



## Welcome to Gospel Adventures!

We're excited to take you on a globe-spanning adventure, exploring Australia's culture, customs, and color! Video stories of Aussie kids and their families let your class see what it's like to live in the "land down under." Games, object lessons, and snacks allow kids to experience—and taste—a bit of daily life in different parts of Australia. It's our goal that kids' eyes and hearts are opened to what God is doing in this faraway continent, his love for people there, and how we can pray for and support God's family across the world.

We know that every school uses Gospel Adventures in a unique setting, so we've made this resource more flexible than ever. Short activity blocks allow you to customize the lesson to your classroom. Pick and choose which options best suit your class dynamics, time frame, space, and situation. Or use all of them—starting with Option 1 and moving through the last one. It's up to you! Plus, each day's lesson highlights Psalm 65:8, integrating faith with real life—here *and* in Australia.

Ready to explore Awesome Australia? Let's go!



# DAY 1

**Bible Point:** God's creation is awesome.

## You'll need:

- "Where's Australia?" (2:32) video clip

## Easy prep:

- Download the "Where's Australia?" video clip.
- Look online to find out how long a flight is from your nearest airport to Sydney, Australia.



## OPTION 1

VIDEO

### An Aussie Intro

*Give kids a sneak peek at Australia.*

**Say:** This week we're going to explore Australia! Maybe you've heard about that country or seen a movie that was set there. So I wonder...



**What comes to mind when you think about Australia?**

Let kids call out their answers. You may want to write them on a whiteboard and see how many things kids share that come up during Awesome Australia!

**Say:** I wonder if these things are *really* part of everyday life for kids in Australia or if they're just things we've seen and heard about from far away.



**If a kid from Australia visited our class, what would you want to ask him or her?**

Let kids call out their questions.

**Say:** One thing I'd want to ask our Australian visitor is "What did you do on that *loooong* plane trip?" Tell kids how many hours they'd be on a plane between Sydney (one of Australia's biggest cities) and your nearest airport.



**What would you do on a flight that long?**

**Say:** From [name of your city], Australia seems pretty far away. When someone lives far from us, we sometimes say, "They live at the ends of the earth." Which is pretty funny, since the Earth is round. It doesn't have an end! But did you know that the Bible even uses that expression? Wow! Listen to this:

Read aloud Psalm 65:8.

"Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of your wonders. From where the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy."

**?** What do you think the word *awe* means?

**Say:** When we're in awe of something, we're amazed by it. Your jaw may drop open and your eyes get big! It's where we get the word *awesome*. People around the world are in awe of all God has done! Let's check out some awesome things as we learn more about Australia!

**▶** Show the "Where's Australia?" video clip.

**?** What awesome things did you see?

**?** What surprised you?

**Say:** Most of the jaw-dropping things you saw are things God made. God's creation is awesome! We'll see a lot of God's many creations as we explore more about Awesome Australia.



## OPTION 2

GAME & VIDEO

### A Reef Beyond Belief

*Play a game and watch a video to explore the Great Barrier Reef.*

**Say:** One of God's most awesome creations—just off the coast of Australia—is the Great Barrier Reef. This is a narrow coral formation that's 1,429 miles long! Tell kids where they'd be if they drove 1,429 miles from your city. You may want to point it out on a map.

**A reef that big is home to thousands of species of sea life! Let's explore that a little bit with a game.**

- Review the actions on the cards before you hand one to each person. It's okay if some kids have the same cards, but the more variety you have, the better!
- Form a circle. Have the first person say, "The Great Barrier Reef is home to [name of sea life on card]," and then do the action on the card.
- The next person in the circle will say, "The Great Barrier Reef is home to [name and action from first person] and [name on their card and accompanying action]."
- Kids will continue adding their sea life and actions to the list as they go around the circle. (It will get more challenging—and silly—as kids recall and act out all the sea life that came before them!)
- When everyone has had a turn, let kids sit down.

#### You'll need:

- copy of "Oceans of Sea Life" handout
- scissors
- "A Reef Beyond Belief!" (1:14) video clip
- US map (optional)

#### Easy prep:

- Download the "Reef Beyond Belief!" video clip.
- Cut apart the sea life and actions from the "Oceans of Sea Life" handout. You'll need one "card" per person.
- Check an online map to see where you'd end up if you left your city and drove 1,429 miles (in any direction).

**?** What sea creature would you most want to see if you got to explore the Great Barrier Reef? Why?

**Say:** Let's take a closer look at God's awesome creations in the Great Barrier Reef!

**▶** Show the "A Reef Beyond Belief!" video clip.

**?** Call out some of the awesome sea life you saw.

**?** What do all those different creatures show you about God?

**Say:** God's creation is awesome! When we see all those fish, plants, and sea life, we can see God's creativity, his power, and his plans. God put all those things there for a reason—they all work together and need each other.

#### You'll need:

- "Maddie: Awesome Creations on Land and Sea" (5:45) video clip
- sturdy plastic trays or wide boards
- balloons



#### TIP

If you use a wide board, you may want to cover it with a towel, so the rough wood doesn't pop the balloons.

#### Easy prep:

- Download the "Maddie: Awesome Creations on Land and Sea" video clip.
- Inflate several balloons, unless you teach older kids who can inflate their own balloons. Be sure to inflate the balloons *only* halfway—otherwise they'll pop when you stand on them!



## OPTION 3

### GAME & VIDEO

## Maddie: Crazy About Creation

*Meet Maddie and see all of God's awesome creation around her, then try to balance on a "paddleboard."*

**?** What are some of God's creations you're most thankful for? Let kids call out answers.

**Say:** Let's meet an Australian girl named Maddie and see all of God's awesome creations in her world. Look for the ones you think are coolest!

**▶** Play the "Maddie: Awesome Creations on Land and Sea" video.

**?** Call out God's creations you saw in Maddie's world.

**?** How do those compare with the ones that surround you every day?

**Say:** The Bible tells us this:

Read aloud Psalm 65:8.

**"Those who live at the ends of the earth stand in awe of your wonders. From where the sun rises to where it sets, you inspire shouts of joy."**

**Say:** Something that inspires shouts of joy is something that brings us joy, something that makes us want to call out joyfully! God’s awesomeness inspires shouts of joy—that happy, excited, and even peaceful feeling in our hearts.

**?** What did you see that may “inspire shouts of joy” for Maddie?

**Say:** Maddie’s family, home, animals, and time with her dad may be huge blessings that bring her a lot of joy. Even getting to stand up on the paddleboard was pretty fun for her, too. Let’s give that a try and see if it inspires joy in you!

- Demonstrate how to do this first, then let kids form small groups to try it on their own.
- If you haven’t already, inflate two or three balloons about halfway and tie them off. It’s important that the balloons are not completely full.
- Set the balloons on the floor (someone may need to hold them in place), and set a sturdy plastic tray or board over them.
- Hold on to someone’s shoulder or a chair, and gently step in the center of the tray. Carefully put both feet on the tray so you’re standing on it without any support. It’s a wobbly spot to stand—a bit like a stand-up paddleboard on a wavy ocean!
- Distribute trays and balloons to groups so they can try.



## OPTION 4

CRAFT

### Making a Splash!

*Make a class donation station to raise money for Global Kids Fund.*

**Say:** One awesome thing about God is that he loves his creation—especially people. God holds us, like an anchor. Let’s explore that for a minute.

Bring out the inflated balloon.

**Imagine this balloon is a boat and you’re the wavy waters around Australia. Let’s find out what happens to our boat on the waves!** Let kids bat the balloon around for about a minute.

**?** What happened to the balloon boat?

**Say:** Sometimes we may feel like the balloon boat. Life is full of ups and downs. Sometimes we feel like things are beating us down—we feel lonely or worried. Maybe we feel out of control. But God is so awesome; he’s like an anchor—like this!

#### You’ll need:

- inflated balloon
- fish tank or large, clear plastic bin
- small rocks, like river rocks (1 per child)
- chenille wires in a variety of colors
- other items such as colored cellophane, colorful rubber bands, or craft foam (optional)
- water
- coins (enough for each person to have a few)
- permanent marker (for your use)

### Easy prep:

- Make a few pieces of “coral” following the instructions below to give kids an idea of what they can make.
- You may want to look through your classroom or a craft supply closet for odds and ends of colorful items that will float and could be attached to a rock.

As of 2021, the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported about 44% of Australians say they're Christian. Almost 39% have no religious affiliation.

Hold the stem of the balloon tightly. Let a few kids come up and tap the balloon. Point out that it moves but stays firmly in your grasp.

**Say: Being a Christian—having a friendship with God—gives us this anchor. It makes a difference! We want everyone to have that safe, secure, solid feeling of God’s awesome love!**

Form pairs and let partners talk about this question:

**? In our city, do you think there are a lot of Christians or not many? Tell why you think that.**

Give pairs a couple of minutes to talk, then take responses from the group.

**Say: Fewer than half of the people living in Australia are Christians. In fact, there are almost the same number of people who don’t believe in any religion as there are people who follow God.** You may want to have just under half of the kids move to one side of the room, then have 40% move to the other side. Point out how similar the numbers are.

Gently bat the balloon up and down in front of you.

**Without God, we don’t have an anchor—something to hold on to in life’s storms. We want kids everywhere to know about God’s awesome love! After all, you’re an awesome part of God’s creation, too! And God’s people need to work together and help each other. So this week, we’ll be raising money for Global Kids Fund. The money we raise will help our partners in Australia reach out to kids, giving them the hope and the anchor of God’s awesome love! Let’s make a fun way to see how much money we can raise.**

- Give each person a small rock, and let kids choose a few chenille wires or other craft items.
- Kids can wrap their chenille wires around the rocks, bending the ends of the wires into crazy coral shapes!
- If you have other “floatable” craft items, kids can attach these to the rock to make other colorful creations for your coral reef!
- Let kids set the rocks in the bottom of a fish tank or large, clear plastic bin.
- Add water so the items are submerged, but the water shouldn’t go to the top.
- About 3 inches above the water line, draw a line with a permanent marker.

**? What do you think will happen as we add coins to this coral reef?**

Mark where the water line currently is. Then hand out a few coins to each person and let kids add their coins. Point out how the water level has risen! Show kids the line you made 3 inches above the starting water level.

**?** **How many coins do you think it would take for the water to rise to this line?**

**Say:** **Each day, bring in your coins and add them to the coral reef! Let's see if we can make the tide rise up to—or past—the line! We can change the tide of faith way down in Australia with our donations!**



# Oceans of Sea Life



## MANTA RAY

© gettyimages Grilleau Nicolas



flap your arms out to the sides

## OCTOPUS

© gettyimages TheSP4NISH



wave your arms

## GIANT CLAM

© gettyimages Krisia Widiyaktma



extend arms forward and open and close them like a huge clam

## BRAIN CORAL

© gettyimages Swimwithfishes



put your hands on your head

## CLOWNFISH

© gettyimages Magnus Larsson



put your hands to the sides of your face

## STARFISH

© gettyimages Viktor Hladchenko



hold up your hand with fingers spread wide

## SEA TURTLE

© gettyimages ShaneMyersPhoto



make a "shell" on your back by reaching up and over your head to pat yourself on the back

## SEA SNAKE

© gettyimages rich carey



wiggle one arm like a snake