

hope play

GlobalFingerprints
VBS Mission Supplement



Introduction

VBS is a busy and fun time of the year. Kids are excited, friends have come, weeks of planning and preparing have happened. We are ready for a great VBS and most importantly to share the gospel with kids!

VBS is also a great opportunity to teach kids what God is doing in the lives of children around the world and how the global church is involved in caring for the needs of these children. This is where GlobalFingerprints comes in.

The following pages are designed to be a supplement to the VBS program you have chosen. The stories found in the following pages are to be used where you might highlight a missions organization and encourage your kids to give. Mix in a few or all six of the countries to highlight in your large group setting and choose the activities that make the most sense to enrich what you are already doing.

Thank you for partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of children here and around the world!

Goal of GlobalFingerprints VBS Mission Supplement:

To connect American children with children around the world by sharing the needs of their brothers and sisters while providing an opportunity to care for others through GlobalFingerprints.

Children will be connected through stories, games, and role play activities to be done during the large group portion of your VBS. Children will also have an opportunity to care by giving money to help provide a hopeful future for children around the globe.

Donations may be made online at efca.org/hope-play or checks with "Hope Play VBS" in the memo can be mailed to:

EFCA
901 East 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN
55420

Why GlobalFingerprints?

GlobalFingerprints is the child sponsorship ministry of the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA). Through GlobalFingerprints and the hands-on care of local congregations, children are fed, educated, cared for medically and nurtured spiritually.

GlobalFingerprints partners in countries and areas not serviced by other sponsorship organizations. Either the civil unrest is too great or there are other complicating factors like the fact that Christianity isn't welcome in the culture. Deep and profound access is gained through the faithful presence of EFCA ReachGlobal missionaries and partners in each location. The efforts of GlobalFingerprints start with the local church within the country. Children are identified by the local church. Needs are met through the means the local church sees as being the most successful within the cultural context. Countries currently served through GlobalFingerprints include: Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Liberia, Lebanon, India, Zambia, and Indonesia. In some of these countries the gospel can be direct, in others the local leaders need to take creative approaches to build relationships and spread the love of Christ.

GlobalFingerprints is a unique partnership between the country's local church and churches in America.

Make a difference this summer in the lives of children hidden away from the eyes of many. Let them know they matter to God and are our brothers and sisters.

Hope Play

GlobalFingerprints VBS Missions Supplement allows us to make a difference beyond child sponsorship.

Childhood is a time often associated with innocence and fun. Play is an essential part of growing up for our children as they learn to explore and live in the world around them. For children in countries where poverty is the norm, the freedom to play is not always a reality.

Children love to play. It is how they learn, it is how they create, and it is how they grow into healthy adults. For some children, their reality is one of growing up too fast and of needing to play the role of an adult at an early age. For others, access to basic materials, like playground equipment and balls, is extremely limited. God has blessed us with creative minds and you will be amazed as you read stories and see pictures how creative kids can be when it comes to making toys and equipment to play games. Researchers have linked healthy development in children to their ability to play. Monies raised this year will go toward equipment and resources to help children in poverty have the opportunities we so often take for granted here in the United States: a chance to play and be a child.

How to Utilize this Curriculum Supplement:

In the pages that follow you will find stories and explanations of the goals of Hope Play for this year. Use these stories in your large group gatherings for VBS. Following the stories are crafts and games to use in your large or small group time and help children connect with the need for Hope Play. You can use these games and crafts or come up with some of your own. We want to give our kids a chance to step into another world and relate to the children there.

Hope Play _____	page 4
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Crafts and Games _____	page 9
Parent Communication _____	page 11

Have fun helping your kids see through global eyes!

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Matthew 25:35-40

Introduce Hope Play

(For each day and each country you will receive a supply section and then a script section.)

STORIES *(a day 1 introduction to be used in a large group setting-casting vision)*

Supplies Needed: PowerPoint slides containing pictures of kids at play from various countries using materials that would be unfamiliar to our kids.

Introducing Hope Play:

(Stories and introduction work best in a large group setting where you have all your kids and leaders assembled for VBS. Use the introduction on your first day.)

This summer we are partnering with GlobalFingerprints to raise money for orphans and vulnerable children around the world. We want to help these kids meet some of their basic needs. Most children in the United States have several options of toys to choose from as they decide what to play with on any given day. Children in other parts of the world often have never even seen a Fisher Price Little People or Lincoln Logs or any commercially made toy for that matter. Those children who are fortunate enough to have free time often make their own toys out of things they find laying around. *(Show slide)*

Other children spend most of their days just trying to survive and often do not have time to play. This forces kids to grow up fast and have grown-up responsibilities like taking care of younger siblings and making meals. Playing is something we often take for granted in the United States in both the lives of grown-ups and children. We often think of fun things to do on vacations and have access to toys and supplies that will help us have fun playing in our time off. Time to play and supplies to play are a privilege and blessing.

This week you get the opportunity to bring in money from your allowance or even to raise some money to help these children receive supplies to help them play. Throughout the week we will hear stories of children in other countries who could use your help.

Think about it: what could you do to help raise money? Maybe you could hold a lemonade stand this week. Maybe you could make small crafts to sell at your stand. You could also offer services to your neighbors. You could mow lawns, pull weeds, or wash cars to earn money.

Pray about what to do and talk with your parents. You can make a difference in the life of another this summer!

(Insert a specific dollar challenge here: for example maybe your goal is \$500 dollars. Make this concrete for your kids. If you have 100 children that means \$5 per child. God bless you and have a great time connecting your kids to other kids around the world. Pray together for the kids you will be helping.)

Send home the parent communication information so parents know what you are doing for a Missions emphasis this week.

Section: STORIES

Stories from Congo

Supplies Needed:

PowerPoint containing maps and pictures.

(Use stories in your large group context to connect kids to kids. Choose the stories that you think will connect most with your kids. Make sure to use one story each day of VBS. You can even do more than one story each day.)

Kids in Congo love doing a lot of the same things kids in the US love: spending time with friends, talking, and playing games. One of their favorite games is soccer, but many have never played with a “real” soccer ball.



They make balls out of plastic bags all rolled up and tied together. Some of them actually find rubber trees in the forest, and can make a ball from the rubber liquid that comes from the tree. Their balls don't last very long, but they become excellent soccer players! They have even been known to use plastic bags to make a goal.

They also make their own toys out of junk lying around – scraps of wood, pieces of fabric, sticks, and parts of old bikes. They are so creative! And they love jump roping, and play different jumping and clapping games.

So many of them, especially our GlobalFingerprints kids, don't have a chance to just be kids and have fun. Sometimes they are taking care of sick or dying parents. Girls especially have to work hard every day, carrying their younger brother or sister on their back, with a bucket of water on their head, pounding food, cooking...the list goes on and on.

But oh, you should see the joy on their face when a soccer ball is placed between their hands.

This year's VBS will not just give them soccer balls, nets, volleyballs, jump ropes, but you will give to them lots and lots of happiness!

Thank you for bringing joy to kids around the world! *(Share with your kids the amount of money raised so far.)*



Stories from Haiti

Supplies Needed:

PowerPoint containing maps and pictures.

Kids in Haiti love going to camp just like you. Last summer a group of students from Hershey Free Church in Hershey, Pennsylvania got to spend two days playing and learning alongside some GlobalFingerprints kids. Together they learned how much God loves them and values them.

During the camp the teens ran relay races and played all sorts of games. They also did devotions and got to know God better. They also got to go to the beach. They spent time swimming, playing more relay games, and enjoying the all-you-can eat buffet.

Your monies can go toward expanding programs like this to the younger kids too. Play brings so much joy and hope for children in situations where there can be little reason for joy and hope.

You have raised *(insert amount here)* to help kids like these. Thank you!

Stories from India



Supplies Needed:

PowerPoint containing maps and pictures

Children in India love lots of the same things you do. They play a form of the game of jacks by using a small ball and pebbles. When they can get a hold of commercial toys, they love to play with Legos!

Kids in India don't have a lot of time to play. They are often helping with the cooking, carrying water from the public tap to their homes, caring for younger siblings, and other household chores.

Those who are homeless also have to work hard helping their parents earn some money. They do jobs

like breaking wood into smaller pieces for fire wood and finding bent nails and straightening them so they can be sold.

Kids in India can have a challenging life where play is not always an option. Your gifts can help provide supplies for games and bring some joy in the life of a child. You have raised *(insert your amount here)* to help kids. Thank you for making a difference in the life of another child!

Stories from Indonesia

Supplies Needed:

PowerPoint containing maps and pictures

Indonesia video: <http://myef.ca/hp-indo>

Kids in Indonesia love to play games. Some of the games are even familiar to you, like, hide and seek, hopscotch, and soccer (*show hide and seek video clip*). Most kids living in the villages are too poor to own toys, books or games. They make their own toys and games from things they find that we would usually consider trash. Books are very hard to find and there are few libraries and those they have are quite small with few books. Kids love to go to village Reading Posts, if they have them and check out books. The Reading Posts have GlobalFingerprints staff from Rainbow of Hope Library visit each week and add new books. At the posts kids get to hear stories, play games, make crafts, and sing songs. (*Show video clip of the kids singing.*) These posts need more books, games and toys for the kids. Your offering will help provide these needs.



It is exciting to see that you have raised *(insert amount)* to help kids around the world. It is also exciting to know that you are making a difference. Thank you for your help!

Stories from Liberia

Supplies Needed:

PowerPoint containing maps and pictures.

Liberia video: <http://myef.ca/hp-liberia>

(First show map of Africa with Liberia highlighted on it)
This is a map of Africa and the children I am going to tell you about today live in the country of Liberia.

(Show pictures of Daniel and his dad as you share his story) Daniel's father is blind and their only income comes from begging. When he is not in school Daniel takes his father around the community to ask his neighbors for money. When I asked Daniel what he would like, he said "a bicycle." Most children in Liberia don't have a bicycle and especially not very poor children like Daniel.



When his sponsor heard about his request, they gave the money for me to purchase a bicycle for Daniel. We asked Daniel and his father to meet us one day and we surprised them with the bicycle. For a boy who doesn't have much, this was a great surprise and brought a big smile to his face. Not only does he get good exercise from his bicycle, but it brings him joy in the midst of life circumstances that are not joyful. It also helps him to make friends because he now has something valuable to share with the other boys.

Let's watch this video of children in Liberia playing kickball *(show video clip)*. Children love to play and this is a familiar scene that we would see even on our own playgrounds. There are also African games that don't look quite as familiar but are fun to watch. *(Show clapping game video clip)*.

You have raised *(insert amount here)* so far this week. Thank you for making a difference for children like Daniel.

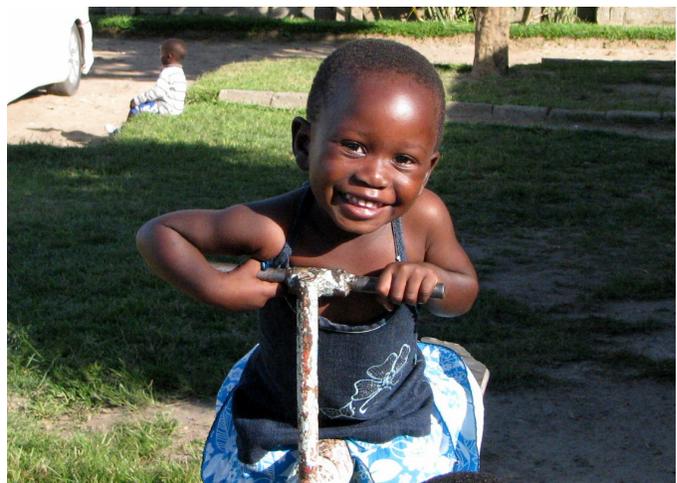
Stories from Zambia

Supplies Needed:

PowerPoint containing maps and pictures.

Zambia video: <http://myef.ca/hp-zambia>

Julia is a 7 year old little girl who lives in Zambia. She lives in a community called Chipata. There are many people -parents, grandparents, and children - living there. Life is sometimes difficult for Julia, she doesn't live like you do. She lives in a dirt hut and doesn't have running water or a nice fluffy bed. She makes little toy cars out of a plastic bottle, some string, and some makeshift wheels. Sometimes she gets to go to school if her mother doesn't need her to go get water or help cook for her siblings. Despite all that she loves to jump and play around with the other kids around where she lives!



Julia is the third child from a third country whose task it is to carry water. Can you even imagine what it would be like to not be able to go to the sink and pour yourself a glass of water?

(Show picture of Sophie) This is Sophie. She is 6 years old and has been in GlobalFingerprints for 2 years. She is the oldest of her 4 siblings. She loves to care for siblings but she also loves to play with her friends. She enjoys playing football (American soccer), jump roping, and playing with balloons.

(Show video of kids on a trampoline) In this video you can see kids in Zambia love to play as they jump on the trampoline, jump rope, and play with balloons. You can also see they are outside a classroom that looks a little bit different than the type you are used to. The money you raise this week will help kids in Zambia have the resources to get some supplies so they can have fun playing. The orphanage would really like to add a trampoline. Play gives kids hope. Thank you for raising *(insert your amount here)* money this week to bring hope!

Section: Crafts & Games

(Crafts and Games are a great way to help children understand the lives of children in other countries. Children around the world love to play games. Consider adding a short game or craft each day to your VBS to help your kids get to know kids in another country through their games.)



'STICKS' A Game from Indonesia

Supplies Needed:

Popsicle Sticks

Markers or paint pens

Picture and add video

MAKING THE GAME PIECES: Give each child a popsicle stick and ask them to decorate it so that they will be able to easily identify their stick when they play the game. *(note: children in Indonesia don't have markers so they carve notches in their sticks to personalize them. (see picture)*

PLAYING THE GAME: STICKS is a game of skill whose object is to propel your stick so it lands on top of your opponent's stick. Players are not allowed to touch their sticks when they do this. (see 'technique below) If multiple opponents are playing, the winner is the one whose stick lands on top of the stick of the first person to launch their stick. Players take turns being the first one to launch a stick.

'Technique' used to launch the stick. Cup one or both hands on top of each other and clap them onto the ground near the stick so that the air produced by the clap propels the stick.

'SOCCER' A Game the Rest of the World Calls Football!

Supplies:

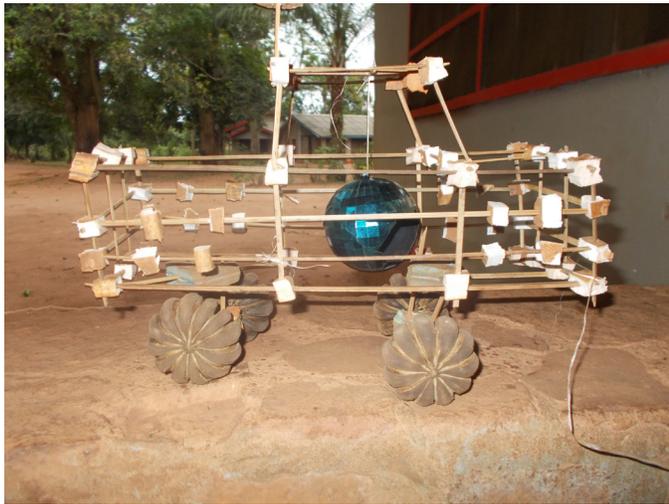
Soccer ball

Explain to the kids that all over the world children love the game of football. However, this is not the football we know. It is the game we call soccer. Just like American kids have their favorite teams and favorite players, children in different countries have their favorite national teams and football stars. And just like kids here play football in their yards or school playgrounds, kids in other countries play their football (soccer) anyplace they find some open space. They don't seem to need uniforms, soccer balls or goal nets. Anything will do if it can be kicked around – including a soccer ball created out of plastic bags, and a net created out of plastic bags. (show pictures)



If you have some ambitious volunteers who want to make a couple of soccer balls out of plastic bags, take the kids outside (or in the gym) and have them play soccer with those balls. You could even string together plastic bags to make the goal net.

If you don't have the time to do that, consider just playing soccer and improvising on the set up of goals and markers using recycled items.



'MAKE A TOY' Out of Whatever You Can Find

Supplies:

Random recyclable materials: bottles, lids, cereal boxes, etc.; pipe cleaners, wire, twist ties, whatever you can think of to put on the table that kids can use to make projects; markers, etc.

Show some samples done by kids in Congo.

MAKE YOUR OWN Mancala Board

Supplies:

One egg carton per child (you do not need the lid)

48 dried beans, pebbles, beads, marbles, buttons...really any small object.

Look up instructions on-line and teach the kids how to play. You can even take time to allow kids to paint their egg cartons with acrylic paints.

If you need Mancala rules, the link below can help!

<http://myef.ca/mancala>



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Dear Parents,

Childhood is a time often associated with innocence and fun. Play is an essential part of growing up for our children as they learn to explore and live in the world around them. For children in countries where poverty is the norm, the freedom to play is not always a reality.

Children love to play. It is how they learn, it is how they create, and it is how they grow into healthy adults. For some children, their reality is one to grow up too fast and need to play the role of an adult at an early age. For others, access to basic materials, like playground equipment and balls, is extremely limited. God has blessed us with creative minds and you will be amazed as you read stories and see pictures how creative our kids can be when it comes to making toys and equipment to play games. Researchers have linked healthy development in children to their ability to play. Monies raised this year will go toward equipment and resources to help children in poverty stricken situations have the opportunities we so often take for granted here in the United States; a chance to play and be a child.

This week we will be hearing stories about children in other countries who we get to come alongside. Your kids will also get the opportunity to play games and do some crafts to help them connect with this need. We are excited to help our kids think big as they learn about the lives of kids around the world.

Little by little through the offerings of your children this week at VBS we will be able to make a difference in the lives of children in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Zambia, India, Indonesia, Haiti, and more. Your dollars will help these children succeed by helping to provide basic needs and education needs. You can make a difference in the life of a child a world away from you!

To learn more about how to sponsor a GlobalFingerprints child, go to globalfingerprints.org.

Make a difference in the life of a child today!

