game is finished, call the children over to where you're standing and have them cluster around you. While you're talking, the Ranch Hand Wranglers can uncover the sensory stations.]



WILD HORSE CORRAL

Come over to me, Li'l Cowpokes. *[Gesture with one arm for them to come]* Our Bible story today is about a brave woman named Deborah. God asked her to do something really hard, and with His help she did it! Hurray! *[Punch one fist upwards]* Today in our game you tried to toss snakes into cowboy boots, which is pretty hard too, isn't it? Give yourself a hand for doing such a great job! *[Clap hands until the kids do the same]*

That was lots of fun, wasn't it? Now it's time to go over to the sensory stations and play. You may visit as many of them as you want. Remember, when you hear the cowbell it will be time to line up to go to your next activity.

Wrap-up

Well, Li'l Cowpokes, the cowbell is telling us it's time to money on to your next station. Thanks for coming to the Wild Horse Corral today! See you next time! Wild Horse Corral

Day Five Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, repeat the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Road Runner Roy** and the **Daily Call to give**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, meet a refugee family from Syria, and learn the total amount of money raised for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Jesus** and how much He loves them. They also learn that God calls us to give love to others.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play the game **Broken Hearts** and then are free to spend time experiencing a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Today kids will make a beautiful **J Is for Jesus Stand-up Cross** to remind them of how much Jesus loves them.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Wagon Wheels**, sugar cookies with a tasty twist. Jesus' life was one of tireless giving just like a wagon wheel rolling on and on.

Daily Call ★ Called to Give

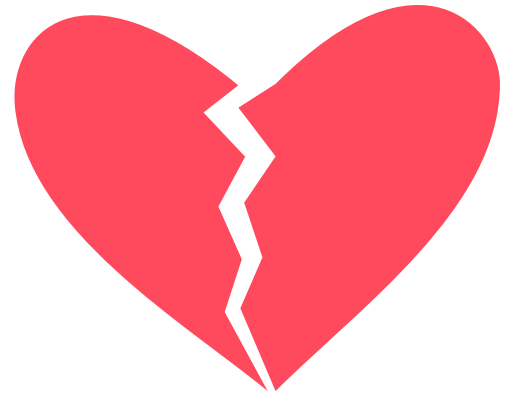
Bible Story ★ Jesus

Gold Nugget ★ *“(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling...”* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *“Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.”* ★ Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

- 4 orange traffic cones
- 25-50 sheets of red construction paper (amount depends on size of your group)
- Scissors
- Cow bell
- Specific materials or supplies needed for each sensory station



Ahead of Time

Arrange and prepare your sensory stations. Cover them with tablecloths or sheets until it's time for free exploration in each group.

Set up your activity area for the group game using four orange cones to define your activity space. Prepare for the group game ahead of time by cutting out 50-100 hearts from red construction paper. Plan for about three hearts per child. Once you have all the hearts, cut each one in half with a zig zag line. Then all you have to do to prepare on Day 5 is scatter the heart halves all over your activity space. (Don't put the matching halves of the hearts too close to each other. Mix them up some.)



What to Say

Broken Hearts

Hi Li'l Cowpokes! Welcome to our last day at the Wild Horse Corral! I have had a great time playing games with you this week and I think you'll like the game we are playing today. In order to play this game, I need you to help me do something. Are you ready to help? *[Pause, nod your head yes, and wait for the kids to respond]* Good! I knew I could count on you! So put on your listening ears and listen carefully. *[Mime putting a listening ear on each side of your head and wait for them to do the same]*

I need you to go all around our activity space inside the four orange cones, find all the broken hearts you can, and bring them back to me. When you pick them up, be careful not to bend or crinkle them. Are you ready? *[Pause and wait for a response]* Very good! You can start looking for broken hearts now. Pick them up carefully and bring them back to me all nice and flat. *[Give the children 30-40 seconds to pick up the hearts and come back to where you are]*

Wowee! Look at all these broken hearts! You did a nice job of finding them! Now I have another job for you. Let's try and put all these broken hearts back together again. We can do that right here on the floor. *[It's okay if the children don't find a perfect match for each broken half, but each heart should have a right*



side and a left side, not two rights or two lefts. No glue or tape is needed. They can just place the two halves side by side. Play this activity for 5 minutes total.]

Look at all the hearts we put back together again. Good job, Li'l Cowpokes! When we talk about having a broken heart, we usually mean that we feel very sad. Jesus loves us so much that when we feel sad, He feels sad right along with us. Did you know that? *[Pause, nod your head yes, and wait for the kids to respond]* When you are happy, He is happy too!

God called Jesus to come and give us love. One way Jesus shows that He loves us is by helping to put all our sad, broken hearts back together so we can feel happy again. When we are happy, that makes Jesus feel very happy too! In our little game today, we did just what Jesus does for us. We found a bunch of broken hearts and put them back together again! Let's say a big thank you to Jesus for loving us so much that he fixes our broken hearts. *[Pause slightly and then slowly say, "Thank you," so all the children can say it with you. While you continue to talk, the Ranch Hand Wranglers can uncover the sensory stations.]*

Now it's time to go over to our sensory stations for one final time and play. Visit as many of them as you want, but don't forget to listen for the cowbell. It tells you when it's time to line up and get ready to go to your next activity.

Wrap-up

I hear that old cowbell ringing, so it's time for you Li'l Cowpokes to hit the dusty trail and mosey on to your next station. I've really enjoyed having all of you here at the Wild Horse Corral this week. Thanks for coming and I hope to see you again next year!



Tips for the Trading Post Craft Leader

- 1. Prepare for a mess.** Yes, it's okay! Your job is to set up a space where your preschoolers feel free to experiment with different mediums and get messy! Just throw a plastic tablecloth under your table and chairs.
- 2. Avoid giving detailed direction.** Show your preschoolers the finished project and then give general directions, allowing them to use their own creativity and imagination while making the craft. If they ask for help, assist them, but affirm that they are doing a great job and that you have confidence that they can do this project without much (or any) help from a grown-up.
- 3. Speak specifically about art.** When talking to your preschoolers about their finished projects, be intentional with your comments. For instance, you can ask, "I see you used a lot of purple. Why did you choose that color?"
- 4. Explore your preschooler's imagination.** Often the best way to encourage conversation about your preschooler's project is to ask an open-ended question like, "Can you tell me about what you made?" or "Did you have fun making that?"
- 5. Just let it be.** When a child finishes a piece, don't suggest additions or changes! Their art piece is beautiful just as they made it! It's important for a child to feel that what he or she's created is good enough—even if it's just a splat on the page.

Decorating Your Craft Center

Kids will have fun using their imaginations and making authentic Cactusville crafts at the Trading Post! Create a store look for your Trading Post. Use brown paper to cover the tables. Use black or white crates to display art projects and supplies by turning them on their side.

Suggestions:

- Use burlap to cover the supply tables and put your craft supplies in baskets or old wooden boxes.
- Use canning jars, candles, folded fabric, large jars with bright colored balled yarn, and baskets filled with apples and fresh corn or in-season vegetables as decoration.
- Find an old standing hat rack and hang cowboy hats and bonnets on it.
- Stuff burlap bags with newspaper to give them the impression of being full. Wooden barrels or half-barrels filled with flowers also make great decorations
- Check Pinterest for other great Western decorating ideas.



Day One Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, memorize the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Tarantula Tammy** and the **Daily Call to be different**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; play a game; are introduced to **Jessica**, a refugee girl from Burma; learn about the Operation Wheels mission project; and are encouraged to bring money each day to support this project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **John the Baptist** and learn how he was called to eat, dress, and live differently from the people of His time, and God used him to reach many people for Jesus.

Wild Horse Corral

Lil' Cowpokes play the game **Jump to Me** and then choose between several sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids make beautiful designs with their **Swirls of Color** craft. Each swirl is different and unique just like Jesus has called each child to be different and unique for Him.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Prairie Dog Ponchos**, which illustrate how John the Baptist dared to be different.

Daily Call ★ Called to Be Different

Bible Story ★ John the Baptist

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people"* ★ 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)



Materials and Supplies

- Handheld mirror
- Craft tray (like a cafeteria tray) or rectangular baking pan
- Wax paper
- Baby wipes to clean hands
- Food Coloring Liqua-Gel - 6 Color Rainbow Kit (available at Amazon.com)
- Rulers
- Paper towels
- Plastic forks
- Aleene's Original Tacky Glue
- Yellow felt
- Black felt or jumbo googly eyes
- Fat red yarn
- Heavyweight white construction paper (cut in 5" x 7" pieces)
- Garbage bags to make painting smocks



Cactusville TIPS

This project is a bit messy, but so beautiful! Your kids, parents, and Cactusville Ranch helpers will all be oohing and aaahing over the finished project.

Before starting the project, make sure the Li'l Cowpokes are covered with a large plastic bag that has holes for their arms and a slit up the back. Tape it closed at the top once they are in.

Ahead of Time

1. Cut large circles of yellow felt.
2. Cut small circles of black felt.
3. Cut lengths of fat red yarn for the smiles.

Introduction

Welcome to the Trading Post! Today our Bible story is about John the Baptist and how Jesus called him to be different. *[Helpers hand out the mirrors and help two to three children at a time taking turns looking in the mirror]*

What do you see? Yes, you see you! Now move the mirror over and see if you and your friend are in it. Can you see your friend? What do you see? Are you both the same? Do you have the same color hair? What about the color of your eyes?

[While the kids are still looking in the mirror] God took extra time and thinking when He made you! He was careful to make you different than anybody else. That is pretty cool! You are very important to Him! And remember, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to be different! Yee-haw!

[Gently take the mirrors and put them away] It is time to put our mirrors away and get out our craft supplies. Are you ready to make something really fun?

Instructions

Swirls of Color

1. Cut heavyweight construction paper 5" x 7" size.
2. Now the fun part begins. Spray a nice, thick layer of shaving cream into a rectangular baking dish or tray—one that is large enough to easily fit your paper inside.
3. Put drops of food coloring into the shaving cream. Use several different colors. (We used gel food coloring, but liquid works too.)
4. With a plastic fork, start folding and swirling the shaving cream to gently move the color around. Don't overmix it, as you'll want to keep that nice swirly pattern.
5. Your pattern doesn't have to be perfect—don't worry about "marbling" the shaving cream too much. It will do all its marbling magic on its own.
6. Place the paper, tape side up, onto the shaving cream.
7. Use your fingers to gently press down the paper so that as much of it makes contact with the shaving cream as possible. You don't want the paper to sit for too long, as it will start to get too wet. Gently lift the paper off the shaving cream from one corner. You can reuse the cream several times before it becomes muddy. Just squirt in more food coloring, mix, and repeat.
8. Place it onto a paper towel. Take your ruler and from one corner, scrape the shaving cream off in one sweeping motion.
9. Beautiful! Ooh la la! Take a fresh paper towel and wipe away any excess shaving cream. Set the paper aside to dry. This just takes a minute or two. While the paper is drying, the kids can clean their hands and table area.
10. Once the masterpiece of swirls is dry, bring out the felt circles, jumbo googly eyes, and precut red yarn.
11. Demonstrate how to create a smiley face.



Cactusville TIP

We took the swirly masterpieces over to another counter and gently blow-dried them while the kids were cleaning up their area. Be sure their names are on the back!

Wrap-up

[After the project is finished] Wow! Look at your craft! Do you see some swirls? Are they all the same or are they different? That's just like you! You are not the same as anyone else in this world! You are unique and special!

It's time to clean up! I need everyone to be a helper today! Let's sing our cleanup song as we put our craft supplies away and wash the table.

Song: Clean Up, Clean Up

Clean up, clean up
Everybody, everywhere
Clean up, clean up
Everybody do your share

Thank you, Li'l Cowpokes! You were very helpful in getting the table clean. I am going to put your crafts on the table over there and your Ranch Hand Wrangler will be sure that you get it when VBX is over today. Right, Ranch Hand Wranglers? *[Give your Ranch Hand Wranglers a high five]*



Cactusville TIP

Introduce simple routines such as throwing the garbage in the trash can and putting the craft supplies on the craft tray. Don't worry if your Li'l Cowpokes don't follow all the rules and routines right away. Just demonstrate the one they had trouble with again next time. Do not be in a rush.

Day Two Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Prairie Dog Pete** and the **Daily Call to be faithful**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; learn about **Josef**, a refugee from Iraq; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow **Abraham** as he leaves his comfortable home and all his friends. They see how he was faithful to God's calling as he journeyed to an unknown land.

Wild Horse Corral

Lil' Cowpokes play the game **Round 'Em Up** and then are free to wander from one sensory activity to another.

Trading Post

Kids use their imaginations while making the **Paper Plate Pony** craft. Playing with their Paper Plate Ponies will remind them of Jesus' call to be faithful.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Tacos in a Cup**. The variety of ingredients in this snack, represents all the belongings Abraham had to pack up when God called him to leave his home.

Daily Call ★ Called to be Faithful

Bible Story ★ Abraham

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"By faith Abraham obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."* ★ Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)



Materials and Supplies

- Paper Plate Horse Craft Kit ★ available at OrientalTrading.com # 48/5231
- Aleene's Original Tacky Glue
- Craft tray (like a cafeteria tray)
- Baby wipes to clean hands

Ahead of Time

Pre-glue the head and hanger ribbon and bandana to the paper plate. Be very cautious with the small sequins as they can be a choking hazard for little ones. Put all craft supplies on a craft tray. When ready to assemble craft bring out the craft tray.

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! I'm so tickled to see you! So glad you could join me on this great big today! *[If you are wearing a cowboy hat, raise it]* Our Bible story today is about Abraham and how he listened to God and was faithful to follow God's directions!

Jesus has called you to be faithful too! Let's practice our Daily Call. Ready? *[Pause slightly]* We are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to be faithful! Yee-haw!

You know what? *[Lean in and whisper so the children have to lean in to hear]* On the Ranch, we have some animals that follow our directions too! Yep, they do! We train them to go where we want them to. They can even carry us on their backs! Can you guess what animal that is? *[Pause and allow the children to guess. Affirm their answers, right or wrong. For example, you could say, "Almost," or "Nice try," or "That's it."]*

Yes! It's a horse! Horses follow directions too!

I love horses! Thank You, Jesus, for making horses! Today we are going to make a paper plate horse. First we are going to draw the eyes, nose, and then a big happy smile. *[Bring out a tray with the craft supplies]*

Instructions

Paper Plate Horse

Follow the directions included in the kit.



Cactusville TIP

The preschool Trading Post team highly recommends that you do not put out the sequins until ready to use. Then allow the preschoolers to place a dot of glue and wait while you attach the sequin.

Wrap-up

[After the project is finished] Wow! Look at your horses! They look great! Now it's time to train your horse to follow directions! Hold your horse up and say, "Giddy up!" *[Raise your horse up and down like it's galloping]* Whoa! That means stop *[Bring your horse to a dramatic stop]*

Boy, howdy! That was fun! I'm super-duper glad that we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to be faithful! Yee-haw!

It's time to clean up! I need everyone to be a helper today! Let's sing our cleanup song as we put our craft supplies away and wash the table.

Song: Clean Up, Clean Up

Clean up, clean up
Everybody, everywhere
Clean up, clean up
Everybody do your share

Thank you, Li'l Cowpoke helpers! You were very helpful in getting the table clean. I am going to put your crafts on the table over there and your Ranch Hand Wrangler will be sure that you get it when VBX is over today. Right, Ranch Hand Wranglers? *[Give your Ranch Hand Wranglers a high five]*

Now it's time to gallop on over to your next station. Goodbye for now! See you next time!



Cactusville TIPS

Introduce simple routines such as throwing the garbage in the trash can and putting the craft supplies on the craft tray. Don't worry if your Li'l Cowpokes don't follow all the rules and routines right away. Just demonstrate the one they had trouble with again next time. Do not be in a rush.

Saying where you are putting the craft each day helps your Li'l Cowpokes trust you and feel safe. You will be saying the same thing every day, and that's good! Your Li'l Cowpokes will love it.



Day Three Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Chuck the Chuckwalla** and the **Daily Call to forgive**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; learn about **June Lily**, a refugee from Malaysia; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow the story of **Joseph** as he models forgiveness. They learn how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers in spite of how badly they treated him.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play **Storing the Grain** and spend time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids enjoy the sensory experiences involved in creating **Sunrise Art** masterpieces. The happiness they feel while viewing a beautiful sunrise reminds them of the happiness that comes from forgiving others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy Howdy **Pard'ner Trail Mix** and are reminded that a heart willing to forgive can overcome a multitude of challenging circumstances.

Daily Call ★ Called to Forgive

Bible Story ★ Joseph

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) ...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* ★ Matthew 6:14 (NIV)



Materials and Supplies

- Craft tray (like a cafeteria tray)
- Crayons
- Sandpaper (3M 15-Pack 9-in W x 11.0000-in L 80-Grit Premium Sandpaper) ★ available at [Lowe's.com](https://www.lowes.com)
- Yellow felt
- Fabulous Foam Self-Adhesive Flower Shapes ★ available at [OrientalTrading.com](https://www.orientaltrading.com) # IN-57/2227
- Pacon Peacock Railroad Board, 6-Ply, White, 22 x 28 Inches, 25 Sheets/Carton (5461-1) ★ available at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)
- Green construction paper (download the free cactus template from [AdventistVBX.org](https://www.adventistvbx.org))
- Cotton balls
- Twine

Ahead of Time

This is a great craft with many different textures to explore. Before the children are due to arrive, take the following steps.

1. Tear the sandpaper horizontally into the shape of jagged mountains and hills (11" x 4").
2. Cut small circles from the yellow felt to use as sunshine.
3. Cut the railroad board into 11" x 7" pieces.
4. Punch holes in the top two corners in each railroad board piece.
5. Cut cacti from the black construction paper.
6. Stretch and tear small cloud shapes from the cotton balls.
7. Cut twin 13" lengths of twine.
8. Punch out the self-adhesive foam flower shapes.

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! I am so excited and glad you here at the Trading Post today! Today our Bible story is about Joseph. Joseph's brothers did something mean to him, but Jesus called him to forgive them! Just like Joseph, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to forgive! Yee-haw!

Has a friend ever been mean to you? It makes us sad when that happens doesn't it? Make a frowny face for me. *[Use your fingers to pull your lips into a frown]* You know, Jesus said that if we forgive others, it will make us feel happy again!

"I forgive you." Can you say that with me? *[Pause slightly and repeat the words slowly so the children say it with you]* Yes, I think I already feel better! *[Clap your hands several times and smile real big]*

Today for our craft we will be making a beautiful sunrise in the desert. When we see a beautiful sunrise with its gorgeous colors, it can make us feel happy inside. Just like when we say "I forgive you" or when we say "I'm sorry." [Bring out your craft tray with all your supplies. Follow the directions. Always give positive affirmation to the creations of your Li'l Cowpokes.]

Instructions

Sunrise Art

1. Give each Li'l Cowpoke a piece of precut railroad board.
2. Instruct them to color their board with red, blue, yellow, and orange. Color by pressing down hard until the whole board is filled in.
3. Show them how to glue sandpaper to the bottom half of their board. Explain that the sandpaper represents the desert and mountains.
4. Have them glue the felt sun in place.
5. Have them glue the green construction paper cacti in place.
6. Have them glue cotton ball clouds in the sky.
7. Distribute flowers (excluding the tulip-type flower) so the children can adhere them to the cacti and desert floor.
8. Have them thread and tie twine in the upper corner holes.



Wrap-up

Boy, howdy! Look at the great works of art here! Show your sunrise to someone next to you and tell them that it makes you happy, just like forgiveness makes you happy!

Now it's time to clean up! I need everyone to be a helper today! Let's sing our cleanup song as we put our craft supplies away and wash the table.

Song: Clean Up, Clean Up

Clean up, clean up
Everybody, everywhere
Clean up, clean up
Everybody do your share

Thank you Li'l Cowpokes! You were very helpful in getting the table clean. I am going to put your crafts on the table over there and your Ranch Hand Wrangler will be sure that you get it when VBX is over today. Right, Ranch Hand Wranglers? [Give your Ranch Hand Wranglers a high five]

Now it's time to mosey on over to your next station. Goodbye my Li'l Cowpoke friends! I love you!



Cactusville TIP

Introduce simple routines such as throwing the garbage in the trash can and putting the craft supplies on the craft tray. Don't worry if your Li'l Cowpokes don't follow all the rules and routines right away. Just demonstrate the one they had trouble with again next time. Do not be in a rush.

Day Four Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Pack Mule Patty**, and the **Daily Call to serve**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; meet **Juliette, Ben and his sister**, three young refugees from Africa; and are reminded to continue to bring money for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Deborah** and how God helped make her brave enough to serve Him in battle. Kids learn to use their talents to serve God.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play a fun group game of Snakes in Boots and then spend the remaining time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Lil' Cowpokes will tailor their own **At Your Service Sheriff Vest** complete with sheriff badge as they are reminded of God's call to serve others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Cactus Pops**. The variety of fruits remind them that they can use their different gifts and talents to serve in many ways.

Daily Call ★ Called to Serve

Bible Story ★ Deborah

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."*

★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."*

★ 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)



Materials and Supplies

- Craft tray (like a cafeteria tray)
- Brown paper grocery bag
- Construction paper
- Yellow foam sheets
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils, or paint
- Craft glue and glue stick
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Shaker instruments (one per child)
- Basket for instruments



Ahead of Time

This is a great craft with many different textures to explore. Before the children are due to arrive, take the following steps.

1. The first step is to cut your vest from the paper bag. This is easy! Start by cutting arm holes on each side of the bag, about 3"-4" in. See the picture.
2. Cut a neck hole at the top, about 4"-5".
3. Open up your bag so that you have the flat side (the bottom of the bag) on top. From the opening you already made for the neck, just cut around the entire flat area, just leaving about 2"-3" on each side. This will be what lays on the child's shoulders.
4. Cut a straight line from bottom to top on your bag. This will be the opening of your vest.
5. Go ahead and turn your vest inside out. You want the store logo to be on the inside, so you have a plain canvas to decorate.
6. The last step is to cut off the extra piece of paper on each side of the arm holes. Just cut in a straight line to get rid of the excess. See the pictures for guidance.
7. Cut out a sheriff badge from the yellow foam (download the free template at AdventistVBX.com).

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! It's always a pleasure to see you! Welcome to the Trading Post! *[Give each Li'l Cowpoke a high five]*

Today our Bible story is about a lady named Deborah. Jesus called Deborah to serve, and that is just what she did! She helped all kinds of people with all kinds of problems. Sometimes she even sang songs to help others feel better! Isn't that nice?

Maybe we can make up a song to sing right now! *[Have the Ranch Hand Wranglers hand out a shaker to each child]*

(To the tune of This Old Man)

God wants you *[Shake your shaker at someone in front of you]*

God wants me *[Shake your shaker at yourself]*

To go and serve everyone *[Shake your shaker around in a circular motion]*

Jesus came *[Shake your shaker up high]* **to show His great love** *[Tap your shaker on your chest]*

To you and you and you *[Shake your shaker at the children front of you]* **and me!** *[Shake your shaker at yourself]*

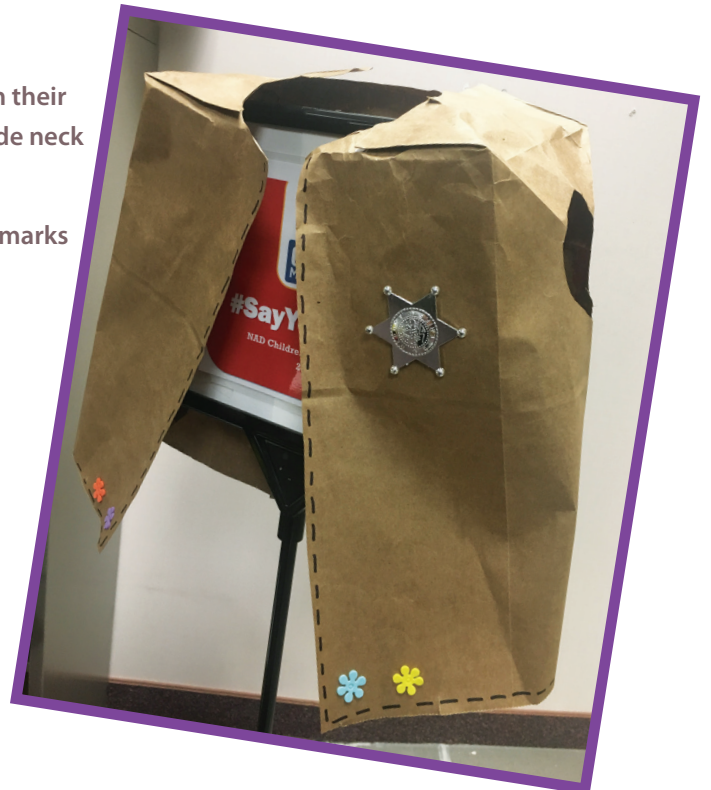
Hurray! That was fun! *[Clap hands]* **Let's do it again!** *[Repeat the song and motions]*

Let's put our shakers right here in the basket. *[Have a Ranch Hand Wrangler walk around with a basket so children can put their shakers in it]* **Thank you for helping me put our instruments away! You are good little helpers, just like Deborah, our Bible story character for today. She was a good helper too!** *[Bring out a tray with all your craft supplies. Follow the directions.]*

Instructions

At Your Service Sheriff Vest

1. Lay out a vest in front of each Li'l Cowpoke.
2. Show them how to draw dashed lines around the vest's edges so they look like sewing lines.
3. Have them draw buttons and color them in using markers or crayons.
4. Write "Sheriff" on the foam badge and color small circles at the points of the star.
5. Glue the badge to the left side of the vest.
6. Encourage the Li'l Cowpokes to color and draw on their vest. Don't forget to write their names on the inside neck area.
7. Let the kids try on their vests. Make affirmative remarks about each one.
8. When Li'l Cowpokes leave at the end of the day, encourage them to wear their vests.



Wrap-up

There are lots of people here on the Ranch who do important jobs! One of those people is the sheriff! He or she serves others by helping to keep everyone safe. Every time you wear your sheriff vest, remember that we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to serve! Yee-haw!

Let's serve now by cleaning up the Trading Post!

Song: Clean Up, Clean Up

Clean up, clean up
Everybody, everywhere
Clean up, clean up
Everybody do your share

Thank you, Li'l Cowpokes! You were very helpful in getting the table clean. I am going to put your crafts on the table over there and your Ranch Hand Wrangler will be sure that you get it when VBX is over today. Right, Ranch Hand Wranglers? *[Give your Ranch Hand Wranglers a high five]*

Now it's time to mosey on over to your next station. Goodbye, my Li'l Cowpoke friends! I love you!



Cactusville TIP

Introduce simple routines such as throwing the garbage in the trash can and putting the craft supplies on the craft tray. Don't worry if your Li'l Cowpokes don't follow all the rules and routines right away. Just demonstrate the one they had trouble with again next time. Do not be in a rush.

Day Five Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, repeat the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Road Runner Roy** and the **Daily Call to give**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, meet a refugee family from Syria, and learn the total amount of money raised for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Jesus** and how much He loves them. They also learn that God calls us to give love to others.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play the game **Broken Hearts** and then are free to spend time experiencing a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Today kids will make a beautiful **J Is for Jesus Stand-up Cross** to remind them of how much Jesus loves them.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Wagon Wheels**, sugar cookies with a tasty twist. Jesus' life was one of tireless giving just like a wagon wheel rolling on and on.

Daily Call ★ Called to Give

Bible Story ★ Jesus

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."* ★ Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)



Materials and Supplies

- J is for Jesus Stand-up Cross Craft Kit ★ available at OrientalTrading.com # IN-13707274
- Craft tray (like a cafeteria tray)
- Gift bag large enough for the craft to fit in

Ahead of Time

Before the Li'l Cowpokes are due to arrive, open all the pieces and sort them into separate baskets or bowls. During the activity, hand out each piece as needed.

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! I love it when you come to the Trading Post! When you're here, it always makes me smile. *[Look at each Li'l Cowpoke and smile. Give each one a high five.]* We've had a great time here on the Ranch this week! *[Nod your head yes]*

Today our Bible story is about Jesus and how He was called to give. Like Jesus, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to give! Yee-haw!

Oh, I loooooove giving gifts! And I loooooove getting gifts too! It makes me feel so happy! *[Smile and clap your hands]* What kind of gifts do you like to get? *[Listen to each answer and affirm the responses]*

[Lean forward and whisper so that the kids lean forward to hear you] Did you know that Jesus gave us a great BIG gift? Yes sireee, He did! He came to our world to be our friend and now He is building us a new home in Heaven—a home for you, your mommy, your daddy, your brother, your sister, your auntie, your uncle, and all your friends!

[Giggle] That just makes my toes tingle in my boots! I'm so excited to see that great big gift from Jesus! And when I see Jesus in Heaven, I'm going to give him a big hug. *[Encourage children to wrap their arms around themselves and give themselves a big hug. Bring out the craft tray with all your supplies and give the directions for making the craft one step at a time.]*

Instructions

J Is for Jesus Cross

Follow the directions included in the kit.

Wrap-up

Wowee! Your crafts are beautiful! Now you can put your artwork in a beautiful gift bag to take home with you today. *[Hand out gift bags and help each Li'l Cowpoke write their name on theirs using a marker]*

It's time to clean up! I need everyone to be a helper today! Let's sing our cleanup song as we put our craft supplies away and wash the table.

Kids: Called to serve! Yee-haw!

Let's serve now by cleaning up the Trading Post!

Song: Clean Up, Clean Up

Clean up, clean up
Everybody, everywhere
Clean up, clean up
Everybody do your share

Thank you, Li'l Cowpoke helpers! You did a great job helping clean the table. I am going to put your crafts on the table over there and your Ranch Hand Wrangler will be sure that you get it when VBX is over today. Right, Ranch Hand Wranglers?

[Give your Ranch Hand Wranglers a high five]

Now it's time to mosey on over to your next station. I've had lots of fun with all of you this week at the Trading Post. Goodbye, my Li'l Cowpoke friends! I love you!



Cactusville TIP

Introduce simple routines such as throwing the garbage in the trash can and putting the craft supplies on the craft tray. Don't worry if your Li'l Cowpokes don't follow all the rules and routines right away. Just demonstrate the one they had trouble with again next time. Do not be in a rush.

CHUCKWAGON
SNACKS

What to Expect at the Chuckwagon

Chuckwagon Chatter

Overview

The activities at this station are a delightful blend of preparation by the leaders and implementation by the children. For example, the Leaders prepare individual servings of each day's snack ingredients and set up work stations (placemats) for the children. They tie in the snack with that day's Bible story character and lead the children in the Daily Call. Once seated at their work stations, the children get to assemble or decorate their snacks and eventually eat them. The snacks chosen for this week's VBX are kid--tested and quality-assured by the Chuckwagon team! The eating becomes even more fun because each day's recipe includes a hands-on component where the Li'l Cowpokes get to participate in the creation of a very tasty snack.

Allergy Alerts

Food allergies are very common in children these days, so pay close attention to the following pieces of information.

- Post a notice that snacks will be served at VBX. Post it in a place where parents and staff will see it as they arrive with their children. You could even draw or print a picture of the snack with a list of ingredients.
- Require that allergy or food restriction information be placed on registration forms. Make sure all your Chuckwagon staff has a copy of the registration cards that are marked "Allergy Alert."
- If a Li'l Cowpoke's allergies are severe, discuss with your VBX leader and Chuckwagon staff about using stickers or medical alert bracelets. This is very important, especially when serving snacks to younger children who may not be aware of their allergies or food restrictions.



Each day at Cactusville Ranch, you will either make your snack or have it delivered to you from the Cactusville Chuckwagon snack leader. The supply list and recipes are all provided for you in this guide. After each recipe you will find script suggestions that go with each day's Daily Call and reinforcement of the Gold Nugget.

Just the Basics

1. Feel free to modify the ingredients of your snack selection to meet the specific needs or restrictions of the Li'l Cowpokes who come to your Chuckwagon station.
2. After you've had a chance to read through your Chuckwagon recipes, compile a grocery list to submit to your VBX Preschool Leader. Save yourself valuable time during VBX program operation hours when the kids are at your station by organizing and preparing the ingredients that go with each snack in advance. For example, you can organize your Chuckwagon supply area with each day's

snack ingredients in a separate crate labeled with the day and snack recipe on the outside. You could also go one step further on the day of and organize a snack's individual ingredients into separate bowls, or assemble individual "snack packs" for each Li'l Cowpoke that contain all the ingredients.

3. The Chuckwagon station does more than provide a yummy snack for the Li'l Cowpokes. The leader's introductory remarks include a reference to that day's Bible story character and the Daily Call. The children get to practice that day's call and response sequence with the leader as well as participate in a special activity involving the placemat that serves as their work station for assembling and eating their snack. For example, on the first day the Li'l Cowpokes are given a Called to be Different placemat and are instructed to draw something happy on it as a message to the next Li'l Cowpoke that sits at that spot. They can also sign their names.
4. Always pray with your group before they eat their snack. In addition to asking a blessing on the food, you can thank God for calling each child to follow Him.

Staff and Job Description

If you make your own snacks at Cactusville Ranch, you will need Leader and an Assistant Leader for this station. If the snacks are delivered to you, one Leader may be sufficient. Each day you will need to:

- Download and print enough placemats for all the children. Always make a few extra copies, just in case.
- Assemble individual servings of that day's snack ingredients and place them in a Ziploc bag or a disposable bowl so the children can participate in the hands-on portion of making the snack.
- Clean up the children's food preparation area (tables and placemats) between groups so there is a clean work space waiting for each new group that passes through.
- Supervise the children as they assemble or decorate their snacks and assist anyone that needs help.
- Memorize or familiarize yourself with the short script that serves as an introduction to that day's snack. Speak slowly and clearly so everyone can hear and understand what you're saying.
- Set aside time to say a blessing for the snack prior to the children starting to chow down.
- Familiarize yourself with the placemat activity for each day and know which days the placemats stay at the station and which days the children take them home. This will help you determine how many placemats you need to have on hand for that particular day.
- Before each group leaves your station, make a few closing remarks. These are scripted for you. Try to memorize your lines so you can speak naturally without having to refer to a paper.



Cactusville **TIP**

Make sure that the first and last thing the Li'l Cowpokes who come to your station do is wash their hands! They not only need clean hands to eat their snack, but also to prepare the food and help prevent cross-contamination between children.

Decorations & Set Up

The Chuckwagon snack area should be set up to look as much like the surroundings of an actual chuckwagon from the Old West as possible. Props like cast iron skillets, big black cast iron pots, stacks of logs for an imaginary fire, metal plates (all the better if they have dents in them), and old metal forks will help create the right atmosphere. Other fun and easy decorating ideas include:

- Stringing up a strand of red bandana pennants (<http://m.orientaltrading.com/web/browse/processProductsCatalog?sku=3/8748>)
- Covering tables with red and white checkered or solid-colored (in darker shades) plastic/vinyl tablecloths
- Filling large glass jars (canning jars or larger) with colorful plastic beads, colorful plastic drinking straws, small skeins or balls of colorful yarn, and plastic fruit
- Using baskets, metal buckets, and small wooden crates to hold your food prep supplies and large packages of your snack ingredients
- Displaying a Chuckwagon sign (this can be as simple as painting the word “Chuckwagon” on a piece of wood with black paint)
- Look online at AdventistVBX.com for pictures and instructions of these and other ideas. Pinterest is also a great source of creative ideas!



Materials & Supplies

Food Prep Supplies (Used by Station Leaders Only)

- Tin cans or tin buckets and colored pencils
- Cutting knives
- Cutting board
- Measuring cups and measuring spoons
- Foil and plastic wrap
- Wax paper
- Sandwich-sized Ziploc bags
- Plastic knives and spoons
- Kabob sticks or kid-friendly coffee Stir Stix & Plug (available at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com))
- 4 oz. soufflé cup plastic tumblers (available at Walmart)
- Small paper plates and bowls
- Toaster oven
- Cookie sheets
- Star-shaped cookie cutter
- Napkins (bandana-printed napkins are available at party stores)
- Mixing utensils
- Paper towels
- Hand sanitizer

Specific Ingredients Needed Each Day

DAY ONE

OPTION 1

Prairie Dog Ponchos

- Packaged Crescent Roll Dough**
- Small Tortillas**
- Vegetarian or Vegan Hot Dogs**
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese**
/ dairy or vegan
- Ketchup** / corn syrup free
- Mustard** / optional

OPTION 2

Waffle Blankets

- Frozen Waffles** / whole grain
and/or gluten free
- Fruit Jelly**
- Fruit Slices** / in-season fruit
- Maple Syrup** / optional
- Whipped Cream** / dairy or vegan

DAY TWO

OPTION 1

Tacos-in-a-Cup

- Refried Beans**
- Taco Seasoning**
- Guacamole**
- Sour Cream** / regular or vegan
- Mild Chunky Salsa or Pico de Gallo**
- Shredded Cheese** / regular or vegan
- Roma Tomatoes** / diced
- Green Onions** / diced
- Sliced Olives** / drained
- Tortilla Chips**

OPTION 2

Choco Chapatis

- Almonds**
- Old-fashioned Rolled Oats**
- Ground Flax Seed**
- Cocoa / Carob Powder**
- Dates**
- Coconut Oil**
- Mini M&M's or Chocolate**
/ Carob Chips

DAY·THREE

OPTION 1

Howdy Pard'ner Trail Mix

- Rice Chex
- Cheerios
- Raisins
- M&M's or Carob Chips
- Small Pretzels
- Banana Chips
- Pumpkin Seeds
- Popcorn / optional

OPTION 2

Dippity Dooda Fruit Cups

- Vanilla Yogurt
- Cool Whip / Vegan Whipped Cream
- Dry Instant Vanilla Pudding Mix
- Variety of Fresh Fruit
 - grapes
 - strawberries
 - cantaloupe
 - pineapple (canned)
 - apples
 - bananas
 - watermelon

DAY·FOUR

OPTION 1

Cactus Pops

- Variety of Fresh Fruit
 - strawberries
 - bananas
 - watermelon
 - oranges
 - pineapple chunks / canned

OPTION 2

Bucket o' Vittles

- Ranch Dressing
 - vegan ranch dressing
 - recipe on page 42
- Variety of Fresh Veggies
 - carrots
 - celery
 - cucumbers
 - red cherry tomatoes
 - snap peas

DAY·FIVE

OPTION 1

Wagon Wheel Cookies

- Sugar Cookies / store bought / two per child
- Vanilla Frosting
- Hot Cocoa Mix / powdered individual packets work well
- Twizzlers Pull-n-Peel
- Red Hots / Mini Marshmallows or M&M's / two per child / optional

OPTION 2

Wagon Wheel Pasta

- Rotelle Pasta / wagon wheel shape
- Butter / unsalted or vegan
- All-purpose Flour
- Mustard / dijon or yellow / optional
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese / regular or vegan
- Parmesan Cheese / dry grated or freshly shredded / regular or vegan
- Salt
- Marinara Spaghetti Sauce

Day One Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, memorize the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Tarantula Tammy** and the **Daily Call to be different**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; play a game; are introduced to **Jessica**, a refugee girl from Burma; learn about the Operation Wheels mission project; and are encouraged to bring money each day to support this project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **John the Baptist** and learn how he was called to eat, dress, and live differently from the people of His time, and God used him to reach many people for Jesus.

Wild Horse Corral

Lil' Cowpokes play the game **Jump to Me** and then choose between several sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids make beautiful designs with their **Swirls of Color** craft. Each swirl is different and unique just like Jesus has called each child to be different and unique for Him.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Prairie Dog Ponchos**, which illustrate how John the Baptist dared to be different.

Daily Call ★ Called to Be Different

Bible Story ★ John the Baptist

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people"* ★ 1 Peter 2:9 (KJV)

Materials and Supplies

Items Needed Every Day

- Refer to the recipe
- Tin cans and colored pencils for the placemat activity

Specific Items Needed

- Refer to the recipe

Ahead of Time

Download and print out the preschool Called to be Different placemat and arrange them on the tables so that each Li'l Cowpoke will have one. For today's placemat activity, the children are directed to draw a happy face from examples given on their placemat as a message for the next Li'l Cowpoke who will be sitting at their spot. Remind them to sign their name.



Today's placemat activity will take place either while the snack is baking or after the children finish eating, depending on whether you're making the snack yourself or having it delivered to you from Cactusville.

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! Welcome to the Chuckwagon! Today our Bible story is about John the Baptist and how God called him to be different. Just like John the Baptist, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for the kids to respond]*

Kids: Called to be different! Yee-haw!

God called John to tell other people that Jesus was coming soon! And John did just that! He loved telling people about Jesus. Our snack today is called Prairie Dog Ponchos. Just like the food inside our Prairie Dog Ponchos is wrapped up all nice and snug, we are wrapped up safe and tight in Jesus' loving arms. *[Hug yourself and encourage the children to do the same]*

Today we're going to make Prairie Dog Ponchos, and the first thing we need to do is make sure our hands are clean. *[Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child]*

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*



Cactusville TIP

If serving the Waffle Blanket recipe, just adjust your script: "Our snack today is called a Waffle Blanket. A blanket keeps us snugly and warm at night. Did you know that Jesus will wrap His arms of love around us to make us feel snugly and safe?"

Prairie Dog Poncho



Preparation

1. Cut hot dogs in half. Cover baking sheets with foil. Unroll crescent rolls from package and cut each roll into three triangles. Place hot dogs, rolls, and cheese in separate bowls. Preheat the oven to 375° degrees.
2. Put ½ hot dog on each triangle or cut tortilla. Add shredded cheddar cheese. Roll up the “poncho,” starting at one end and working to the other. Bake as directed on the package. If you’re using a tortilla, no baking is needed. Serve with ketchup and mustard.

Kids Can Do It!

Provide children with prepared crescent rolls, cut hot dogs, and cheese in separate bowls (each child has three bowls of their own for each ingredient) and let them create their own Prairie Dog Poncho. Demonstrate how to roll up the crescent roll dough. It’s okay if it’s not perfect! It still tastes yummy!



Remember to pray before eating the snack.

PRAIRIE DOG PONCHO

FOOD

- Packaged Crescent Roll Dough or lightly browned small flour tortilla cut in half
- Vegetarian or Vegan Hot Dogs / cut in half
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese / dairy or vegan
- Ketchup / corn syrup free
- Mustard / optional

SUPPLIES / UTENSILS

- Cutting Knives for adult helpers
- Cookie Sheets
- Foil
- Small Paper or Foam Plates and Bowls

Waffle Blankets



Preparation

1. Prepare waffles ahead of time, heating them according to the box instructions.
2. Cut each waffle into quarters and serve to the kids on small paper plates along with plastic forks and knives.
3. Put a plate holding a quarter waffle along with a plastic knife and fork at each placemat.
4. Provide all toppings in separate bowls at each table along with plastic spoons for kids to use in decorating their own Waffle Blanket.
5. Kids can top their Waffle Blankets with fruit jelly, fruit slices, syrup, or whipped cream, serving themselves from the individual bowls of toppings provided at each table.
6. Instruct Lil' Cowpokes to use only enough toppings to "dress up" their blanket.

FOOD

- Frozen Waffles / whole grain and/or gluten free
- Fruit Jelly
- Fruit Slices / in-season fruit
- Maple Syrup / optional
- Whipped Cream

note Let your imagination run wild and choose some of your own waffle toppings!
Additional ideas include: kosher marshmallows, flavored syrups, applesauce, and chocolate or carob chips.

SUPPLIES/ UTENSILS

- Cutting Knives for adult helpers
- Toaster or Cookie Sheets
- Small Paper Plates
- Paper or Foam Bowls for toppings
- Plastic Knives, Forks, Spoons

Note Remember to pray before eating the snack.

Prayer

As we get ready to pray, let's see this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring)

I listen *[Put your right hand on your right ear]*

I listen *[Put your left hand on your left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[Put both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[Fold your hands]*

And I close my eyes *[Close your eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank you for being here with us today. Thank you for calling us to be different, just like you called John the Baptist. Thank you for this yummy food! We love you! In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Wrap-up

Now we're going to do something that's fun and a little different. On the placemat in front of you, you get to draw a picture message for the next group of Li'l Cowpokes coming to the Chuckwagon. You can see some examples of pictures you can draw already printed on your placemat. Oh, and don't forget to sign your name! When you're finished, you can leave them right there on the tables. It will be a surprise for the next person who sits in your seat!

[When it's almost time for the children to go] Make sure your hands are clean before you mosey on off to your next station. [Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child]



Cactusville TIP

When the next group comes to the Chuckwagon, the placemats will already be in place and drawn on. Comment affirmatively on the messages left for the new group. For example, you could say, "Oh look! Here is a message from our friends who were here before us! Isn't that nice! Look at that happy sunshine," or "Oh, look at that flower and all the beautiful colors," etc.



By the time the second or third group arrives, the placemats are going to start looking a little messy—that's okay! Just gently wipe off any excess food while being careful not to smudge the messages. The added grease spots will give the messages a more authentic and intriguing look. Yee-haw!

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*

I hope you enjoyed making and eating your treat today, and that it helped to remind you that being different is a calling. After all, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to be different! Yee-haw!

Goodbye for now!



Cactusville TIP

We discovered that for preschool children, keeping a big bowl of warm sudsy water and paper towels nearby was helpful for washing sticky hands. Just place the bowl on a small table out of the way or behind you.

Day Two Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Prairie Dog Pete** and the **Daily Call to be faithful**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; learn about **Josef**, a refugee from Iraq; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow **Abraham** as he leaves his comfortable home and all his friends. They see how he was faithful to God's calling as he journeyed to an unknown land.

Wild Horse Corral

Li'l Cowpokes play the game **Round 'Em Up** and then are free to wander from one sensory activity to another.

Trading Post

Kids use their imaginations while making the **Paper Plate Pony** craft. Playing with their Paper Plate Ponies will remind them of Jesus' call to be faithful.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Tacos in a Cup**. The variety of ingredients in this snack, represents all the belongings Abraham had to pack up when God called him to leave his home.

Daily Call ★ Called to be Faithful

Bible Story ★ Abraham

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"By faith Abraham obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going."* ★ Hebrews 11:8 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

Items Needed Every Day

- Refer to the recipe
- Tin cans and colored pencils for the placemat activity

Specific Items Needed

- Refer to the recipe

Ahead of Time

Download and print out the Called to be Faithful placemats and arrange them on the tables so that each Li'l Cowpoke will have one. For today's placemat activity, the children are directed to trace Abraham's faithful journey to his new home. If time permits, they may doodle or draw pictures around the maze. When they're finished, remind them to sign their name and give their mat to their Cactusville Ranch Hand for safekeeping.



Today's placemat activity will occur after the children finish eating.

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! Welcome back to the Chuckwagon. Today our Bible story is about Abraham and how God called him to be faithful. He calls us too! We are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to be faithful! Yee-haw!

God called Abraham to move away from his home and all his friends to another place where he didn't know anyone! In fact, Abraham didn't even know where he was going to end up! His job was to trust God and faithfully follow His calling. It wasn't easy, but God was with Abraham every step of the way just like He is with us, helping us when we answer His call to be faithful. The journey to his new home was full of adventure! Our snack today represents Abraham's story. Tacos in a Cup remind us how Abraham had to faithfully pack up everything he owned and leave behind a familiar and beloved home to travel to a new place that he knew nothing about.

Today we're going to make Tacos in a Cup, but the first thing we need to do is make sure our hands are clean. *[Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child]*

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*



Cactusville TIP

If serving the Choco Chapattis recipe, just adjust your script: "Our snack today is called Choco Chapattis. They remind us that Abraham encountered many obstacles along the way that he had to remove or go around! Just like Abraham had to pack up his precious belongings for the long journey, we'll pack these cookies full of good things too!"

Tacos in a Cup



Preparation

1. Cut up and prepare all the topping selections ahead of time. In separate paper bowls put equal amounts of guacamole, sour cream, salsa, cheese, tomatoes, onions, olives, and chips on each table along with plastic serving spoons. Ahead of time, place the first layer (2 tablespoons refried beans) in each taco cup.

Kids Can Do It!

Let the Li'l Cowpokes add layers of their favorite ingredients on top of the beans using the serving spoons. Remind them to only scoop 2-3 spoonfuls of each ingredient so their cup won't overflow. Once they've added all the layers they like, they can top off their creations with a few tortilla chips.



Remember to pray before eating the snack.

TACO IN A CUP

FOOD

- Refried Beans
- Taco Seasoning / 1oz. pkgs.
- Guacamole
- Sour Cream / regular or vegan
- Mild Chunky Salsa or Pico de Gallo
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese / regular or vegan
- Roma Tomatoes / diced
- Green onions / sliced
- Sliced Olives / two 25 oz. cans, drained
- Tortilla Chips

SUPPLIES/ UTENSILS

- 4 oz. Soufflé Cup
Plastic Tumblers / one per child / available at Walmart
- Cutting Knives for adult helpers
- Cutting Board
- Can Opener
- Paper or Foam Bowls
- Plastic Spoons

Choco Chapatis



Preparation

1. Prepare the dough right before each group comes in.
2. Place almonds in the bowl of a food processor. Pulse until finely chopped.
3. Add oats, flax seed, and cocoa/carob powder. Pulse a few more times to combine.
4. Place dates in the food processor and turn on for about 30 seconds, or until finely chopped. Mixture should be crumbly at this point.
5. Drizzle 1 tablespoon coconut oil over the top of the entire mixture and process for 5 to 10 seconds.
6. Test mixture by squeezing between your finger and thumb. If it's too dry to stick together, add more coconut oil (up to 1 tablespoon more).
7. Place 1/2 — 1/3 cups of the mixture along with M&M's or chocolate chips/carob chips in a sandwich sized Ziploc bag and seal it.
8. Prepare one bag for each child.
9. Hand a Ziploc to each child with instructions to knead the dough and then flatten it into a chapati shape (round and flat) while it's still in the bag.
10. Tell them to keep the dough in the bag until it's time to eat.

FOOD

- ¼ Cup Almonds / unroasted or you can substitute any kind of nut or seed
 - ¾ Cup Old Fashioned Rolled Oats / uncooked
 - 2 Tbsp Ground Flax Seed
 - 2–3 Tbsp Cocoa Powder or Carob Powder depending on how chocolatey you want them
 - 10 oz. of Dates
 - 1–2 Tbsp Coconut Oil / melted
 - Mini M&M's or Chocolate / Carob Chips
- Makes 9 to 10 individual sandwich size Ziploc servings of cookie dough

SUPPLIES / UTENSILS

- Food Processor
- Measuring Spoons and Measuring Cups
- Sandwich-Size Ziploc Bags
- Paper or Foam Bowls for toppings
- Plastic Knives, Forks, Spoons



Remember to pray before eating the snack.

Prayer

As we get ready to pray, let's see this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring)

I listen *[Put your right hand on your right ear]*

I listen *[Put your left hand on your left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[Put both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[Fold your hands]*

And I close my eyes *[Close your eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank you for calling us to follow You. Help us to be faithful and to trust in You just like Abraham did. Thank you for this yummy food to eat! We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Wrap-up

When you are all done chowing down and your area is clean, you can figure out the maze on your placemat. If your hands are sticky, come wash them in sudsy water or get some hand sanitizer. Then trace Abraham's faithful journey to his new home with a crayon or pencil. If there's time, you can even decorate your placemat by drawing flowers or rocks along the path Abraham took. Oh, and don't forget to sign your name and give your mat to your Ranch Hand Wrangler for safekeeping.

[When it's almost time for the children to go] Make sure your hands are clean before you hit the trail! [Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child]

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*

I hope you enjoyed making and eating your treat today, and that it helped remind you that being faithful is a calling. After all, we are called!

[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]

Kids: Called to be faithful! Yee-haw!

Happy trails to you until we meet again!



Cactusville TIP

We discovered that for preschool children, keeping a big bowl of warm sudsy water and paper towels nearby was helpful for washing sticky hands. Just place the bowl on a small table out of the way or behind you.

Day Three Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Chuck the Chuckwalla** and the **Daily Call to forgive**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing; learn about **June Lily**, a refugee from Malaysia; and are reminded to bring money for the Operation Wheels mission project.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids follow the story of **Joseph** as he models forgiveness. They learn how Joseph was able to forgive his brothers in spite of how badly they treated him.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play **Storing the Grain** and spend time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Kids enjoy the sensory experiences involved in creating **Sunrise Art** masterpieces. The happiness they feel while viewing a beautiful sunrise reminds them of the happiness that comes from forgiving others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy Howdy **Pard'ner Trail Mix** and are reminded that a heart willing to forgive can overcome a multitude of challenging circumstances.

Daily Call ★ Called to Forgive

Bible Story ★ Joseph

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) ...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."* ★ Matthew 6:14 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

Items Needed Every Day

- Refer to the recipe
- Tin cans and colored pencils for the placemat activity

Specific Items Needed

- Refer to the recipe



Today's placemat activity will occur after the children finish eating.

Ahead of Time

Download and print the Called to Forgive placemats and arrange them on the tables so that each Li'l Cowpoke will have one. For today's placemat activity, the children are directed to trace the words "GOD + ME =" on their placemats and color the big happy face. When they've finished, lead all the children in saying, "God plus me makes me happy," while they hold up their placemat in front of their face. Finally, remind them to sign their name and give their mat to their Ranch Hand Wrangler for safekeeping.

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! It's good to see you back at the old Cactusville Ranch Chuckwagon again! Today our Bible story is about a boy named Joseph and how God called him to forgive. God is calling us too. We are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to forgive! Yee-haw!

God called Joseph to forgive his brothers, even after they were mean to him! Our snack represents Joseph choosing to forgive his brothers. As we make our snack today, it will remind us how God can give us strength and love to forgive others, just like Joseph. It isn't easy to do, that's for sure. When your friends are mean to you, sometimes the last thing you want to do is forgive them. But remember, God is always there to help us forgive just like He helped Joseph forgive his brothers. This is not something we can do on our own, but God is ready and waiting to help us when we answer His call to forgive.

Today we're going to make Howdy Pard'ner Trail Mix! The first thing we need to do is make sure our hands are clean. *[Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child.]*

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*



Cactusville TIP

If serving the Dippity Dooda Fruit Cup recipe, just adjust your script: "Our snack today is called a Dippity Dooda Fruit Cup. Sometimes when we do not forgive others, it is like having stones in our heart. Let's pretend that all our chunks of fruit represent stones and our yummy white dip represents forgiveness. As you put your fruit chunks into your cup, take time to let the dip cover them. *[Give them time to swirl the dip around or cover the fruit using their spoon]*

Now take a look and see how forgiveness has covered your stones! *[Pause while they follow instructions]* Yee-haw! God has called you to forgive too!

Howdy Pard'ner Trail Mix



Preparation

1. Each child should have an empty individual paper bag or a sandwich-size Ziploc bag with a "Howdy Pard'ner Trail Mix" label on his/her placemat. Provide all trail mix ingredients in separate bowls at each table along with plastic serving spoons.

Kids Can Do It!

Sometimes when we do not forgive others, it is like having a stone in our heart. Let's pretend that the raisins in our trail mix represent stones and put them in our bag first. *[Direct the Li'l Cowpokes to put only 2-3 spoonfuls of raisins in their bags]*

All the other ingredients represent forgiveness. So choose the ingredients you like the most and let's put a lot of forgiveness into our bag! *[Give them time to put as many of the other ingredients in their bag as they wish]*

All done! Fold over the top of your bag, hang on tight, and give it a good shake. *[Pause while they follow instructions]*

Now, open your bag and look inside. Forgiveness has covered all those stones. Yee-haw! God has called you to forgive too!

HOWDY PARD'NER TRAIL MIX

FOOD

- Rice Chex
- Cheerios
- Raisins
- M&M's or Carob Chips
- Small Pretzels
- Banana Chips
- Pumpkin Seeds
- Popcom / optional

SUPPLIES / UTENSILS

- Small Individual Paper Bags available at Amazon.com or your local party store or Sandwich size Ziploc Bags
- Labels that Say "Howdy Pard'ner Trail Mix" available at adventistvbx.org
- Large Spoon
- Paper or Foam Bowls
- Plastic Spoons
- Paper Towels



Remember to pray before eating the snack.

Howdy Pard'ner Trail Mix



Preparation

1. Mix up the Dippity Dooda dip ahead of time by combining low-fat vanilla yogurt, Lite Cool Whip, and dry instant vanilla pudding mix.
2. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for 30 minutes prior to serving. Pour 1 to 1½ inches of the dip into the soufflé cups and set one cup on each placemat.
3. Cut each type of fruit into bite-size chunks (leave the strawberries and grapes whole) and lay out equal amounts of the fresh fruit ingredients on cookie sheets lined with wax paper.
4. Place cookie sheets at each table along with a supply of toothpicks or coffee stir sticks.
5. Put a large paper plate, several toothpicks, and a plastic spoon at each placemat.
6. Using the toothpicks provided near the cookie sheets, kids will serve themselves a maximum of eight pieces of fruit, placing them on the large plate sitting on their placemat.
 - a. At this point, they have two options:
 - a) they can use one of their toothpicks to place all the fruits in their cup at once and use their plastic spoon to stir the dip slowly until all the fruit is covered. Then they could use the spoon or the toothpick to eat the fruit; or
 - b. they can use a toothpick and pick up one chunk of fruit at a time and dunk it in their dip, swirling it around until it is completely covered. Using this method, they would eat one piece of fruit at a time before dunking the next piece.
7. Have wet paper towels nearby so the children can clean their sticky fingers.

DIPPITY DOODA FRUIT CUPS

FOOD

- Vanilla Yogurt
- Cool Whip /vegan whipped cream
- Dry Instant Vanilla Pudding
- Variety of Fresh Fruit
grapes / apples / bananas
strawberries / pineapple (canned)
cantaloupe / watermelon

SUPPLIES/ UTENSILS

- Large Mixing Bowl
- Large Mixing Spoon
- Plastic Wrap
- Cookie Sheets lined with wax paper
- Toothpicks / Coffee Stir Sticks and Plug / Amazon.com
- 4 oz. Soufflé Cup Plastic Tumblers / one per child / available at Walmart
- Large Paper Plates
- Plastic Spoons
- Paper Towels

Prayer

As we get ready to pray, let's see this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring)

I listen *[Put your right hand on your right ear]*

I listen *[Put your left hand on your left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[Put both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[Fold your hands]*

And I close my eyes *[Close your eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank you for calling us to forgive others. Help us to let go of any anger or hurt that we've been keeping in our hearts against people who have been mean to us. Help us to forgive just like Joseph did. Thank You for this yummy food. We love You. We pray all these things in Jesus' name, amen.

Wrap-up

When you are all done chowing down and the area around your table is clean, you can trace this important mathematical equation on your placemat. It goes like this, "God plus me equals..." What does God plus me equal? Happiness, that's what! So color in the big happy face after the equal sign. When you've finished, turn to someone near you at your table and say, "God plus me equals happiness," and hold up your placemat in front of your face. The last thing you need to do is be sure to sign your name on your placemat and then give it to your Ranch Hand Wrangler for safekeeping.

[When it's almost time for the children to go] Make sure your hands are clean before you mosey on to your next station. [Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child]

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*

I hope you enjoyed making and eating your treat today, and that it helped to remind you that being called to forgive is one of the ways God calls us. Only He can help us forgive after we've been hurt by other people. Just remember, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to forgive! Yee-haw!

Goodbye for now!



Cactusville TIP

We discovered that for preschool children, keeping a big bowl of warm sudsy water and paper towels nearby was helpful for washing sticky hands. Just place the bowl on a small table out of the way or behind you.

Day Four Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing, practice the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Pack Mule Patty**, and the **Daily Call to serve**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Li'l Cowpokes sing; meet **Juliette, Ben and his sister**, three young refugees from Africa; and are reminded to continue to bring money for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Deborah** and how God helped make her brave enough to serve Him in battle. Kids learn to use their talents to serve God.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play a fun group game of Snakes in Boots and then spend the remaining time at a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Li'l Cowpokes will tailor their own **At Your Service Sheriff Vest** complete with sheriff badge as they are reminded of God's call to serve others.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Cactus Pops**. The variety of fruits remind them that they can use their different gifts and talents to serve in many ways.

Daily Call ★ Called to Serve

Bible Story ★ Deborah

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others."* ★ 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

Items Needed Every Day

- Refer to the recipe
- Tin cans and colored pencils for the placemat activity

Specific Items Needed

- Refer to the recipe



Today's placemat activity will occur after the children finish eating.

Ahead of Time

Download and print the Called to Serve placemats and arrange them on the tables so that each Li'l Cowpoke will have one. For today's placemat activity, Li'l Cowpokes are directed to trace their handprint on their placemat and write their name inside the outline of their hand. When they leave the Chuckwagon station, their placemat will remain. That way as each new group comes to the Chuckwagon, the next Li'l Cowpokes can trace their handprints on the placemat as well. Those children will be asked to place their hand over a different handprint than their own and silently pray for that Li'l Cowpoke. The children in the first group can put their hand on the handprint of someone sitting next to them and pray for one another. A sample prayer is given at the bottom of the placemat.

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! Welcome to the Chuckwagon. Today's Bible story is about a young woman named Deborah and how God called her to serve. God calls us too. We are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to serve! Yee-haw!

God called Deborah to speak for Him! He told her what He wanted her to tell the Israelite people, and she did just what He asked! God has called us to serve too. He has given each of us special skills and abilities to use in serving Him. Deborah wasn't afraid to answer God's call to serve because she knew God would go with her. God is with us too, so we never have to be afraid to follow His call to serve.

Today we are going to make Cactus Pops. Before we start, let's make sure our hands are clean. *[Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child.]*

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*



Cactusville TIP

If serving the Buckets o' Vittles recipe, adjust your script accordingly. Explain the name of the snack and that today, the children will be serving each other in pairs. Have everyone stand up and let each pair determine which Li'l Cowpoke will serve first. The other partner will tell the server which veggies he or she wants, and the server will put their selections in a cup filled with dip. They may select a total of eight veggie pieces. Once they finish, the server presents the Bucket o' Vittles to his/her partner, and then they switch roles. If there is a group with three children, the first child can serve the second, the second can serve the third, and the third can serve the first. Keep wet paper towels nearby for children to clean their sticky fingers. *[Pause while the kids follow instructions]* Yee-haw! God has called you to serve too!

Cactus Pops



FOOD

- Variety of Fresh Fruit...
 - strawberries
 - bananas
 - watermelon
 - pineapple chunks canned
 - oranges

SUPPLIES / UTENSILS

- Kabob sticks or Coffee Stir Stix and Plug available at Amazon.com / We recommend the Coffee Stir Stix and Plug because they are shorter, easier to grip, and not as sharp.
- Knives / adult use only
- Toothpicks
- Star-Shaped Cookie Cutter
- Cutting Board
- Cookie Sheets lined with wax paper
- Large Paper Plates
- Paper Towels

CACTUS POPS

Preparation

1. Prepare all the fruit the day before. Store it in containers or Ziploc bags in the refrigerator to keep it fresh and cool. Make one kabob (Cactus Pop) ahead of time in order to determine the amount of fruit pieces needed for each Cactus Pop. Use that number when telling the children how many fruit pieces they may select for their Pops.

Kids Can Do It!

When the children arrive, have them sit together in pairs. If there is an uneven number, assign one group three members instead of two. Explain that today, they are going to serve each other. Have everyone stand up and let each pair determine which Li'l Cowpoke is taller. The taller child will be the first server. The shorter partner will tell the server which fruits he or she wants and in what order they should be inserted on the skewer. When the skewer is full, the server presents the Cactus Pop to his or her partner and then they switch roles. In a group with three children, the first child can serve the second, the second can serve the third, and the third can serve the first. Keep wet paper towels ready for children to clean their sticky fingers.

Note

We recommend the Coffee Stir Stix and Plug because they are shorter, easier to grip, and not as sharp.

Remember to pray before eating the snack.

Bucket o' Vittles



Preparation

1. Wash and cut the veggies ahead of time and store them in the refrigerator to stay fresh and cool.
2. Just before the children are due to arrive, place cookie sheets lined with wax paper containing all the veggie options at every table.
3. Make sure every table has equal amounts of each type of veggie and have more pre-cut veggies on hand in case they are needed.
4. Put 2 to 3 cherry tomatoes on bamboo skewers and place the skewers with the other veggies on the cookie sheets.
5. Have wet paper towels nearby for children to clean their sticky fingers.
6. Pour 1 to 1½ inches of the ranch dip into the soufflé cups and put one cup in the center of a large paper plate at each placemat, accompanied by several toothpicks and a plastic spoon.
7. There should be a sufficient number of cookie sheets containing a variety of veggies on each table so all the children can easily access them. An additional supply of toothpicks should also be nearby.
8. Place cookie sheets at each table along with a supply of toothpicks.

BUCKET O' VITTLES

FOOD

- Ranch Dressing
alternative vegan recipe included
- Variety of Fresh Veggies
 - carrots
 - celery
 - cucumbers
 - red cherry tomatoes
 - snap peas

SUPPLIES / UTENSILS

- Knives / adult use only
- Blender or Food Processor
for vegan ranch dressing
- Large Paper Plates
- Cutting Board
- Vegetable Peeler
- Cookie Sheets / lined with wax paper
- Bamboo Skewers
- Toothpicks
- 4 oz. Soufflé Cup
Plastic Tumblers / one per child
- Plastic Spoons
- Paper Towels

Note
Remember to pray before eating the snack.

Prayer

As we get ready to pray, let's see this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring)

I listen *[Put your right hand on your right ear]*

I listen *[Put your left hand on your left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[Put both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[Fold your hands]*

And I close my eyes *[Close your eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, Thank You for calling us to serve others. Help us to put the needs of other people ahead of what we want for ourselves. Thank You for the chance to serve each other today, and thank You for this yummy food! We love You! In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Wrap-up

When you are all done chowing down and the area around your table is clean, you can start on today's placemat project. Trace your hand on your placemat and write your name in the middle of it. Now, place your hand on a different handprint that's already on your placemat and pray for the Li'l Cowpoke who drew it. Let's repeat the prayer together! *[Say the sample prayer already on the placemat out loud slowly, and then have the children say it with you.]* For the first group of the day, simply have them place their hand on the handprint of their partner and pray out loud with you.

[When it's almost time for the children to go] Make sure your hands are clean before you ride off into the sunset! [Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child]

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*

I hope you enjoyed serving your partner today. Remember, God has called all of us to serve. Ask God to help you find someone you can serve today. And remember, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to serve! Yee-haw!

So long for now!



Cactusville TIP

We discovered that for preschool children, keeping a big bowl of warm sudsy water and paper towels nearby was helpful for washing sticky hands. Just place the bowl on a small table out of the way or behind you.

Day Five Program Overview

Round Up

Opening ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, repeat the first portion of the Gold Nugget, and are introduced to **Road Runner Roy** and the **Daily Call to give**.

Round Up

Closing ★ Lil' Cowpokes sing, meet a refugee family from Syria, and learn the total amount of money raised for Operation Wheels.

Campfire Stories at Sunset Canyon

Kids hear the story of **Jesus** and how much He loves them. They also learn that God calls us to give love to others.

Wild Horse Corral

Kids play the game **Broken Hearts** and then are free to spend time experiencing a variety of sensory stations.

Trading Post

Today kids will make a beautiful **J Is for Jesus Stand-up Cross** to remind them of how much Jesus loves them.

Chuckwagon

Kids enjoy **Wagon Wheels**, sugar cookies with a tasty twist. Jesus' life was one of tireless giving just like a wagon wheel rolling on and on.

Daily Call ★ Called to Give

Bible Story ★ Jesus

Gold Nugget ★ *"(Jesus) Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling..."* ★ 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

Reference Verse ★ *"Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us."* ★ Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

Materials and Supplies

Items Needed Every Day

- Refer to the recipe
- Tin cans and colored pencils for the placemat activity

Specific Items Needed

- Refer to the recipe

Ahead of Time

Download and print the Called to Give placemats and arrange them on the tables so that each Li'l Cowpoke will have one. For today's placemat activity, the children are directed to draw hearts of all sizes and colors. Remind them to sign their name and give their mat to their Ranch Hand Wrangler for safekeeping.



Today's placemat activity will occur after the children finish eating.

Introduction

Howdy, Li'l Cowpokes! Welcome to the Chuckwagon! Today's Bible story is about our best friend, Jesus, and how God called Him to give. Just like Jesus, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to give! Yee-haw! 19.25

God not only calls us to give, He also shows us what giving looks like by always giving us good things! God's best gift to us was His Son Jesus. Jesus spent His time on earth giving help to other people that needed Him, and now Jesus is making us a new home in Heaven. Our snack today represents the life Jesus lived while He was here on this earth. His life was one of always helping other people, just like a wagon wheel rolling on and on..

Today you get to make Wagon Wheel cookies! But first, let's be sure your hands are clean. *[Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child.]*

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*



Cactusville TIP

If serving Wagon Wheel pasta, just adjust your script and say, "Our snack today is Wagon Wheel pasta. It represents the life Jesus lived while He was here on this earth. His life was one of always helping other people, just like a wagon wheel rolling on and on."

Wagon Wheel Cookies



Preparation

1. Bake or buy large sugar cookies ahead of time. Before the children arrive, prepare their work stations by placing a large paper plate with a cookie, plastic knife, and one Twizzler on each placemat. Place a small cup of frosting and an individual packet of hot cocoa mix between every two placemats, so that two children can access them.

Kids Can Do It!

Once seated, the Li'l Cowpokes may start decorating their cookies to make them look like wagon wheels. While they are busy decorating their cookies, say, "Think about what you can give back to Jesus as a thank you for coming to live here on earth. An example might include being kind to others." [Encourage the kids to come up with other ideas and to share them as they work]

The Li'l Cowpokes' placemats will be their decorating work stations, each comprised of a large paper plate containing a sugar cookie and a plastic knife. Place one Twizzler Pull & Peel by each plate along with a packet of hot cocoa mix and a small cup of frosting (both of which can be shared between two children). The kids will

1. Use a plastic knife to spread a thin layer of frosting on the top side of the cookie,
2. Tear open the hot cocoa packet and sprinkle a little cocoa mix on the frosting,
3. Take the Twizzler and pull it apart into individual strands of licorice.
4. Use one or more strands to form the rim of the wagon wheel (placing the strands in a large circle near the edge of the cookie).
5. Place a very short licorice strand in a tight circle at the center of the cookie to form the wheel's hub.
6. Use the rest of the Twizzler strands as spokes for the wheel (these strands will need to be broken to make them the right length for the spokes). Keep wet paper towels nearby so the kids can clean their sticky fingers once they're done.

WAGON WHEEL COOKIES

FOOD

- Sugar Cookies store bought / two per child
- Cocoa/carob mix individual packets work well
- Vanilla Frosting
- Twizzlers Pull 'n' Peel
- Red Hots / Mini Marshmallows or M&M's / two per child / optional

SUPPLIES / UTENSILS

- Serving Spoon for dividing frosting
- 4 oz. Soufflé Cup
- Plastic Tumblers / one per child
- Large Paper Plates
- Plastic Knives
- Paper Towels

Note Remember to pray before eating the snack.

Wagon Wheel Pasta



Preparation

1. Bring a large pot of water to a boil; add salt.
2. Add pasta; cook until al dente.
3. Drain well.
4. Transfer to a large bowl.
5. Toss with butter.
6. Add salt, mustard, and cheese; stir until cheese is melted.
7. Scoop pasta into cups and place one cup along with a plastic fork on each placemat.
8. Warm the marinara sauce until heated through and place in small plastic bowls on all the tables along with small bowls of Parmesan cheese (grated or fresh) – one bowl each for 3 to 4 children.
9. Place plastic serving spoons nearby.

Kids Can Do It!

Once seated, the Buckaroos may help themselves to marinara sauce and sprinkle Parmesan cheese on top of their pasta.

WAGON WHEEL PASTA

FOOD

- Rotelle Pasta / wagon wheel shape
- Butter / unsalted or vegan
- All-purpose Flour / same amount as the butter
- Mustard / dijon or yellow / optional
- Shredded Cheddar Cheese / regular or vegan
- Parmesan Cheese / dry grated or freshly shredded / regular or vegan
- Salt
- Marinara Spaghetti Sauce

SUPPLIES / UTENSILS

- Large Cooking Pot
- Pasta Strainer
- Large Mixing Spoon
- Large Bowl
- Medium Saucepan
- Medium Serving Spoon
- 4oz. Soufflé Cup Plastic, or
- 9.5oz. Red Chevron Paper Teat Cups / one per child available at partycity.com
- Small Bowls / paper or foam
- Plastic Forks and Spoons

Note
Remember to pray before eating the snack.

Prayer

As we get ready to pray, let's sing this little song.

Song or Poem: I Listen to the Lord

(To the tune of It's Raining, It's Pouring)

I listen *[Put your right hand on your right ear]*

I listen *[Put your left hand on your left ear]*

I listen to my Lord *[Put both hands on both ears]*

I fold my hands *[Fold your hands]*

And I close my eyes *[Close your eyes]*

Now I'm ready to talk to Jesus

Dear Jesus, thank You for calling us to give. Help us look for ways we can give the gifts of our time and talents to our family, friends, and neighbors. Thank you for the amazing gift of your Son and for this yummy food. We love You! We pray all these things in Jesus' name, amen.

Wrap-up

Today's placemat activity takes place when your Li'l Cowpokes are all done chowing down and their area is clean. Instruct them to draw a heart or two—or as many as they want—on their placemat. Remind them to sign their name and give their mat to their Ranch Hand Wrangler for safekeeping.

[When it's almost time for the children to go] Make sure your hands are clean before you ride off into the sunset! [Give a squirt of hand sanitizer to each child]

Song or Poem: Wash, Wash, Wash Your Hands

(To the tune of Row, Row, Row Your Boat)

Wash, wash, wash your hands

Wash them nice and clean

Scrub them here *[Motion scrubbing your hands together]* and

And scrub them there *[Motion scrubbing the tops of your hands]*

And scrub them in between *[Motion scrubbing between your fingers]*

I hope you enjoyed your Wagon Wheel cookies, and that they reminded you of God's endless love for you. God loved all of us so much that He gave us the best gift of all! He gave us Jesus. Always remember, we are called! *[Cup a hand to one ear as a cue for them to respond]*

Kids: Called to give! Yee-haw!

Happy trails to you, Li'l Cowpokes!



Cactusville TIP

We discovered that for preschool children, keeping a big bowl of warm sudsy water and paper towels nearby was helpful for washing sticky hands. Just place the bowl on a small table out of the way or behind you.

Let's go shopping!

Combined Materials & Supplies List

Round Up Opening & Closing

- Cowbell
- Variety of stuffed animals (or pictures of animals) you'd see on a farm
- Hand motions for the Gold Nugget (see AdventistVBX.org)
- Mystery bag
- Large cutout of Tarantula Tammy, the critter of the day
- Scarves – one per child
- Coins – minimum of three coins per child
- Ranch Animals game board and game pieces – one complete game for each group (free download from AdventistVBX.org). Be sure to assemble the game boards and prepare the game pieces in advance.
- Small Tarantula Tammie cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end of VBX; available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Music DVD (available at AdventSource.org)
- Cactusville Operation Wheels DVD (available at AdventSource.org)
- Horse Food game board and game pieces – one complete game for each group (free download from AdventistVBX.org). Be sure to assemble the game boards and prepare the game pieces in advance.
- Large cutout of Prairie Dog Pete, the critter of the day
- Small Prairie Dog Pete cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end of VBX; available at AdventSource.org)
- Bird Food game board and game pieces – one complete game for each group (free download from AdventistVBX.org). Be sure to assemble the game boards and prepare the game pieces in advance.
- Stuffed animal dog or puppy
- Large cutout of Chuck the Chuckwalla, the critter of the day
- Small Chuckwalla Chuck cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end of VBX; available at AdventSource.org)
- Bird Nest game board and game pieces – one complete game for each group (free download from AdventistVBX.org). Be sure to assemble the game boards and prepare the game pieces in advance.
- Stuffed animal horse or pony
- Basket with plastic cups – two cups per child
- Large cutout of Pack Mule Patty, the critter of the day
- Small Pack Mule Patty cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end of VBX; available at AdventSource.org)

- Parachute of VBX; available at AdventSource.org
- Large cutout of Road Runner Roy, the critter of the day
- Small Road Runner Roy cutout for every child (will be given to each child at the end
- Paper plate
- 9 oz. hard plastic tumbler cup
- Food coloring

Camp Fire Stories at Sunset Canyon

- Blankets, mats, or cushions to sit on
- Go Fish card game (available at Walmart) or free memory game (download from <http://www.dltk-cards.com/memory/>)
- Bible time costume and beard
- Story props (piece of fur, leather belt, fake grasshopper or picture of one)
- Honey sticks ★ one per child
- Cups of water or small water bottle * one per child
- Wipes for sticky hands
- Just Buggy Bugs (available at OrientalTrading.com # IN-58/39) ★ 5–10 bugs per group
- Small magnifying glasses ★ one per 2–3 children
- Small objects to examine with the magnifying glass (insects, leaves, pieces of food, small shells, nuts, small flowers, etc.)
- Lizard
- Sack or suitcase ★ one per small group
- Flashlight, water bottle, or canteen as well as other items you would take on a trip ★ an equal number of similar items per group
- Some silly items you would NOT take on a trip
- Bandana ★ one per small group
- Bible
- Emotion faces (Download for free at AdventistVBX.com)
- Colorful bathrobe or piece of soft fabric
- My Bible Friends, Book 1, Story 4: Joseph and His Brothers or a tablet or screen to stream this link on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/28529552> (optional)
- 2 marbles
- Large plastic cup ★ one per small group
- Guitar, ukulele, or other small instrument
- Rhythm sticks ★ 2 per child
- Bible costumes for approximately 7 children (optional)
- Laminated paper hearts ★ at least one per child
- Basket of dry-erase crayons or markers
- Small pieces of cloth or damp paper towels
- Picture of Jesus taped to the wall at Li'l Cowpoke eye level
- Small pieces of tape to attach hearts to the Jesus picture

Wild Horse Corral Sensory Stations

- 4 orange traffic cones
- Carpet tape, painter's tape, or masking tape (sidewalk chalk if outdoors on cement)
- Cowbell
- 25 pink balloons and 25 white balloons, inflated
- 4 medium-sized cardboard boxes (2' x 3')
- 4 pieces pink construction paper and 4 pieces white construction paper
- Tape
- 10 fly swatters with plastic handles
- Tambourine or small hand drum
- 2 large buckets
- 5-10 lbs. of red beans (amount depends on size of your group)
- Stack of paper or 8-10 Styrofoam drinking cups
- 2 pairs of adult size cowboy boots or draw-and-color boots on both sides of four plain brown grocery sacks
- Masking tape, carpet tape, or painter's tape
- Several bags of party store rubber snakes (50-60 snakes total)
- 25-50 sheets of red construction paper (amount depends on size of your group)
- Scissors
- Specific materials or supplies needed for each sensory station

Trading Post

- Handheld mirror
- Craft tray (like a cafeteria tray) or rectangular baking pan
- Wax paper
- Baby wipes to clean hands
- Food Coloring Liqua-Gel - 6 Color Rainbow Kit (available at Amazon.com)
- Rulers
- Paper towels
- Plastic forks
- Aleene's Original Tacky Glue
- Yellow felt
- Black felt or jumbo googly eyes
- Fat red yarn
- Heavyweight white construction paper (cut in 5" x 7" pieces)
- Garbage bags to make painting smocks
- Paper Plate Horse Craft Kit ★ available at OrientalTrading.com # 48/5231
- Crayons
- Sandpaper (3M 15-Pack 9-in W x 11.0000-in L 80-Grit Premium Sandpaper) ★ available at Lowes.com
- Fabulous Foam Self-Adhesive Flower Shapes ★ available at OrientalTrading.com # IN-57/2227
- Pacon Peacock Railroad Board, 6-Ply, White, 22 x 28 Inches, 25 Sheets/Carton (5461-1) ★ available at Amazon.com
- Green construction paper (download the free cactus template from AdventistVBX.org)
- Cotton balls

- Twine
- Brown paper grocery bag
- Construction paper
- Yellow foam sheets
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils, or paint
- Craft glue and glue stick
- Stapler
- Scissors
- Shaker instruments (one per child)
- Basket for instruments
- J is for Jesus Stand-up Cross Craft Kit ★ available at OrientalTrading.com # IN-13707274
- Gift bags large enough for the craft to fit in

Trading Post Food Prep Supplies (Used by Station Leaders Only)

- Tin cans or tin buckets and colored pencils
- Cutting knives
- Cutting board
- Measuring cups and measuring spoons
- Foil and plastic wrap
- Wax paper
- Sandwich-sized Ziploc bags
- Plastic knives and spoons
- Kabob sticks or kid-friendly coffee Stir Stix & Plug (available at Smile.Amazon.com)
- 4 oz. soufflé cup plastic tumblers (available at Walmart)
- Small paper plates and bowls
- Toaster oven
- Cookie sheets
- Star-shaped cookie cutter
- Napkins (bandana-printed napkins are available at party stores)
- Mixing utensils
- Paper towels
- Hand sanitizer

Specific Ingredients Needed Each Day Day One

- Prairie Dog Ponchos
- Packaged crescent roll dough or packaged flour tortillas, small
- Hot dogs (vegan)
- Shredded cheddar cheese (vegan)
- Ketchup / corn syrup free
- Mustard

Day Two

- Tacos in a Cup
- Refried beans
- Taco seasoning
- Guacamole
- Sour cream (regular or vegan)
- Mild chunky salsa or pico de gallo
- Shredded cheese
- Roma tomatoes, diced
- Green onions, sliced
- Canned sliced olives, drained
- Tortilla chips

Day Three

- Howdy Pard'ner Trail Mix
- Rice Chex cereal
- Cheerios
- Raisins
- M&M's or carob chips
- Small pretzels
- Banana chips
- Pumpkin seeds
- Popcorn / optional

Day Four

- Cactus Pops
- Variety of fruit
- Strawberries
- Bananas
- Watermelon
- Pineapple

Day Five

- Wagon Wheel Cookies
- Sugar cookies (store-bought)
- Vanilla frosting
- Powdered hot cocoa mix
- Twizzlers Pull & Peel
- Mini marshmallows or M&M's for the center of the wheel / optional



Sample
Letter
TO
Parents



Howdy Parents & Families!

We are excited that your child is visiting **Cactusville** this week. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:9, "God has saved us and called us to a holy calling." The Cactusville program is all about our calling. Your child will learn that all of us have been called to follow Jesus... **Called to be Different, to be Faithful, to Forgive, to Serve, and to Give.**

Yee-haw! 

This week at Cactusville the children will have a chance to serve, to give, and to be faithful by helping refugee children and their families. A refugee is a person who has been forced to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. Forty-five percent of all refugees around the world are children.

Transportation is a critical need for these families. Through **Operation Wheels**, kids attending Cactusville will have the opportunity to donate money towards the purchase of a bus to enable refugee kids and families to travel to school, church, work, shopping centers, adult English classes, and medical appointments.

Every day at the beginning of the Cactusville the children can give their donations of any amount. After VBX all donations will be used to purchase transportation (bus/van) for refugees. Thank you so much for supporting kid-to-kid evangelism through Operation Wheels at Cactusville VBX.

Blessings



free download AT AdventistVBX.org



Sample
Letter
TO
Pastor



Dear Pastor,

We are grateful that our church is reaching kids for Jesus through the Cactusville VBX program. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:9, “God has saved us and called us to a holy calling.” The Cactusville program is all about our calling. The children will learn that all of us have been called to follow Jesus... **Called to be Different, to be Faithful, to Forgive, to Serve, and to Give.**

Yee-haw! 🌿

At Cactusville the children will have a chance to serve, to give, and to be faithful by helping refugee children and their families. A refugee is a person who has been forced to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster. Forty-five percent of all refugees around the world are children.

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Every day at the beginning of the Cactusville, the children can give their donations of any amount. After VBX, all donations will be used to purchase transportation (bus/van) for refugees. Thank you so much for supporting kid to kid evangelism through **OperationWheels** at the Cactusville VBX.

Blessings!



free download AT AdventistVBX.org



Produced by

North American Division Children's Ministries Department

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