

# LEADER'S GUIDE for OPENING VBS

## DAY ONE: **Welcome and Opening Devotions**

**AS FAMILY GROUPS GATHER:** Pass out Song Books which contain Songs and Litany for Day One

**Day One Theme:** From Darkness into His Light - Isaiah

**Open with VBS Theme Song:** "Faith in Action Always" vs. 1

Sung to Tune of : "Onward Christian Soldiers" TLH # 658 *Public Domain*

Note: Marching is meant to make a rumble. Encourage rumbling!! To bring Faith Alive!

1. Faith in action always, Give us, Lord, we pray,  
We need You to guide us, Please show us the way;  
Help us be ex-cited; Filled with praise each day,  
With our hearts and voices, Help us, Lord, to say:

Start to march in place.... "We are God's dear children, In His love we live,  
He makes our faith rumble, As our praise we give."

**Welcome and Introduction** by Leader .... WITH GREAT ENTHUSIASM! Show genuine excitement for this VBS program. Elaborate on all of the things you like and are excited about ...

One of the most exciting things that will happen during VBS is that we will have actual prophets coming to visit us right here every day. Ask participants to listen. A drum beats several times from another room or from a place the drummer cannot be seen, but heard. READ DRAMA

**PRESENT DRAMA:** Isaiah the Prophet

After Isaiah leaves comment that, that was, indeed, Isaiah. He's a little different. Most prophets are different. Back in the Old Testament prophets told people about what was coming.

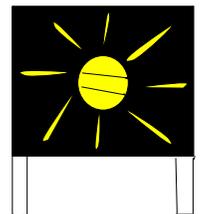
1. Ask, "What do you think Isaiah was trying to tell us?"
2. Does anyone remember what he said? Explain that the words Isaiah said are found in the book of Isaiah in the Bible in chapter 9 verse 2:"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light," That's the chapter that tells us Jesus is going to be born.
3. Do you think Isaiah was telling us about Jesus?
4. Why do you think we sometimes call Jesus the Light of the World? Explain that the world is very dark with sin. Then when Jesus comes into the world He offers forgiveness and that lights up the world. Our next activity will help everyone see what I'm talking about.

**Introduce Board Activity:** Choose a Family/Tribe from teachers names placed in bucket.  
Ask this family/tribe to place the pieces of the sun puzzle and rays on the board.

**Day One Board Activity: From Darkness into His Light**

**DIRECTIONS AND NEEDS:**

Cut out a huge sun with rays. Then cut the sun into puzzle pieces.



TO PRESENT THIS ACTIVITY: Display the black board for all to see. Ask all VBS participants what they see? Look for the answer, "a black board," and from there lead them to think about darkness. Choose family group(s) for this activity. Instruct selected family group(s) to place the sun puzzle pieces including the rays onto the board. The sun will be in pieces so participants may have to work together to get it on the board correctly. Ask participants what they see happening as the pieces of the sun and it's rays are being placed on the black board. Read or ask a volunteer to read: Isaiah 9:2. Explain that our lesson today is about God coming into our dark world of sin and bringing us into His Light. Remind them that that is what Isaiah was trying to tell us all earlier. Ask them, "Who is the Light of the World?" Explain that throughout the day they will be hearing more about Jesus, and how His Light fills us and our world.

**Read Bible Verse for the Day : Isaiah 9:2**

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Leader can read this verse or ask a Volunteer to Read this Verse during Board Activity.

Verse may be printed out on large newsprint and hung for all to see or simply be read from the Bible.

**Litany:** Teach actions to Refrain and practice words and actions before you begin.  
Stand for this Litany and read it responsively and ENTHUSIASTICALLY!

*Adapted from Psalm 18*

Leader: I love You, O Lord, my strength,

REFRAIN: Jesus is the Light (*clap*) Jesus is the Light (*clap*)  
Jesus is the Light of the world (*clap, clap*)

Leader: The Lord is my rock in whom I take refuge, REFRAIN

Leader: He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, REFRAIN

Leader: I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, REFRAIN

Leader: To the faithful You show Yourself faithful, REFRAIN

Leader: The Lord lives! Praise be to my Rock! REFRAIN

Leader: Exalted is God my Savior! REFRAIN

**OFFERING**

**Object Lesson:** Leader may present Object Lessons or Teachers and Helpers may take turns presenting Object Lessons

**YOU WILL NEED:** Blind folds that are large enough and thick enough so there is no chance of anyone being able to see.

Ask for volunteers to come forward and wear blind folds. Instruct everyone wearing a blind fold to slowly find their seats again. Warn everyone with a blind fold to move slowly so no one gets hurt, and ask everyone else not to help. Stop after a few minutes. Take off the blind folds. Complement everyone for doing a great job. Ask, "What would have made your job, or getting back to your seats easier?" Lead participants to understand that being able to see or "light" would have made the job easier. Explain that when Jesus came into the world to be our Light and give us His Light He made it possible for us to be forgiven and get to heaven (or to our seats). We actually do not know the way to heaven or can't see the way to heaven without Christ. He shows us the way in His Word. That is why we need Jesus and why we need to learn more about Jesus and get to know Him. That's what we will be doing during our tent time today. We will get to know Jesus better and become filled with His Light. Being filled with Christ's Light is a great feeling you won't want to miss.

**Close with Day One Theme Song:** "From Darkness into Light We Come"  
Sung to tune of: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" TLH 73 third tune *Public Domain*

1. From darkness into Light we come,  
God's work in us has just begun,  
We pray His peace and love is here;  
For us to share both far and near,  
Oh, let us now lift up this song, *(raise hands)*  
And share it with others who come along; *(raise hands and march in place)*  
For You are God alone, *(wave raised hands back and forth and march in place)*  
We bow before Your throne. *(fold hands and bow head)*
  
2. Oh, Christ You are the Light we need,  
To keep us from all dark misdeed,  
Help us to share our faith in You,  
By what we say, and what we do,  
Oh, let us now lift up this song, *(raise hands straight up)*  
And share it with others who come along; *(wave raised hands back and forth)*  
For You are God alone, *(stop wave and raise hands in praise- palms up)*  
We bow before Your throne. *(fold hands and bow head)*
  
3. We know Your Light has filled this place,  
Now fill our souls with Your good grace,  
Help us today to live for You,  
And in all things Your will to do,  
Oh, let us now lift up this song, *(raise hands)*  
And share it with others who come along; *(raise hands and march in place)*  
For You are God alone, *(wave raised hands back and forth and march in place)*  
We bow before Your throne. *(fold hands and bow head)*

**Closing Prayer:** *Explain that at the close of this prayer you will say: "And all God's children say," and at that time everyone should shout! AMEN. NOTE: You may use this phrase at the end of other prayers and songs during this VBS to add excitement.*

Dear Father in heaven. Thank You for sending Your Son into the world to be our Light and our Salvation. Please fill us with the Light of His love so that we may love others during Vacation Bible School and every day You give us life. Forgive us when we stray from the Light and walk in darkness and sin. Bring us back to Your Light, through faith in Jesus Christ, who forgives our sins and helps us walk in His Light. And all God's children say: AMEN! *Repeat until amen is loud!*

## **Announcements for the Day**

### **Collect Song Books**

**Release for Tent Time:** Remind participants to listen carefully so they will know where to go and what to do during VBS today.

**DAY ONE: DRAMA:** Make one copy for Narrator and Isaiah character

## Isaiah the Prophet"

PROPS: A drum and Isaiah costume

CHARACTER: Isaiah must be dressed in robes (a blanket or a sheet tied with rope) and have a deep voice (a megaphone might also be used). It would be great if Isaiah could have a beard.

OPENING: A drum beats several times from another room or somewhere the drummer cannot be seen, but heard.

Narrator: "Did you hear that? That must be our first prophet, Isaiah. Listen again."  
*A drum beats again.*

Narrator: "I wonder why he isn't coming. I have an idea. Let's call his name." *Prompt everyone to say Isaiah four times, each time louder. During the fourth time Isaiah enters.*

Isaiah: *With thundering voice!* "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."

Isaiah visits four areas and repeats, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light," four times" then Isaiah leaves. The drum continues to beat until Isaiah disappears.

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