



Vacation Bible School

Note: Some churches who have supported Trinity HOPE for several years through their VBS have requested additional ideas to keep their children's interests. This second version of VBS Mission Focus is designed to provide you with several choices depending on your resources and time. The format is the same, so the two versions can blend well together. <https://www.trinityhope.org/kids-feeding-kids-program>

Theme Verse: Matthew 25:35,40 – “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...” ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Module 1: Hunger

Song: Jesus Loves the Little Children

- Jezi renmen tout timoun yo
Tout timoun yo nan lemon
Wouj e jonn e nwa e blan
Li renmen yo tou le tan
Jezi renmen tout timoun yo nan lemon.
- <https://vimeo.com/158537087>

Activity: Jars of HOPE

- Introduction
 - Think of your kitchen; name the food there.
 - 8 out of 10 children come to school in Haiti with nothing to eat in their home.
 - What food supplies does Trinity HOPE help provide for the cooks at sponsored schools? (rice, corn, beans, red herring, vegetable oil, tomato sauce, bouillon)
 - What would you think about eating the exact same thing for lunch every day?
- GET INVOLVED:
 - Jars of HOPE were designed to encourage children to get involved with raising money to feed the children of Haiti. Kids Feeding Kids, one quarter at a time.
 - Using the labels provided, design your own Jar of HOPE. First affix the label onto the container you provided (a Gatorade bottle works really well). Then you may add stickers or whatever will make your “jar” special to you.
 - Start a competition between you and a friend or your class and another class to raise the most money. Get your parents involved by asking them to collect money at work. See how many kids you can feed!
 - Older students—forego your daily snack to get a feel for the hunger Haitian students experience daily. Record the days on a line graph, then determine how many meals the cost of these snacks would cover. Add the money you saved in your Jars of HOPE.

Materials: Lyrics to *Jesus Loves the Little Children*; Jars of HOPE label, Jars of HOPE information, plastic bottles (smaller Gatorade bottles & small Pringles cans work well—one for every student), stickers opt.

Take Homes: Lyrics to *Jesus Loves the Little Children*, Jars of HOPE

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Module 2: School

Song: Read your Bible, Li la Bib ou

- Li la Bi bou Read your Bible
 Prive chak jou Pray every day
 Prive chak jou Pray every day
 Prive chak jou Pray every day
 Li la Bi bou Read your Bible
 Prive chak jou Pray every day
 E ou va grandi And you will grow grow.
- <https://childrensbiblesongs.us/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/read-your-bible.mp3>
- *Read your Bible* is a very popular song for our school children in Haiti. Trinity HOPE only provides food for Christian schools, so the children will hear God's Word daily.

Activity:

- Crowded school conditions
 - Most students in Haiti do not have their own desk. They sit on a wooden bench with many other students and a board is fashioned for the desk space. Personal space is non-existent in the classroom. The following cooperative challenges can help your students visualize the lack of space & resources in Haiti.
- COOPERATIVE CHALLENGES: (see Appendix for instructions to Game Activities)
 - Preschool—1st grade: Hula Hoop Game
 - 2nd—6th grade: All Aboard
 - 5th—8th grade: Knots
 - DEBRIEFING QUESTIONS (stay in small groups; if you have more adults, you may want to divide the students into even smaller groups)
 - How did you feel at the beginning of the challenge?
 - When did you begin to feel uncomfortable?
 - How did your group solve the problem?
 - How can this relate to the school children in Haiti? (Share **pictures** of the children sitting at their classroom desks. Point out to the students the dirt floor, walls, desks, bare supplies, size of the class & number of students if they don't notice.)
 - DISCUSSION
 - What do you have in your backpack? (Give students time to share the items in their backpacks.)
 - Haitian students have three important items in the backpacks each day: a bowl, a spoon, and their composition book. These items are precious to their survival nutritionally and educationally. The children need to learn to read and write, so they can begin to rise out of the poverty they were born into. Brothers & sisters share the same bowl & spoon to eat their bowl of lunch.

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- Natural disasters such as the 2010 earthquake and 2016 Hurricane Matthew destroyed many of the schools leaving children without a school to attend. Because of the shortage of resources, teachers write lessons on the chalkboard and students copy it into their composition books.
- Compare a typical Haitian classroom to a typical American classroom

<u>Haitian</u>	<u>American</u>
One room for all students	Separate classrooms for each grade
Dark/no electricity	Well-lit/electricity
Tin roof	Wooden Roof
100 degrees	Thermostat controlled
Chalkboard	White Board
Paper, pencil	paper, pencils, pens, crayons, computers, tablets, iPads
- GET INVOLVED:
 - Launch a book drive to provide books for an underprivileged school in your area.
 - Older students: write your lessons or Bible verses completely for at least one class in a composition book to experience what class is like in Haiti.
 - Read to a younger child. (Younger ages can retell a story to someone or use the pictures in a book to tell a story.)
 - Write a short story to a child in Haiti. Keep it simple, so an elementary child can read it and it can be easily translated. Make your story into a book with colorful pictures and bind it securely so it stays together with use.

Materials: Lyrics to *Read Your Bible, Li la Bib ou*; hula hoops (preschool) **Game Activity Instructions,** hula hoops (preschool), **pictures of Haitian students at school**

Take Homes: Lyrics to *Read Your Bible, Li la Bib ou*

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Module 3: Living Conditions

Song: Write new lyrics to *The Wheels on the Bus* like: (see Transportation below about tap taps in Haiti)

- The colors on the bus are bright and cheerful, bright and cheerful, bright and cheerful. The colors on the bus are bright and cheerful all through the town.
- The message on the bus says, “Mon ami Jesus,” “My friend Jesus,” “Mon ami Jesus.” The message on the bus says, “Mon ami Jesus,” all through the town.

Activity:

- Clothes
 - DISCUSSION
 - How many clothes do you have? Where do you keep them? (Allow students to share their experience.)
 - In Haiti one family will have one dresser. Each family member gets a drawer for his/her clothes.
- Transportation
 - Most children walk to school, but there are actually three main modes of transportation in Haiti: a tap tap, a moto, or to walk. Motorized vehicles are primarily reserved for the wealthy, so most people walk or ride a tap tap with a multitude of neighbors.
 - The tap tap is a bus or truck that is vibrantly decorated with bright colors and messages reflecting love, peace, and religious beliefs. They play an important role in promoting Haitian art while transporting people from city to city or across town. These cultural icons have developed from being pulled by horses to modern pick-up trucks and buses.
 - Design your own tap tap with the bus and truck templates provided or create your own design by drawing the vehicle yourself. Tap taps carry many, many people who are not all sitting down; some are sitting in outside areas atop or at the back of the vehicle. Design yours accordingly.

Materials: Transportation—**tap tap templates** or blank paper to draw their own tap tap, crayons or colored pencils, **pictures of tap taps**

Take Homes: Tap Tap drawings

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Module 4: Daily Activities

Song: Jesus Loves Me

- Jezi renmen'm, m'konnen sa
Se la bib ki di mwen sa
Tout timoun yo, se pou li
Nan febles mwen, li bay fos

Wi, Jezi renmen'm! (3 times)
Se bib la ki di nou sa

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2guq0Dw23M>

Activity:

- Toys
 - Make soccer (football to Haitians) out of plastic bags (see Appendix for instructions). Now play a game of soccer with a few friends.
 - Jacks is a game played all over the world using the resources available. Here in America we purchase metal star figures and a ball to play the game. In Mongolia and in Haiti they use the knucklebone or anklebone of an animal like a goat or sheep. In remote areas of China children use rocks to play the same game of Jacks.
 - The Appendix has a description of the game of Jacks called Osselets in Haiti.
 - Play a game of Jacks or two or three with friends using items you can find on your playground. There's no need for a ball, another rock or other item can be tossed into the air.
- Tin Art
 - See instructions in the Appendix on how to create Haitian tin art.

Materials: Lyrics to *Jesus Loves Me*; lots of plastic grocery bags, newspaper, string, **Plastic bag soccer ball instructions**; Tin Art—aluminum foil, ball point pens, tape, cardboard, fine-tip Sharpies (older children), any size permanent marker (younger children), **Tin Art templates**

Take Homes: homemade soccer ball (depending on whether every student makes one); Lyrics to *Jesus Loves Me*; Tin Art

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Module 5: Sharing the Gospel

Song: Practice singing each of the new songs from this week, *Jesus Loves the Little Children*, *Read your Bible*, *Jesus Loves Me*

Activity:

- Key Verses:
 - Matthew 25:40 ⁴⁰“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.’
 - What is the First Commandment? *You shall have no other gods before me. ~Exodus 20:3*
 - 6 out of 10 people in Haiti do not worship Jesus. (Have groups of 10 students stand up & 4 sit down to “see” the large number of Haitians that don’t believe in Jesus).
 - Mark 16:15 ¹⁵*He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.*
 - We have been instructed to spread the Word to the world. That world may be right in our own neighborhood or across the world. The King, Jesus, let us know that when we do/care/feed/provide for others, we are doing/caring/feeding/providing for Him.
- Make the Gospel Plane. See the Appendix for instructions and templates.
- Resources
 - <https://disciplr.com/5-fun-ways-share-gospel-kids/>
 - <http://sweetcoconuts.blogspot.com/2011/05/do-you-know-any-childrens-songs-in.html>

Materials: Gospel Plane instructions (one per teacher) and templates (one template per child—colored one or the blank one for children to color)

Take Homes: Gospel Plane

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Did you know?

- People in Haiti don't understand the concept of three meals in a day. They are grateful to get one meal every 2-3 days. This is why the children love to come to school; they know they'll be fed. The hair of malnourished children turns a golden orange color which signifies to our staff to give that child more food.
- There aren't many resources in Haitian schools, and there's a shortage of qualified teachers to educate the thousands of children. The literacy rate is very low at 61% compared to 90% in other Latin American countries.
- Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

You Can Help!

Children in your VBS can make a difference in Haiti! Encourage your participants and parents to help feed the children attending Christian schools in Haiti with their VBS offering.

\$1	Provides 4 meals	\$20	Provides 80 meals
\$5	Provides 20 meals	\$100	Provides 400 meals
\$10	Provides 40 meals		

Motivators

Children enjoy their teachers, families, and pastors getting involved. When collecting money for the Jars of HOPE, consider a little friendly competition among classes. Each child can fill up their jar as many times as possible during the specified time. Then each class has a large water jug like the kind from Crystal Water that the children of that class can put their coins in. The class that raises the most money (not number of coins—we do want to feed as many children as possible!) or if the group reaches their goal everyone wins any of the following:

- The pastor or VBS director will spend the night on the roof of the church.
- The children can throw a pie in the face of the adult they choose.
- The children can dunk their chosen adult in a dunking booth. (This would cost the rental of the dunking booth.)
- Their pastor or teacher will shave his beard or grow a beard a certain length.
- The children may wear pajamas/hat/silly outfit on a specified day.
- Don't leave out the teachers; they need to be motivated too. Look for local businesses that may give a gift card that would encourage them to push their students. (Target, restaurants, Bed Bath & Beyond, etc.)

Food can also be a motivator. The following foods and recipes are common in Haiti.

- Snacks: mangoes, plantains, Haitian patty, Peanut Brittle
- <https://blog.compassion.com/haiti-food-kids-snacks-in-haiti/>
- <http://haitiancooking.com/recipe/haitian-patties-pate/>
- <http://haitiancooking.com/recipe/peanut-brittle-tablet-pistach/>

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Additional Activities:

Living Conditions

- How many uses of a “river” in Haiti can you name? (drinking water, wash clothes, motorcycles, tap taps, water for cooking, animals drink there—plus do their business)
- Safe drinking water is a constant struggle in Haiti. Cholera has invaded the country, so uncontaminated water has become an urgent public health problem. Contaminated water is the main cause of cholera, which has sickened hundreds of thousands of Haitians since 2010 and killed over 7,000.
 - Do an experiment with water. You’ll need clear glass/plastic containers, because the students need to vividly see the variations of water. Below are some possibilities:
 - Younger students: <http://onetimethrough.com/water-pollution-for-kids-fun-science-activities/>
 - Older students: <http://www.toppartyideas.com/eco-friendly-water-filtration/>
 - Older students: Here’s an interesting article for students to learn more about the water in Haiti and the Cholera epidemic. Some think it may have been caused by people who were trying to aid the Haitians. It’s important to realize the consequences of carelessness especially in rural areas. <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2012/04/13/150302830/water-in-the-time-of-cholera-haitis-most-urgent-health-problem>

Materials: Safe Drinking Water—clear containers & other materials depending on the experiments you may try.