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THE FAMILY FAITH QUEST: MOUNTAIN OF MIRACLES FOLLOW-UP

THEME

Encouraging families to mentor, inspire, and pass on their faith to the next generation. Elijah and Elisha's story serves as the foundation for fostering strong family bonds and spiritual leadership within families.

INTRODUCTION: WHY A VBS FOLLOW-UP MATTERS + YOUR ROLE AS DIRECTOR

Dear VBS Director,

Thank you for your leadership in bringing Vacation Bible School to life! VBS is one of the most impactful outreach events in a church, creating powerful moments where children and families encounter God in meaningful ways. But the real question is: *What happens next?*

This VBS Follow-Up Event is designed to build on the excitement and spiritual growth from VBS, creating a bridge between the event and long-term church engagement. Families who attended VBS may have felt connected to the church for the first time, and a well-planned follow-up reinforces that connection and keeps them engaged.

WHY HOST A FOLLOW-UP EVENT?

VBS plants seeds of faith—but without follow-up, many families may feel like the journey ends there. This event provides:

- *A Continued Connection* – Families are invited back, preventing VBS from becoming a one-time event.
- *A Family-Centered Experience* – Unlike VBS (which is mostly for kids), this event is designed for entire families to grow in faith together.
- *A Community Outreach Opportunity* – Some families who attended VBS might not regularly attend church; this is an easy way to welcome them back.
- *A Way to Reinforce Key Spiritual Lessons* – Through hands-on activities, worship, and fellowship, children and parents are reminded to keep their faith alive.

YOUR ROLE AS THE DIRECTOR

As the director, you are the key leader in making this event impactful. Here's what your role includes:

- *Planning & Leadership*: Ensure that volunteers, church leadership, and the congregation understand the importance of follow-up and are on board with supporting the event.
- *Volunteer Coordination*: Assemble a strong team of helpers, making sure all volunteers are properly trained and background-checked according to North American Division (NAD) policy and local regulations.
- *Event Promotion*: Utilize VBS contact information to personally invite families back and market the event through church announcements, social media, and email reminders.
- *Budget & Resources*: Work with church leadership to plan and allocate funds, ensuring a high-quality experience within budget.
- *Family Engagement*: Encourage families to reflect on their faith journey, not just during the event but through ongoing church programs.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This document is designed to provide everything you need to successfully plan, organize, and execute the Mountain of Miracles VBS Follow-Up Event. You'll find:

- *A Step-by-Step Program Outline* – This section will guide you through the theme, purpose, and structure of the event.
- *Detailed Leader Scripts & Instructions* – Each part of the event, from the opening program to craft and game stations to the closing ceremony, includes scripts and guidance to ensure clarity and smooth transitions.
- *Marketing & Outreach Strategies* – These tips will help you personally invite families, maximize social media outreach, and use VBS contact lists effectively.
- *Volunteer Recruitment & Safety Guidelines* – Learn how to assemble and train a strong volunteer

team while ensuring all NAD safety policies and legal requirements are met.

- *Budgeting & Fundraising Support* – Whether you have a small, mid-range, or large budget, this section will help you plan effectively and find creative funding solutions.
- *Post-Event Follow-Up* – Your work doesn't stop at the event! Use the follow-up strategies included to continue engaging families in church programs beyond VBS.

- Volunteers and leaders to be encouraged and equipped.
- The Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of parents and children.
- Safety, smooth planning, and meaningful connections during the event.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

As the director, you have the incredible opportunity to extend the impact of VBS beyond a single week and into the hearts and homes of families for months and years to come.

Just as Elijah passed his mantle to Elisha, you are helping to pass on faith to the next generation. This isn't just another event—it's a chance to keep the fire of faith burning brightly in every family who walks through your church doors.

Now, let's dive into the details and bring this follow-up event to life!

PARTNERING WITH GOD IN THE PLANNING

Before you begin and throughout this process, remember that you are not doing this alone. God has called you to this role, and He will equip you, guide you, and strengthen you every step of the way.

Here are the two most important things you can do as you prepare:

1. Keep the follow-up event a priority. No matter how simple or elaborate, the act of inviting families back and continuing their faith journey is what matters most.
2. Partner with God through prayer. Ask Him to give you wisdom in planning, the right team, and the right words to invite families back in a way that touches their hearts.

COVERING THE EVENT IN PRAYER

As you prepare, consider partnering with your church's prayer team and inviting the congregation to pray for this event. Prayer makes all the difference!

Ask your church family to pray for:

- Families who came to VBS but don't regularly attend church.



THE FAMILY FAITH QUEST

THEME

"Passing the Mantle – A Family Journey"

FOCUS

Encouraging families to mentor, inspire, and pass on their faith to the next generation, using the story of Elijah and Elisha as the foundation.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

OPENING PROGRAM [30 MINUTES]

1. Welcome & Setting the Scene (Leader)
 - Introduce the theme: Passing faith from one generation to the next.
 - Show and explain the significance of the mantle (fabric/baton).
2. Object Lesson: "Faith That Spreads" (Leader-led interactive lesson)
 - Use a lantern/candle to show how faith grows when passed on (lighting multiple candles to symbolize faith being shared).
 - Connect it to Elijah passing his mantle to Elisha.
3. Brief Retelling of Elijah & Elisha's Story
 - Highlight how Elijah mentored Elisha and passed on his calling.
 - Connect this to families passing down faith.
4. Family Participation: "The Family Mantle Challenge"
 - Families discuss what they want to pass on to future generations.
 - A few families share their thoughts with the group.
5. Family Faith Chant (Call & Response)
 - "Faith is a journey!" (Families repeat & do motions.)
 - "We walk together!"
 - "We pass it on!"

- "God is with us!"
- "That's rock solid!"

6. Prayer of Dedication

- Leader prays for families to continue growing in faith.

ACTIVITY ROTATIONS [60 MINUTES TOTAL]

Each station runs for 30 minutes with a 5-minute transition time.

STATION 1: FAMILY CREST T-SHIRTS [30 MINUTES]

- Objective: Families design a faith crest on matching t-shirts (or posters if on a budget).
- Leader's Script Includes:
 - Explanation of mantles in the Bible.
 - **Questions for families:** "What makes your family unique?"
 - Guided craft time with stencils & fabric paint.
 - Wrap-up discussion about why faith matters in their family.

ALTERNATIVE BUDGET OPTION

If T-shirts aren't available, families create a Family Crest Poster instead.

STATION 2: GENERATIONAL OBSTACLE COURSE [30 MINUTES]

OBJECTIVE: A family relay that represents working together to pass faith through generations.

OBSTACLE COURSE ELEMENTS:

1. Balance Beam: "Walking Steady in Faith"
2. Crawling Under a Net: "Overcoming Challenges Together"
3. Beanbag Toss: "Sharing God's Word"

4. Final Sprint: "Passing the Mantle at the Finish Line"
 - Leader's Script Includes:
 - Instructions & symbolic meaning of each obstacle.
 - Post-race reflection: "Who helped you the most? How is faith like this race?"

CLOSING PROGRAM [30 MINUTES]

1. Families Gather Back for Reflection

- Leader asks: "What was your favorite part of today?"
- Families share their experiences together.

2. Object Lesson: "Faith That Shines" (Reinforced Message)

- Reintroduce the lantern/candle from the opening lesson.
- Talk about how God doesn't want us to hide our light or let it go out.
- Show how covering the light (with a bowl or cloth) makes it disappear.
- Remind families that faith needs to be shared, not hidden.

3. Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

- Families sing together as a reminder to shine their faith.

4. Family Faith Chant (Repeat Together)

- Reinforce the theme with energy & motions.

5. Symbolic Closing Act: "Faith Passed On"

- Each family places their mantle (fabric or baton) on a banner/display as a commitment to continue sharing faith.

6. Final Prayer & Encouragement

- Leader prays for families to continue the journey at home.

7. Optional Fellowship Time

(If a picnic or BBQ is planned)

- Invite families to stay for food & connection.
- Photo station for families to take pictures with their T-shirts/posters.



SETTING THE SCENE

LOCATION

Outdoor setting at a park or churchyard.

PROPS NEEDED

- A large, colorful fabric “mantle” (like a cloak or scarf) to use as a visual aid.
- Two sticks or batons wrapped in cloth (to represent the passing of faith).
- A small table for the object lesson materials.

OPENING SCRIPT FOR THE LEADER

(Leader steps onto the stage or center area holding a mantle and smiles at the crowd.)

LEADER: “Welcome, everyone, to our Mountain of Miracles Follow-Up event! We had an incredible VBS learning about Elijah and the miracles God performed in his life. But today, we’re going to focus on something really special—how we pass on faith from one generation to the next.”

“Faith is like a journey—it’s not meant to be kept to ourselves but shared with others. Today, we’ll explore how Elijah shared his faith with Elisha and how we, as families, can do the same!”

(Hold up the mantle and let it flow dramatically in the wind.)

“In Bible times, a mantle was more than just a piece of clothing—it was a symbol of leadership, calling, and responsibility. When Elijah knew his time was coming to an end, he didn’t just leave—he made sure that someone else was ready to carry on God’s work. That person was Elisha!”

OBJECT LESSON: THE POWER OF PASSING IT ON

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Battery-operated candles

LEADER: “To help us understand today’s lesson, let’s look at an example of what it means to pass something on. I have a candle here, and when I light it, it shines brightly.”

(Turn on the first candle and hold it up.)

“This candle represents a person’s faith in God. It’s burning bright, just like Elijah’s faith. But what happens when one person shares their faith with another?”

(Use the first candle to pretend to light a second candle, then a third.)

“See? The flame doesn’t get weaker—it actually spreads and makes the whole space brighter. That’s what happened when Elijah passed on his faith to Elisha. And that’s what happens when you share your faith with your family, friends, and even people you don’t know!”

(Allow volunteers to “pass” the flame down the line, lighting [turning on] multiple candles as a visual representation of passing faith on.)

“Today, you are going to be part of that same story. You’ll work together as families, create something that represents your faith, and have a lot of fun while doing it!”

BRIEF RETELLING OF ELIJAH AND ELISHA'S STORY

(Use simple, engaging storytelling with gestures and expressions.)

LEADER: "Let's dive into the Bible and see what happened when Elijah passed his mantle to Elisha. Imagine Elijah—he's been following God's call, standing up for what's right, and performing miracles. But he knows that his time on earth is almost over."

"Elisha was Elijah's student. He followed Elijah everywhere, learning from him, asking questions, and watching how he trusted God. One day, as they were walking together, Elijah asked, 'What can I do for you before I go?'"

(Pause for audience reaction.)

"Elisha didn't ask for gold or treasure—he asked for something much more powerful. He said, 'I want a double portion of your spirit.' He wanted to be as faithful, strong, and close to God as Elijah was!"

(Dramatic pause—hold up the mantle again.)

"Then, in an incredible moment, God sent a chariot of fire and horses from heaven! Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind! And guess what he left behind? His mantle!"

(Toss the mantle gently to the ground.)

"Elisha picked up the mantle, just like Elijah had passed it to him, and from that day forward, he continued God's work. He performed miracles, taught others about God, and led with wisdom and strength."

GROUP PARTICIPATION MOMENT: THE FAMILY MANTLE CHALLENGE

LEADER: "Now, it's your turn to think about your own 'mantle'—what are the things you want to pass on as a family? Maybe it's kindness, faith, honesty, or serving others. Take a moment and turn to your family. What is something important that your family believes in?"

(Give families a few minutes to discuss. Call on a few volunteers to share.)

"That's incredible! The values and faith we pass on are like Elijah's mantle—they can change lives!"

OPTIONAL: FAMILY FAITH CHANT

Before we transition into the prayer and activities, you can add a Family Faith Chant to reinforce the key theme of passing faith to the next generation.

Why Use a Chant?

- A chant helps children and families internalize the lesson in a fun and memorable way.
- It encourages group participation and energy before moving into the day's activities.
- It strengthens the connection between Elijah passing the mantle and families taking on their own faith legacy.
- Repeating it throughout the event (e.g., after activities or before closing) will keep the message alive.

INTRODUCING THE CHANT

LEADER: "Before we pray, let's all say something together as a way of showing that we are ready to pass on faith, just like Elijah did with Elisha. This is our Family Faith Chant!"

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE GROUP

1. Teach the chant in sections – say a line and have the group repeat after you.
2. Add simple motions for extra engagement.
3. Encourage families to say it loudly and with excitement!

FAMILY FAITH CHANT

Leader Says → Families Repeat After Each Line:

- Faith is a journey! *(Walk in place with arms swinging like a traveler.)*
- We walk together! *(Hold hands with family members or reach toward a neighbor.)*
- We pass it on! *(Pretend to hand something to the person next to you, like passing the mantle.)*
- God is with us! *(Point up to the sky.)*
- That's rock solid! *(Stomp feet firmly on the ground.)*

(Do the full chant once together with motions.)

LEADER: "Great job! Now let's say it one more time, even louder—so we can hear it across the park!"

(Repeat the full chant with excitement.)

CLOSING WORDS BEFORE TRANSITIONING TO PRAYER

LEADER: *"That was awesome! Just like Elijah and Elisha, we are ready to pass on our faith. Let's keep this chant in our hearts today and remember—our faith is rock solid!"*

PRAYER TO OPEN THE DAY

LEADER: "Before we start all the fun activities, let's pray and ask God to help us be strong in faith like Elijah and ready to share with others like Elisha."

"Dear God, thank You for this beautiful day and for bringing our families together. Help us to learn from Elijah and Elisha and to remember that faith is not something to keep to ourselves—it's meant to be shared. May we be a light for others, passing on Your love and truth to the next generation. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

(Encourage families to say "Amen" together.)

TRANSITION ACTIVITIES

LEADER: "Now, it's time to begin our adventure! We have some amazing activities planned. You'll get to create your own 'family mantles' and take on a teamwork challenge. Let's go!"

(Play a VBS song as families head to their first stations.)



CRAFT STATION FAMILY CREST T-SHIRTS

INTRODUCTION [5 MINUTES]

LEADER: "Welcome to the Family Crest Station! Today, you're going to design a symbol that represents your family's faith. In the Bible, Elijah passed his mantle to Elisha as a sign of leadership, calling, and faith. Your family will create a 'mantle' in the form of a t-shirt to show what you believe in and what you want to pass on to the next generation!"

Ask families:

- "What is something that makes your family unique?"
- "If your family had a motto, what would it be?"
- "What symbols remind you of God's love?"

(Give families 2-3 minutes to discuss.)

BUDGET-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVE OPTION

If the church cannot afford T-shirts, families can create a Family Crest Poster instead.

- Materials Needed: One large poster board per family, markers, stickers, and pre-cut stencil shapes.
- Adaptation: Instead of decorating shirts, families draw and color their family crest on the poster.
- Bonus Idea: Churches can laminate the posters afterward so families can display them at home as a lasting reminder of their faith journey.

LEADER: "No matter what materials we use—shirts, paper, or even just a discussion—the most important thing is that families are talking about what their faith means to them!"

CRAFT INSTRUCTIONS [20 MINUTES TOTAL]

STEP 1: SKETCH YOUR DESIGN [5 MINUTES]

- Families use paper and pencils to roughly sketch their crest before painting.
- Leaders walk around, giving encouragement and helping brainstorm ideas.

STEP 2: PAINTING THE T-SHIRTS [15 MINUTES]

- Use stencils and fabric paints to bring designs to life.
- Encourage bold colors and meaningful symbols like crosses (faith), doves (peace), flames (Holy Spirit), or mountains (God's strength).

(Optional for Younger Kids: Provide pre-made templates they can stamp onto their shirts.)

WRAP-UP + REFLECTION [5 MINUTES]

LEADER: "Look at these amazing faith mantles! Every family's design is different, just like our faith journeys. But no matter what, God calls us to pass on our faith to others—just like Elijah did for Elisha."

Encourage families to share their designs with the group or with another family.

FINAL WORDS

"These shirts aren't just decorations—they are a reminder that YOUR FAMILY stands firm in faith, and your legacy will continue for generations!"

(Transition to next station.)

GAME STATION GENERATIONAL OBSTACLE COURSE

INTRODUCTION [5 MINUTES]

LEADER: Welcome to the Generational Relay Challenge! This course represents our faith journey—sometimes it's smooth, and sometimes there are obstacles to overcome. But when we work together, we grow stronger in our faith and help each other along the way!

(Hold up the fabric mantle [baton] as a visual.)

Just like Elijah passed his mantle to Elisha, today your family will pass this 'mantle of faith' as you complete the course together.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBSTACLE COURSE [20 MINUTES TOTAL]

- Families will compete together, taking turns through each challenge.
- Each person must complete an obstacle before passing the "mantle" to the next family member.
- If needed, smaller families can team up.

OBSTACLE COURSE BREAKDOWN

1. "Steady Steps" (Balance Beam - Symbolizes Trusting God's Path)
 - Oldest family member starts by walking across a balance beam while holding the fabric mantle.
 - If they wobble or fall, they must try again—just like we must trust God even when the path is difficult.
2. "Overcoming Obstacles" (Crawling Under a Net - Symbolizes Facing Challenges in Faith)
 - Next family member crawls under a net or limbo pole to reach the next stage.
 - Remind them: *"Just like Elisha faced challenges, we must keep pushing forward!"*
3. "Sharing God's Word" (Beanbag Toss - Symbolizes Teaching Others)
 - Next person stands at a tossing line and throws a beanbag into a target.
 - Each successful toss represents sharing God's truth with others.
 - "When we tell others about Jesus, our faith keeps growing!"
4. "The Final Step" (Run to the Finish - Symbolizes Completing the Race)
 - The final person runs to place the mantle on a display rack that says, *"Faith Passed On."*
 - Entire family follows and cheers as they complete the course together!

WRAP-UP + REFLECTION [5 MINUTES]

LEADER: Amazing job, everyone! Just like Elijah and Elisha, we have to work together to carry faith forward. Who helped you the most in this challenge?

Ask for family volunteers to share:

- "What was the hardest obstacle for your family?"
- "How did working together help?"

Final Words: Passing on faith isn't something we do alone—it's something we do as a family, as a church, and with God's help. Let's keep cheering each other on in our faith journey!

(Encourage a family cheer or a final group chant before transitioning to the next activity.)