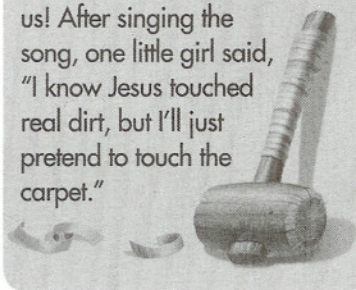


## Notes From **Nazareth**

After participants register or sign in each day, they'll join their Tribe Leader on their home base blanket. Each of the Tribes will have their own identifying color of Tribe name poster and Banduras (headbands). When you're ready to begin, they'll join you in the Celebration area.

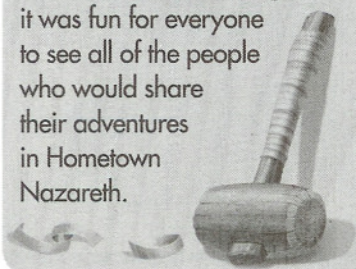
### **Field Test Findings**

The words and motions to "God With Us" really made the point that while Jesus is God's Son, he also was like us! After singing the song, one little girl said, "I know Jesus touched real dirt, but I'll just pretend to touch the carpet."

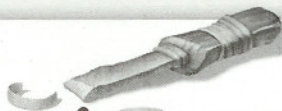


### **Field Test Findings**

Tribes gathered in a large circle for all opening and closing Celebrations. A large circle made it easy for everyone to mix and mingle as well as learn the songs. Plus it was fun for everyone to see all of the people who would share their adventures in Hometown Nazareth.



## **Day 1 Opening Celebration**



### **1. Welcome everyone to Hometown Nazareth.**

Play the *Celebration Music* CD as participants register. When you're ready to begin, gather the Tribes.

Say: **Welcome to Hometown Nazareth—where Jesus was a kid! Every day this week, we'll begin and end our time in Celebration, praising and worshipping God's true Son, Jesus!**

### **2. Teach the theme song, "God With Us."**

Say: **Just imagine! We are in Nazareth, Jesus' hometown! Jesus had a home and a family on earth—but he is also truly God's Son! Let's learn our theme song that tells us more about Jesus.**



#### **CD Track 1**

Briefly review the words and motions to the theme song, "God With Us" (Words and motions are on page 48.) Have everyone form a large circle. During the verses, everyone faces the center of the circle. During the chorus, everyone walks in one direction in the circle.

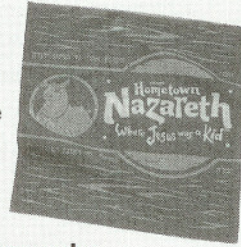
### 3. Introduce the Tribes.

Say: We're going to have such a good time in Hometown Nazareth. In Bible times, families were proud to belong to special tribes. I see most of you have met the people in your Tribes. If you haven't already, do so now! Greet each Tribe member by giving a high five and saying "Welcome to Hometown Nazareth."

Allow time for greetings. Then motion toward someone who is wearing a Bandura and standing close to their Tribe name poster.

Say: A Tribe name is like someone's last name, telling who that person is. Your Banduras match the color of your Tribe name poster. Every time you see a Bandura that's the same color as yours, you'll see one of your Tribe members.

Quickly call out each Tribe name, and have the Tribe members cheer!



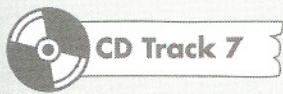
### Hometown Nazareth Tribes

- ➔ Reuben
- ➔ Simeon
- ➔ Levi
- ➔ Judah
- ➔ Zebulun
- ➔ Issachar
- ➔ Dan
- ➔ Gad
- ➔ Asher
- ➔ Naphtali
- ➔ Joseph
- ➔ Benjamin

### 4. Sing "Great Things!"


Say: All week long we get to visit with Jesus' mother, Mary, and hear stories about when Jesus grew up. Look in the direction of Mary's House, and motion toward it. In fact, that's where Mary lives—just down the street and around the corner! Lean in toward the Tribes as you tell them this very important information. Most of the people here in Hometown Nazareth know Jesus as the son of Mary and Joseph—just the kid next door. They miss out on this amazing fact—Jesus truly is God's Son! But we know Jesus' "true identity."

Clap your hands as if you can't contain your excitement! We're going to learn so many great things here in Hometown Nazareth. Let's sing a song called "Great Things!"



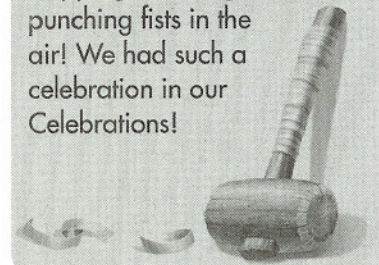
Briefly teach the words and motions to "Great Things!" (Words and motions are on page 55.) It's a fun and easy song to learn. Punch fists in the air each time you sing the words "great things."

### 5. Introduce the Bible Point.

Say: Today we'll learn that God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother.  Jesus had a family...we do too! Families come in all shapes and sizes. Some of us might have lots of brothers and sisters; some of us might have one or none! Some of us are adopted, some live with moms and dads, some live with grandparents, some have stepbrothers and stepsisters, some are...well, you get the picture. You know what? Your Tribe is like your family in Hometown Nazareth! Bump knuckles with Tribe members on either side of you, and say "Thanks for being my family." Pause while Tribe members do this.

### Field Test Findings

Everyone had a blast singing "Great Things!" We gathered a small group to be the "hometown cheer squad." Every time we sang the song, they helped lead clapping, shouting, and punching fists in the air! We had such a celebration in our Celebrations!



## 6. Learn a song, and sing the Bible verse!

Say: When Mary heard that God wanted her to be Jesus' mother, she must have thought, "How can God have chosen me to be Jesus' mother? How is that possible?" Open the Bible. An angel told Mary, "For nothing is impossible with God." That's our Bible verse for today—Luke 1:37.

Teach Tribe members the following actions to help them remember the Bible verse. Have everyone shake their heads "no" and spread their hands out for "For nothing is impossible." Have everyone point both pointer fingers up for "with God."



**"For nothing is impossible..."**      **"...with God."**

Say: I know a song that teaches today's Bible verse. Let's sing!



**CD Track 3**

Briefly teach "Nothing Is Impossible (Luke 1:37)." (Words and motions are on page 51.) The motions for the chorus are the same as the motions for the Bible verse!

## 7. Just imagine!

Say: In a minute, you'll gather with your Tribe for a Hometown Huddle. You'll talk about the fun things you get to do today in Hometown Nazareth. Just imagine...

- ...you'll visit Mary's House right around the corner!
- ...you'll play games like Jesus might have played!
- ...you'll visit shops like Jesus might have visited!

## 8. Head to Hometown Huddles.

Say: After 15 minutes in your Hometown Huddle, you'll hear a Shepherd's Bell and know it's time for your trip to ancient Nazareth. Hold up the Shepherd's Bell. This is a Shepherd's Bell! Did you know Jesus called himself "the Good Shepherd"? Jesus came to earth to show the way for us to get to heaven and live forever with him. Jesus is our guide. Ring the Shepherd's Bell. When you hear this Shepherd's Bell ring, you will know it's time to go to your next rotation.

Give any announcements, and then say: **Have fun in Hometown Nazareth—where Jesus was a kid!**

Play the *Celebration Music* CD in the background during Hometown Huddle.

