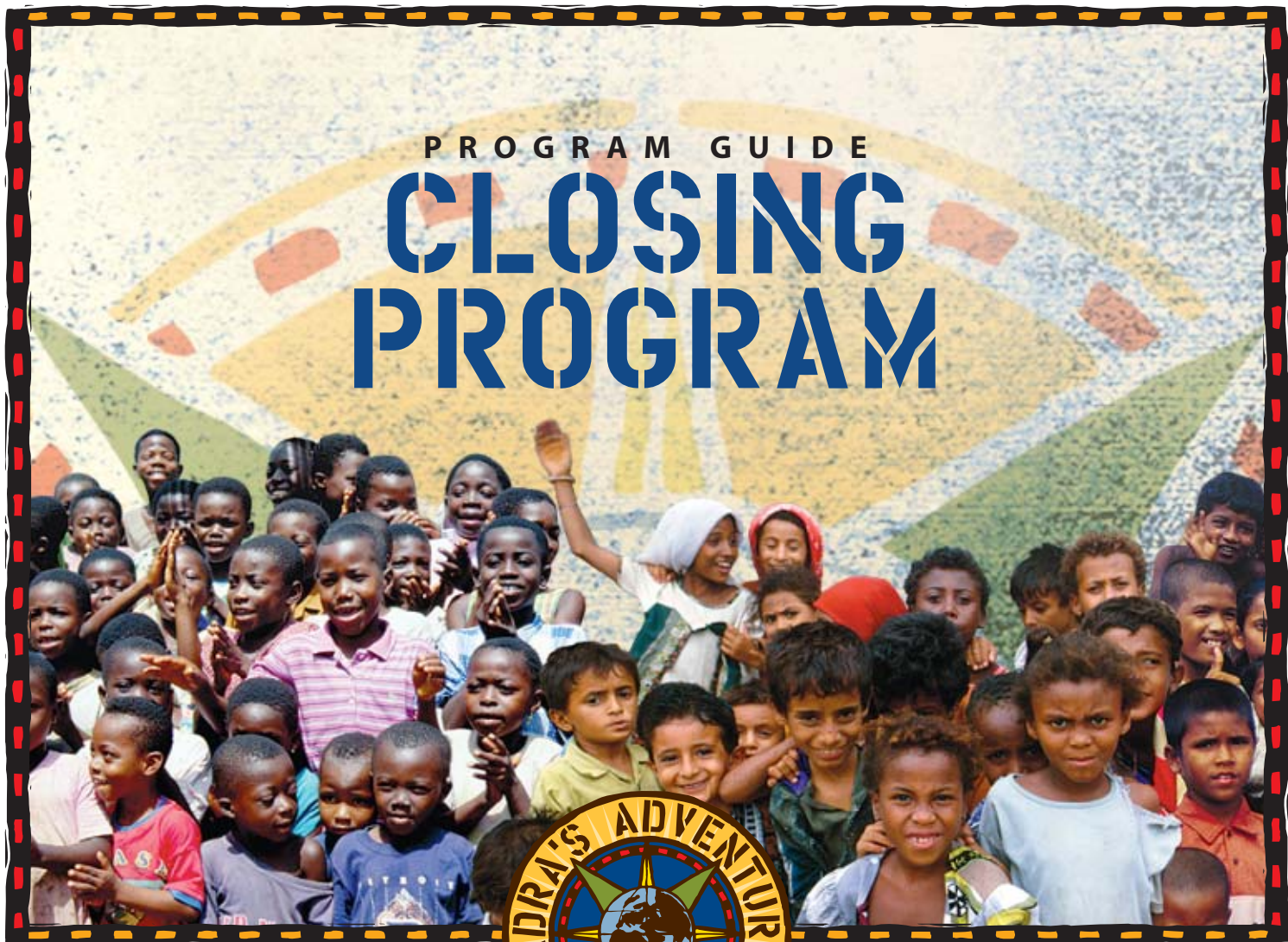


PROGRAM GUIDE

CLOSING PROGRAM



CLOSING PROGRAM



The closing program can be handled in several ways. One is to do a regular program with parents accompanying their children through all phases. This would give parents an understanding about what their children have experienced. Here are some additional ideas:

- Arrange the closing program to start with the daily opening exercises, then have some children recite all the memory verses, a child to show and explain each of the service projects, and a video or slide program with highlights of VBS.
- Show an ADRA video segment and have the ADRA storyteller present a story, and a Bible character shares details of his or her life. The VBS director summarizes the value of the experiences and invites people to visit the learning centers to pick up their child's passports and those crafts that are going home. If a snack is being served, tell parents where it will be served following benediction.
- Have five regular sessions running Monday through Friday, with closing program scheduled during Sabbath or Sunday School the next day. This has to be carefully coordinated with the regular worship leadership for timing purposes. The format for such a program would be a report week's activities with children demonstrating crafts, reciting memory verses and singing the theme song. The VBS leader would close with a short devotional and benediction. By allowing 15 minutes between the end of the VBS program and the beginning of worship, VBS parents could have a snack and brief interactions with VBS staff.

To make sure that the closing program runs smoothly, appoint a coordinator. An important event for both children and parents, the program can accomplish a number of things, including an opportunity for the children to:

- Share the energy and excitement of VBS.
- Touch hearts of adults with the sincerity of the songs and memorized Scripture.
- Show what they made.
- Introduce parents to teachers (tour guides).

Start promoting the closing program beginning with registration time and continuing throughout VBS, in general sessions and in the tour groups. Send invitations to the closing program home with the children, or mail the invitations directly to the parents.

Suggested Closing Program Outline

Plan for the program to take place in the auditorium or sanctuary. Parents should be seated in the middle of the room, with the front rows reserved for the tour groups. With each child waving a flag and singing the theme song, the tour groups march into the auditorium and go to their seats.

After everyone is seated, the ADRA Storyteller welcomes everyone and briefly explains his or her role and that this is a special session of ADRA's Adventures for Kids. After showing the ADRA video segment of your choice, the Storyteller announces a special guest from the Bible.

The Bible Character of your choice comes on stage and tells his story. When finished, he exits as

the Kids Bible Center host approaches the podium. Giving a brief introduction, the host then leads the group in reciting a memory verse.

The ADRA Storyteller now returns to talk about the continent and country related to the story they will be telling, with a brief description of the customs, etc. The Storyteller then shares a story chosen from one of the previous days about that country. Some of the teens can help by holding up props relating to the region and ADRA's work. The ADRA Storyteller then introduces the host for Kids Care.

The Kids Care Center host explains the purpose of this center and then turns to pre-selected children who demonstrate the types of service projects created that week. The VBS director then approaches the podium and introduces the slide show and makes closing remarks. If you have had the children save money for ADRA during the week, you may have them bring their containers to the front of the room. It would also be appropriate to invite the parents to leave an offering in a container at the door that will be sent to ADRA. Adopt a project from ADRA's gift catalog. Make it clear that the offering will NOT be used to pay for the VBS program.

MEMORIES

This video or slide presentation recaps the fun of VBS. Your photographer hopefully has been shooting away with joyful abandon every day of VBS. Prepare comments and practice with slides/video so they match. This part of the program can be lots of fun for everyone. A talented teen could take responsibility for this feature. You may have someone in your church that has a digital camera. You could take pictures with that instead of a video camera if you want to. If you can't do either, have someone take pictures during the week and display them on a large bulletin board.

CLOSING MESSAGE

Tell the parents it has been a pleasure having their children at VBS. Give a short spiritual message reminding the children to keep in touch with God and to help people in need. Offer a dedication prayer. Invite parents to stay for refreshments, to meet their child's tour guide, and to visit the Kids Care Center to pick up their child's artwork.

REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments are served in an appropriate place large enough for everyone. Encourage VBS staff to mingle with the parents and children. Make the refreshments light. You could serve a drink and sample foods from the countries you have visited during VBS.

