

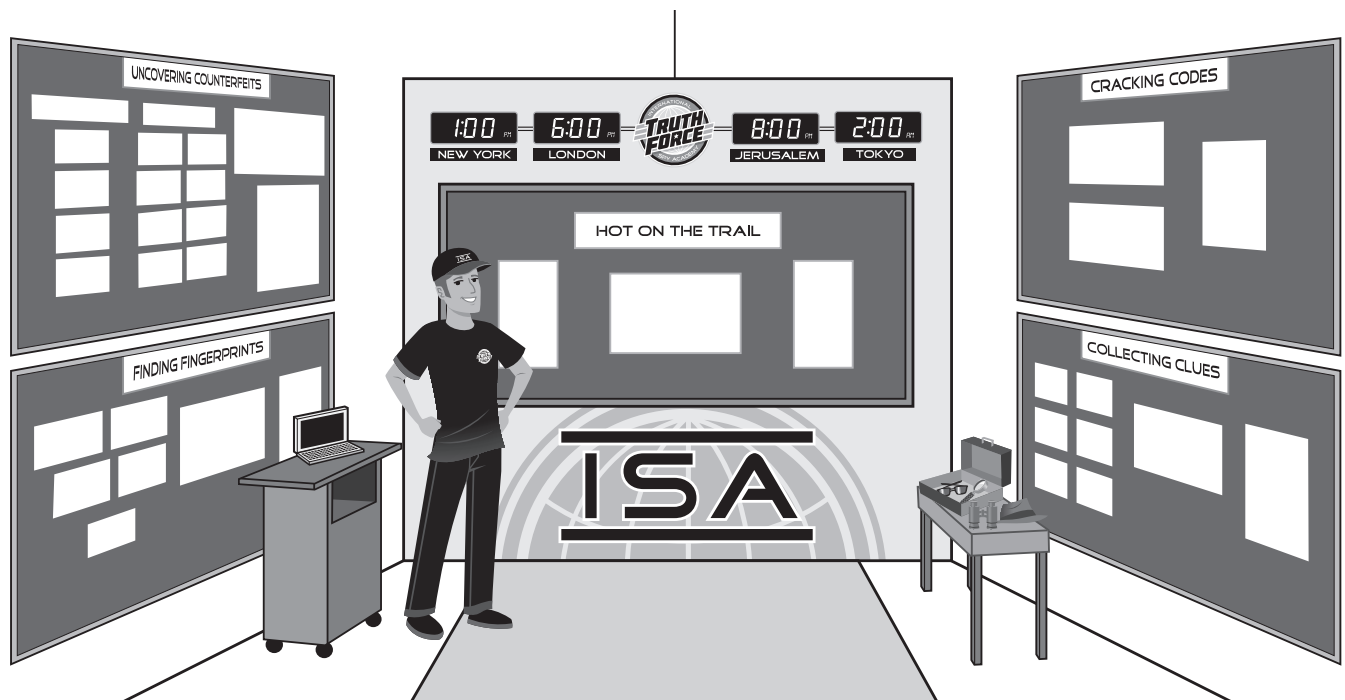


HELPS

Decorating Your Classroom

Disguises, gadgets, coded messages . . . it's no secret that boys and girls alike love a spy theme. Kids just can't resist the drama and intrigue. So use your creativity, along with the ideas in this section, to set up your ISA (International Spy Academy) Headquarters. Creating a fun and exciting environment helps children learn better, remember more, and leave with happy memories.

The ISA Headquarters design features a stage area with a techy-looking backdrop to serve as the focal point for the teaching. The adjacent walls have large black panels that are used to display the posters from each of the previous days' teachings.

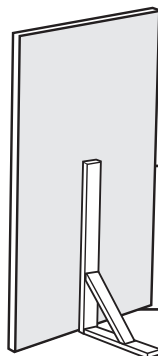


Key Decorating Elements

ISA Stage and Backdrop

Your ISA backdrop should be made out of a rigid material like foam board or corrugated cardboard, or, for smaller rooms, simply use a classroom wall as a backdrop. Ideally, your backdrop should be painted some shade of gray. Then, add a large black panel to the center to serve as a display area for the daily resource posters. Use black paint, roll paper, or inexpensive rectangular plastic tablecloths for this purpose. Then, frame the panel with thin, straight strips of poster board. Above the panel mount a row of international clocks with a Truth Force logo in the center. Below the panel, paint

a large ISA logo. See the Resource DVD-ROM for the clip art images. If you are using corrugated cardboard for your backdrop, apply one coat of paint to the back to minimize curling. Your backdrop should be propped up from behind with wooden supports (jacks) and weighted down with bags of sand or rock salt. If necessary, you can further secure it by running thin strands of wire to the ceiling. Check YouTube.com/AnswersVBS for a how-to video on building jacks.



Prop up your free-standing decorations with wooden jacks made from 2x4, 2x3, 2x2, or 1x2 boards. Smaller decorations will need smaller jacks and larger decorations will need larger ones.

ISA Backdrop Scene Setter



As an alternative to decorating your own backdrop, an ISA Headquarters scene setter is available to purchase (11-2-299) as a download from AnswersBookstore.com. Print it on a wide-format printer and then apply the scene setter directly to your backdrop, and you're done!

In front of the backdrop, create a stage with a rug or raised platform.

PUPPET STAGE: Cut a small “secret door” somewhere in your backdrop that can swing open at the appropriate time for a puppet stage. Be sure to cover the hole from the inside with fabric. Puppets are used daily in the Toddler rooms.

If you are using a classroom wall for your backdrop, however, a puppet stage can be made easily using a tri-fold presentation board that will sit on a table. Simply cut a large rectangular hole in the center panel and cover with fabric from the inside. (See below.) Decorate if desired.



Poster Display Panels

Four large black panels on the walls adjacent to the backdrop are used to display the resource posters from each of the previous days' teachings. At the end of each day, the posters and lesson title strips are transferred from the backdrop to a wall panel. Use black roll paper or inexpensive

rectangular plastic tablecloths to make the panels and frame them with thin, straight strips of poster board. You will only need four panels because the last day's posters will remain on the backdrop.

Other Miscellaneous Ideas

1. Have pretend hand scanners at your entry doors. See the Resource DVD-ROM for a sample design.
2. Have “Restricted Area—Agents-in-Training Only,” “Classified Personnel Only,” “Top Secret,” and “Confidential” signs in various places.
3. Install a couple fake security cameras near your stage and backdrop. They can be made cheaply and easily with some cardboard and paper towel tubes.
4. Check the Resource DVD-ROM for clip art images that can be used in your decorating.

HOW TO ENLARGE AND TRANSFER CLIP ART

1. Photocopy the clip art onto transparencies.
2. Place roll paper or a rigid material against a wall.
3. Using an overhead projector to enlarge the clip art, shine the image onto the paper or rigid material, adjusting it as necessary for the size desired.
4. Trace the image outlines onto the paper or rigid material.
5. Paint the image, if necessary, and cut out.

Resource Posters and Lesson Title Strips

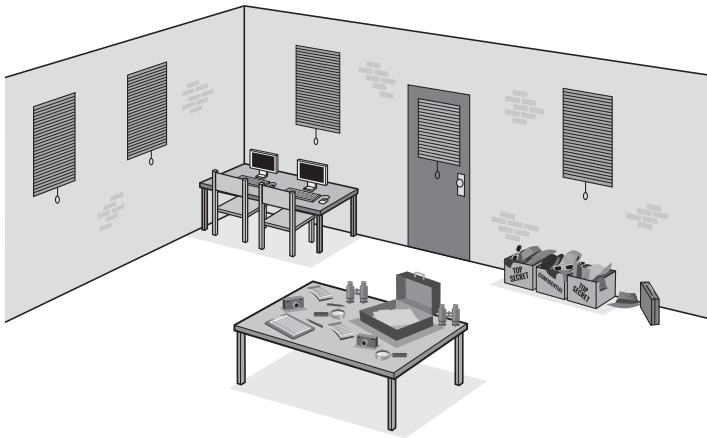
Contained in the Teacher Resource Kit are the daily teaching, overview, and memory verse posters. These are an important visual for the kids and should be mounted in an organized fashion. Lesson title strips for each day's lesson can be found on the Resource DVD-ROM. They should be printed, mounted on poster board, and then displayed above the corresponding daily resource posters.

Exploration Stations

Toddler classes will also enjoy Exploration Stations, which will include a dramatic play area, a touch table, a discovery center, and a coloring corner. Further information about these stations can be found on p. 6, but check the following for details on how to make a “Safe House” Dramatic Play Area and a “Hideout” Coloring Corner.

“Safe House” Dramatic Play Area

To make your “Safe House” dramatic play area, designate a corner of the room and decide how large an area to decorate. Next, cover the walls with brick patterned background (“scene setter”) paper, available for purchase online. Then, add a door and a few windows. See the Resource DVD-ROM for the clip art images. In the center of the room, place some safe spy props the kids can play with, such as play laptops, file folders, and old telephones. Put another table against the wall with old computer screens and keyboards that are securely anchored. And, of course, don’t forget a good supply of dress-up clothes, including spy attire (trench coats, fedoras, dark glasses, mustaches, black gloves, briefcases, etc.) and other disguises.



“Hideout” Coloring Corner

Make a “hideout” for the children to enter as they spend time coloring and learning their memory verses. Simply cover 2 or 3 long tables with large sheets or blankets. Cover the floor of the hideout as well. Pull back a corner or two to create a doorway and secure with large binder clips. For light, use flashlights and battery-powered lanterns.





Agent-In-Action Games

Play is what this age group does best! While they're playing, they're learning, so enjoy this time together.

If you have a safe area, consider having an outdoor play time. It's nice to break up the day and have a new location to explore. The outdoor location should be enclosed so no one wanders off. If you don't have a safe area, use hay bales or snow fencing to create one. Ask church families to bring in plastic slides, big wheel riding toys, and other young child outdoor equipment. Make sure it's labeled so it can easily be returned after VBS.

You may also want to consider having wading pools with a small amount of water for outdoor playtime. (Supervise carefully.) Make sure parents are notified ahead of time and bring swimmies, a towel, and extra clothes. Ask if it's okay to use sunscreen on their child, and apply it at least ten minutes before going outside. If possible, locate the pools in a shady area.

For recreation time, use the following suggestions or other games from the game guide. Any of these ideas may be repeated throughout the week as time allows.

Thematic Game Ideas

Day 1

BUILDING BUDDIES

Set out one or more piles of fake bricks (10 per pile) for the kids to build Elijah's altar with. You can either make fake bricks (stuff brown lunch bags with wadded up newspaper and tape the end shut), or use play fake bricks that you can buy online or at a toy store.

Teaching Tie-In: Elijah built an altar out of stones. Today, we're going to pretend to build that altar with our stones. Who remembers what happened with the animal, the bull, on the altar?

POOL PANDEMONIUM

Place an empty baby pool at one end of the designated area. Fill three large buckets with water and place them at the other end. Place plastic cups next to the buckets. Have children huddle around the buckets and give each one a cup. On the go signal, they fill their cup with water from the buckets and run over and pour the water in the baby pool.

Teaching Tie-In: Elijah poured water over his altar to show that God is so powerful! God can set things on fire even if they are wet.

Day 2

TRINITY TOSS

Put three hula hoops on the ground. Place a set of three bean bags next to each hoop. Divide the kids into three groups.

Each child takes turns trying to toss three beanbags into their hula hoop.

Teaching Tie-In: God is one God in three Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

TRINITY TROT

Have the kids run around a little area three times. Try other actions in threes—three jumping jacks, jump up three times, hop like a bunny three times, etc.

Teaching Tie-In: God is one God in three Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Day 3

TREASURE HUNT

Place large fake coins (not choking hazards) around the area. Children try to find the coins.

Teaching Tie-In: You found some treasure, didn't you? But you know who is the greatest treasure of all? God! God is great!

SLEEPING SPY

Have a leader be a "sleeping spy" at one end of the playing field. Line the players up on a start line and have them tiptoe toward the sleeping spy and try to touch him (or her) before he wakes up. The sleeping spy can awaken at any time and chase the players back to the start line.

Teaching Tie-In: If you make it to the sleeping spy, say, “God is great!” to wake him up!

Day 4

RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

Have the children line up and have a leader stand approximately 20 feet in front of them. When the leader says, “Green light!” they run toward the leader. When the leader says, “Red light!” they stop and stand still. Whoever gets to the leader first wins.

Teaching Tie-In: Jesus tells the children to come to Him, just like in this game. You’re trying to come to the leader!

THE CHASE IS ON!

In this simple chase game, the leader counts to 10 while everyone runs as far away as possible (within the designated area). Then the leader tries to tag people. If someone is tagged, they get to chase people, too!

Teaching Tie-In: God loves you and wants you to be part of His family, just like our leader is after you and trying to tag you!

Day 5

GOTCHA!

This game is kind of like Hot Potato. The children sit in a circle and pass around one object each round. It may be a ball or fake spy glasses, for instance. The leader faces away from the circle and randomly yells “Gotcha!” Whoever is holding the object when “Gotcha!” is called stands and gets a high five from the leader. Play then resumes with a new object.

Teaching Tie-In: It’s fun to get a high five from your leader. Your leaders care about you. God cares about you, too!

CHALLENGE COURSE

Designate an area to be the challenge course. Place slides, play gyms, large boxes, and balls throughout the area. Set up a finish line about 20 feet from the rest of the course. Have the children first slide down the slide, then crawl through the play gym. Next, they can crawl through the large box, then practice kicking balls. Finally, they run to the finish line. (Tailor this to your situation.)

Teaching Tie-In: Spies have to work hard and face challenges. Here’s the best challenge of all: Love God with all your heart!

Anytime Games

Parachute Fun

Leaders and children hold a parachute or a sheet. Try any of these options or make up some of your own.

SHAKE THE TREASURE

Place fake play coins (not choking hazards) in the middle of the parachute. Shake the parachute gently and see if the coins pop into the air as it wiggles. Remind them as they shake the treasure that God is the greatest treasure!

ENTER THE HIDEOUT

On your signal, have the kids bring their arms straight up to make the parachute go straight up, filling itself with air. Then, the kids should take two steps in, bend over, and touch the ground. Pretend they’re now inside the hideout.

THREE IN THE AIR

Place three lightweight balls of different colors on the parachute. Have children shake the parachute vigorously to make the balls fly. Remind them of 1-2-3—Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

AGENTS AROUND

Pretend that the special agents need to go this way and that to get to an assignment. Have the children hold the parachute tightly and walk in a clock-wise direction. Then change directions. Next, try other locomotor skills: gallop, side-slide, jump, or hop.

Pick Up, Count Down

Scatter 25 light weight balls (not choking hazards) in a designated area. Place a baby pool to one side of the play area. Kids race to pick up the balls and put them in the baby pool while the clock ticks down for 30 seconds or a minute.

Planes, Trains, Automobiles

Special agents have their ways of getting around! Have the kids pretend to be a plane (arms out to sides and run around), a train (arms going around like choo-choo wheels), or an automobile (run around saying, “Vroom! Vroom!”) when you shout “plane,” “train,” or “automobile.”



Classified Crafts

Simple. Simple. Simple. Young children need simple crafts that are fun to touch and explore. More pre-prep needs to take place, so the children are left with decorating, attaching stickers, and gluing.

As with all other items used with the toddlers and young preschoolers, watch carefully that items are not choking hazards and that all items are non-toxic. Use chunky crayons. Remember to put names on all crafts as they work on them.

Plan two craft times a day but be prepared to skip one or both if the children need more rest time. Some of the crafts follow the “big kids” craft time but are simplified for this level. Some are designed only for the little ones.

Decide whether you or the Craft Coordinator will be in charge of preparing the craft materials. Whatever ideas you choose, have fun with them and use them to reinforce the big themes of the week.

Thematic Craft Ideas

Day 1

SESSION 1—SPY KIT

See the *Classified Crafts Guide*. Follow the pre-prep directions. Toddlers will color and glue on the Truth Force logo. They can also add stickers of international flags or icons if you want to add those into the mix. Copy the big number one pattern (Resource DVD-ROM) and have the kids color the number one and put it inside the kit.

Teaching Tie-In: Look at the fun spy kit you’ll be making today! You’ll put a big number one inside to remind you of the one true God!

SESSION 2—ELIJAH’S ALTAR

Gather lunch bags, tape, and stuffing. Let the kids stuff the bags to make stones. Teachers tape them shut. The kids can stack them around to make Elijah’s altar.

Teaching Tie-In: Our God is amazing! Elijah asked Him to do something special, and God did! He started a fire in the altar even when it was soaking wet!

Day 2

SESSION 1—TRINITY NECKLET

See the *Classified Crafts Guide*. Follow the pre-prep directions for the Toddler/Pre-Primary necklet. If working with young toddlers, substitute three colors of Fruit Loops for beads because of choking hazards. (Make sure nobody has food allergies.)

Teaching Tie-In: Let’s count to three. 1-2-3! God is three in one—God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We can remember our 3-in-1 God while we put our three colors on the necklets.

SESSION 2—JESUS’S BAPTISM PICTURE

See the *Classified Crafts Guide*, but cut and pre-prep all the pieces ahead of time so the toddlers are just gluing them on.

Teaching Tie-In: Our God is amazing! He is 3-in-1. He’s God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Day 3

SESSION 1—ONE TRUE GOD BINOCULARS

See the *Classified Crafts Guide*. Follow the pre-prep directions. Toddlers should be left with coloring and gluing on the words.

Teaching Tie-In: Our God is great! He is big and good and mighty and perfect, and He knows everything!

SESSION 2—BURNING BUSH POP-UP

Gather styrofoam cups, cardstock circles that fit into the base of the cups, craft sticks, and red, orange, and yellow tissue paper. Toddlers will glue pieces of tissue paper onto the circle. Leaders can tape the circle to the craft stick and poke the other end of the stick through the bottom of the cup. The kids can push the “fire” up through the cup.

Teaching Tie-In: Our God is great! He can do anything. He can even make a bush be on fire but not burn up!

Day 4

SESSION 1—J3:16 PUZZLE

See the *Classified Crafts Guide*. Follow the pre-prep directions.

Teaching Tie-In: Our God is loving! He loves you so much! Let's say this verse together that goes on our craft.

SESSION 2—MEMORY GAME

See the *Classified Crafts Guide*. Follow the pre-prep directions in the "Extra Crafts" section.

Teaching Tie-In: Who can remember who it was that died on a cross and rose from the dead? Yes, it was Jesus! You have a good memory! When you play this game, you have to have a good memory, too, and try to remember where you put the pictures that look alike.

Day 5

SESSION 1—I SPY SHAKER

See the *Classified Crafts Guide*. Follow the pre-prep directions.

Teaching Tie-In: When you look at your I Spy Shaker, see if you can find the heart. Remember—God loves you and cares for you! That's amazing!

SESSION 2—CATCH UP CRAFT DAY

No extra craft option is listed today, allowing time to finish any crafts from prior days. If you are caught up and the kids are still going strong, make souvenir picture frames to put a picture of each child in as a keepsake. Make sure to put the name and date on the back of each one.



Top Secret Snacks

Yum! Yum! Snack time is always a hit, no matter what the age.

With this age group, it is especially important to check with parents about allergies, as little ones will not always be able to communicate such things. Also, make sure all food is safe and in bite-sized pieces.

If you are running a morning VBS, consider providing a breakfast snack shortly after arrival (e.g., mini-muffins, half a banana, or toasted oat cereal).

For the main snack, arrange with the Snack Coordinator to bring the snack in at the appropriate time and for the appro-

priate numbers. Serve smaller portions of what the “big kids” are having, or serve one of the optional ideas listed below.

Keep this time calm and quiet. Pray before eating. As they eat, listen to a story or watch a quiet, Christian video (e.g., *A Is for Adam* or *D Is for Dinosaur*, available from answers bookstore.com). Children may bring blankets or rest mats for a short rest time. They have been going all day, so this is a good time to rest. Remind the children that Jesus made them and loves them.

Thematic Snack Ideas

Day 1

BANANAGRAMS

See the *Top Secret Snacks Guide*, but serve just half a banana.

Teaching Tie-In: Find the number 1 hidden on your banana peel. There's only one true God, and He's amazing! Let's pray to Him now and thank Him for this yummy treat.

“ONLY ONE” TREATS

Choose various snack items and give each child just one of each. Possible choices are one chocolate chip, one cracker, one piece of cheese, one piece of cereal, one pretzel, one chip, one mini muffin, etc.

Teaching Tie-In: How many ___ do you have? How many ___? Continue to ask, and then make the point that the number one reminds us that there is just one true God, and He's amazing! Let's pray to the one true God to thank Him for the food.

Day 2

PUDDING 1-2-3

See the *Top Secret Snacks Guide*, but serve a smaller portion.

Teaching Tie-In: The one true God is three Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), and our pudding is 1-2-3! Let's count to 1-2-3 and then thank our amazing God for this food.

TRI-COLORED POPSICLES

Choose a popsicle that has three colors on one stick, such as red, white, and blue rocket pops. You may want to put a small cup or part of a cup on the popsicle stick to catch melting drips.

Teaching Tie-In: We have one popsicle, and it has three colors. There is one true God who exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let's count to three, then thank our amazing God for popsicles.

Day 3

TREASURE TREATS (VERSION 1)

See the *Top Secret Snacks Guide*, but serve a smaller portion.

Teaching Tie-In: When you open up your cupcake, what's inside? It's a treasure in there! That can help us remember that our great God is a treasure, too! Let's tell God we know He's a treasure and that we're thankful for this treasure of a snack.

TREASURE TREATS (VERSION 2)

Buy or make a little treasure chest. Put pre-packaged snacks in it that the kids can choose.

Teaching Tie-In: As you eat your treasure treat, remember that our great God is a treasure! Let's tell God that we know He's a treasure and let's thank Him for these treasure treats.

Day 4

UNDERCOVER APPLES

See the *Top Secret Snacks Guide*, but serve a smaller portion.

Teaching Tie-In: Look at those apples hiding under the caramel and hot fudge! That reminds me of Adam and Eve hiding from God after they disobeyed God (sinned). Let's thank our great God for loving Adam and Eve, and loving us, even when we sin. And let's thank Him for this snack.

CROSS CINNAMON STICKS

Buy cinnamon-flavored graham cracker sticks. On a small plate, put one for the vertical part of the cross, and carefully divide another in half, putting the halves on either side of the vertical piece to form the crossbar.

Teaching Tie-In: What shape do you have on your plate? Yes, it's a cross. What happened on the cross? Yes, Jesus died because He loves you so much! And He rose from the dead! Let's thank our great God for His love and for this yummy snack.

Day 5

HOT ON THE TRAIL MIX

See the *Top Secret Snacks Guide*, but serve a smaller portion.

Teaching Tie-In: We like our hot on the trail mix, but we love our caring God who gave it to us. Let's thank Him for our snack now.

HEART BROWNIES

Make brownies and cut into heart shapes with a cookie cutter. Serve one per child on a napkin.

Teaching Tie-In: Our great God loves you so much and He wants you to love Him, too! Let's thank Him that He cares for us and gives us good food.



Uncovering Counterfeits

BIBLE PASSAGE

Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
1 Kings 18:20–39

LESSON FOCUS/APOLOGETICS CONTENT

Agents will identify the one true God of the Bible.

COMMIT THIS TO MEMORY

There is one God. 1 Corinthians 8:6

DAILY CIPHER (IN CODE)

One God

Today's Exploration Stations

- Discovery Center: Only One
- Touch Table: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
- Dramatic Play: Spy Time
- Coloring Corner: 1 Corinthians 8:6

Today's Lesson at a Glance

- Lesson Time
Part 1: Operation One True God
Part 2: Puppet Pal—Elijah and the Prophets of Baal
- Song Time
Song 1: "Our God Is So Big"
Song 2: "No One Like Our God"
- Memory Verse/Review Time
Part 1: Commit This To Memory
Part 2: Go and Do

Preparing for the Lesson

- Read 1 Kings 18 several times.
- Read this lesson several times and prepare the materials. For more information on false religions/gods and the one true God, visit answersvs.com/isafaq.
- Pray.

Lesson Materials

FROM TEACHER RESOURCE KIT

- Memory verse poster
- Daily overview poster (AKA Daily Cipher)
- Exploration Station Names poster

FROM RESOURCE DVD-ROM

- Day 1 memory verse coloring sheet (Expl. Station)
- 2 copies of today's puppet script

OTHER MATERIALS

- Bible or children's Bible
- ISA agent costumes for teachers
- Exploration Station supplies (see back cover)
- Briefcase
- 1 real U.S. bill
- Fake play bills
- Boy or girl puppet and puppet stage
- Clipboard
- Optional: Student guides and supplies (see page 23)
- Optional: Passports (11-2-091) and magnifying glass decoders (11-2-089), 1 per child

Devotion 1

Uncovering Counterfeits

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10

At *International Spy Academy*, we're encouraging our kids to learn about, love, and live for the one true God. But . . . how do we know the one true God even exists? It's a question that has crossed the mind of every believer at some point—sure, I believe in God, but how do I know the God I love and serve is truly the one true God?

Before we answer that question, let's go a bit further by asking another question: how can we know anything? How do we even know to question the surety of God's existence?

Here's the answer: apart from the perfect, truthful, unchanging, eternal God of the Bible, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Colossians 2:3) and from whom come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 9:10), we cannot know anything.

Think about it.

If, as some suggest, there is no god—no ultimate standard of truth and knowledge—and we are simply the product of random processes operating on chemicals over time, then the thoughts in our brains are nothing more than the product of random chemical interactions. How could we know anything?

If, as others suggest, our universe is ruled by a god who is not eternal (Mormonism, *History of the Church*, vol. 6, ch. 14, p. 305–6) or who is deceptive (Islam, Koran 3:54, 8:30), how could we be sure that what we know is true today will still be true tomorrow?

The one true God of the Bible has created each person in His image, giving us the ability to think rationally, to question thoughtfully, to know truth fully. And He has revealed Himself to everyone so that no one is without excuse (Romans 1:18–21). Those who deny His existence or seek to change Him into a false version of Himself are willfully

ignorant, suppressing the truth in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).

We can know the one true God exists because we have the ability to know in the first place. And we can praise Him that He freely gives wisdom to those who ask for it (James 1:5). This week, let's be quick to seek wisdom from the one true God as we teach our children to uncover the counterfeit gods and to know the one true God and embrace Him fully.

May we be thankful as the Puritans were, not only that we can know things but that the one true God has enabled us to know Him.

Glorious God,
I bless thee that I know thee.
I once lived in the world, but was ignorant of its
Creator,
was partaker of thy providences, but knew not the
Provider,
was blind while enjoying the sunlight,
was deaf to all things spiritual, with voices all
around me,
understood many things, but had no knowledge of
thy ways,
saw the world, but did not see Jesus only.
O happy day, when in thy love's sovereignty
thou didst look on me, and call me by grace.
Grant that I may always weep to the praise of
mercy found,
and tell to others as long as I live,
that thou art a sin-pardoning God,
taking up the blasphemer and the ungodly,
and washing them from their deepest stain.
(Excerpt from "The Great Discovery" in *The Valley of
Vision*)

Exploration Stations

Discovery Center: Only One

MATERIALS

- One each of various objects to hide, such as one ball, one doll, one toy car, one shoe, etc.
- The number “1” hidden somewhere

PRE-PREP

Hide the items around the room.

DIRECTIONS

Tell the kids you’ve hidden one ball somewhere in the room and they need to find it. When someone finds it, they should all come back. Continue with the other objects.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Each time they come back, emphasize there is just one of that item. Have them find the number “1” last. When they find it, emphasize there is just one true God.

Touch Table: Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

MATERIALS

- Under-the-bed storage container, small wading pool, or “official” touch table
- Tarp or plastic tablecloth
- Water
- Lincoln logs (plastic wood pieces), two plastic bulls, little play people, little plastic buckets

PRE-PREP

Tarp the floor under the touch table. This will be used all week. Put water in the touch table and have the other items in the buckets.

DIRECTIONS

Special agents take the items out of the buckets and put them in the water table, simulating the Bible account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20–39).

TEACHING TIE-IN

Elijah showed everyone that there’s only one true God and that God is great! God can even bring fire when everything is soaking wet!

Dramatic Play: Spy Time

MATERIALS

Choose from any of the following, depending on your situation. These will be used all week.

- Brick wall backdrop (see Decorating Decisions)
- Costumes (small trench coats, international clothing and hats, other spy-looking clothes and gear)
- Safe props such as nonbreakable magnifying glasses, file folders, play telephones, play laptops, play cameras, play suitcases (or old lunchboxes spray painted silver or black)
- Copy paper boxes or white corrugated cardboard boxes with the words “Top Secret” and/or “Confidential” stamped or stickered on them—use to keep costumes in
- Small table (“base”) to keep spy supplies on

PRE-PREP

Gather the supplies. The costumes can be borrowed, made, or bought from thrift stores or garage sales.

Set up the brick wall backdrop and other decorations to simulate the inside of a safe house. Put the costumes in the cardboard boxes. Put the supplies on a small table that is “base.”

Note: You may want to put travel stickers on the suitcases or the copy paper/white corrugated boxes.

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to be special agents.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice being an agent-in-training. Good agents know there is only one true God. And remember, God loves you!

Note: You may want to put out only part of the supplies today, adding new ones each day. The kids enjoy discovering something new daily.

Coloring Corner: 1 Corinthians 8:6

MATERIALS

- Hideout decorating supplies (see Decorating Decisions)
- Day 1 memory verse coloring sheet (Resource DVD-ROM)
- Markers or crayons
- Optional for marker and crayon storage: Small school boxes decorated with travel-looking stickers (to simulate little suitcases)
- Optional: Additional supplies to glue on and glue sticks

PRE-PREP

Photocopy the coloring sheet, 1 per child. Make or gather the decorating supplies and set them up. These will be used all week. Gather additional supplies to glue on if you'd like, such as toothpicks for the firewood or cotton balls for the clouds.

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

Additional Exploration Station Ideas

- Art Agents—Have assorted art supplies for the special agents to use in making their own craft creations. Suggestions include paper, markers, ribbon, pompoms, craft sticks, recycled boxes and plastic containers, stickers, dot art. You can even suggest they make pretend spy gadgets!
- X Marks the Reading Spot—Make a cozy reading corner with an X on the floor. Have books about our great God for the kids to check out.
- Examine the Evidence—Set this up as a science/nature center where special agents can carefully observe various items. Powers of observation are important for agents-in-training!
- Planes, Trains, and Automobiles—Set up some mini “spy” cars and play tracks. Add in play helicopters, trains, police cars, and other play mini vehicles for fun chases. As with all toys and supplies for toddlers, make sure they are safe and don't pose a choking hazard.

Lesson Time (10 minutes)

Part 1: Operation One True God

TEACHER ONE: Welcome, special agents. Good to see that you've arrived safely at the International Spy Academy. I'm Agent _____.

TEACHER TWO: And I'm Agent _____. We're members of the Truth Force, and we love to teach people about the one true God from God's special, one true book, the Bible. Take it out of your briefcase and hold it up.

TEACHER ONE: We have a theme verse from the Bible: **There is one God. Let's learn that now as our first assignment.** Do so.

TEACHER TWO: Let's put on our pretend spy gear and begin with **Operation One True God.** Pretend to do so, putting on pretend hats, spy watches, backpacks, sunglasses, etc.

Any Truth Force agent must be able to find fakes. To help you do so, you're going to go on a treasure hunt. There are pieces of money hidden around the room. Each person needs to find one, then come back and sit down. 3-2-1, Go!

Make sure money is hidden but still very easy for them to find. Give them a short time to do this. All should have one piece of money, which you hid ahead of time. All will be fake except one. Hide the real one in an obvious place and make sure it has been found.

Once back in their seats, have them look at their money. Ask if they think it's real money or fake (not real) money. Pass around the real and fake and compare how they look and feel. Explain that special agents need to know what real money looks like. Fake money will do you no good!

Note: From this point on, Teacher One and Teacher Two parts are not specifically designated. You can decide who is doing what each day.

Part 2: Puppet Pal—Elijah and the Prophets of Baal

Each day, the puppet pal will be an important part of the lesson. If you don't have a teaching assistant or a co-teacher, enlist someone (a team leader or other volunteer) ahead of time to work the puppet each day. If alone, have the puppet enter from a chest with the lid flipped up.

The puppet can be a boy or a girl. Use a consistent voice for the puppet all week. Speak clearly and exaggerate words and expressions. For instance, draw out certain words for emphasis, or make an exaggerated action for things like groaning, turning its head, or sneezing. Use your free hand to do things with the puppet's hands or arms. For example, if the puppet is "thinking," put the puppet's hand on its chin. When the puppet is talking, make sure the mouth is open. (This is the opposite of what people often do!)


Just like we talked about fake money, there are also fake (not real) gods. Today you're going to hear a true account from God's special book, the Bible. It will tell about some people who believed in fake gods. These were not real because there is only one true God. Hold your pointer finger up with me and say, "One God!"


If you are able, place the Bible on a stand near the puppet stage opening. **Our puppet pal, McPaddy, is going to help me with this. Let's call him.** Do so.


- Bible or children's Bible
- ISA agent costumes for teachers
- Briefcase
- Day 1 memory verse poster (Teacher Resource Kit)
- 1 real U.S. bill
- Fake bills

PRE-PREP

1. Prepare your costumes.
2. Hide the money around the room. Make sure the real money is easy to find.

 Be familiar with the lesson, but don't memorize it. Place it on a clipboard to use as a reference.

 If working as co-teachers, decide which parts of the lesson each of you will be responsible for teaching. Plan to both dress in costumes.

 The Bible is listed just once daily in the supply list but is used throughout, so keep it handy and marked to the correct passages.

- Boy or girl puppet and puppet stage
- Clipboard
- 2 copies of today's puppet script (Resource DVD-ROM)
- Daily overview poster (AKA Daily Cipher—Teacher Resource Kit)

PRE-PREP

1. Tape one script inside the puppet stage and attach the other to a clipboard for reference.
2. One teacher should be behind the puppet stage with the puppet.

The puppet tells the account while the other teacher leads the kids in motions. The puppet should pause briefly for the teacher and kids to do the motions at the appropriate times. Every time the following words are mentioned, the teacher should lead the kids in these motions. You may want to have four groups of kids, each assigned to do one motion.

Note: There is a version of this account in the Pre-Primary guide that features drawings if you'd like to try it as an alternative to the one here that features motions.

Ahab: Cross arms and frown.

Elijah: Make silent cheering motions.

Baal: Thumbs down motion.

One True God: Point index finger up to God.

PUPPET: Top o' the mornin' to ya, lads and lassies! I'm McPaddy, here at your service. Let's listen to this from God's one true book, the Bible.

Long ago, there was a man named Elijah. (Make silent cheering motions.) **The Lord told him to visit a wicked king.**

The wicked king's name was Ahab. (Cross arms/frown.) **He believed in a fake god named Baal** (thumbs down) **instead of believing in the one true God.** (Point finger up to God.) **So God told Elijah** (cheering motions) **to tell Ahab** (cross arms/frown) **that he had been bad because he had been following the fake god Baal** (thumbs down). **And Elijah** (cheering motions) **asked the wicked king if he wanted to have a contest to see which God was the one true God.** (Point finger up to God.)

Ahab (cross arms/frown) **said yes to the contest. He sent word to gather all the men who spoke for his fake god, Baal** (thumbs down). **There were 450 of them!**

Elijah (cheering motions) **told the men to get two animals called bulls—one for Elijah** (cheering motions) **and one for Ahab** (cross arms/frown). **He told them to put their bull on a pile of wood, and he would put his bull on a pile of wood.**

Usually when people back then put an animal on a pile of wood, they would light the wood and start a fire to burn it up.

But this time, Elijah (cheering motions) **told them not to set the wood on fire. Instead, he said, "Call on your god, Baal** (thumbs down). **If he is really a god, he can send fire down to burn up your bull. Then I will call on my God. If He really is the one true God** (point finger up to God), **He will send fire down to burn up my bull. We'll see who is the one true God** (point finger up to God)!"

Wicked Ahab (cross arms/frown) **had his side go first. They got their bull and put it on the wood. Then they called on Baal** (thumbs down) **all day! But no one answered, and nothing happened.**

Now it was time for Elijah (cheering motions). **He put his bull on the wood, but he did something different. He poured lots and lots of water all over the bull and all around.**

When you want something to catch on fire, do you normally soak it with water? No! But that's what Elijah (cheering motions) **did. He got that bull and the ground totally soaked! He wanted to show how amazing the one true God is.** (Point finger up to God.)

Elijah (cheering motions) **said, "God, I've done what you asked me. Now show these people that you are the one true God."** (Point finger up to God.)

Guess what happened? The one true God (point finger up to God) **sent fire down, and it burned up that soaking wet bull and everything that was wet around it!**

When everyone saw this, they fell down and said, “The Lord—He is God! The Lord—He is God!”

They realized their god Baal (thumbs down) **was a fake. He wasn’t a god at all! There is only one true God** (point finger up to God)—**the God of the Bible—and He’s amazing. Let’s say, “One God!”** Do so. Then show the daily cipher poster with the bottom folded up. See if they can figure out the top part, then show the answer. (You will fold the bottom part up every day on the daily cipher posters.)

Song Time (5 minutes)

Song 1: “Our God Is So Big”

Our God is so big, so strong and so mighty (Make big muscles.)

There’s nothing our God cannot do
(Shake head and hands “no.”)

(Repeat.)

The mountains are His

(Make mountain peaks with arms.)

The oceans are His

(Make ocean waves with hands.)

The skies are His handiwork, too

(Sway arms back and forth in the sky.)

Our God is so big, so strong and so mighty (Make big muscles.)

There’s nothing our God cannot do, for you (Shake head and hands “no” and point to kids.)

Song 2: “No One Like Our God”

(To the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)

There is no one like our God

(Shake head “no,” while pointing index finger up to God.)

No there’s not (Move side to side. Clap, clap.)

There is no one like our God

(Shake head “no,” while pointing index finger up to God.)

No there’s not (Move side to side. Clap, clap.)

For His ways we cannot know (Point both index fingers to the head.)

In all things His greatness shows (Spread arms out wide.)

There is no one like our God

(Shake head “no,” while pointing index finger up to God.)

No there’s not (Move side to side. Clap, clap.)

Memory Verse/Review Time (5 minutes)

Complete one or more of the following ideas in class. These are also in the *Toddler Student Guides* and can be done at home with a parent or caretaker if you are out of time.

Supplies for this section are not included in the supply list on the back cover since they will vary depending on the activities you choose, so decide what you will do and add them to your supply list accordingly.

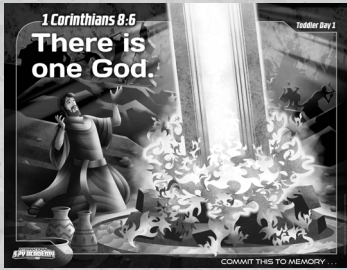
Part 1: Commit This to Memory

Today’s Verse: There is one God. 1 Corinthians 8:6



8 If you don’t know the tune to “Our God Is So Big,” check it out on YouTube.

- Optional: Student guides and supplies for Part 1 and 2
- Optional: Passports and magnifying glass decoders, 1 per child
- Day 1 memory verse poster (Teacher Resource Kit)



Show the passport with the memory verse and daily cipher. If you plan to give this collectible to the toddlers, they will receive it at the end of the day. (Note that the passport is designed for older children and features the verses and ciphers for older children. However, toddlers will have fun with the stickers and getting their passport stamped everyday.) Then do the challenge using today's memory verse poster as a reference.

Challenge: Practice the verse several times, making the following motions.

There is (Clap, clap.)

One (Put one pointer finger up.)

God (Make the word *God* in sign language—right hand up perpendicular to face, move it straight down to chest.)

Part 2: Go and Do

1. Go on a scavenger hunt and look for one of various things. Remember that there is only one true God.
2. Say a prayer (talk to) the one true God. Tell Him what you like about Him.
3. Say your Bible verse with motions again.
4. Act out the account of Elijah and the prophets of Baal. Tell someone about it.

Note: If you purchased the student guides, have the team leaders pass them out at the end of the day to the parents or caretakers.