



# Youth and Adult Intergenerational Study



**Thank you to our consultant team! VBS 2025 Contributors, Reviewers, Testers, and Focus Group Members:**

**Our Team:**

Keitha Vincent, Matt Allison (Development Assistance), Megan Teegarden, Selena Cunningham, Amanda Bryant (Consultant), Jonathan Higdon, Karla Taylor (Marketing), Hank Hayes (Marketing), Heather Wegenka

**Test Churches:**

A&M United Methodist Church, College Station, TX; Connell Memorial United Methodist Church, Goodlettsville, TN; Tucker First United Methodist Church, Tucker, GA

**Reviewers and Focus Group Members:**

Michael Haspe, Tamaqua, PA; Amy Jo Alspaugh, Charlotte, NC; Rebecca Dyck, Chapel Hill, NC; Mallory Anderson, Mt. Juliet, TN; Glenda Argo, Montgomery, AL; Susie Faas, Mason, OH; Ben Frey, Goodlettsville, TN; Jenn Huff, Cherubusco, IN; Susan Midkiff, Show Low, AZ; Salley Millsap, Murfreesboro, TN; Caitlin Bookwalter, Ormond Beach, FL; Lauren Bedevian, Houston, TX; Amy Perry, Burlington, VT; Becky Betz, Sugarland, TX; Susanne Warren, Birmingham, AL; Kelsey Miller, Cookeville, TN; David Barton, Goodlettsville, TN; Alayna Barton Peters, Goodlettsville, TN; Ashlea Barton, Goodlettsville, TN; Nanci Frey, Goodlettsville, TN; Savannah Salas, College Station, TX; Mimi Sanders, Tucker, GA; Becci Benson, Enterprise, AL; Kristiane Smith, Camarillo, CA; Laurie Hembree, League City, TX; Tes Lacy, Salem, OR; Andrea Jenkins, Virginia Beach, VA; Jan Russell, Minneapolis, MN

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Cokesbury VBS 2025  
 ROAD TRIP  
 ON THE GO WITH GOD  
**Youth and Adult Intergenerational Study**

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## Welcome

Welcome to **Road Trip! “On the Go with God”** Youth and Adult Intergenerational Guide. We’ve designed this study for Youth and Adults to engage with the Bible together. Based on Joshua 1:9, we will emphasize that God is always with us, wherever we go.

## Components Overview

### Let’s Get Rolling!

Get the conversation started with a simple activity that helps your group engage with the Bible story and Road Trip theme. This is an optional activity to encourage dialogue. In the first session, you may choose to have the group create Travel Journals that can be used throughout the study.

### Bible Story

In this section, you will find a Bible overview, main idea, and ways to experience the story as a group. We recommend reading the Bible story aloud using the Common English Bible (CEB). You can also explore the Bible by viewing the Bible Adventure Video for each session on the **Road Trip Bible Adventure DVD**. Alternatively, use the Bible Story Drama or Single Storyteller for each session from the **Road Trip Bible Storyteller Leader Guide**.

### Group Discussion

The sessions include several discussion questions related to the stories and their applications to daily life. Don’t be surprised if the natural flow of the group study takes over and you find your group bringing their own questions and wonderings about the story to the conversation. Just let the discussion flow naturally and follow God’s leading in your exploration of the story.

### Reflection

Take time for personal reflection. Encourage participants to jot down any insights or revelations they receive during the week. Travelers may also write the prayer requests, insights from discussion, and final reflection questions.

### Additional Activities

In this section, Travelers can get a sampling of the fun found for everyone at VBS. Pick from the suggested activities found in this leader guide. Then work with the VBS director to use the lesson with your group.

### Prayer

Be sure to share prayers together as you engage in Bible study across generations. Write prayer concerns in your journal to reflect on throughout your week. We also provide prayers to close your group time together.



## Let's Get Rolling

Each participant will create their own Travel Journal to document their journey throughout **Road Trip: On the Go with God!** This can include reflections, prayers, drawings, and memorable moments from each session. As the group works to create the journals, encourage the Travelers to introduce themselves and share their work.

### Instructions:

1. Give every Traveler a journal.
2. Have the Travelers decorate the cover of the journal with the theme name: **"Road Trip! On the Go with God!"** Participants can draw or use stickers to create the cover.
3. Have the Travelers introduce themselves and share their journal cover with the group.

## Bible Story Overview

### Genesis 12:1-9

The Old Testament tells the story of God's relationship to the nation of Israel. Throughout the Bible, Abraham, named Abram in this passage, is considered the father of Israel. Genesis 12:1-9 is a significant passage in the Bible that marks the beginning of Abram's journey and his covenant relationship with God. God speaks to Abram and tells him to leave his land, his family, and his father's household. Abram responds obediently to God. God makes several promises to Abram: God will make Abram into a great nation, bless him, make his name great, and bless all people through him. Abram obeys God's commands and sets out for the new land with his wife Sarai and his nephew, Lot. They traveled to the land God had promised them called Canaan. Along the way, they stopped to mark important moments through building altars and worshipping God.

## Main Idea

Abram shows his faith and obedience by leaving his home. This passage highlights Abram's strong faith in God's promises. It sets the stage for the unfolding story of God's covenant with Abram and his descendants. Abram's story shows us that God is with us on the journey.

## Experience the Story:

Choose among the following ways to experience the Bible Story.

- Read the Bible story from the CEB Bible.
- View the Bible Adventure Video, **Road Trip Bible Adventure DVD**, Session 1.
- Use the Bible Story Drama pp. 11-13, or Single Storyteller pp. 14-15 from the **Road Trip Bible Storyteller Leader Guide**.



### Bible Story Abraham and Sarah Follow God

(Genesis 12:1-9)

### Key Learning

God is with us on the journey.

### Materials:

- Blank journals or notebooks
- Pens
- Markers
- Stickers



## Group Discussion

- What emotions arise when you think about God’s promise to be with you on your journey?
- As we learned, Abram built altars to remember God’s promises. What can you create as a marker to remind you of God’s faithfulness and the promises God had made with you?

## Reflection

**SAY:** In the passage, Abram and Sarai journey with God. Along the way, they build altars to remember special moments when God made promises to them. Similarly, when we go on road trips, we often buy mementos to help us remember the special moments of our travels. Think of one of your favorite road trips, past or future. Draw or share the story of a memento you have, or hope to get, in your journal.

## Additional Activity Ideas

- “Inertia Bead Drop” **Road Trip Science Leader**, pp. 8-9
- “Road Trip Animal Game” **Road Trip Recreation Leader Guide**, p. 8
- “Rolling with God” **Road Trip Science Leader Guide**, pp. 6-7

## Prayer

Take time to share prayer requests and write requests in the Travel Journals. Close with the following responsorial prayer. Read the bold words aloud. Have the group respond “God is always with me. God is always there.”

**Let us pray.**

**In the morning and in the stillness of the night,**

(God is always with me. God is always there.)

**For every whispered prayer, spoken and unspoken, God, you know what’s on our hearts.**

(God is always with me. God is always there.)

**When my heart sings with joy, or when I am feeling low and down,**

(God is always with me. God is always there.)

**No matter where life finds me, with family, friends or all alone.**

(God is always with me. God is always there.)

**Amen.**



### Bible Story

**Abraham and Sarah Follow God**

(Genesis 12:1-9)

### Key Learning

God is with us on the journey.

### Materials:

- Travel Journals or paper
- Pens



## Let's Get Rolling!

As the group enters, encourage Travelers to take a moment and draw on a piece of paper or in their Travel Journal a simple map or path that represents their life journey. Include twists and turns and any significant point where you felt off course or lost. Feel free to use symbols or words for these defining moments. Have Travelers share with the group some of their experiences, focusing on recognizing God's presence during challenging times.

## Bible Story Overview

### Exodus 13:17-22

After God promised Abraham a great nation, his son Isaac had a son named Jacob. Jacob's twelve sons moved to Egypt through a series of dramatic events. Generations later, Abraham's descendants became slaves in Egypt. In today's story, God leads them out of slavery, despite Pharaoh's resistance. God promises to return them to the land given to Abraham. Instead of the shortest route, God guides the Israelites along a longer path through the wilderness toward the Red Sea. God's presence is shown as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, symbolizing guidance and protection.

## Main Idea

This passage emphasizes trusting God's guidance. The Israelites relied on the pillar of cloud and pillar of fire to light the way to the promised land. The Israelites were forced to take an indirect path but God made sure to lead the way. In life, God continually cares for all people, even when they get off course.

## Experience the Story

Choose among the following ways to experience the Bible Story.

- Read the Bible story from the CEB Bible.
- View the Bible Adventure Video, **Road Trip Bible Adventure DVD**, Session 2.
- Use the Bible Story Drama pp. 21-23, or Single Storyteller p. 24 from the **Road Trip Bible Storyteller Leader Guide**.

## Group Discussion

- What are some ways God shows up for you?
- What are some ways you can join with God to support and uplift others?

## Reflection

**SAY:** By reflecting on this passage, you can find encouragement to trust in God's presence and guidance in your own journey. Regardless of how unfamiliar, challenging or off course it may seem, God is with us. In your journal, spend time reflecting on times you have felt off course and what helped you feel God's presence.



### Bible Story

#### The Israelites Take the Scenic Route

(Exodus 13:17-22)

### Key Learning

God is with us when we go off course.

### Materials:

- Travel Journals or paper
- Pens



## Additional Activity Ideas

- “GP (Guess)” **Road Trip Recreation Leader Guide**, p. 12
- “Leaping Flame” **Road Trip Science Leader Guide**, pp. 12-13
- “Color Me Tote” **Road Trip Craft Leader Guide**, p. 14

## Prayer

Take time to share prayer requests and write requests in the Travel Journals. Close with the following prayer.

Dear God, thank you for your unwavering presence in our lives. Even when we feel lost or have gone off course, we find comfort knowing that you are always with us. Help us to trust in your guidance, especially in times of unrest and confusion. When we go off course, remind us of your love and faithfulness, and gently nudge us back to your ways. We raise up every whispered prayer, both spoken and unspoken, within this group. God, you understand the desires and concerns in our hearts. Amen.



### Bible Story

#### The Israelites Take the Scenic Route

(Exodus 13:17-22)

### Key Learning

God is with us when we go off course.





## Let's Get Rolling!

This session's story revolves around the joyful reunion between two family members who have exciting news to share. Encourage the Travelers to think about the person who comes to mind when he or she thinks of a joyful reunion. Have the Travelers share reasons why seeing this person brings him or her joy and gratitude.

## Bible Story Overview

### Luke 1:39-56

Many centuries after the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, God sends a special message to a young woman named Mary. Mary is a Jewish descendant of Abraham and the Israelites. The angel Gabriel tells Mary she will be the mother of Jesus, God's Son. Mary visits her relative Elizabeth who is also expecting a child. When Mary greets Elizabeth, her baby jumps for joy. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and proclaims the blessing Mary received, recognizing Mary's unborn child as God's Son. In doing so, Elizabeth became the first to prophesy about Jesus.

## Main Idea:

This passage is a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness and the power of God's promises. Mary likely experienced a whirlwind of emotions. The incredible news brought both joy and uncertainty as she anticipated her chosen role. God's presence with Mary is evident in her joy, and God is with us in our moments of joy, too. Wherever we go, God is with us. We can respond to God's love with joy. Mary and Elizabeth serve as inspiring examples, motivating us to share joy with others.

## Experience the Story

Choose among the following ways to experience the Bible Story.

- Read the Bible story from the CEB Bible.
- View the Bible Adventure Video, **Road Trip Bible Adventure DVD**, Session 3.
- Use the Bible Story Drama pp. 31-34, or Single Storyteller p. 35 from the **Road Trip Bible Storyteller Leader Guide**.

## Group Discussion:

- What are some ways God brings joy in your life?
- How do you recognize and celebrate God's work in your life?
- What are some ways you can invite more of God's joy into your daily life?

## Reflection

**SAY: Mary and Elizabeth share a close, supportive bond. They inspire us to build relationships that uplift our faith journey. Using your Travel Journal, reflect on a time when a supportive relationship strengthened your faith.**



**Bible Story**  
**Mary and Elizabeth's**  
**Family Reunion**  
(Luke 1:39-56)

**Key Learning**  
God is with us when  
we're joyful.

**Materials:**

- Travel Journals or paper
- Pens

**Materials:**

- Travel Journals or paper
- Pens



## Additional Activity Ideas

- “Praise and reflection” **Road Trip Reflection Leader Guide**, p. 4
- “Dry Ice Bubbles” **Road Trip Science Leader**, pp. 16-17
- “Don’t Forget the Lyrics” **Road Trip Recreation Leader**, p. 16

## Prayer

Take time to share prayer requests and write requests in the Travel Journals. Close with the following prayer.

Gracious God, we come to you with hearts full of gratitude, awe, and wonder. Thank you for the story of Mary and Elizabeth and the joy that your presence brings into our lives. Help us to recognize and treasure moments of joy both big and small. Guide us to share this joy with others, spreading love, kindness, and hope. Help us understand the importance of supportive people who strengthen our faith. Guide us to be a supportive presence to others. We raise up every whispered prayer, both spoken and unspoken, within this group. God, you understand the desires and concerns in our hearts. Amen.



**Bible Story**  
**Mary and Elizabeth’s**  
**Family Reunion**  
(Luke 1:39-56)

**Key Learning**  
God is with us when  
we’re joyful.



## Let's Get Rolling!

Before the group arrives, cut a piece of paper into 8 pieces. Write one of each of the following words on the pieces of paper: "climb," "tree," "eat," "money," "house," "seek," "stand," "down." Place the papers in a bowl. Distribute the papers to willing volunteers as they arrive. Have the group play a game of charades.

## Bible Overview

### Luke 19:1-10

The story of Zacchaeus appears towards the end of the Book of Luke. By this point in Luke's account, Jesus' ministry is well established. Crowds gather to hear Jesus. He has developed a reputation as a disruptive presence. Just three chapters later, Jesus is betrayed and the path to the crucifixion and resurrection are set in motion.

Zacchaeus is a tax collector. His role as the community money collector for the Roman Empire would not have been well received by his peers and likely for good reason. Zacchaeus probably exploited people for his own gain. He is lonely. He is desperate. He is short. So, to get a good look at Jesus, he climbs a tree and his whole life changes. Jesus invites him to climb down and act as a host for dinner. This welcome transforms Zacchaeus and he promises to repay those whom he has exploited.

## Main Idea:

Invitation is a remedy for loneliness. Here, Jesus notices and invites Zacchaeus to put his resources to good use as a host. We are reminded that, by God's grace, even when we are lonely, God is with us.

## Experience the Story

Choose among the following ways to experience the Bible Story.

- Read the Bible story from the CEB Bible.
- View the Bible Adventure Video, **Road Trip Bible Adventure DVD**, Session 4.
- Use the Bible Story Drama pp. 42-44, or Single Storyteller p. 45 from the **Road Trip Bible Storyteller Leader Guide**.

## Group Discussion

- Can you recall a moment when somebody made you feel especially welcomed and valued? How did it make you feel?
- How can we make others feel valued and significant?

## Reflection

**SAY:** Have you ever felt overlooked, unimportant, or invisible? How can remembering that God sees and knows you bring comfort during those times? Write a letter to God in your journal, expressing your feelings of being unseen and asking for God's comfort and presence.



### Bible Story

**Jesus Visits Zacchaeus**  
(Luke 19:1-10)

### Key Learning

God is with us when we're lonely.

### Materials:

- Paper
- Pens
- Bowl
- Scissors
- Travel Journals



## Additional Activity Ideas

- “Let’s Eat” **Road Trip Recreation Leader Guide**, p. 19
- “Zacchaeus Climbing Tree” **Road Trip Craft Leader Guide**, p. 28
- “Gravity Drop” **Road Trip Science Leader Guide**, pp. 20-21

## Prayer

Take time to share prayer requests and write requests in the Travel Journals. Close with the following prayer.

Gracious God, we are grateful for your unconditional love and the way you welcome us with open arms, just as Jesus welcomed Zacchaeus. When we feel lonely and out of place, remind us that you are with us. Help us to extend this same welcome and love to others, so they may feel valued and significant. Guide our thoughts and minds as we gather in your name. We raise up every whispered prayer, both spoken and unspoken, within this group. God, you understand the desires and concerns in our hearts and thoughts in our minds. Amen.



### Bible Story

**Jesus Visits Zacchaeus**

(Luke 19:1-10)

### Key Learning

God is with us when we're lonely.



## Let's Get Rolling!

**SAY:** Travelers, it has been great getting to know you all. Our time as a group is ending. Let's take a moment to consider our favorite moments from our time together and share with each other.

Allow each person time to share.

## Bible Overview

### Acts 18:1-11

After Jesus' death and resurrection, his disciples continued his teachings and ministry. The Book of Acts chronicles the journey of the early church. Many of the stories recount the adventures of Paul as he tries to spread the Good News about Jesus. Paul's adventures were wild. Paul lived in a time of deep social unrest and his stories regularly recount various arrests and imprisonments.

In this story, Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla are navigating a difficult social landscape. Aquila and Priscilla have had to leave Italy and head for Greece because they were persecuted as Jewish people. In Corinth, the Jewish people in the community initially reject Paul. Paul is furious and in a fit of anger claims he will just preach to everyone else and exclude his Jewish peers. He claims he will preach instead to the Gentiles, or non-Jewish people. In the very next verse, the Jewish synagogue leader converts to Christianity. Many people then believe in the way of Jesus. God then tells Paul, "Don't be afraid. Continue speaking. Don't be silent. I'm with you and no one who attacks you will harm you, for I have many people in this city" (Acts 18:9b-10).

## Main Idea

The message of Jesus' grace, love, and forgiveness is for all people, no matter what. God spoke to Paul and reassured him that God was with him and that he should not be afraid. Paul's preaching impacted everyone. When Paul was far from home and afraid, God spoke to him. Stories like this remind us that God is with us near and far.

## Experience the Story

Choose among the following ways to experience the Bible Story.

- Read the Bible story from the CEB Bible.
- View the Bible Adventure Video, **Road Trip Bible Adventure DVD**, Session 5.
- Use the Bible Story Drama pp. 52-55, or Single Storyteller pp. 56-57 from the **Road Trip Bible Storyteller Leader Guide**.

## Group Discussion:

- Everyone faces rejection at some point. What matters is how you respond and grow from it. How do you handle rejection when sharing your faith?
- Paul's efforts in Corinth had a lasting impact. How can you make sure that your actions and words create a positive and lasting impression on those around you?



### Bible Story

**On the Road with Paul**  
(Acts 18:1-11)

### Key Learning

God is with us near and far.

### Materials:

- Travel Journal or paper
- Pens



## Reflection

**SAY:** Write about a person or group of people who have significantly supported you in your faith journey. Describe how they have helped you grow and reflect on how you can support others in return.

## Additional Activity Ideas

- “Double Take” **Road Trip Recreation Leader Guide**, p. 23
- “Fire Reaction” **Road Trip Science Leader Guide**, pp. 26-27
- “Project Runway” **Road Trip Recreation Leader Guide**, pp. 24

## Prayer

Take time to share prayer requests and write requests in the Travel Journals. Close with the following prayer.

Gracious God, thank you for the example of Paul’s perseverance and faith. Help us to stay strong in our faith and always be there for others. Reassure us that you are always by our side, no matter where we are! We raise up every whispered prayer, both spoken and unspoken, within this group. God, you understand the desires and concerns in our hearts. Amen.



### Bible Story

**On the Road with Paul**  
(Acts 18:1-11)

### Key Learning

God is with us near and far.

### Materials:

- Travel Journal or paper
- Pens