

Course Description

Lasers! Gyroscopes! Telescopes! Fusion, fission and chemical reactions!

At SonSpark Labs, explorers of all ages will find their imaginations spark to life as they research answers to universal questions by delving into the shadows of the ancient past, exploring scientific wonders of the present and even searching beyond—to an infinite future! The fun begins as you step into this astonishing world of God’s plan for the people of His planet!

Each session focuses on one aspect of God’s Plan for You = Jesus!, or GP4U = J!, as revealed through God’s Word. Young scientists will participate in experiments and hands-on activities that help them get to know Jesus and God’s plan of salvation. Kids will explore the answers to universal questions such as the following:



Who made the world and who made me? Session 1 takes kids on a whirlwind trip through Genesis to observe God’s incredible creation. Kids will discover **God’s Plan: 2 MAKE Us!**



What happens when I disobey God? In Session 2, kids will find out how the sins committed by Adam and Eve affected all of history—including each of us today. Kids will be encouraged to know **God’s Plan: 2 BE WITH Us!**



What is God like? In Session 3, kids will hear about the life of Jesus, the One God sent to bridge the separation created by our sin. Kids will learn that because of Jesus, they can experience **God’s Plan: 4 Us 2 KNOW Him!**



Why did Jesus have to die? In Session 4, kids will learn that Jesus loves each one of them so much that He died and rose again so that they could be forgiven. They’ll be excited to discover the next part of **God’s Plan: 2 SAVE Us!**



So . . . now what do I do? In Session 5, kids will learn what it means to live as a member of God’s family—the expansion phase in **God’s Plan: 2 LOVE Us 4-Ever!**

This summer, children will excitedly explore the amazing SonSpark Labs. They will trace God’s life-changing plan as it’s revealed from Creation to the present and on into the future. They’ll find answers to life’s most important questions. They will discover that God loves them and that through Jesus, at Baptism, they can be members of God’s family and personally experience God’s plan for each of us—God’s Plan for You is Jesus!

GP4U = J!

Course Overview

Purpose: Discovering **God's Plan 4 U = Jesus!**
Theme Verse: John 14:6-7

Session	 1 God's Plan: 2 MAKE Us!	 2 God's Plan: 2 BE WITH Us!	 3 God's Plan: 4 Us 2 KNOW Him!	 4 God's Plan: 2 SAVE Us!	 5 God's Plan: 2 LOVE Us 4-Ever!
Bible Story	The Creation Formulation Genesis 1:1—2:2	The Sin Separation Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17; 3:1-24	The Personification Revelation John 1:1-2,14; 5:1-9; 6:16-21; 11:57; 14:1-7	The Salvation Solution Luke 22—24:35	The Infinite Implementation Mark 16:15; Acts 1:1-11; 2:4,41-47; 4:32-35
Q&A	Who made the world and who made me? God, who created the universe, made you and loves you. CCC* 295-297	What happens when I do wrong things? Sin separates you from God. CCC 1849-1850	What is God like? When you read about Jesus in the Bible, you know more about God. CCC 131-133	Why did Jesus have to die? Jesus died and rose again so that you can become a member of God's family. CCC 166	So . . . now what do I do? You can live as God's child and show His love to others. CCC 2044-2046
Spark Principle	Gravity When He made the world, God created all the scientific laws that govern it—laws like gravity.	Cause & Effect Whatever we do (a cause) has a result (an effect). Whenever we sin, the effect is separation from God.	Motion Objects at rest stay at rest until a force puts them in motion. People were stuck in sin until Jesus came and put God's plan in motion.	Transformation Transformations occur when something new is introduced to an existing object and changes the object. Jesus changes us.	Chain Reaction A series of events caused by the one before. Sharing God's love with others can start a chain reaction and go on and on and on!
Bible Verse	"In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth [...] God created mankind in his own image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:1,27	"[A]ll have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God." Romans 3:23	"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'" John 14:6-7	"For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the spirit." 1 Peter 3:18	"[...] live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma." Ephesians 5:2

* Catechism of the Catholic Church

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Decorating

Decorating Overview

A few simple decorations can transform an ordinary room into part of SonSpark Labs! Use a variety of real items and/or painted backdrops to create a scientific atmosphere. For examples of colors to use for painting your patterns, refer to the new, full-color patterns included in this book; or see photos or wall murals on Decorating & Crafts Resources in the Reproducible Power Pack. For additional information, see the decorating clips found at liguorivbs.org. You can also check out the Liguori Publications VBS Facebook page, as well as the decorating board for SonSpark Labs on Pinterest, for great resources, advice, and ideas!

Using Patterns and Making Backdrops

In this book, you will find many patterns to help you decorate your rooms. Here are just a few of the ways to use these patterns:

- To enlarge patterns for decorations or backdrops, photocopy them onto transparency sheets. Use an overhead projector to project onto your chosen material (see suggestions below). Trace over pattern outlines.
- Patterns (for use as decorations or backdrops) are featured in both black and white and in color. Take the patterns from Decorating & Crafts Resources (in the Reproducible Power Pack) to a commercial printer to enlarge or print the images you want to use.
- For wall decorations, trace enlarged patterns onto butcher paper, paint and cut out.
- To create large backdrops, using canvas or paper painter's tarps (found at home-improvement stores) works very well. Another option is to use inexpensive king-sized sheets. Project a pattern onto fabric and then trace over. Use tempera or acrylic paints to paint in the scene (house paint is economical). Sheets of butcher paper painted with tempera and taped together are a traditional standard. (Watch the decorating clips found at liguorivbs.org to see preprinted wall murals for backdrop ideas.)
- Photocopy patterns onto sheets of colored paper or card stock and cut out for use on bulletin boards, as room signs and as name tags for teachers and children.

Use your imagination with these patterns—the possibilities are limitless! The atmosphere you create will add interest and continuity throughout your church building—and it will promote enthusiasm for SonSpark Labs!

Tip
This book contains many more ideas and patterns than most parishes will need. Evaluate and choose the ideas that are most appealing and workable for your situation.

Basic Supplies

- canvas, paper painter's tarps or king-sized sheets
- copy paper and transparency sheets
- craft knife
- glue gun
- overhead projector
- paintbrushes
- painter's tape in various colors
- permanent markers
- poster board
- scissors
- staple gun
- stapler
- tempera and/or acrylic paint in various colors
- white butcher paper

Attaching Decorations to Walls and Ceilings

Because parishes vary in their policies about attaching decorations to walls and ceilings, as well as in the different types of surfaces available there to work with, we have not specified a way to mount most decorations and props you will find in this book. However, here are supplies you may use:

- fishing line
- painter's tape, masking tape, electrical tape
- poster putty
- removable foam mounting tape
- stapler and staples
- tacks

Decorating 1-2-3s

To make decorating for VBS even easier, we've organized all of our ideas according to ease of use. If you're short on time, the **Level 1** and **Level 2** ideas pack maximum fun into minimum effort. But if you're dreaming of transforming your church into a whole new world, **Level 3** ideas will show you the way!

- **Level 1** ideas include easy decorating options available from Liguori Publications. They're ready-made decorations that we've pre-*pre*-pared especially for SonSpark Labs VBS, as well as a couple of easy prop additions.
- **Level 2** ideas include anything that you can gather or borrow. Whether you "shop" in your own garage, borrow from a friend or put a notice in your parish bulletin, these items are sure to give your rooms added pizzazz.
- **Level 3** ideas include ways to take decorating to the max! These include colorful preprinted wall murals, fun three-dimensional props and terrific patterns. If you've got the paint and the passion, these ideas are sure to take your VBS to the next level.
- Want more? Try **Level 4!** The forums at liguorivbs.org as well as the Liguori Publications VBS Facebook page, are filled with posts from enthusiastic VBS directors and leaders just like you. They're always excited to share great decorating ideas they've come up with and eager to hear any ideas you'd like to contribute. And don't forget the decorating board for SonSpark Labs on Pinterest!

NEW! This Year

The patterns are now available in full-color as well as the traditional one-color outline (pp. 20–49). The full-color patterns can be used as an instant coloring guide; or enlarge, copy and cut out!

Decorating is even easier and faster with the extra-large posters from the *MEGA Decorating Pack*. Simply remove from package and attach to wall. They are ready to go. Or, you can cut out the images for another level of detail!



Anywhere Ideas

These fun **Level 1** and **Level 2** ideas will add atmosphere and excitement throughout your VBS:

- Attendance Chart, Fiber-Optic Lab Lamp, Puzzle Cube, Atom Ball, Lab Entrance Cover—all from Liguori Publications.
- Daily Plan Pennants (available from Liguori Publications)
- Lab Beaker Set and Test Tubes (available from Liguori Publications) filled with colored water
- Mystery Machine Mural, Kaboom! Chem Lab Mural, Jumbo Lab Backdrop (available from Liguori Publications)
- Posters from the *Decorating Poster Pack*, *Bible Teaching Poster Pack*, *Sparky's Lab Posters & Props*, and the **NEW!** *MEGA Decorating Pack*
- Black lights and fluorescent paint or objects
- Colored LED lights
- Colorful wire
- Dry ice
- Lab equipment and toys (chemistry set, mechanical building toys, etc.)
- Old CDs or DVDs to hang from the ceiling
- Old electronic equipment

Theme Ideas

Add an unforgettable dimension to your VBS by filling your church with the sights and sounds of SonSpark Labs.

The science lab is wild and exciting and FUN! Kids love the thrilling experience of a wacky experiment! Make your VBS the best ever by using these ideas to make the science lab come to life for your VBS kids.

Use our suggestions to enhance the fun for your kids, or "Lab Assistants" (pp. 55–56).

Your VBS volunteers will love these extra-fun ideas developed just for them in "Research Team" (p. 57).

Theme Center Guide

Each day, children participate in hands-on Theme Center activities. In each activity, children explore the session's Spark Principle, which directly relates scientific exploration to the Bible focus.