

# SUNews

An inside view of  
Scripture Union

## Small Steady Rhythms

*Here was a Bible resource their 8- to 11-year-olds actually wanted to open.*

There is nothing like a room full of families who long for their children to know God—and that is exactly what we found at the CHAP Homeschool Convention this June at Elizabethtown College.

Our table buzzed from the first morning. Children spotted the TIMELANDERS explorers—Lev, Bo, and Ozzy—and pulled their parents over to explore the adventures, the pull-out comic, and the activities. Again and again, parents said the same thing: here was a Bible resource their 8- to 11-year-olds actually wanted to open. Many loved that TIMELANDERS traces one “Jesus-thread” from Genesis to Revelation, and that its built-in Travel Guide role lets any parent explore right alongside their child. Many purchased the first year’s four-part series on the spot.

CONNECT drew steady interest too. Our family prayer and Bible guide met a longing we heard often: parents want to read Scripture and pray

together as a household—building a shared rhythm that draws the whole family closer to each other and to God. Many of our other Bible engagement resources also found a home with attendees.

I hosted a workshop on building a daily Bible-reading habit for children aged 8 to 11. Together, we took an honest look at the attention economy competing for our children’s hearts and focus, and at the growing research showing that ages 8 to 12 form a critical window for shaping lifelong faith. The encouraging takeaway was simple: lasting spiritual habits don’t grow from willpower or perfection, but from small, steady rhythms.

To explore TIMELANDERS or CONNECT for your family, church, or co-op, visit [scriptureunion.org](http://scriptureunion.org).



**Gail A. Martin**  
President,  
Scripture Union



# Bringing the Gospel to the Park:

## WHY YOUR CHURCH SHOULD TRY SUPERKIDS® VBS



What does it look like when a church takes the good news of Jesus outside its four walls and into the neighborhood? For Scripture Union, it looks like families gathered in a park, singing, enjoying puppets, cheering through games, and hearing the stories of people whose lives were changed by Jesus.

That's SuperKids—and last summer, it was an absolute joy.

Last summer, our SuperKids VBS in the Park came alive with energy. Kids of all ages gathered—alongside parents, grandparents, and neighbors—to experience God's love through skits, songs, Bible stories, and more. SuperKids isn't just a children's program; it's an opportunity for whole families to connect with their community, all while encountering the message of Jesus in fresh and memorable ways.

The Bible stories we shared were anything but tame. We walked alongside shepherds describing what they witnessed on the night of Jesus' birth. We heard firsthand accounts from people who saw Jesus perform miracles. We stood near the tomb as someone who had died came back to life. These weren't just stories—they were invitations for children and families alike to encounter the living God.

This summer, we're ready to do it all again.

If you work with children and families in your church, we want to invite you to consider SuperKids as part of your community outreach this summer or next. Taking ministry into a local park is a natural way to build relationships with neighbors who may never have considered walking through your church doors. It's effective for good news outreach, great for discipling volunteers and young leaders—and families genuinely love it.

Children don't just have a good time—they leave with something to carry with them. Verses visualized in memorable ways. Bible stories that come alive. Lessons they can actually apply to their lives, and new friendships formed right in their own neighborhood.

Your park could be the next place where a family hears about Jesus for the very first time. SuperKids can help make that happen this summer.

**To learn more about bringing SuperKids VBS to your community, contact Brittany at [Brittany.dromey@scriptureunion.org](mailto:Brittany.dromey@scriptureunion.org).**





# Beach Monday

## THREE WORDS IN THE SAND

It began with three words drawn in the sand. In the summer after Scripture Union's 1867 founding, Josiah Spiers gathered a crowd of children on a Welsh beach, traced "God is Love" in the sand, and told them about Jesus—and from that single gesture grew a worldwide ministry for children.

Today, that same spirit comes alive every summer at our beach and park missions, where children hear stories about Jesus, sing at the top of their lungs, and discover that faith is adventurous, joyful, and absolutely meant for them. Every child who builds a sandcastle, plays a game, and hears the name of Jesus at one of these missions may carry that moment for a lifetime.



*Every day during the two-week program, a new message sharing God's love is designed in the sand "pulpit."*

And now we are building upon Josiah Spiers' legacy, so your gift helps trace those same words of hope into the hearts of a new generation. Will you join us in carrying and expanding the work that began on the beach?

**Beach Missions are happening this summer at:  
Surf City, NJ • Ship Bottom, NJ • Virginia Beach, VA**

**Give on Beach Monday, August 3, 2026  
Visit [scriptureunion.org/beachmonday](http://scriptureunion.org/beachmonday) to donate.**

**Want to give early?  
You can donate any time before August 3!!**

## SuperKids® VBS Reaches Beyond the Walls

In partnership with Scripture Union, at least one of our partner churches adapted our Superkids into a shorter program. Even though this was only a two-day VBS, it led children to a lifelong adventure with God.

**DAY 1** launched with a retelling of Jesus' parable of the prodigal son. The children met Mario, a boy who ran away to go to VBS World, a theme park bursting with roller coasters, cotton candy, and endless thrills. But when Mario's allowance ran out, the fun vanished. Hungry and alone, he found work feeding pigs. There, he met Benjamin, a pig who shared similar experiences. Together, they realized they longed to return to the one who loved them—their father. Their homecomings became moments the children won't soon forget.

**Day 2** featured SU's *Good News For You* VBS curriculum, taking us up into the branches of a sycamore tree with Zacchaeus. Nothing could stop the short man from seeing Jesus! When he did, Zac encountered far more than just a teacher—he met his Savior, who offered him acceptance and forgiveness. Like Mario, he was welcomed with open arms by his heavenly Father, and with his heart transformed, his life was forever changed.

The children were captivated by each story's twists and turns, and they were overjoyed as each one took an unexpected turn. Whether it was Mario in VBS World or Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree, the message rang clear: no matter how far we wander or what choices we've made, God's love finds us, restores us, and makes all things right.



*This SuperKids adaptation—whether offered in person or on Zoom—provides a meaningful, lasting experience. Whatever your church's needs may be, Scripture Union would be honored to partner with you in helping children encounter God in ways that last for eternity.*



**Honor or remember your family, friends, and loved ones** by making a “Salt and Light” donation to Scripture Union. Your generous tax-deductible gift will help make God’s Good News known to children, young people, and families, and encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer. [www.ScriptureUnion.org/saltandlight](http://www.ScriptureUnion.org/saltandlight)

IN HONOR OF:	GIVEN BY:
Jim and Mimi Breneman	Dona M Breneman
Adrian Brown	Skylar Brown
Hazel Kelshaw	Anonymous
Liz Kornak	Richard Hasselbach
Linda Sawyer	Mrs. Janet Larson
Desiree Vitale	Skylar and Adrian Brown
Yvonne Vitale	Skylar and Adrian Brown

IN MEMORY OF:	GIVEN BY:
Don and Alice Bird	Denise Bird-Sharpe
Barbara Conduct	Ellen Kellogg
Mary Hackman	Gail Martin
Gordon and Nancy Haresign	Anonymous
Marita Menard	Gail Martin
Marita Menard	Anonymous
Marita Menard	Susan Nordby
Marita Menard	Gloria Swanstrom
Marita Menard	Alison Haworth
Marita Menard	Erick W. and Donna Carlson
Marita Menard	David W. and Marianne H. Johnson
Marita Menard	Judy J Carlsen
Marita Menard	Deb Myer
Marita Menard	Jan Lynn Gauper
Daphne Potter	Anonymous
Ann Ranson	Hilary Mincenberg



Marita, with her husband, Mike

IN MEMORIAM:

# Marita Menard

We give thanks to God for the life of Marita Menard, a faithful Bible Guide member and supporter of Scripture Union for 50 years. Introduced to SU by a friend not long after she began her walk with Christ, Marita made daily time in God’s Word a steady rhythm of her life, returning to her Bible guides season after season for half a century.

Those who knew her best say her quiet faithfulness reached further than she ever knew. She was a warm ambassador for time spent in Scripture, often encouraging others to begin the habit of daily Bible reading. At the celebrations held in her memory, friend after friend spoke of the ways her life and witness had shaped their own. The roots she put down in Scripture bore fruit in others, often in ways she may never have seen this side of heaven.

We are grateful that Scripture Union had a part in strengthening Marita’s walk with God across so many years. We hold her family in our prayers, and we give thanks for a life that lived out the words of Jeremiah: “Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord. They will be like a tree planted by the water” (Jeremiah 17:7–8).

## Testimonial

*“I enjoy Encounter with God. I continue to thank Him that audio is available. I have macular degeneration and it’s difficult to read paper books and eBooks so I thank God you are available for me to listen to daily.”* –MB, Somerville, MA