

# STAYCATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020

Introduction for families



**Feet that  
follow:**

**"Awesome are YOUR  
feet! They carry God's  
love wherever you go!"**

The Presbyterian  
**OUTLOOK**



≡ STAYCATION BIBLE SCHOOL ≡  
Feet that follow  
**PREPARE FOR THE JOURNEY**

A guide  
for families  
to set up  
at home

**Hello fellow travelers!**

This summer we are going on an exciting journey! Are you ready to travel with Jesus and explore what it means to share God's love wherever you go (even if it is at home)? Each day you will explore a place where Jesus once traveled. We plan to visit a lake, a boat, a quiet place, an upper room and the world. During each journey you will hear a story about Jesus, reflect on the theme of the day and take several "excursions" where you will explore the story through arts, crafts, science and games. There will be a rest stop and time to stretch your legs! And every trip needs some car tunes!

Before you take a trip you need to prepare and pack your bags. Take some time before your start date to prepare for your trip.

**Read through the materials provided by your church.** Make sure you have the supplies you need for the week. The goal of this curriculum is flexibility and creativity. If you don't have a specific supply, use what you have.

Some of the materials provide options to do throughout the week. Take a look at those materials and choose which ideas excite you.

**Choose a travel buddy** to share what you learn with each day (more info below).

**Create your Flat Jesus** (instructions below).

**Find a favorite Bible and/or Story Bible.** You can also find lots of Bible stories and images online.

**Decide how you are going to listen to music.** There is a provided list of song suggestions and places you can find music and dances online. We've created a Spotify playlist that you can listen to if you download the free app on your computer, phone or tablet.

**Set up a space.** Find a space to hang materials or decorate with your art work. This is your Staycation Bible School space. Make it a space that feels set apart and holy.

## What is a travel buddy?

Everyone loves to have a travel companion! Each day there will be an opportunity to reach out beyond your family group and connect with someone virtually. This could be a grandparent who lives somewhere else (or who you are unable to see at this time). It could another family or small group at the church that you'll connect with. Or it could be a member of the church (I am thinking of all those amazing VBS volunteers who might not feel like they can volunteer this year, but are willing to learn Zoom or FaceTime — or would like a good old-fashioned phone call). Who would your family like to connect with this week? Each day there will be a section of the curriculum devoted to connecting with your travel buddy.

## What is Flat Jesus?

Has your child participated in the Flat Stanley Project? You can read more about the Flat Stanley project here ([flatstanleyproject.com](http://flatstanleyproject.com)). The premise is that children create their own personal Flat Stanley and then send him to family and friends. The family and friends send pictures back of where Flat Stanley traveled. Over the last few years, churches have embraced this idea and created their own version of the project. I have seen Flat Jesus, Flat Church, Flat Pastors and even Flat Paul! Churches have used these "Flat" people to visualize the church traveling throughout the world.

Flat Jesus will be our guide this week! To prepare for your journey you will need a Flat Jesus. If you are doing this with your church, check to see if they have decided how you might create your Flat Jesus. If you are doing this on your own, there are ideas in the church leader preparation materials.

On Day 1 you are encouraged to share a Flat Jesus with your travel buddy. You can send your travel buddy a picture, mail them a Flat Jesus ahead of time or encourage them to create their own.

## Create a journal

On day 1 you are encouraged to create a journal. You will use this journal to keep pictures of your journey with Flat Jesus and what you explore together. Think about how you might want to create this journal. It can be as simple as typing paper and construction paper, or you could use a notebook or drawing pad. Be prepared to add some pictures to the journal. You can either take them on your phone/camera and print them, or have your children create drawings.

## HOW IS THIS ORGANIZED AND WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES?



### Our journey begins

Use this opening time to focus your day with a moment of prayer and devotion, and then explore the main theme and catch phrase of the day. There is usually a game to play together that is related to the theme. There are six coloring sheets that go with this opening time. They include the theme Bible verse and the daily catch phrases.



### Learning along the way

This is the Bible exploration time. If you can, use a children's Bible or Story Bible.



### Energizers!

Presbyterians love a good energizer. Each lesson has several options of YouTube energizers or dances. You can choose your own. Each day we share a few that are theme related. Find the suggested ones at [pres-outlook.org/energizers](http://pres-outlook.org/energizers).



### Side trips and excursions

All trips need a few side trips to explore some interesting places. Your side trips will be arts and crafts, science and discovery, and games and playtime. Your "Flat Jesus" challenge will be in the games and activity excursion each day.



Arts and crafts



Science and discovery



Games and playtime



## Rest stop

Snack time. Each day we suggest a simple snack idea.



## Where in the world is Flat Jesus?

Each day you will have an opportunity to explore areas where the Presbyterian Church is doing mission in the world. Each day your family will explore different mission workers and get a chance to learn about the work they are doing, and about the places they are serving. We will also explore some of our mission organizations, like Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



## Make Your Mark

How will we leave our footprint in the world? Each day a family will choose an activity that leaves a mark of God's love in your community (and beyond). Check to see if your church is recommending a specific all-church activity. We have provided a "Make Your Mark" Bingo sheet with ideas. Feel free to include some of your own ideas that are related to your area and context.



## Travel buddy time

Connect each day with a family travel buddy.



## Car tunes

A list of suggested songs related to the theme. You can find them all at [pres-outlook.org/cartunes](https://pres-outlook.org/cartunes).

- **Option:** Download the free Spotify app to your phone or tablet, tap "search" and scan the code in the lessons to bring up the Staycation Bible School playlist.



## Our journey comes to a close

A time to "officially" close your day with a time of reflection and prayer.

## HOW IN THE WORLD DO I STRUCTURE MY DAY?

I can't say this enough: **Flexibility is the key!** Decide what works for your family. You will begin and end with a time of lighting a candle, sharing together and praying together. You can choose the rest of your Staycation Bible School schedule. Do a little in the morning and a little after lunch? Learn in the morning and play and explore in the afternoon? Or, here is a recommended sequence:

### Sequence 1

Our journey begins (15 minutes)  
 Learning along the way (20 minutes)  
 Break  
 Excursions (20-30 minutes)  
 Rest stop (Take as much time as you need)  
 Excursions (20-30 minutes)  
 Where in the world is Flat Jesus? (15 minutes)  
 Make your mark (20 minutes)  
 Our journey comes to a close (10 minutes)

### Sequence 2

Our journey begins (15 minutes)  
 Learning along the way (20 minutes)  
 Break  
 Where in the world is Flat Jesus? (15 minutes)  
 Make your mark (20 minutes)  
 Rest stop (Take as much time as you need)  
 Excursions (As much time as you need)  
 Our journey comes to a close

Notice that time to connect with your travel buddy is not included. You will find the best time to do that based on your schedule.

## Responding to the story

Each day there will be a way for your family to respond to the Bible story through play, drama or art. You know what your children like the most, so choose a way that works for you. A few years ago I did a "Bible and bricks" class with my elementary classes and they loved hearing a story and then being free to create the story with Legos. Each day you have a choice to build, act or create the story as a response to what you heard. Use what you have at home — favorite stuffed animals can be "characters" in a play and Fisher Price people can fish off a Lego boat. Get creative. This has become a time of creativity and using what we have. Let your children play and respond to God's word using their imagination.

**Are you ready for the journey?** Remember, have fun! Be flexible! Encourage creativity as you learn. Have fun "traveling" with Jesus and your children as you learn about how you can share God's love — even when you are sticking close to home!

I am praying for your journey! **Have fun!**

*Kelly Kaufman*