5. Decorate!

Decorating Basics

Decorating creates an exciting environment for children to learn in. Decorate as little or as much as you want to communicate the *Tell It on the Mountain* theme and its message.

This year’s theme is *Tell it on the Mountain*, and the key point is “the One True God.” Decorate for this mountaintop, take-your-breath away theme with mountain summits, clouds, mountain goats, rock walls, and ROCKS galore!

The *Director CD* has PDFs of decorating resources, line art of theme/backdrop images, site signs, and clip art, and other resources that make decorating a fun and easy task! *Decorating Videos* that show decorating sets and objects being made are on the *Program Overview DVD* and at vbs.cph.org. *Leader CDs* also include clip art and line art in their “Decorating Resources” folder. Other VBS leaders will post great ideas they’ve used on our Facebook page, *ConcordiaVBS*.

Use Storytelling set pieces to put the Bible stories of God’s power and grace front and center in the visual space of your VBS.

**Cliffhanger Cue**

The 2013 VBS Catalog has many decorating resources to help you, including HUGE Decorating Posters. Among our favorites are the Mounting Tabs and the Hanger Pole and Hooks!

Recruit a Decorating Crew

- Recruit a Decorating Committee to transform your space.
- List the names and contact information of decorating volunteers on the *Decorating Committee Form* on the *Director CD*.
- Recruit a Decorating Coordinator. Use the job description on the *Director CD*.
- Let the coordinator recruit helpers to plan and do decorating.
- Involve people in decorating who can’t help during VBS.
- Ask congregation members with artistic talents to volunteer.
- Ask youth to create decorations and set up.
- Look outside the usual choices of volunteers for fresh, new people and ideas.
- Recruit helpers to move furniture on the day before VBS.

Assess Your Space

One of the decorator’s first tasks is to take a critical look at the facility. Is it inviting and appropriate for children? Every site has challenges, but you can transform yours into a welcoming place for children and parents.

- **First things first: Jesus is central.** Use decorations as a backdrop to enhance the environment and teach the truth about Jesus Christ. Seek ways to visually point children to Jesus, their Savior. Decorate with Storytelling Summit areas in mind to embed the visuals of the daily Bible stories in your decorations.
- **Clean up.** Move out or hide excess, inappropriate items and junk. Clean all areas.
△ **Size it up.** Use furniture that is appropriate for the various sizes of children.

△ **Hit the floor.** The floor is a decorator’s canvas too! Use rugs and tarps and gossamer material to clearly define and identify where students should sit in each site.

△ **Label it.** Make signs for the registration area, preschool rooms, opening, and restrooms. Use Site Signs to identify sites and preschool rooms from the Director CD. Post names of leaders and helpers with their sites.

△ **Double up.** Place signs at eye level for children. Help adults find locations in registration crowds by hanging a set of signs above head level.

**Cliffhanger Cue**
The Director CD has a sign for each site and preschool room. Other Leader CDs have sign files too.

---

### Things to Consider

#### General Concerns

△ How can decorations show that Jesus is the focus of our VBS?

△ What other events will occur during VBS week that may compete for space?

△ What areas are off limits? What limitations or concerns do we have?

△ Do people who oversee building maintenance need to check our plans?

#### Getting Materials

△ Which materials can we use? Where are they stored?

△ How can we let them know what we need?

△ Can we ask people to loan or donate items?

△ How can decorations be affixed to walls and ceilings?

#### Getting Help

△ What kind of help will we need? How many? Who?

△ When can we meet? When can we begin to set up?

△ Who takes care of janitorial tasks and daily cleanup?

△ Should Decorating Committee members attend VBS meetings?

#### Special Areas & Needs

△ Where will registration tables go?

△ How can we use decorations to communicate about our Mission Project, Closing Program, and follow-up activities?

△ Will we have a separate area for preschool registration?

△ Is our facility accessible for attendees with special needs?

△ How can we welcome people as soon as they arrive?
Decorating Sources

Check the 2013 VBS Catalog and vbs.cph.org to find great decorating pieces! Our HUGE Decorating Posters, Bible story posters, Bible Memory Verse Posters, Rainbow Pennants, Clouds, Fadeless Paper rolls, and balloons will give you a great start! Consult the Decorator’s Videos. Use the Decorating To-Do List to track tasks and progress, and use the Decorator Get List to track the items you need. All of these are found on the Director CD.

Finding the best decorating items is like going on a giant scavenger hunt! Explore these resources to stretch your budget:

◇ Ask congregation members. Publicize your list of needs ASAP in your church newsletters, bulletins, Web site, and on bulletin boards for people to purchase or lend items.

◇ Print Supply Request Tags found on the Director CD. Write items needed on the tags. Hang on a themed bulletin board. Invite people to take a tag, promising to purchase or lend the item(s).

◇ Collect donations in boxes placed in a visible location. Keep your supply lists updated wherever you publish them!

◇ Check garage sales, thrift shops, estate sales, and church storage areas for needed objects.

◇ Use the Internet to find bargains on all kinds of décor and supplies.

◇ Ask for donations or loans from local businesses. Return borrowed items promptly.

◇ Connect with other churches using Tell It on the Mountain to share ideas or decorating items. Meet other Directors on our Facebook page, ConcordiaVBS, and other social networking sites. Look for links from the Concordia VBS Web site at vbs.cph.org.

◇ Have a decorating party to make murals and other items.

◇ Check catalogs for ideas and resources, including the 2013 VBS Catalog and vbs.cph.org.
Decorating Common Spaces

Doing VBS with purpose means that your decorations will incorporate crosses, pictures of Jesus, the Bible Story Posters, and the Bible Memory Verse Posters. Decorate entryways, hallways, doorways, bulletin boards, and other common areas with thematic props: rocks, grass, rock walls, mountain vistas, clouds, and Bible story elements.

Theme-based backdrops are a key visual! Our Majestic Mountain Mural can be painted with images provided on the Director CD and explained in the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD. A “no paint” option can be made with the Sky Backdrop, Fadeless Paper (Bright Blue, Azure, and Black), fluffy Cloud Props, and Mounting Tabs—all found in the 2013 VBS Catalog. The image for the boy silhouette for both murals is on the Director CD.

Line art in addition to the Majestic Mountain Mural is on the Director CD or Leader CDs (‘Decorating Resources” folder). Print and copy the images on copy-ready transparencies and then show them on a wall with an overhead projector. Trace the images onto cardboard, foam core, or newsprint that you affix to a sturdier backing later. Or trace and paint your images on sheets and hang as murals.
Common Décor

There are several key pieces of décor that can be used in any area for mountaintop decorating that will “take your breath away!”

- **Ladders for mountaintops**: Borrow six-foot ladders to cover with cloth or paper to create mountaintops.
- **Canvas Tarps**: Canvas tarps are a VBS staple. Available at home improvement stores, these tarps can be used on the floor or become mountains and rock walls.
- **Evergreen trees**: Borrow artificial evergreen trees like those used for Christmas decoration to add to a mountain décor.
- **Cardboard grass**: Cut an edge of a cardboard box in a grass shape and paint in greens and browns for grass. Useful in many VBS themes, these pieces are “keepers.”
- **Colorful pennant flags and balloons**: Lengths of pennant flags and balloons give fun pops of color to halls, stairwells, and site locations.
- **Gossamer rolls become brooks and clouds**: Available online and in party stores, rolls of gossamer can be used to create mountain brooks, clouds around mountaintops, and can be hung from the ceiling. After VBS, roll it up and save it for next year!

Decorate with the Storytelling Summits

Use the five days of sets from Summit Storytelling to round out your décor. See the “Storytelling” section for details. A Mount Sinai summit area could be decorated with the Ten Commandments, the mountain cloud, and a ladder-mountain! A Mount Carmel summit would include the altar of the fake god and the altar honoring the one true God. The Mount of Transfiguration would be a cloud-covered summit with Moses, Elijah, and Jesus in glory! Golgotha would include an empty cross and an open tomb. Mountain in Galilee would include signs with the names of eleven disciples! *Bible Story Posters* can be displayed at each site.

Consider adding Bible story people and props. Enlarge the Bible story figures from the coloring sheets located on the *Director CD* to create “life-size” Bible story people.

Tell it! Encourage kids and Expedition Leaders to visit these sites and “Tell it!” Kids can tell the stories of our God and His Son, Jesus, our Savior and Lord, to parents, grandparents, and other friends.

On the day that Storytelling needs the set pieces, in that location, place a sign saying, “What Bible story goes here? Find out at Summit Storytelling today!”
HUGE Decorating Posters

The HUGE Decorating Posters make it quicker and easier than ever to add the little details that make a big difference. Cut out the goat, mount on foam core, and place them in the set (or in your entry or on hallway walls). Do the same with the Base Camp Poster and theme-inspired Promotional Poster. Tape cardboard triangles to the back like easels to hold them upright.

More Ideas

Check out our Bible story sets, the rock climbing walls, and other great decorating ideas. Complete directions are on the Director CD, in the Decorating Videos on the Program Overview DVD and on the VBS Web site at vbs.cph.org. Get ideas from other VBS leaders when you visit our Facebook page, ConcordiaVBS.
Site Decorating

Each site has a specific purpose and suggestions for an ideal location. You will need to contrast these instructions with the realities of your VBS space. Adapt as necessary! Decorate a little or a lot, considering volunteers, time, and budget. Below is a chart with suggested locations for each site:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Main Décor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening/Closing</td>
<td>Church sanctuary or large gathering space</td>
<td>Rock climbing focus with Majestic Mountain Backdrop, ladder-mountain for Mission Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storytelling</td>
<td>Large space—indoors or out</td>
<td>Mountain summit (that’s where the Bible stories all happen), flags, Bible Story Posters, and daily set pieces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bible Challenge</td>
<td>Multipurpose room or outside</td>
<td>Knot2B4GOTN rope hung between ladder-mountains, Bible Memory Posters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snack</td>
<td>Outside or in a multipurpose room</td>
<td>Trailside with a rock face, Base Camp Poster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Outside or gym</td>
<td>Cliffhanger Game supplies, climbing gear from Goat/Climbing Gear Decorating Poster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crafts</td>
<td>Multipurpose room near a sink</td>
<td>Vista, Tell It Summit HUGE Decorating Poster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo Op</td>
<td>Entry area</td>
<td>Mountain goats with a rock wall background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halls &amp; Doors</td>
<td>Where VBS is happening!</td>
<td>Rock walls, colorful ropes, door frames decorated with rock pillars, waterfall streamers, or cloud fluff in the door opening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feature five Bible story mountain summits using Storytelling set items. (The day the story is told, post a sign in the empty space: “What’s the Bible story that goes here? Find out at Summit Storytelling today!”)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Base Camp Opening & Closing—Decorate and Organize!

There Israel encamped before the mountain, while Moses went up to God. Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. Exodus 19:2b–3, 17

Have you noticed the sanctuary of a lot of churches is peaked like a mountain summit? Throughout VBS this week, God’s Word will show us how God calls His people into His presence on mountaintops. They climb up and He comes down! God is surely present where His children gather!

The Base Camp Opening/Closing is where children begin and end Tell It on the Mountain. Check out these ideas to set up a fantastic base camp for the gathering in Opening and Closing! Locating this site in the sanctuary will familiarize children with this central place of your parish’s life together.

Cliffhanger Cue
Note: if you do the Opening and Closing in the sanctuary of your church, take care to highlight the altar. You want visitors to your church to see this focal point of the church’s life together! Move thematic decorations to either side of the altar area.

Base Camp Backdrop

Our Majestic Mountain Mural can be painted with images provided on the Director CD and explained in the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD and at vbs.cph.org. A “no paint” option can be made with the Sky Backdrop, Fadeless Paper (Bright Blue, Azure, and Black), fluffy Cloud Props, and Mounting Tabs found in the 2013 VBS Catalog. The image for the boy silhouette for both murals is on the Director CD.

Another option would be to mount the Tell It! Theme Decorating Poster on a sturdy surface to place it in your Base Camp area.
Basics for Base Camp

◊ **Make sure a cross is a central part of your focal point.** The Cross Stand-Up in the 2013 VBS Catalog is a great piece to use.

◊ **Provide a focal point in the front for the Base Camp Leader** with enough room for a screen for the videos and space for the leaders.

◊ **Provide a podium** that fits the décor for the leader. Be creative!

◊ **Define the seating area.** You can mark it off with tape, plants, or with rugs. If your Base Camp is in a multipurpose room, let children sit on carpet squares, rugs, or mats. If your site is in the church sanctuary, use the pews or chairs for seating.

◊ **To store supplies and props,** use backpacks and VBS Totes.

Mission Project Decorating Resource

This year’s Mission Project is Ready Now: Disaster Response Fund. Our mission partner is LCMS World Relief and Human Care, the mercy arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

See complete details in the 2013 VBS Catalog and the project brochure in the Starter Kit.

The brochure opens up into a poster you can use to keep track of the offerings for this mission project. Consider placing it on a ladder decorated as a mountain (see written instructions on the Director CD and in the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD and at vbs.cph.org) in your Base Camp Opening and Closing site. Use the mountain as a collection site for your Mission Project offerings. In addition, a PDF with the icons for the giving levels is on the Director CD as another visual graphic for your collection.

Each day when the offerings are put by the mountain, the Base Camp leader offers a prayer asking God to bless these offerings and the mercy ministry of Ready Now: Disaster Response Fund.
Summit Storytelling—Decorate and Organize!

Jesus said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.” Luke 11:28

Meeting with the one true God and His Word is the purpose of the Summit Storytelling site and the focal point of this entire VBS. You will want to put your greatest decorating efforts toward making Summit Storytelling inviting and visually significant. This is an active site, so choose your location carefully. Check out the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD and at vbs.cph.org.

Basics for Summit Storytelling:

- **Select a space away from other sites** to minimize distractions and noise.
- **Provide room** for up to thirty-five people (5 Expeditions with 6 students and a leader).
- **A mountain** is the primary visual image for Storytelling.
- **Provide a blank storytelling wall** to hang up Bible Story Posters and other props. The posters help students visualize the stories.
- **Place a Storyteller chair** to the side of the storytelling wall near the mountain.
- **Place a large cross** that you can hang or put on a stand in front of your storytelling wall. Check out the Cross Stand-Up in the 2013 VBS Catalog!
- **Put props near the storyteller’s chair** and use VBS Totes to store supplies.
- **Post a Summit Storytelling Sign** where the children will enter daily (located on the Director CD).
- **Close the entrance** so the interior cannot be seen until the groups enter your area.
- **Designate floor seating** for each Expedition with rugs or large beach towels. Provide a few chairs with backs and arms for kids or adults who cannot sit on the floor.

Mountain from a Ladder (Used All Days)

Because a mountain is the key focal point in each of the Bible stories this year, you will want to take the time to create this simple and effective learning tool for your Storyteller—a tool that decorates this site at the same time!

**Materials needed:** cardboard; paint (gray, black, teal, and coral); paint roller; sea foam sponges; paint trays; drop cloths; utility knife; pull ties; hole puncher; and a ladder or another type of holding device.

Start out with a ladder. On a large piece of cardboard, draw a mountain. Cut it out with a utility knife. Then you are ready to paint. Using the roller, apply gray paint to the entire front of the mountain. You may want to apply two coats of paint for good coverage. If you have single-ply cardboard, it may bow. That is okay, because it will be attached to the ladder later, and it will then flatten out. Use the coral and teal paint to add some color and dimension to the flat gray surface. Use a damp sponge to dab a small amount of each color on the surface of the cardboard. You may want to use the gray paint roller, to work some of the color into the surface better. Then, using the same process, add black paint to the surface. This time, dab the edges of the mountain as well to give it depth and definition.

Once you are finished, let it dry. Punch holes and insert pull ties so that you can attach the cardboard to the ladder.
Decorative Objects

◊ Majestic Mountain Vista Background: Using the Sky Backdrop, Fadeless Paper (Bright Blue, Azure, and Black), fluffy Cloud Props, and Mounting Tabs, create a mountain vista background behind your mountain summit. For more specifics, check out the directions for the Majestic Mountain Backdrop—No Paint Solution in the “Decorating” file on the Director CD as well as in the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD.

◊ Mountain Base: You may wish to decorate at the foot of your summit. Remember, this is an active space, so make sure you have room! There are so many choices! Use canvas tarps for a practical base. White gossamer rolls can be fluffed up around the base for a true “summit” feel. Canvas tarps could be borrowed or are available at home improvement stores. Gossamer rolls are available online and in party stores.

◊ Colorful pennant flags: Use our Rainbow Pennants at the base of the vista to give a fun pop of color to the site.

Directions for Other Set Pieces

The other pieces used in the Storytelling site are in the “Decorating” and the “Storytelling” files on the Director CD. In addition, check out the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD.

Cliffhanger Cue
Check out the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD and at vbs.cph.org. for ideas for this site.
Knot2B4GOTN Bible Challenge—Decorate and Organize!

And the Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever.” Exodus 19:9

The Knot2B4GOTN Bible Challenge—well, the name says it all! God’s Word in the Bible is not to be forgotten! Through Bible Challenge’s repetitive, engaging, and musical activities, VBS kids will hear God’s Word, remember it, and, through the power of the Holy Spirit, believe it.

The main focus of your Knot2B4GOTN Bible Challenge area is two ladder mountains. String a rope with knots and clips between the mountains. As an option, you could hang the rope from the interior supports of a tent. If you are outside, hang it between two trees—or just hang it on the wall! The Site Leader and the children will be using the rope in a “not to be forgotten” daily activity!

Cliffhanger Cue
Remember, the first place to start VBS decorating is in your storage closet! For this site, we used a backdrop, Christmas trees, cardboard grass, water, a fire pit, and milk crates—all were great decorations from past VBS years.

Basics for Bible Challenge:

◊ Provide room for up to thirty-five people (5 Expeditions with 6 students and a leader) to move around for song actions.

◊ Display the Bible Memory Verse Posters on the rope, on the mountain, or on a stand to visualize the Scripture for Bible Words Songs.

◊ Put a large visible cross in this site.

◊ Hang the Knot2B4GOTN Bible Challenge Sign (on the Bible Challenge Leader CD).

◊ Basics for Bible Challenge:
Knot2B4GOTN Bible Challenge Mountains

This year, our Knot2B4GOTN Bible Challenge activities have a fun and creative way to engage children and teach the Bible Memory Verse at the same time. Expedition groups decipher the Bible Memory Verse Code and then share it by hanging it on a rope for everyone to see.

Items needed: two five-foot ladders, various empty boxes and blankets, canvas tarps, rope, utility knife, black and gray fabric paint.

To duplicate our set, put up your backdrop first. Add the canvas drop cloths on the floor. Place the two ladders in position. Allow approximately five feet between the mountains for ample room to hang the Bible Memory Verse Code. To widen the base of the “mountains,” boxes were added around them. Blankets for padding were added to the tops of the ladders for a nice rounded edge. (Padding can be placed over the boxes also!) Next, a large canvas tarp was placed over each ladder and the boxes. Use fabric paint to add a little definition and color to your mountains. After you’ve completed the mountains, use a utility knife to make a small hole in the tarp. The rope was tied to a leg on each ladder.

Continue to decorate using Christmas trees, grass, rocks, and water. Don’t forget your fire pit! Check the 2013 VBS Catalog or Web site for a fun corrugated campfire! It’s a wonderful addition to your Bible Challenge decorations.

Seating

The Expeditions will sit together on the floor. If you want to provide defined spaces for each group, borrow large floor rugs or large beach towels of different colors to lay on the floor in your site.

Expedition Supply Containers

Use Tell It on the Mountain Totes or borrow backpacks. Fill with the supplies needed for Expeditions each day. This will include Bibles and other daily supplies. You can also use backpacks and baskets for decoration!

Paper Rocks

Rocks can be made pretty quickly, and they are fun to make. Look for a type of paper called Bogus Kraft Paper, which is sold in rolls. Roll out sections, and then gently crumple the paper together and flatten back out. Add some plastic grocery bags or other light-weight filling to the center. Fold the paper inward like a package and staple or tape it together. The paper shouldn’t be too tightly wrapped or it may tear. The more variety of shapes and sizes, the better!

When you are finished making your rocks, add a spritz of the paint for a “rocky” effect. Place all your rocks on a plastic drop cloth. Give each volunteer a spray bottle with a solution of one part black or brown paint (tempera or craft paint) and two parts water. Spray the solution randomly on the paper. Do not soak the paper. Leave the rocks on the drop cloth until they are dry then they are ready to use!

Cliffhanger Cue

Check out the Decorator’s Videos at vbs.cph.org and on the Program Overview DVD for directions and ideas for this site!
Trailside Snacks—Decorate and Organize!

The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing. Psalm 145:15–16

Rock climbing takes a lot of energy. Eating healthy food and drinking water regularly is vital! The Trailside Snacks site provides vital physical and spiritual nourishment for your VBS as you reinforce the Take-Home Points and Bible stories during each rotation.

It’s great when the Snack site picks up on the theme of the week through its food offerings and décor. Your local setting will determine where you serve snacks (Snack Leaders appreciate being near water for easy clean up). Set up your area to provide a great environment for making snacks, eating, and sharing God’s Word. Check out the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD or at vbs.cph.org for ideas for VBS decorating.

Basics for Trailside Snacks

◊ As a backdrop for your snack area, use the Base Camp Decorating Poster or create a rock wall. For directions for the wall, see the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD or at vbs.cph.org. Print descriptions are on the Director CD.

◊ Set up tables and chairs for thirty-five people—that’s five Expeditions.

◊ Set up an extra table or two for supplies and a demonstration area.

◊ Cover all tables to protect surfaces in keeping with the theme ideas below.

◊ Create shade if you are outside and a focal point for your site by putting your serving table under a canopy.

◊ Hang up a Trailside Snacks Sign (Director CD) by the entrance to your space.

◊ Option: Have the kids sit on picnic blankets or tarps instead of at tables. After all, it’s Trailside Snacks!
Decorative Objects

◊ **Camping supplies, backpacks, and climbing gear:** Accessorize your trailside with authentic equipment. Ask to borrow items from the congregation or other VBS leaders.

◊ **Evergreen trees:** Borrow artificial evergreen trees like those used for Christmas decoration.

◊ **Cardboard grass:** Cut open a large cardboard box so it lies flat. Then, cut grass-blade and leaf shapes along one long edge. Paint the shapes in different shades of greens and browns to create grass along your trail.

◊ **Colorful Pennant Flags:** Put these flags along the top of your canopy, around the edge of the demonstration tables, and other places for pops of color.

◊ **Table Coverings:** Cover tables with picnic tablecloths or use colorful plastic table cloths. You can also put strips of brown packing or white butcher paper over the tops of the tables. Replace paper as needed.

Cliffhanger Cue
Check out the Decorator’s Videos on the Director CD for ideas for this site!
Vista Crafts—Decorate and Organize!

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:17

At Vista Crafts, you share God’s Word each day through engaging and fun crafts that help kids understand and remember the daily Bible stories and Take-Home Points. Craft making engages hands and heart so that God’s Word sticks. Kids can share crafts with a message and “Tell it!” with the craft as they share God’s Word with the world.

Enhance your craft space by decorating a “take-your-breath-away” vista theme to stimulate their imagination as kids work on their craft projects. For details and more ideas, check out the Decorator’s Videos on the Director CD or at vbs.cph.org for ideas for this site.

Basics for Vista Crafts

◇ As a backdrop for the craft area, make a mountain vista using the Majestic Mountain Mural. It can be painted with images provided on the Director CD and explained in the Decorator’s Videos on the Program Overview DVD. A “no paint” option can be made with the Sky Backdrop, Fadeless Paper (in Bright Blue, Azure, and Black), Cloud Props, and Mounting Tabs found in the 2013 VBS Catalog. The image for the boy silhouette for both murals is on the Director CD.

◇ Another background option would be to use the Tell It! Theme Decorating Poster with the boy and the mountain vista for your Craft area.

◇ Set up tables and chairs for up to thirty-five people, five Expeditions.

◇ Place plastic paint tarps or another protective material under and around tables to protect the floor from spills and to make it look like a place where things are created.

◇ Add colorful plastic tablecloths as table coverings. Place pencils, paintbrushes, crayons, and other supplies in baskets or other containers on the tables for easy access. You can also put strips of brown packing or white butcher paper over the tops of the tables. Replace paper as needed.

◇ Make sure there is a cross in your room—Jesus is God’s Son, our Savior and Lord!

◇ Hang the Vista Craft Sign from the Director CD at your door.

◇ Hang up Bible Story Posters to refer to as you explain the connection between the craft and the Bible story. These are available in the 2013 VBS Catalog.
Decorative Objects

◊ **Camping supplies, backpacks, and climbing gear:** Accessorize your craft site with authentic equipment. Ask to borrow items from the congregation or other VBS leaders.

◊ **Evergreen trees:** Borrow artificial evergreen trees like those used for Christmas decoration to place around your site.

◊ **Cardboard grass:** Cut open a large cardboard box so it lies flat. Then, cut grass-blade and leaf shapes along one long edge. Paint the shapes in different shades of greens and browns to create grass along your trail.

◊ **Colorful Pennant Flags:** Put these flags along our background, around the edge of the demonstration tables, and other places for pops of color.

**Cliffhanger Cue**
Check out the *Decorator’s Videos* on the *Director CD* for ideas for this site!