CRAFTS & SCIENCE

Leader's Cards for Tide Pool Playland
**Tide Pool Playland Safety**

- Have a first-aid kit handy in case of any injuries. Be especially aware of choking hazards.
- Be aware of allergies. Children with special needs often have sensitivities. Review Sensory Inventory Forms and talk with caregivers privately, as needed.
- Direct kids and staff to respect each other and to listen carefully to all instructions.
- Cover surfaces to protect them. Use smocks or old shirts to protect clothing as needed.
- Make sure water, soap, and paper towels are nearby for easy cleanup. Sponge erasers work well for removing tough stains from tabletops.
- Recruit several Tide Pool Playland assistants to help kids and to help you set up and clean up.

**Quick Tips for Crafts & Science Leaders**

- Make samples of your crafts and experiments ahead of time. Always make sure you have extra supplies (and helpers!) on hand.
- Keep supplies together and out of reach of kids. Have a shelf or other area in your room available for crafts that need drying time.
- Play songs from the Worship Music CD.
- Repeat the Bible Memory often.
- Be sure to use the talking points and questions for each activity. See *Preschool Director’s Guide* for tips on asking application questions for kids with special needs.

**Other Products to Help You**

- Check the S&S® Worldwide craft brochure (included in the kit) for other ideas.
- See the Preschool CD in the Age-Level Resources Disc Set for extra resources, options, and special needs tips.
- Check out the Standard Publishing VBS Pinterest boards and Facebook page for more ideas and tips.
CAMOUFLAGE CREATURE EXPERIMENT

What You’ll Need

- large, solid-color blanket
- copies of Olive image (on Preschool CD) printed on colored paper to match blanket
- copies of Olive image printed on a contrasting color of paper
- scissors
- timer

Preparation

Print and cut out about 12 copies of the Olive image on the paper that matches the blanket. Print and cut out several Olive images on contrasting paper as well.

What You’ll Do

Choose 3–4 children to stand outside the room with a helper. While they can’t see, let the other children help lay a blanket out flat on the floor and scatter all the Olive illustrations on the blanket. Ask the kids to guess: Which Olives will get picked up first? Will the kids find them all in 5 seconds? Tell the kids to cheer on the others when they come back into the room—but they should not help them find the Olives.

Special Needs Tip: Be clear in your instructions—make sure kids understand whether they are a “finder” or a “watcher.” Some children may appreciate the chance to help set up the room rather than participate with the larger group. Try this strategy with any children who may seem particularly anxious during VBS, and make use of the Breakaway Bay site when children need a break from noisy or overwhelming activities.
Tell the kids who were waiting outside to come back. Before they enter, SAY: **We’re on a rescue mission! The octopuses are in danger!** You have to find all the octopuses you can find in 5 seconds. Go, team! Start the timer. Then stop after 5 seconds. If time allows, let other rescue teams try to find all the Olives.

**What You’ll Say**

After the experiment, SAY: **What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery?** *(God KNOWS me!)* That’s right! God knows us, and He knew Noah too. That’s the Bible story you are learning about today. Just like you were able to come into this room and find all the Olives, God was able to look into the whole world and find Noah. **ASK:**

- Why were some of the Olives harder to find than others? When animals have coloring that helps them hide, we call that *camouflage*. Octopuses use camouflage to hide when they are in danger.

- Noah wasn’t hiding from God. How was Noah different from all the other people God saw? Was Noah’s face different? Let kids respond; then redirect: **Everybody’s face is a little different, but Noah probably looked similar to other people.**

- Was Noah’s hair really different? Let kids respond; then redirect again: **Everyone’s hair is a little different, but Noah looked a lot like other people—he was just a regular person, like you and me!**

- What about Noah’s actions and his heart? Could God see those? Do you think those looked different? Let kids respond; then SAY: **Noah’s heart was good and his actions showed he obeyed God. This was very different from the other people in Noah’s world. God saw this, and knew Noah was a good man. So God trusted Noah to follow His instructions and do the right thing.**
FINGERPRINT ANIMAL FRIENDS

What You’ll Need

1 white paper plate per child
brown, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet crayons
(or washable markers)
washable ink stamp pads (or finger paint)
dark-colored fine-point markers
Sea Animal Stickers

What You’ll Do

Give each child a paper plate and crayons. Place stamp pads within reach of children.
Tell the kids to help Noah fill his ark with animal friends. Let each child draw a straight brown line across the plate at (or just above) the middle of the plate. They can add a brown rectangle for the top of the ark. They can color a rainbow above the ark, using the curve of the plate as a guide. Then for the animals, instruct the kids to make fingerprint shapes inside their arks by pressing the tips of their fingers on the pads, then pressing them down hard on the paper. They can make certain animal shapes or random shapes. Helpers can help the children add dot eyes and noses and other details to their fingerprint shapes with fine-point markers. If time allows, children can add stickers or other coloring details to their crafts. Help them write their names on the backs of their plates and also write: God KNOWS me! Psalm 139:1.

Special Needs Tip: Stamp pads may be preferable for children with texture sensitivities, or allow kids to just draw animals or use animal stickers to fill their ark pictures.
What You’ll Say

During the craft or after kids have finished, SAY: What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God KNOWS me!) Let’s talk about some ways that God knows you and why that’s so special. ASK:

• Did you know that everyone has different fingerprints? Let kids answer. That’s just one way God made us different from each other. What are some other ways?

• God knew what Noah looked like on the outside, but what was even more special was that God knew what Noah’s heart was like on the inside. When I say “God knew Noah’s heart,” what do you think I mean?

Special Needs Tip: This kind of figurative language may be very difficult for children who think literally. Be sure to clearly restate your meaning in the next step.

• Those are all really good answers! God knew Noah loved Him. He could see what Noah did and hear what Noah was thinking. God knows us, just like He knew Noah! And what’s really special is that God wants us to know Him too. What can we do to get to know God better?

S&S® Worldwide Craft Option

Let children hide a fish in a colorful reef scene with the Coral Reef Craft Kit. Includes 10” x 16” dyed paper, fish and reef cutouts, silver circles, and instructions. Pack of 12. Item STL-SD304. To order: Call 800.243.9232 or visit standard.ssww.com.
HIDDEN SOUNDS EXPERIMENT

What You’ll Need
big, thick bag (or hanging curtain—something kids can’t see through)
various items that can make noise (foil, bells, bubble wrap, small drum,
tambourine, snapping fingers, bag of marbles, maracas, aluminum
can to squeeze, whistle, squeaky dog toy, etc.)
(optional: make a poster showing photos of each of the hidden items)

Preparation
Before class, hide the noise-making items inside your bag (or behind the curtain).

What You’ll Do
When children arrive, have them sit close by you, but not so close that they can see any of the items. Tell them to listen
as you make different sounds. After each sound, ask them to guess what item is making the noise. (You could show the
poster with the item images and make the sounds again. Let children match the sounds with the images.)

Special Needs Tip: Allow children with hearing impairments to sit closer to you. Children with total
hearing loss could have the option of feeling the items and matching them to the images after the other kids
have had a chance to guess about the sounds.
**What You’ll Say**
Address the children before you begin the experiment. **What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery?** (God HEARS me!)
That’s right! God listens to us and hears our prayers—just like He listened to Jonah pray, even from way down in the belly of a fish! God can hear us when we make LOUD sounds (raise voice slightly), or very small sounds (whisper), or even when we make no sound at all. Let’s listen to some sounds and guess what is making the sounds. After the sound experiment, ASK:

- Did you guess all the sounds? Let kids answer. **What parts of your body helped you hear the sounds?**
- Hold up your hand if you have ever been swimming underwater. What sounds can you hear underwater?
- We hear sounds differently underwater because sound moves through water differently than it moves through air. But wherever we go, whether underwater or through the air or in this room, God can hear us. What is one thing you’d like God to hear about you today?

**S&S® Worldwide Craft Option**
Use the craft idea on the following card, or let children imagine an underwater world with this 3-D Fishbowls Craft Kit. Includes neon bright paint, brushes, 3-D foam buttons, and precut shapes. Approx. 9" x 12". Pack of 36. Item STL-SD309. To order: Call 800.243.9232 or visit standard.ssww.com.
BELLY PRAYERS

What You’ll Need

1 fish-shaped paper (or felt piece) per child (see pattern on Preschool CD)
magazine images of moms, dads, grandparents, girls, boys, pets, etc.

Preparation

Before class, cut out the fish-shaped papers and the magazine images.

What You’ll Do

Give each child a paper and access to markers and glue sticks. Instruct them to draw a big eye (or stick on a googly eye) for their big fish. They can add a smile and scales or other decorations, as they wish. Spread out the magazine images and tell kids to think about some people or things they would like to thank God for. They may want to pray for family members or family pets or other things. Let the children select images to represent these people or things. They can glue these images in the center of their fish papers. When they are finished gluing, show the preschoolers how to fold their papers up like an envelope. They can put a “God HEARS me!” sticker on their folded papers to keep them closed. Helpers can help children add “1 John 5:14” and the children’s names to the outside of their papers.
Special Needs Tip: Children with fine-motor delays may need extra help with gluing and drawing. Diving Buddies to the rescue!

What You'll Say

Talk to the children as they are finishing their pictures. **What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery?** (God HEARS me!) Isn’t it amazing that our great big God can hear all of our prayers? Let’s talk about some of the times when we can pray. ASK: God heard Jonah call for help, even when he was way down deep in the sea. God can hear us when we make LOUD sounds (raise voice slightly), or very small sounds (whisper), or even when we make no sound at all. Let’s listen to some sounds and guess what is making the sounds. After the sound experiment, ASK:

- Jonah ran away from God and disobeyed God, but God still heard Jonah calling for help. Have you ever talked to God after you disobeyed or made a mistake? How did that feel?
- Jonah was afraid as he was falling into the sea. He prayed and God heard him, even from deep down in the sea. Have you ever prayed when you were afraid? What did that prayer sound like?
- Jonah thanked God for helping him. Has God ever helped you? Maybe through your family or friends or teachers? Let’s take turns thanking God for our special helpers today. Pray with the children.
FLOATING FRUIT EXPERIMENT

What You’ll Need

Several kinds of unpeeled fruit including tangerines, lemons, limes, bananas, and apples.

Clear plastic container (large enough to allow several items to float in it).

Paring knife (keep out of children’s reach).

(Optional: lemon juice)

Preparation

Just before class, peel a few examples of each kind of fruit (try to keep the halves of the citrus fruit peels intact). Cut some of the other citrus fruit into halves with the peel still on. Cut an unpeeled apple into 8 wedge slices. Cut one banana into 1”-thick circular slices. (You may want to soak the apples and bananas in lemon juice to prevent them from turning brown.) Retain some of each fruit whole.

What You’ll Do

Fill the plastic container about 2/3 full of water. Lay out the selection of fruit on a table, and let children touch and examine the pieces and tell the names of the fruit. Then as you name and point to each fruit, ask the children to vote by a show of hands for which fruit will float. Put a whole sample of each fruit into the container, one by one. Then ASK: Which pieces of fruit will float? Will the pieces float the same as the whole fruit? Let each child take a turn selecting a piece of fruit to put into the container. Then show them the citrus peel halves and put those into the container as well.
**Special Needs Tip:** Model how to drop the items into the water so as not to create a big splash. Be aware of any children who may have assistive devices that cannot get wet.

**What You’ll Say**

After doing the floating experiment, SAY: *What's today's Deep Sea Discovery?* (God STRENGTHENS me!) Today you’ll learn about the Bible story of Peter walking to Jesus on the water. We just saw some things that were able to float on top of the water, and some things that weren’t. The tiny parts that make up water are called molecules. Can you say that big word, *molecule*? Let kids repeat the word. Molecules are smaller than a tiny drop of water. They are so tiny, you can’t even see them. But they are very strong when they hold onto each other. They are strong enough to hold up much bigger things—this strength is part of the reason things are able to float. The more water there is, the stronger it gets, and even big things can float on top of it. ASK:

- What was different about the pieces of fruit that were able to float?
- Did small pieces of fruit float better than bigger, heavier pieces? Why do you think so?
- Did the peels float by themselves? Watch what happens when we put some things in the peels. (Add some fruit pieces into the peel halves.) What is happening? Why do you think it’s happening?

**Special Needs Tip:** Remember to acknowledge and encourage all answers. Children, especially very young learners and those with learning delays, will not have all the correct answers, but the point is to encourage curiosity and the wonder of learning about God’s amazing world.
WALKING ON WATERCOLORS

What You’ll Need

- Watercolor paper (big enough to allow both feet of a child to fit on it)
- Crayons
- Watercolor paint trays
- Paintbrushes
- Cups of water
- Paper towels
- Marker

What You’ll Do

Make sure all surfaces are protected. Set out cups of water, paper towels, crayons, paintbrushes, and paint. Give each child a piece of watercolor paper, and instruct them to put it on the floor. They should take off their shoes (and socks, if desired) and place their feet on the paper. Instruct kids to use crayons to trace the outline around each foot. Then instruct children how to paint over the whole paper with watercolor paint. Give them these 1, 2, 3 instructions: 1) Dip—dip their brushes into a cup of water; 2) Drip—drip some water from the brush onto a watercolor paint color of their choice; 3) Double-Swish—swish the paintbrush onto the color; then swish it again onto the paper to spread the color around. Encourage children to paint over the crayon lines and watch what happens. Let them paint their whole pages. When the children are finished painting, helpers can help children use markers to put their names in the corner of their papers and to write “God strengthens me—like Peter!” at the top of their papers.

❤️ Special Needs Tip: Diving Buddies can help with the tracing.
What You’ll Say
Talk to the children as they are finishing their pictures. What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God STRENGTHENS me!) We saw how the tiny parts of water hold together and get strong enough to push up big pieces of fruit. Even in your pictures, the water drops hold together. When we hold onto each other, we get strong too. And when we hold onto God, He gives us BIG strength to help us do things that are hard to do. In the Bible story you are learning about today, Peter was afraid, but Jesus held onto Peter and helped him feel stronger. ASK:

• What things are scary to you?
• What do you do when you are afraid? Do you ever ask God for help?
• What makes you feel strong? Do you think God is able to make you stronger?

S&S® Worldwide Craft Option
Children will have fun watching water drops stick together and spread color all over these Color Diffusing Sealife shapes—with 4 different sealife designs precut from color diffusion paper. Colors mix and mingle when you squirt, spray, and splatter liquid watercolor or food coloring over designs. Approx. 7" x 10". Pack of 48. Paint sold separately. Item STL-SD299. To order: Call 800.243.9232 or visit standard.sww.com.
**SPONGE EXPERIMENT**

**What You’ll Need**

- sea and dish sponge pieces
- paper towels
- paper
- aluminum foil
- wax paper
- bowls of water
- plastic spoons
- (optional: plastic medicine droppers)

**What You’ll Do**

Make sure all surfaces are protected in case of water spills. Distribute pieces of each of the supplies in the first column to each child and place bowls of water with spoons in reach. Instruct the children to spread out their supplies in front of them so each supply piece is separate and not touching the others. Then tell the kids to use the spoons (or droppers) to get a little water and drop some water drops on each supply piece. Demonstrate how to do this so they know how much water to use. Ask them to talk about which piece is absorbing the water best. Let them keep adding water to the pieces that are able to absorb it. Ask them to talk about what they see happening.

**Special Needs Tip:** It may be hard for children with impulse-control issues to be moderate in their use of the water. Using medicine droppers can help children use small amounts of water and also help them practice fine-motor skills. Have Diving Buddies standing by, and be aware of children with devices that cannot get wet.
What You’ll Say

After the experiment, SAY: What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God LOVES me!) Today we’re going to hear about the best story that shows us God’s love—Jesus’ story. God sent Jesus, His only Son, into the world to love us and save us. His love for us is so big—it’s like a gigantic sponge that is able to soak up all the bad things (sins) in the whole world and wipe them away. ASK:

- In the experiment, which things were able to soak up the most water? Which things didn’t soak up any water?
- What is different about the things that were able to hold lots of water?
- What do we use sponges for?
- How is Jesus’ love like a sponge?

S&S® Worldwide Craft Option

Children can make the Sponge-Painted Cross craft on the following card, or they can decorate these Unfinished Wood Cross Pendants. Seashell pieces, colored shells, and cords are available for purchase separately. Crosses measure 2¼" x 3". Pack of 16. Item STL-SD302. To order: Call 800.243.9232 or visit standard.ssww.com.
**SPONGE-PAINTED CROSS**

**What You’ll Need**

- white letter-size card stock (or cardboard), 1 piece per child
- scissors, hole punch, and twine
- cross pattern (on Preschool CD)
- sea sponge pieces and heart-shaped sponges (can be cut from regular sponges)
- foil pie pans
- tempera paints (3–4 different colors)
- permanent markers
- bowls of water
- paper towels
- smocks (or old shirts)
- table coverings

**Preparation**

Before class, cut large cross shapes out of card stock, and use the hole punch to make a hole in the top of the cross. Cut short pieces of twine (to later make hangers for the art). If desired, go ahead and print “God” on the left side of the top crosspiece and “me!” on the right crosspiece (leaving space in the middle for children to add a heart). You could also write the Bible Memory reference, 1 John 4:9, on the back of the cross.

**What You’ll Do**

Pour a moderate amount of each color of paint into separate pie pans. You may want to make sets of pans for each small group of children you have. Be sure kids can easily reach the paint. Set out extra empty pie pans that kids can use for mixing colors. Have children wear smocks. Make sure all work surfaces are protected, as usual. Distribute
prepared card crosses and help kids write their names on the back of the crosses with markers. Distribute sponges and sponge pieces (a heart and a few pieces for each child). Demonstrate how to lightly touch the sponge onto a paint color and then use the sponge like a stamp to make designs on their crosses. Help them find where to put a heart to finish the sentence “God loves me!” Help kids thread the twine hangers through the holes and tie. Let kids put sponges into the water for cleanup.

💖 **Special Needs Tip:** Make heart shapes out of extra-thick sponges to give children with fine-motor difficulties something they can easily grab. Children who may be sensitive to touching the partially wet sponges can be allowed to use sponge pieces pinched by a clothespin.

**What You’ll Say**

After the crafts are finished, SAY: **What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery?** (God LOVES me!) **Today we’re going to hear about the best story that shows us God’s love—Jesus’ story. God sent Jesus, His only Son, into the world to love us and save us. Jesus died for us and rose again to save us from sin so we could someday live forever with God in Heaven. Jesus talked to His friends about love when He came to meet them by the sea and gave them breakfast.** ASK:

- **• When Jesus died on the cross, did He do that only for His friends?** (No, Jesus died for everyone.)
- **• In the story we are learning today, how did Jesus’ friends know Jesus was alive again?** (They saw Jesus and ate breakfast and talked with Him.)
- **• How can we know Jesus loves us?** (Because He died for us, and the Bible tells us.)
WIND AND WAVES EXPERIMENT

What You’ll Need

9" x 13" cake pan (or more pans for a large group)  drinking straws, 1 per child
sand  foam sea animal shapes
water  table covering

Preparation

Before class, make sure surfaces are protected. Prepare the pan(s) by putting sand in one end of the pan, covering up about ¼ of the pan. Angle the sand pile to get deeper as it goes up against the end of the pan, creating a “shoreline.” Add water gently to the other end of the pan, just enough so that it reaches the shoreline but doesn’t cover much of the sand.

What You’ll Do

Tell children you are going to experiment with how wind moves water and creates currents in the sea. Give each child a straw, and let them gather around the prepared pan. Let them stand in pairs at the water end of the pan and take turns blowing through their straws across the top of the water. Let the children add foam sea animal shapes to the water. ASK: What happens when you make the wind blow on the water? What happens to the animals? What happens to the sand? What happens when you blow softly or with more force? Put a sea animal shape on the sand and see if the children can get the water to reach it and move it.
Special Needs Tip: Be aware of children who may have assistive devices that cannot get wet. Be sure the children understand that the straws should stay above the water, and not go into it.

What You’ll Say

After the experiment, SAY: What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God SENDS me!) In the Bible story you are learning today, Paul and Barnabas were sent out on a journey to tell others about God’s story. The wind helped to push their boat across the sea, and God helped them talk to people about Him. ASK:

• Do you like to tell stories? What are some of your favorite stories?
• What is something you know about God’s story?
• Just like in our experiment, the wind can be very strong and can help animals in the sea move from one place to another. God is really strong too. How can God help us go out and tell people about Him?
JOURNEY PAINTING

What You’ll Need
Paul’s Journey map (on Preschool CD), 1 per child
drinking straws, 1 per child
watercolor paint trays, 1 per 2–3 preschoolers
paintbrushes, at least 1 per child
bowls of water
paper towels
smocks (or old shirts)
permanent markers

Preparation
Before class, print out Paul’s Journey maps for your preschoolers.

What You’ll Do
Distribute all the supplies except the markers. Let children get the watercolor paints wet by dipping their brushes into the water and then onto the paints. Once the watercolors are ready, let children drip paint onto their maps. Then instruct them to use their straws to make the paint spread over their maps. Explain that God’s story started spreading from land to land as Paul and others like him were sent out to tell about God. Let children continue to paint their maps until they are finished. Help them fill their names in on the line at the top of their pages.
What You’ll Say

After the experiment, SAY: What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God SENDS me!) In the Bible story you are learning today, Paul and Barnabas were sent out on a journey to tell others about God’s story. The wind helped to push their boat across the sea, and God helped them talk to people about Him. ASK:

• What is one part of the story of Jesus that you can remember?
• Do you have to be big to tell God’s story?
• What do you need to do to tell others about God?

S&S® Worldwide Craft Option

Children make and color these paper boxes from the Treasure Chest Craft Kit, then fill them with Bible verses or story pictures you can print out for them. They can remember a treasure from Scripture every time they open the box. Markers included. 5” x 3” x 4¼” tall. Item STL-SD311. Pack of 48. To order: Call 800.243.9232 or visit standard.ssww.com.