

You can sit back down...get comfy...our Bible storyteller puppets have an amazing story for you today. Watch with me.

 (Show day 5 puppet video.)

That was an amazing story! What do you think? Was Elisha happy or sad? If you think he was happy, put your thumbs up! If you think he was sad, put your thumbs down.

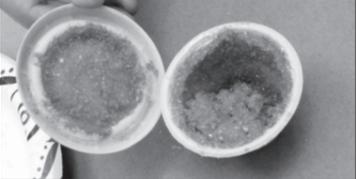
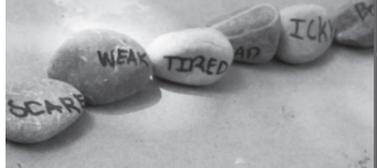
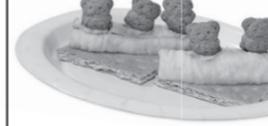
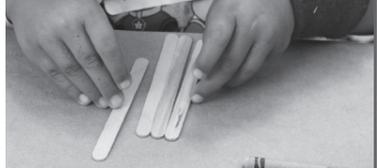
Elisha knew that God had given him special work to do...and the best part was that God was always with him!

God wants us all to be in heaven with Him! That's why He is making heaven such a fun place to be! In the meantime, we have work to do here...being kind to others, helping our family...I can't wait!

That makes me want to say our Daily Find again! Let's stand up and say it together! Jesus made me to live with Him forever. *(hold both arms up with your pointers out and rotate arms in a big circle)* I dig it! *(cool pose)*

Wrap-up

Our time here is finished for the week and it's time for you to explore more of Jasper Canyon! You are the best rockhounds I know! Oh hey ... don't forget and give each other an elbow bump and say, "Jesus made you to live with Him forever!" See you later!

EXCAVATION POST <i>Prayer Station</i>	ARTIFACT CRAFTS <i>Craft Station</i>	TESTING PIT <i>Game Station</i>	PICNIC SNACKS <i>Snack Station</i>
Play-Doh Sculpting & Field Journal 	Jasper Gemstone 	Get-to-Know-You Pre-Game Rock Wall Cracks	Gemstone Parfait 
Carrying Burdens & Field Journal 	Jasper Canyon Fossils 	Get-to-Know-You Pre-Game Jasper Canyon Obstacle Course	Fossil Crackers 
Mosaic Hearts & Field Journal 	Jasper Mosaic 	Get-to-Know-You Pre-Game Jasper Canyon Mosaic Tag	Mosaic Trail Mix 
Prayer Links & Field Journal 	Jasper Family Petroglyphs 	Get-to-Know-You Pre-Game Jasper Canyon Family Four Square	Petroglyph Sweets 
Popsicle Stick House & Field Journal 	Jasper Canyon Eagle 	Get-to-Know-You Pre-Game Eagles Nest Relay Race	Rockhound Tools 

WELCOME TO THE GEMSTONE MINE!

This is the Bible story station where the kids will hear Bible stories about their value and worth as God's treasures.

The storyteller named Jade (or male Jaden) is a serious rockhound who travels the country in her or his Jeep and trailer looking for rock specimens. Each day the rockhound shows the kids one of the tools as she or he goes out to find rocks and minerals. The rockhound also shares stories of places visited and rocks and minerals found. Jade (or Jaden) is independent and loves the outdoors. She or he is a person with deep convictions and a strong faith in God.

What the Bible Story Station Leader Should Wear

- Broad rim sun hat
- Colorful or striped shirt
- Jeans or hiking pants
- Hiking boots/rubber boots

Decorating

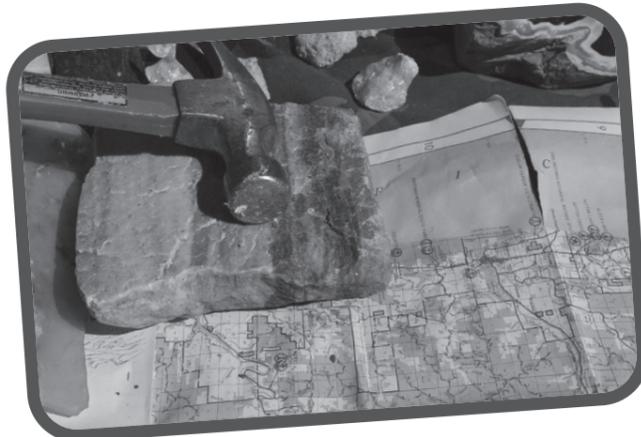
This station is set up like a campsite at the Gemstone Mine. A large cardboard Jeep and attached trailer are "parked" along the back wall of your room or corner. You can create the Jeep and trailer yourself by purchasing large sheets of cardboard and painting them or you can purchase a cardboard stand-up Jeep from Oriental Trading Company. A picnic table or small folding table and camp chair sit in front of the Jeep and trailer. Set a picnic basket on the table along with the tools for the week. Display a variety of stones, gems, or minerals. Start with just a few rocks and put more and more on the table each day as the week progresses.

Supplies for the Week

- Backpack
- Sunglasses
- Rock hammer
- Compass
- Topographical map
- Climbing rope
- Chisel
- Rocks
- Backpack
- Funny glasses with different colors or shapes
- Toy hammers
- Toy saws
- Stuffed animals (zoo or safari animals)
- Storm soundtrack
- Parachute
- Ball
- Large rock
- Crystal

Rockhound Crew Names

- Crystals
- Geodes
- Agates
- Opals
- Garnets



DAY 5—THE STORY OF ELIJAH

Supplies

- Chisel
- Rock hammer
- Large rock
- Crystal
- Optional: a geode for each child to keep

Welcome

Say: Hiya, Kids! Do you know what this is? (*Hold up chisel and take answers.*) It's a chisel. What does a rockhound do with a chisel? We use it to pry rocks open so we can see what's on the inside.

Activity: Finding Crystals

I've brought this really big rock in with me. We're going to try to break off a piece with this chisel. See here where the line is? That part is weak. We're going to put the chisel in that crack and hammer away and break it off.

(*Pretend to chisel the big rock. Have a crystal hidden to show the kids. Pretend it was inside the rock.*)

There we go! We broke the rock off. Now, look what was inside. It's a beautiful crystal. God sure is amazing! He hides surprises for us to find all the time...we just need to look!

(*Sit back down in your camping chair.*) Kids, do you know that heaven is going to be more fun than rockhounding? I know...amazing but true! It's not going to be boring; it's going to be so much fun. And it's going to be amazing because Jesus will be there with us. God made us to live forever with Him. Wait a minute! That sounds just like our Daily Find! Let's stand up and say it together!

Jesus made me to live with Him forever. (*hold both arms up with your pointers out and rotate arms in a big circle*) I dig it! (*cool pose*)

You know, while we are at it...let's say our Bedrock Verse. Take some deep breaths. (*Have the kids take deep breaths and blow it out...be dramatic.*)



I think we are ready! Say it with me.

For I am certain (*point to yourself*) that nothing can separate us (*shake your index finger*) from God's love. (*heart shape with fingers*) Neither death nor life, (*jump up and down*) neither angels nor other heavenly rulers (*fold arms over chest*) or powers, (*muscle arms pose*) neither the present nor the future, (*point down then stretch arm out and point*) neither the world above (*hands shape a circle and raise up*) nor the world below—(*hands shape a circle and push down*) there is nothing in all creation (*spread arms wide apart*) that will ever be able to separate us (*hug yourself*)

And now day 5!

from the love of God (*form a heart shape with your hands and fingers*) which is ours (*both thumbs point to the chest*) through Christ Jesus our Lord. (*ASL sign for Jesus: touch the tip of the middle finger of the dominant hand into the center of the palm of your non-dominant hand; repeat with other hand*) Romans 8:38-39 (*put hands together and then open like opening a Bible*)

Whoohoo! We have learned all of our scripture verse! Listen up! Today be sure to share these verses with someone...like your mom or dad, or your grandma or grandpa...or your dog or your cat! Maybe even your guinea pig!

Lined area for taking notes.



DAY 1—THE STORY OF THE FLOOD



Supplies

- Rock hammer
• Chisel
• Rocks
• Backpack
• Funny glasses with different colors or shapes
• Toy hammers
• Toy saws
• Stuffed animals (zoo or safari animals)
• Storm soundtrack
• Compass
• Tape or string
• Pen or pencil
• Topographical map



Welcome

SAY: Hiya, kids! I'm (Jade/Jaden) and I am a rockhound. Does anyone know what a rockhound is? (Take some answers.)

A rockhound is someone who looks for precious gems, rocks, or minerals. A serious rockhound carries a rock hammer and chisel on their belts (show kids the items). A serious rockhound collects specimens (point to rocks). You've gotta know the difference between a quartz and an agate. If you're a really serious rockhound, like really committed to finding precious rocks, gems, and minerals, you live in an RV or trailer like I do. I travel all across the country and have been all around the world hunting for beautiful rocks. In fact, I've got rocks coming out of my ears!

(Trailer seems to tip over from the heaviness—use a volunteer to come behind and push the back of the trailer backdrop.)

Woah! What's so heavy in there? What do you think I've got in there, a bunch of rocks?! (Chuckle at joke.)

But I love my rocks. I use them for paperweights, for tools, for decor. And one day I am going to find

something incredible and enter into the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

This is my first day here in Jasper Canyon and I'm so excited to explore! I am all ready to go. I have my boots, my hat, my trusty backpack with all my gear in it, and my favorite pair of sunglasses.

Activity: Look Through Funny Glasses with Different Colors or Shapes

I have to wear these sunglasses so I can see in the canyon where it's really sunny. In fact, I have some glasses for you to try on! (Get one or two volunteers to pass them out to all the kids.)

When you look through these glasses does it change how you see things? What do you see when you look through your glasses? (Take some answers.)

I spent all day today enjoying Jasper Canyon. It's really nice to get out of the city. You don't need to find any rocks; you can find beauty. When I get out into nature, I feel alive. I feel at peace. Everything seems right with the world. Do you like to go camping? Or out to the park? I love nature. I spent the day exploring Jasper Canyon—looking for rocks. (Pick up a rock and look at it.)

When I look at the canyon, I just know that God is real and working in this world. It's kind of like putting on glasses. (Put on colored glasses.)

I see the world through eyes of faith. When I look at this canyon, I see evidence of creation. I see proof that the Bible is real. (Take off glasses.)

You see the layers on the rock? Those are called layers of sedimentation. Those layers formed from the intense heat and pressure of volcanos. Do you see the layers of sandstone in the canyon? Those formed from water flowing over sand. And then there are fossils. (Show a fossil.)

There would have to be a lot of water covering ocean animals and plant life all of a sudden to make so many fossils. How did that happen?

I'll tell you how...God created the world good. God made the first man and woman named Adam and Eve. He formed them from ground and breathed life into them. Do you know that God formed you too? The Bible says He forms

us as little tiny babies in our mommy's stomach. You are created by God. You are special. *(Put on colored glasses.)*

When God looks at you, He sees someone really valuable. And when we look at each other through God's glasses we see each other as valuable too. You are special. You rock! *(Take off glasses.)*

Adam and Eve loved each other and God. But when they chose to leave God and go their own way, people started hurting each other. People were stealing and lying and hurting each other and animals, so God had to do something. He was so sad about the hurt He saw that He needed to act. He had to wash the world clean from all the hurt and sadness and bad things people were doing. He had to start over. God looked for someone who was honest—who loved God with all their heart and loved others. Someone who was kind and caring. He found Noah. *(Choose a child to be Noah.)*

He saw that Noah was sad about the hurt that others were causing. So, He told Noah about His plan to wash the world clean. He told Noah to build a boat to save the world. Noah agreed. Noah started building the boat. *(Give him a toy hammer or saw.)*

His wife and his sons started helping. *(Have 3 more kids join in pretending to work.)*

Then they grew up and got married and their wives all started working on the boat with them. *(Get 3 more helpers to pretend to work on the boat.)*

And while they worked Noah was preaching. He would say, "Stop hurting others and love each other. Come into the boat. God wants to save you." Noah preached every day for 120 years. He preached because God loves everyone and wants everyone to live with Him. He wanted to save every person because He loved them all. Finally, the day came for God to send the flood. *(Pass out toy animals or stuffed animals to the rest of the kids.)*

The animals came—2 of every unclean animal and 7 of every clean animal. Then Noah and his family went in. Noah called out to the people again, "Stop from doing bad things and follow God. Come into the boat!" God closed the big door to protect Noah and his family and all the animals from the rain. Noah and his wife and kids cared for the animals. They gave them food and hay. It started to rain. *(Use storm soundtrack.)*

It rained and rained and rained. There was thunder and lightning. This wasn't like any other storm though. Not only was the rain falling, but the water was coming up from the ground. There were volcanos exploding. Do you get scared in a storm? This was the scariest storm of all. But they didn't have to be afraid. Through that great storm God kept Noah and his wife and his children and their wives and all the animals in the ark safe. The whole world was covered, 20 feet over the highest mountain. And then after 40 days of rain, God stopped the rain from falling from the sky and from coming up from the ground. And after the water had gone down and grass and trees began to grow, Noah and his family and all the animals went outside. God had kept them safe. Just like God kept Noah and his family and all those animals safe, God keeps us safe. He loves us and cares for us. He will do whatever it takes to save us. We are all special to Him. He created us and loves us.

So, when I look at the layers in the rock through the lens of faith *(put on glasses)*, I know that the Bible is real. God really created me. I feel special because God loves me. I feel special because He created me. I feel special because He has a plan and a purpose for my life. If He created this whole world and it is so beautiful, and I know He loves me more than the beautiful nature. I know that I must be so very special in His eyes.

When I look at all of you through these glasses of faith, I see that you are all special. God created you and He loves you very much. You are His treasure. You rock! Let's all say that to each other: "You rock!" Why? Because God made you special. He created you and He loves you.

Wrap-up

That reminds me of our Daily Find: Jesus made me special! I dig it!

Stand up and let's stay that together with the motions. Jesus made me special. *(thumbs up)* I dig it! *(cool pose)*

This reminds me of your Bible verse for the day. Let's say it together: **For I am certain that nothing can separate us from God's love!**

You are special! Have a great time today in Jasper Canyon.

DAY 4—THE STORY OF RUTH



Supplies

- Climbing rope
- Parachute or big blanket
- Ball

Ahead of time

Put the parachute or blanket within easy reach.



Welcome

SAY: Hiya, kids! I love hanging out with all of you. I see you are all getting to know each other, kind of like family.

I want to tell you something! I love rockhounding...I bet you already knew that! But sometimes I like to go by myself with just my hound and my Jeep. But I can remember the most fun I ever had was when I got together with a rockhound crew. We took a road trip together out to Hallelujah Junction, that's in Nevada. It sure was fun! We laughed a lot...we ate a lot!...we rockhounded a lot!

Do you have friends like that who you can't help but just laugh and laugh and laugh with? The best part was just being all together. It felt like family.

Activity: Parachute Game—Don't Drop the Ball

Let's play a game as a family. Everyone hold onto the parachute *(or blanket)*. I'm going to drop a ball in the middle and everyone is going to move the ball around. We need to work together to keep the ball from going out onto the ground.

(Play for just 2 minutes.)

Wasn't it so fun to work together as a family? *(Fold the parachute or blanket up and put it away either under the table or in your tent.)* We laughed together and played together, and now we are going to listen to a Bible story together. Get comfy.

 *(Show Day 4 puppet video.)*

Do you remember the Bedrock Verse for today? First we need to go back to days 1, 2, and 3:

For I am certain *(point to yourself)*



that nothing can separate us *(shake your index finger)*
from God's love. *(heart shape with fingers)*
Neither death nor life, *(jump up and down)*
neither angels nor other heavenly rulers *(fold arms over chest)*
or powers, *(muscle arms pose)*
neither the present nor the future, *(point down then stretch arm out and point)*
neither the world above *(hands shape a circle and raise up)*
nor the world below—*(hands shape a circle and push down)*

And now day 4.

there is nothing in all creation *(spread arms wide apart)*
that will ever be able to separate us *(hug yourself)*
from the love of God *(form a heart shape with your hands and fingers)*
Romans 8:38-39 *(put hands together and then open like opening a Bible)*

Wow! Thank you for saying the whole verse with me! Remember...nothing can separate us from God's love...we are in His family! Before we leave, let's say our Daily Find together. stand up!

Jesus made me in His family. *(hug yourself and/or a neighbor)* I dig it! *(cool pose)*

Wrap-up

I love say that! I dig it! Well, kids, it's time for you to explore more of Jasper Canyon! See you tomorrow! And remember, YOU are in Jesus' family!



Lined area for taking notes.



DAY 2—THE STORY OF ABIGAIL



Supplies

- Rocks (some pre-cut with crystal inside)
• Rock hammer



(Jade/Jaden is sitting down on a camping chair exhausted.)

Welcome

Say: Hiya, kids! Good to see you again. Once again, I am (Jade/Jaden), the expert rockhound. Do you remember what a rockhound does? (Take answers.)

You're right, we find precious gems and minerals. I'm tired because I just got back from a long walk along the stream. I was searching for rocks. Look at the specimens I found!

Let's cut some rocks and see what they look like on the inside. I would love it if I could get some of my specimens into the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Wouldn't that rock! Look at these nice-looking stones. When they look this pretty on the outside I'm hoping for a beautiful gem or crystal inside the rock.

Activity: Crack a Rock

You've got to use some muscle to cut these open! I'd like to have 2 volunteers who think you could crack open a rock. (Have them try to hit a big rock with a rock hammer.) That's harder than it looks, isn't it!

Do you know that it takes to be a rockhound? You've gotta have lots and lots of strength. You've got to be strong! Strong like a diamond. Do you know there's somewhere you can go to find diamonds—raw, uncut, untouched diamonds in their natural state? It's Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas. I traveled there with this trailer and all my gear. There I was, staring at this gorgeous diamond on the ground, glistening in the sun! It was like heaven opened and shone down on me. But there between the diamond and myself was this big brown bear. So, I had to wrestle the bear for the diamond! I stood there and stared that bear down. I snarled and stared and stood as tall as I could and yelled at the top of my lungs. And guess who won that staring contest?! You've got to be strong to be a rockhound.

(Pretend to hit the rock open.) Ah, there we go!

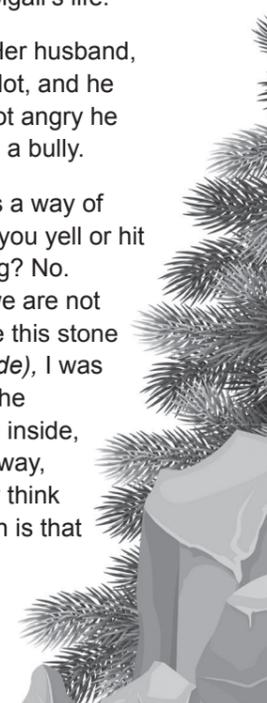


Oh, look at this beautiful stone. (Show the middle of a cut rock.)

Look, here is a crystal. That reminds me of one if the most intelligent and beautiful woman in the Bible. She wasn't just intelligent and beautiful; she was also very strong. In fact, I think she may have been one of the strongest people in the Bible. The Bible doesn't tell us too much about her, and this story is based on what I think happened in Abigail's life.

Abigail was stuck in a bad situation. Her husband, Nabal, was a mean man. He drank a lot, and he would get very angry. And when he got angry he would say or do mean things. He was a bully.

Some people think that being mean is a way of being strong. Do you think that when you yell or hit or say bad words you are being strong? No. The truth is that when we are mean we are not being strong; we are being weak. Like this stone (pick up a rough rock with a plain inside), I was hoping that since it was so rough on the outside maybe it would have a crystal inside, but it was disappointing. In the same way, when we are mean to others, we may think it's a sign of being strong, but the truth is that





it's fake strength. Kind of like finding some fool's gold and being disappointed it's not real. Being mean isn't strength. In fact, it's really weakness. This was what Nabal was like. He was mean; he was rude. Everything set him off. His name means foolish and we are foolish when we are mean to others.

Abigail was the opposite of her husband. She was a precious gem inside and out. She was kind, smart, gentle, and most of all she was strong. She was strong because she didn't use her words to hurt, but to heal. She had love and kindness in her heart and shared it with everyone she saw.

David, soon to be King David, and his men were protecting Nabal's sheep. If anyone tried to steal his sheep or hurt his shepherds, they protected them. So, David sent his men to talk to him to see if Nabal would give them some food and water in return to all they had done for them. They spoke to him very respectfully and kindly asked if he could help them. But Nabal was rude and mean to him. He said, "Who is David? I'm not going to give you anything." David was really upset when he heard about how his men were treated.

What do you do when someone is mean to you? You can be mean back. Or you can treat them with kindness. David decided he was going to hurt him back, so he got all his men together to go fight Nabal and all the people in his home and his servants.

But Abigail knew that's not how we show strength. She had an idea for making peace with everyone, so she got lots of food—200 loaves of bread, five sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, 100 clusters of raisins, 200 cakes of figs, and drink. That's a lot of food! And off she went to go meet David and his men. She sent her servants ahead with the food.

Then Abigail saw David with all his fighting gear on. He and his men were ready to do battle. And Abigail bravely went up to David, bowed down, and said, "Please don't regard Nabal because he is foolish. His name means fool and that is what he is. But I did not see the young men whom you sent. Now please take this food as a gift." She also reminded David that God, the Lord God of Israel, is the one who would fight for David. He would make him king. She showed him that being strong is letting God fight for us instead of fighting for ourselves.

David listened to Abigail. He trusted in God to fight for him and this showed real strength. God defeated Nabal and all David's enemies and made David king. And Abigail became David's wife.

When someone is being mean, sometimes the best thing we can do is get out of that situation. We can also tell our parents or a teacher or another trusted adult when someone is being mean. We can look for safe ways to stand up for ourselves and our friends. Being strong means that when someone is mean we are not mean back, but we choose to be strong by being good and kind. We let God fight our battles. We let Him help us through our parents, teachers, and others helping us. We let God fight for us by loving others and being kind. And when we trust in God to fight for us, we see that His way is better than our way. God always wins! God rocks!

Wrap-up

Remember Daily Find? Stand up and let's say it together. Jesus made me strong. *(put up both arms as if showing off your biceps)* I dig it! *(cool pose)*

This reminds me of our Bedrock Verse. Say it with me! **I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love! Neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers.**

Look how strong you are! In know you are going to have a great time rockhounding in Jasper Canyon.

DAY 3—THE STORY OF SOLOMON



Supplies

- Compass
- Tape or string
- Small rocks
- Topographical map

Ahead of time

Draw a compass on the floor using colored tape.



Welcome

Say: Hiya, kids! I really enjoy your visits! Thank you for coming back. I spend so much by myself searching for rocks that it's a nice break when you are here! You kids rock!

(Hold up a compass.)

Do you know what this is? This is a compass. This is my special compass. This has helped guide me as I travel all over, especially when I hike out in areas without phone service and I need to find my way. What does a compass do? It always points north, no matter what. And because my compass always points north, I can always find my way and never get lost.

Activity: Compass Relay

Can you read a compass? Let's play a game called Compass Relay.

(Have children line up parallel to each other in two teams. Draw a compass on the floor using tape or string—do ahead of time. Only label North. Call out a direction such as West, Northwest, etc. Then one child from each team places a pen or pencil on the compass pointing that way.)

That was fun! I have traveled all over with my trusted compass looking for a stone or gem of value. I haven't found any rock that was really valuable yet.

Hmmm...tell me, what would you do if you found a really, really valuable rock? *(Affirm each answer with a nod or "Yeah, me too!")*

Have you heard of people who get lots of money quickly and lose it all? Yes, there are lots of people who are not wise with their money and make bad choices.

That reminds me...our puppet friends have a story for us! Ready? Get comfy.

 ^{CD}_{DVD} *(Show Day 3 puppet video.)*

Amazing story! Solomon was the wisest man in the world! He was wise and used his wisdom to be kind to other people.

Do you remember the Bedrock Verse for today? We already learned days 1 and day 2...

For I am certain *(point to yourself)*
that nothing can separate us *(shake your index finger)*
from God's love: *(heart shape with fingers)*
Neither death nor life, *(jump up and down)*
neither angels nor other heavenly rulers *(fold arms over chest)*
or powers, *(muscle arms pose)*

Ready for day 3?

neither the present nor the future, *(point down then stretch arm out and point)*
neither the world above *(hands shape a circle and raise up)*
nor the world below—*(hands shape a circle and push down)*
Romans 8:38 *(put hands together and then open like opening a Bible)*

That was really long, but you did it! Let's give our friends a clap of cheer! Hooray!

You know...I've taken in my Jeep on many trips. *(Sit back down in your camping chair and have kids sit down.)* When I drive in my Jeep in search of a new place to go rockhounding, I don't always like to use my GPS or my compass! I like to just follow the signs or my memory. That is not very wise! Because I usually get lost.

God gave Solomon wisdom...that's like being smart and using those smarts to help other people! You know what? He can help you be wise too!

Stand up and let's say our Daily Find together. Jesus made me smart. *(cross left arm across stomach to hold the right elbow; put right hand near face with pointer and middle finger upwards in a thinking pose, eyes off to the side as if thinking)* I dig it! *(cool pose)*

Don't forget the story of Solomon! Be wise, my friends, be wise and kind!

Wrap-up

OK, all you smart kids. Have a great time in Jasper Canyon.

Wow! What an amazing story! We need to tell our parents or a teacher or another trusted adult when someone is being mean. Being strong means that when someone is mean we are not mean back, but we choose to be strong by being good and kind.

We let God fight our battles. We let *Him* help us... through our parents, teachers, and others helping us. We let God fight for us by loving others and being kind. And when we trust in God to fight for us, we see that His way is better than our way. God always wins! God rocks!

Let's say our Daily Find. Stand up!

Jesus made me strong! (*put up both arms as if showing off your biceps*) I dig it! (*cool pose*)

Wrap-up

Look how strong you are! In know you are going to have a great time rockhounding in Jasper Canyon.

DAY 3—THE STORY OF SOLOMON



Supplies

- Compass
- Tape or string
- Pen or pencil
- Topographical map (not provided)



Welcome

Say: Hiya, kids! You all are here to visit me again. I spend so much time in the silence and beauty of nature that I like your visits. You kids rock!

(Hold up a compass.)

Do you know what this is? This is a compass. This is my special compass. This has helped guide me as I travel all over, especially when I hike out in areas without phone service and I need to find my way. What does a compass do? It always points north, no matter what. And because my compass always points north, I can always find my way and never get lost.

Activity: Compass Relay

Can you read a compass? Let's play a game called Compass Relay.

(Have children line up parallel to each other in two teams. Draw a compass on the floor using tape or string—do ahead of time. Only label North. Call out a direction such as West, Northwest, etc. Then one child from each team places a pen or pencil on the compass pointing that way.)

I have traveled all over with my trusty compass looking for a stone or gem of value. I would love to hit the motherlode and get rich. You know why I think God hasn't blessed me with finding a rare valuable gem or mineral? Probably because I couldn't handle it. I would probably waste all of it on trips to see rocks around the world, books on rocks, storage units to hold my rocks, and tools for rockhounding. I'd probably buy a new car and trailer too.

Tell me, what would you do if you hit the motherlode and got rich quick? What would you buy? Would you travel? Would you buy big toys? *(Take some answers from the kids.)*

Have you heard of people who get lots of money quickly and lose it all? Do you know there are superstars who are broke or in debt? And people who win the lottery but spend all of it quickly? So many people wish they had money but sometimes I think that suddenly receiving a large amount of money can create problems in your life. It won't necessarily make you happy.

God came to Solomon when he first became king and asked him what he wanted (1 Chronicles 1:7). He could have asked for all the money and toys and stuff he wanted. He could have asked to be really popular and have everyone love him. He could've asked for talent and charm or good looks. But instead of all of that he asked God for wisdom. He asked God to make him super smart. He asked God to be able to lead the people well.

And do you know what God did? Not only did He answer Solomon's prayer for wisdom and make him really smart, but much more. God said, "Wisdom and knowledge *are* granted to you; and I will give you riches and wealth and honor, such as none of the kings have had who *were* before you, nor shall any after you have the like" (2 Chronicles 1:12).

So not only did God answer Solomon's prayer and make him really smart, but He also made him rich and popular. But not because he wanted to have money or stuff or have everyone like him, but because he asked God to help him lead the people by making him really wise.

I think all of us wish we could be more popular and have more money and be more important in this world. But people who have all those may not be happier. Do you know what makes us really happy? Having God in our lives. Seeking God first.

The Bible says that if we seek God first and His kingdom, God will take care of us. God will meet our needs when we choose to love Him and know Him above anything else. That's what Smart Solomon did. That's what made him so smart.

(Pull out the compass.)

Tell me, what would happen if my compass didn't always point North? What would happen if it sometimes pointed South or West or East? I would get horribly lost, wouldn't I?



When we go our own way, we get lost in this life. But when we follow God, we know that we will never lose our way. God is like this compass. He is always faithful. He always points us the right way. If we follow popularity or riches or stuff, we will be miserable and lost. But if we follow God, He always guides us the right way and He will bless us with what we need and maybe even what we want. And many times, He even changes our desires.

People came from far and wide to hear Solomon's wise sayings. There's even a book, the book of Proverbs, or wise sayings, full of things Solomon said. Did he study? I'm sure he did. Did he have a really high IQ? Probably, but that's not where he got his smarts from. He got his wisdom from God. He was wise because He prayed to God. And that wisdom is available to all of us too. When we pray to God, He guides us. All of us are smart because God created us with the ability to think and learn and tell right from wrong. But we can all do some silly things when we try to go our own way.

When I drive in my Jeep in search of a new place to go rockhounding, I don't always like to use my GPS or my compass. I like to just follow the signs or my memory. But the funny thing is I often get lost and take the scenic route. We always get lost when we go our own way and all of us get lost once in a while. Even I get lost choosing to go my own way! But God will always bring us back home again when we ask Him to be our compass and guide us once again.

Another tool that comes handy is my topographical map. *(Show map to kids.)*

The map is kind of like the Bible. When we open the Bible and read the wisdom God has in there, the words are powerful because God speaks to us through them. He guides us in this way.

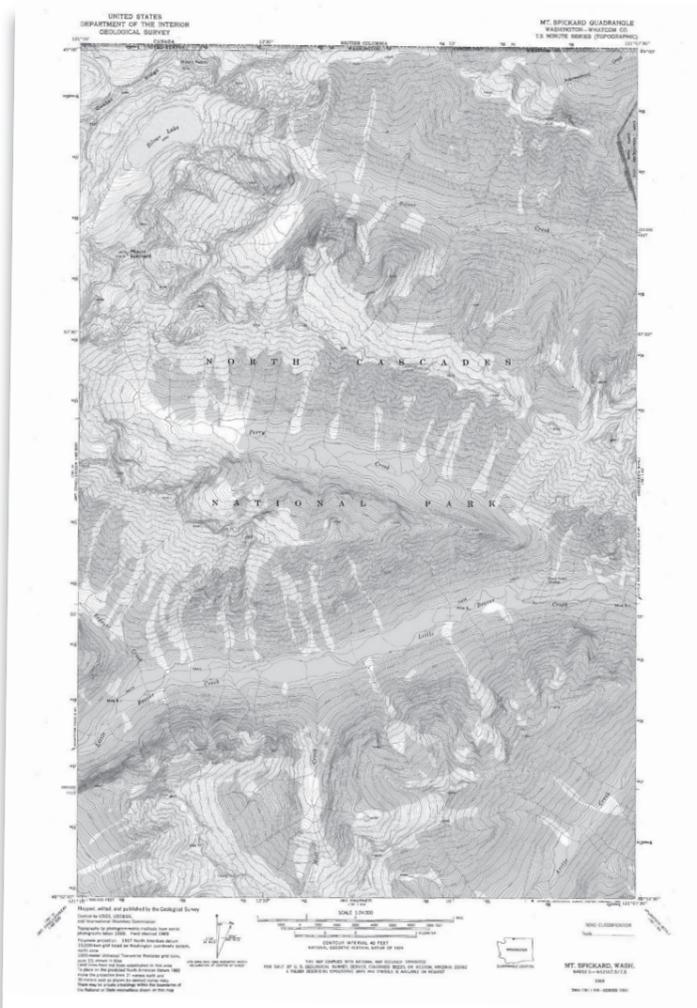
If you want to be smart like Solomon, and if you want God to guide you, I invite you to open the Bible, which is our map. Pray like Solomon did. And allow God to guide you. When you get lost, look at the map He gave us in the Bible. Spend time talking to Him in prayer. And God will be your compass to lead you back home to Him.

Wrap-up

You are all so smart you probably know what we are going to do next. That's right! Stand up and we'll say our Daily Find together. Jesus made me smart. *(cross left arm across stomach to hold the right elbow; put right hand near face with pointer and middle finger upwards in a thinking pose, eyes off to the side as if thinking)* I dig it! *(cool pose)*

Now let's say our Bedrock Verse together! **For I am certain that nothing can separate us from God's love; neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below.**

OK, all you smart kids. Have a great time in Jasper Canyon.



DAY 2—THE STORY OF ABIGAIL



Supplies

- Rocks (some pre-cut with crystal inside)
- Rock hammer

Ahead of Time

Display several geode rocks on the table and a hammer.



(Jade/Jaden is sitting down on a camping chair exhausted.)

Welcome

SAY: Hiya, kids! Good to see you again. Once again, I am *(Jade/Jaden)*, the expert rockhound. Do you remember what a rockhound does? *(Take answers.)*

You're right, we find precious gems and minerals. I'm tired because I just got back from a long walk along the stream. I was searching for rocks. Look at the specimens I found!

Let's cut some rocks and see what they look like on the inside. I would love it if I could get some of my specimens into the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Wouldn't that rock! Look at these nice-looking stones. When they look this pretty on the outside I'm hoping for a beautiful gem or crystal inside the rock.

Activity: Crack a Rock

You've got to use some muscle to cut these open! I'd like to have 2 volunteers who think you could crack open a rock. *(Have them try to hit a big rock with a rock hammer.)* That's harder than it looks, isn't it!

Do you know that it takes to be a rockhound? You've gotta have lots and lots of strength. You've got to be strong! Strong like a diamond.

Do you know there's somewhere you can go to find diamonds—raw, uncut, untouched diamonds in their natural state? It's Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas. I traveled there with this trailer and all my gear. There I was, staring at this gorgeous diamond on the ground, glistening in the sun! It was like heaven opened and shone down on me.

But there between the diamond and myself was this big brown bear. So, I had to wrestle the bear for the

diamond! I stood there and stared that bear down. I snarled and stared and stood as tall as I could and yelled at the top of my lungs. And guess who won that staring contest?! You've got to be strong to be a rockhound.



Do you remember the Bedrock Verse we learned yesterday?

For I am certain *(point to yourself)* that nothing can separate us *(shake your index finger)* from God's love: *(heart shape with fingers)*

Now let's add today's part to yesterday's part! Neither death nor life, *(jump up and down)* neither angels nor other heavenly rulers *(fold arms over chest)* or powers, *(muscle arms pose)* Romans 8:38 *(put hands together and then open like opening a Bible)*

Talking about power...let me show you the inside of this rock.

(Pretend to hit the rock open.) Ah, there we go!

Oh, look at this beautiful stone! *(Show the middle of a cut rock.)*

Look, here is a crystal. That reminds me of one if the most intelligent and beautiful woman in the Bible. She wasn't just intelligent and beautiful; she was also very strong. In fact, I think she may have been one of the strongest people in the Bible. The Bible doesn't tell us too much about her, and this story is based on what I think happened in Abigail's life.

Some people think that being mean is a way of being strong. Do you think that when you yell or hit or say bad words you are being strong? No. The truth is that when we are mean we are not being strong at all!

Our Bible story puppets are ready to tell us the story of Abigail and her predicament!

CD DVD *(Show Day 2 puppet video.)*

We have some special guests with us that are going to tell us the story from the very beginning!

 (Show Day 1 puppet video.)

Wow! What great storytellers! God created this whole world, and it is so beautiful, and I know He loves me even more than the beautiful nature. I know that I must be so very special in His eyes.

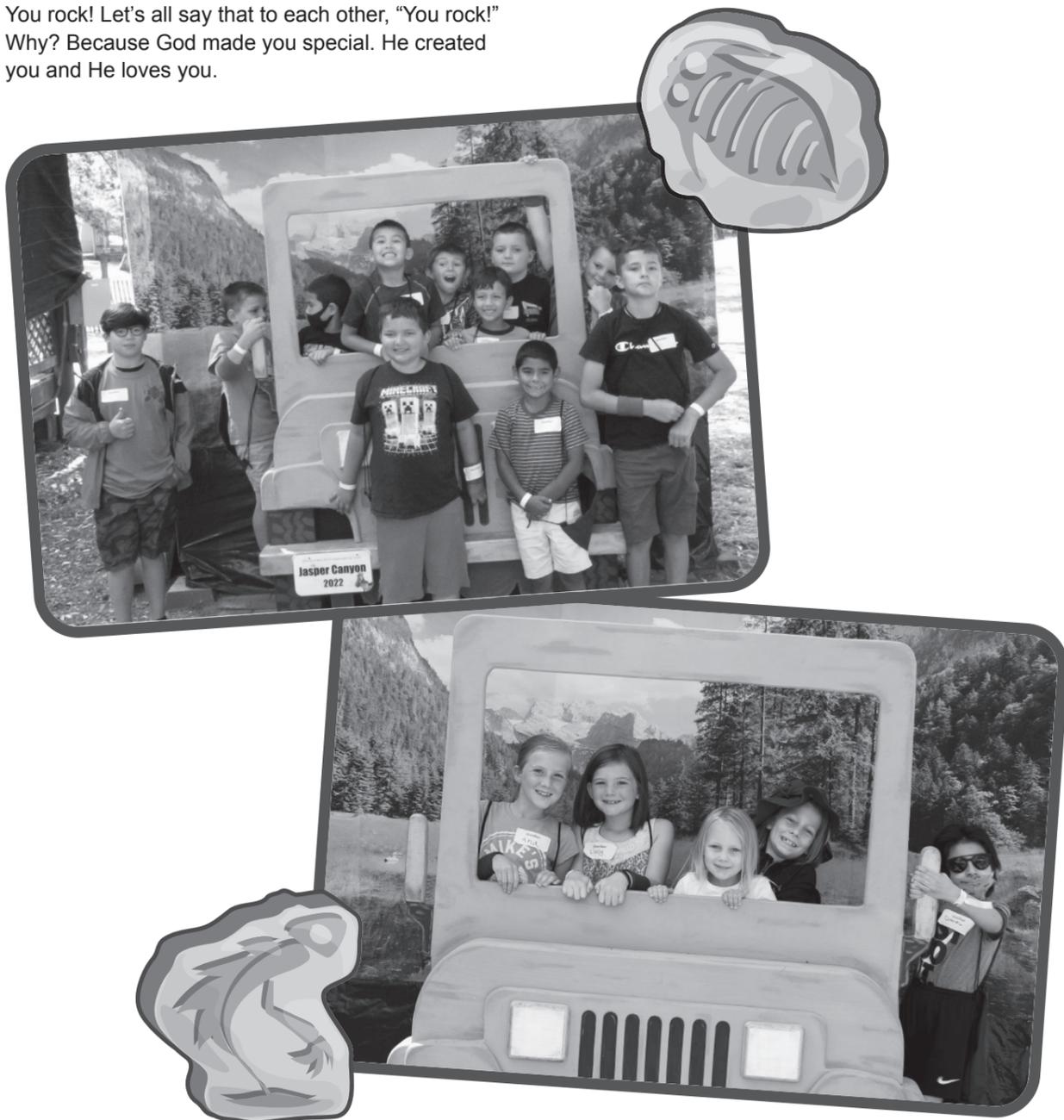
When I look at all of you through these glasses of faith, I see that you are all special. God created you and He loves you very much. You are His treasure. You rock! Let's all say that to each other, "You rock!" Why? Because God made you special. He created you and He loves you.

That reminds me of our Daily Find!

Stand up and let's stay that together with the motions. Jesus made me special. (*thumbs up*) I dig it! (*cool pose*)

Wrap-up

You are special! Have a great time today in Jasper Canyon.



DAY 4—THE STORY OF RUTH



Supplies

- Climbing rope
- Parachute
- Ball



Welcome

Say: Hiya, kids! I love hanging out with all of you. I see you are all getting to know each other, kind of like family.

I love rockhounding by myself with my hound and my Jeep. But I can remember the most fun I ever had was when I got together with a rockhound crew. We took a road trip together out to Hallelujah Junction, Nevada. There was Billy, he's the goofy one. Jamie is the quiet photographer. Then there was Jessie, she's the adventurous one who kept us climbing up the next peak. Then there was my best friend, Amanda. We've been best friends since we were little, and she only has to say one word that reminds me of a funny story and we start busting out in laughter and laugh and laugh until our sides hurt.

Do you have a friend like that who you can't help but just laugh and laugh and laugh with? All five of us and my hound went hunting for crystals and boy did we find some great specimens! But you know what the best part was? Being all together. It felt like family. And I have to say we were much safer that way.

(Hold up the rock climbing rope.)

In fact, we had to use this rope to help save Jessie. Jessie was climbing up the side of a boulder ahead of us and got stuck in a dangerous place. She was out on a ledge holding on for dear life. When we caught up to her we suddenly all worked together as a team. Jamie passed us the rope, carabiners, and belay device. Billy quickly did the knot. We all worked together to help pull her up to safety.

Activity: Parachute Game— Don't Drop the Ball

Let's play a game as a family. Everyone hold the parachute. I'm going to drop a ball in the middle and everyone is going to move the ball around. We



need to work together to keep the ball from going out onto the ground.

(Play 2 rounds.)

Wasn't it so fun to work together as a family? Laughing together, playing together, learning together.

That reminds me of a story in the Bible about family. There was a young woman in the Bible named Ruth. She married into a family. Ruth and Orpah became sisters because they married these two young men named Mahlon and Kilion. Their parents' names were Naomi and Elimelek.

We don't know if Ruth had parents or brothers and sisters of her own. But when she married her husband, his family became her family. Naomi and Elimelek were like her very own parents. Orpah, Mahlon, and Kilion were her sister, brother, and husband. And she got to know God, our Creator who rescues His people.

But then something really sad happened. Her father-in-law, Elimelek, died, and 10 years later her husband and brother-in-law also died. Family doesn't only share fun and laughter and joy, but sometimes we also go through hard times and cry together. That's what Ruth, Orpah, and Naomi found out.

But this isn't the end of their story. This was just the beginning because God comforts us when we go through hard times. And God also heals and makes things better in time. God had a plan for them to have a family again.

In those days when a woman's husband died, she would go back to her home to live with her

parents until she could marry again. This is what Orpah did. But Ruth didn't want to leave. She loved Naomi like she was her own mother, so she clung to her. She held onto her and didn't let go. She told Naomi, "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her.

So, on they went to Bethlehem, the place where Jesus would be born many years later. All of Naomi's friends and family members were happy to see her again but she was very sad. She told them to call her Mara, meaning bitter.

Have you ever been really, really sad? Maybe when your pet died or when someone hurt your feelings? When you feel all alone? Do you know who is there with us when we are alone? God. And God sends other people to be there for us too, like family and friends. When Naomi was really sad, God gave her Ruth. They helped each other feel better again.

What do you do to help a friend or family member feel better when they're sad? *(Take some answers.)* I'm sure Ruth did many of these things. The days went by and each day they felt a little bit better. And God did something else. God brought them another person to be their family. His name was Boaz. Ruth met Boaz and Boaz helped Ruth and Naomi. He let Ruth pick up grain from his fields so she could have food for herself and Naomi. He was very kind to her.

He was her Kinsman-Redeemer. That means he was the one who rescued Ruth and Naomi when they were in trouble. When they were hungry, he helped feed them. When they needed help, he was there for them. And pretty soon, Boaz and Ruth fell in love, got married, and had a son. Naomi and Ruth had a family again. In fact, Ruth and Boaz's son, Obed, was the grandfather of King David, and they were all ancestors of Jesus. Jesus is our Redeemer. He is our helper. When we are in trouble, He rescues us.

Just like when Jessie was in trouble and we all helped pull her to safety. Just like when Ruth and Naomi needed help, Boaz helped provide food and friendship for them. Jesus cares for us. When we are sad, He is a shoulder to cry on. No matter what we are going through, Jesus is there for us. He is our brother. God is our father. He uses our family to show us what love is like.

But families are made of people and sometimes we let each other down. God will never let us down. He will always be there for us. He always loves us. He always helps us. Have you accepted Jesus? Is Jesus your brother, your best friend? He gave everything to you. He gave His life for you to show you how much He loves you. If you have never told Jesus that you love Him too and want Him to be your best friend, your brother, your everything, then join with me in praying right now.

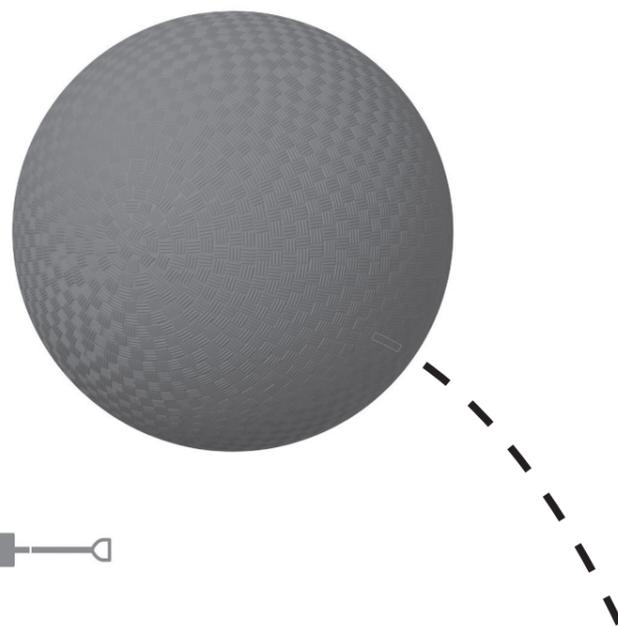
Dear Jesus, thank You for always being there for me in the good times and in the hard times. Thank You for laughing with me and for crying with me. You have always been there. Thank You for Your death on the cross to show me how much You love me. Thank You for rescuing me from sin and death. I choose to open my life up to You right now. Please be my best friend. Be my big brother. Be my family. I love You, Jesus. Amen.

Wrap-up

I'm so glad that I can be part of Jesus' family, aren't you? Let's say our Daily Find together, stand up! Jesus made me in His family. *(hug yourself and/or a neighbor)* I dig it! *(cool pose)*

Next let's say our Bedrock Verse Together! **For I am certain that nothing can separate us from God's love; neither death nor life, neither angels or other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below. There is NOTHING in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God.**

Remember, Jesus is in your family!



DAY 1—THE STORY OF THE FLOOD

Welcome

Hiya, kids! I'm *(Jade/ Jaden)* and I am a rockhound. Does anyone know what a rockhound is? *(Take some answers.)*

A rockhound is someone who looks for precious gems, rocks, or minerals. A serious rockhound carries a rock hammer and chisel on their belts *(show kids the items)*. A serious rockhound collects specimens *(point to rocks)*. You've gotta know the difference between a quartz and an agate. If you're a really serious rockhound, like really committed to finding precious rocks, gems, and minerals, you live in an RV or trailer like I do. I travel all across the country and have been all around the world hunting for beautiful rocks. In fact, I've got rocks coming out of my ears!

(Trailer seems to tip over from the heaviness—use a volunteer to come behind and push the back of the trailer backdrop.)

Woah! What's so heavy in there? What do you think I've got in there, a bunch of rocks?! *(Chuckle at joke.)*

But I love my rocks. I use them for paperweights, for tools, for decor. And one day I am going to find something incredible and enter into the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

This is my first day here in Jasper Canyon and I'm so excited to explore! I am all ready to go. I have my boots, my hat, my trusty backpack with all my gear in it, and my favorite pair of sunglasses.

Activity: Look Through Funny Glasses with Different Colors or Shapes

I have to wear these sunglasses so I can see in the canyon where it's really sunny. In fact, I have some glasses for you to try on! *(Get one or two volunteers to pass them out to all the kids.)*

When you look through these glasses does it change how you see things? What do you see when you look through your glasses? *(Take some answers.)*

I spent all day today enjoying Jasper Canyon. It's really nice to get out of the city. You don't need to find any rocks; you can find beauty. When I get out into nature, I feel alive. I feel at peace. Everything

seems right with the world. Do you like to go camping? Or out to the park? I love nature. I spent the day exploring Jasper Canyon—looking for rocks. *(Pick up a rock and look at it.)*

When I look at the canyon, I just know that God is real and working in this world. It's kind of like putting on glasses. *(Put on colored glasses.)*

I see the world through eyes of faith. When I look at this canyon, I see evidence of creation. I see proof that the Bible is real. *(Take off glasses.)*

You see the layers on the rock? Those are called layers of sedimentation. Those layers formed from the intense heat and pressure of volcanos. Do you see the layers of sandstone in the canyon? Those formed from water flowing over sand. And then there are fossils. *(Show a fossil.)*

There would have to be a lot of water covering ocean animals and plant life all of a sudden to make so many fossils. How did that happen?

I'll tell you how...God created the world good. God made the first man and woman named Adam and Eve. He formed them from ground and breathed life into them. Do you know that God formed you too? The Bible says He forms us as little tiny babies in our mommy's stomach. You are created by God. You are special. *(Put on colored glasses.)*

This is a good time to say our Bedrock Verse! Today is the first day and the verse is short but we will be adding to it every day! Say it after me and follow my motions:

For I am certain *(point to yourself)*
that nothing can separate us *(shake your index finger)*
from God's love: *(heart shape with fingers)*
Romans 8:38 *(put hands together and then open like opening a Bible)*



WELCOME TO THE GEMSTONE MINE!

This is the Bible story station where the kids will hear Bible stories about their value and worth as God's treasures.

The storyteller named Jade (or male Jaden) is a serious rockhound who travels the country in her or his Jeep and trailer looking for rock specimens. Each day the rockhound shows the kids one of the tools as she or he goes out to find rocks and minerals. The rockhound also shares stories of places visited and rocks and minerals found. Jade (or Jaden) is independent and loves the outdoors. She or he is a person with deep convictions and a strong faith in God.

What the Bible Story Station Leader Should Wear

- Broad rim sun hat
- Colorful or striped shirt
- Jeans or hiking pants
- Hiking boots/rubber boots

Decorating

This station is set up like a campsite at the Gemstone Mine. A large cardboard Jeep and attached trailer are "parked" along the back wall of your room or corner. You can create the Jeep and trailer yourself by purchasing large sheets of cardboard and painting them or you can purchase a cardboard stand-up Jeep from Oriental Trading Company. A picnic table or small folding table and camp chair sit in front of the Jeep and trailer. Set a picnic basket on the table along with the tools for the week. Display a variety of stones, gems, or minerals. Start with just a few rocks and put more and more on the table each day as the week progresses.

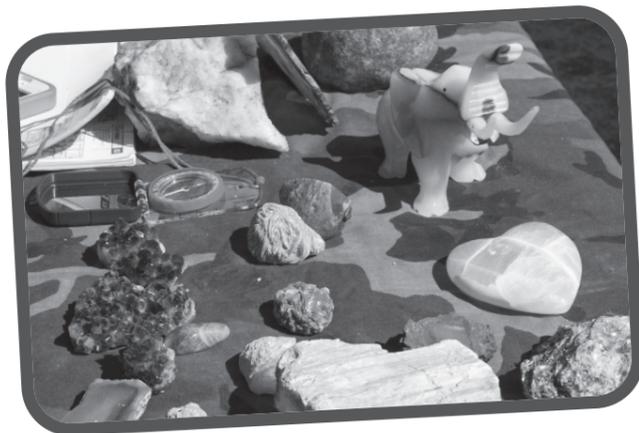
Supplies for the Week

- Backpack
- Sunglasses
- Rock hammer
- Compass
- Topographical map
- Climbing rope
- Chisel
- Puppet video
- A/V equipment for showing puppet video
- Cardboard Jeep and tent (or camper/trailer)
- Amazon.com: canyon backdrop showing layers in rock wall Orientaltrading.com: sunglasses for kids Orientaltrading.com: Break-Your-Own Geodes Per Dozen #9/535Sanitizer to clean glasses after each group
- Dollar Tree or party store: funny glasses with different colors or shapes
- Dollar Tree or discount store: toy hammers
- Dollar Tree or discount store: toy saws
- Stuffed animals (zoo or safari animals)
- Storm soundtrack

Ahead of Time

Read the manual all the way through to get a feel for the character and what to expect with the supplies.

Organize your rocks and tools on a table or floor close to where you will be presenting.



DAY 5—THE STORY OF ELIJAH

Supplies

- Chisel
- Rock Hammer
- Large rock
- Crystal
- Optional: a geode for each child to keep

Welcome

Say: Hiya, Kids! Do you know what this is? (*Hold up chisel and take answers.*) It's a chisel. What does a rockhound do with a chisel? We use it to pry rocks open so we can see what's on the inside.

Activity: Finding Crystals

I've brought this really big rock in with me. We're going to try to break off a piece with this chisel. See here where the line is? That part is weak. We're going to put the chisel in that crack and hammer away and break it off.

(*Pretend to chisel the big rock. Have a crystal hidden to show the kids. Pretend it was inside the rock.*)

There we go! We broke the rock off. Now, look what was inside. It's a beautiful crystal. God has put eternity in our hearts. Do you know what that means? We live our lives here in this world, but that's not everything God has planned for us. He created us to live forever.

Tell me, what is the most fun thing you remember doing? (*Take answers from kids.*)

Do you know that heaven is going to be more fun than any of these things? It's not going to be boring; it's going to be so much fun. And it's going to be amazing because Jesus will be there with us. God made us to live forever with Him.

This world is like this big ugly rock. Life with God is like this crystal. We don't need to wait for God to come to have this everlasting life, this great life with Jesus. We can experience it right now.

(*Point to the rock.*)

I don't want this ugly life with sin and sadness and brokenness and all the bad things.

(*Point to the crystal.*)

I want to experience the joy, peace, meaning, and beauty of Jesus with me right now. I want to experience heaven now. I want to sing songs about Jesus and feel Him with me. I want to share His love with others and know the joy God made me to feel when I bring happiness in someone else's life. I want to read the Bible and know God's love for me.

Do you know that some people were so close to God that He took them to heaven with Him? Can you guess who those people were? (*Take answers.*) Enoch—yes. The Bible said Enoch walked with God. Moses—yes. God raised Moses up and took him to heaven early. There was someone else. His name was Elijah.

Elijah had a disciple, which was like an apprentice. His name was Elisha. Elijah knew that God was going to take Elijah to heaven, and he told him that. But Elisha didn't want Elijah to go. He loved Elijah. He wanted Elijah to stay with him longer and teach him more about God. Elijah told Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the Lord has sent me on to Bethel." But Elisha said, "I will not leave you!" So, they went down to Bethel together (2 Kings 2:1,2). Two more times Elijah told Elisha to stay behind, but he would not leave him.

Then they reached the Jordan River and Elijah took his coat, rolled it up, and struck the water. The water was divided this way and that, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground. Do you know that God can work miracles?! He parted the Red Sea for Moses and the Israelites. He parted the Jordan River for Joshua and the Israelites. And now He did the same thing for Elijah. God can do amazing things.

Wouldn't you love to see a miracle of God? Do you know that the greatest miracle God does today is that He changes our hearts? He takes that sadness and bitterness and anger and all the ugly things we say and do, and He replaces that ugly heart with a clean, good heart. He turns us from mean to kind, gentle, and good. He changes us from selfish to loving and caring. He changes



us from wanting our own way to wanting God's way and His will for our lives.

God still works miracles and the miracle of changing hearts and lives is the greatest miracle of all.

Elijah asked Elisha a very important question. It was a lot like the question God asked Solomon. He asked Elisha: "What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" There were a lot of things Elisha could've asked for, but he asked for something really special. Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

Elijah said that if he was there when Elijah was taken up to heaven, Elisha would have what he asked for. As they continued on and talked, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire. It separated the two of them, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha cried out, but he could no longer see Elijah. He picked up Elijah's coat and went back to the bank of the river. He struck the water and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" Once again, the water was divided this way and that, and Elisha crossed over.

And when the people saw the miracle God did through Elisha, they knew that God had given him the same power God had given Elijah to show others that God could do amazing things if they trusted in Him.

Do you know that they sent 50 people to look for Elijah? They couldn't find him because God had taken him to heaven!

Would you like to know Jesus so well that you get to go to heaven with Him? The Bible says if we know Jesus, if He's our very best friend, He will take us to heaven, and we will live with Him forever. We don't have to wait for Him to come get us. That forever can start right now!

Do you know that God uses a chisel on each one of us? He chisels off the ugly rock on the outside and makes us into a beautiful crystal so we can shine for Him. He makes us into His beautiful masterpiece. That starts when we invite Jesus into our hearts to be our very best friend. It happens every day we choose God's way over our way. It happens when we choose to spend time with Jesus instead of wasting time doing things that don't matter. And Jesus brings that joy and peace and love into our hearts.

Then when He comes, we will know His voice because we have heard it all our lives. We will recognize His face because we have spent lots of time with Him. We will know Jesus because He is the One we have known every day. Do you want to be with Jesus forever? Your forever can start now! Do you want Jesus to chisel away at the outside and change your heart? Jesus made you for more than this. He made you for forever.

Wrap-up

It's our last day and I'm so sad that VBS is ending. And I am so happy that we can choose Jesus' way and live in heaven with Him. Let's stand up and say our Daily Find. Jesus made me to live with Him forever. *(hold both arms up with your pointers out and rotate arms in a big circle)* I dig it! *(cool pose)*

Now let's say our Bedrock Verse together! **I am certain that nothing can separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above or the world below, there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Have a great day in Jasper Canyon!



BIBLE STORIES WITH PUPPET VIDEOS

