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# schedule overview

# Monday-Thursday, 1st-4th Grade

6:00 PM Doors Open, get to know the kids, play a fun "get to know you" game.

6:15 PM Homeroom/First Rotation

Bible/Hope Theater or H-219/220

Imagination Station/H-208A or H-208B

6:50 PM Fin-tastic Rally/Fellowship Hall

7:35 PM Final Rotation

Bible/Hope Theater or H-219/220

Imagination Station/H-208A or H-208B

8:15 PM Parent Pick-up, 4th graders MUST have a "Permission to Leave" form

to meet their parent at a different location and to pick up a sibling.

# Monday-Thursday, 5th Grade

6:00 PM Doors Open, check in at Faith Gym, get to know the kids,

play a fun "get to know you" game (like the one in the Imagination

Station book).

6:15 PM Bible F-209

6:50 PM Fin-tastic Rally/Fellowship Hall

7:35 PM Imagination Station, Games/F-209, Faith Gym

8:15 PM Parent Pick-up, Kids must have a "Permission to Leave" form to meet

their parent at a different location

6:15 PM Friday Family Night, you are not responsible for your crew, but a great time to show them you care by being there!

# what's a crew leader?

If you've been asked to be a Crew Leader, you've met two important qualifications: You love the Lord, and you love children. During Scuba, you'll visit different activities with a group of three to five children. You're not in charge of preparing or teaching activities; you just get to be there and help kids enjoy them as you shepherd the members of your Crew. Because your Crew is small, you'll get to know and affirm each member by asking questions, really listening, and being encouraging.







This isn't from our field test but from a VBS director who frequents our online forum. She reminds the Crew Leaders that some of the kids at VBS might not ever hear a kind or affirming word. She encourages her Crew Leaders to speak God's love to each child. This director says it makes a huge difference in the way Crew Leaders treat and speak to the kids. Wonderful idea!



# make it memorable

### Bible Memory Buddies®

During each day's Bible Experience, every kid will get that day's Bible Buddy with the daily Bible verse written on the bottom. If you are in Bible for your 1st rotation, put the Buddies in your Crew Leader bag until the last rotation.

### Memory Verse Prize

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the beginning of your first rotation, you will listen to the kids say their memorized verses. And record it on the last page of this book. We have 4 verses and only 3 day's to listen, so on Wednesday or Thursday you will listen to more than one verse. The director for your group will collect the number of kids in your crew who have said all their verses for the grand prize. They will give these out in the last rotation on Thursday. You might have a crew member who can NOT be here on Thursday. If you let your director know they have said all their verses, they will get the prize for you.



# **knee-to-knee blanket**

Each day of VBS you will need to bring a knee-to-knee blanket to gather your crew on or around. This can be a large beach towel or a lap blanket (like you have on the back of a couch). We will have some available, but not enough for our 70 crews.

# crew leader booklet

Please bring this booklet with you each day to track your crew members who have said their verses. You will also need it for the discussion questions in your crew.

# the crew family

Every member of your mixed-age Crew adds something to every activity!

**I've just completed first grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be the best. I can help encourage my Crew to be the best it can be.

**I've just completed second grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I want everything to be fair. I can help make sure we all take turns and treat one another fairly.

**I've just completed third grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be challenged. I can help younger members of my Crew with challenging projects.

**I've just completed fourth grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to ask questions. I can help my Crew ask questions to make sure we understand what we're learning.

**I've just completed fifth grade.** I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to make choices. I can help Crew members with tasks and help the Crew Leader guide everyone in showing God's love.



# top 4 crew leader tips

# Participate!

- ~ Sing the songs and do the motions.
- ~ Play the games.
- ~ Be curious in Imagination Station.
- Use your imagination in Bible Adventures to interact with each day's story.
- ~ Share your own God Sightings.
- Give your own insights during Crew time.

# Lavish your attention on the kids.

- Turn off your cellphone—you can contact your friends after VBS!
- Use kids' names in kind and loving ways.
- ~ Use eye-to-eye contact.
- Be a tuned-in, affirming listener during discussions. Paraphrase kids' answers in a response back to them to show that you've heard and understood what they've said.
- ~ Give hugs or high-fives throughout the day.
- ~ Be there for the kids as they arrive.

  The doors open for the kids at 6:00pm.

  We would love for you to arrive at 5:30

  on Monday and 5:45 on Tuesday
  Thursday. Friday begins at 6;15 and the kids will be with their families.

# Support the Station Leaders.

- Quickly sit in knee-to-knee circles for Crew discussions.
- Listen to each Station Leader, and encourage kids to listen too.
- Put the Crew bag (and other distracting items) out of the way during activities.
- ~ Be enthusiastic.

# 4 Be positive.

- Model the behavior that you want kids to have.
- Positively acknowledge kids' answers to questions. Rather than saying "No, that's the wrong answer," say "Thanks for sharing. Anyone else have thoughts?"
- ~ Smile! Have fun!



#### **Use Positive Words Like These:**

- Let's keep moving so we can do as many fun activities as possible.
- Listen carefully so you'll know what to do next.
- Stay with the Crew; we need your help in this activity!
- That's a unique way of doing things! How did you think of that? Let's try it this way.
- It's important that we all follow the instructions and work together as a team.
- Please move over here so you can see better.
- Let's all sit in a circle so we can see and hear one another better.
- Those Buddies sure are cool! Let's keep them put away so we can hear about this next activity.

What to do if... Most of the time, things will go smoothly, but every once in a while, you may run into a dilemma. Here's some advice on how to handle different challenges.



# If my Crew won't stay together...

Encourage your Guide to come up with creative ways to travel. Or work with your Thank You-er to come up with cheers to say as you travel.

### If I have a clique in my Crew...

Encourage friendships among all Crew members by pairing kids with partners they don't know very well during games and other activities. Offer reminders when needed that they're all superstars and that means caring for each other and that no one is left out.

## If older kids are unhappy being grouped with mixed ages...



Highlight their helping role. Encourage them to help younger kids find Bible passages and other activities. Acknowledge them by telling younger kids, "[Name of older child] is really good at that. Why don't you ask him [or her] to help?"

# If a Crew member won't participate...

Help shy children feel welcome by calling them by name and asking them questions directly. Respond to their questions with a smile and a statement such as "That's really interesting!" Also try giving children special jobs, such as finding a place for your Crew to sit at each station.

If someone really doesn't want to participate in Reef Rec games, that's okay. Scuba can be tiring! Let kids rest until they're ready to participate.

#### If people in my Crew don't get along...

Quietly take the children aside. Tell them you've noticed that they're not getting along. Let them know that although they don't have to be best friends, they do have to be together all week, so things will be a lot more fun if they can at least be kind to one another. (Use the daily Bible Points for these teachable moments!)

### If I have an overly active child...

Pair this child with yourself for partner activities, and suggest that he or she sit with you during quiet times. Or give him or her a focused role of helping you keep the Crew on task and setting an example for everyone else. Or, ask your Director if you could have an assistant Crew Leader to help the child focus and participate.

### If my Crew is out of control and unruly...

You can be direct in calling out behavior, but maintain the fun in your voice and language. It'll help you avoid setting a pace for a battle of wills. Use these fun Scuba puns to call attention to behaviors that need to stop:

- ~ Cheating in games or other activities: "We have to follow the dive rules; let's get back to following directions!"
- ~ Not paying attention to Station Leaders: "Swim back here and tune it. We need to listen."
- Distracted by side conversations or horse play: "Okay, crazy clownfish! Fins down at your sides. Catch a bubble in your mouth and hold it there while we listen."
- ~ Complaining about activities at stations: "Let's show all our leaders they're our friends by showing respect. You may not love everything we do, but if you don't participate, you might miss out on something you didn't expect to be amazing."

If by midweek there are two or more kids in your Crew who just won't listen no matter what you try, it might be necessary to move a child or two to a different Crew. Talk to your Director about making a few Crew roster adjustments to help make sure each child gets the most out of the time at Scuba VBS.

#### If my Crew gets too big...

Scuba VBS is oceans of fun, so it's likely that kids will want to bring friends. However, Scuba activities are

designed to work with a mixedage Crew of no more than five kids. If you have a small Crew, welcome a few additional friends into your Crew family. But if your Crew grows past five kids talk with your Director as soon as possible. He or she will need to form a new Crew so kids can have the best experience possible.



# what do i do at each station?

**Fin-tastic Rally** is where kids worship by singing upbeat action songs, enjoy the skits and meet the missionaries. Your job at Fin-tastic Rally is to

- follow the motions and sing out loud.
- help kids quiet down between songs so they can hear the Leaders on the stage.
- collect anything the Crew members have in their hands, so they are not distracted.

**Imagination Station** is where kids experiment, play, and discover as they use amazing sciency-fun items from the Crew Teaching Kit. At Imagination Station

- listen carefully to the instructions because you may need to repeat them for Crew members.
- participate in each activity, and cheer on your Crew members as they participate.
- use your imagination and share your curiosity as kids explore!
- help kids complete activities (when they need help).
- help clean up your area before leaving.

**Deep Bible Adventures** is where kids experience the Bible story. Be sure to

- ~ gather with your Crew on your knee-to-knee blankets.
- listen carefully to hear how Crew Leaders should help out that day.
- encourage Crew members to participate.
- share your own discoveries during discussion times and your excitement during each Bible adventure.

Many stations engage kids in discussions about real life and some of the struggles or challenges we face.

If a child brings up a serious issue, such as indicators of neglect, abuse, or violence he or she has experienced, say, "Thank you for telling me about that. It's very important, and we need to talk about it with our VBS Director, Rita Massey to give you a chance to say everything you need to say—and help you with your feelings." Involve the appropriate person at your church who can follow through with necessary steps after the conversation, as there is not only a moral but a legal obligation to report circumstances where a child might be in danger.

### As your Crew Arrives each night

- ~ greet them by name.
- ~ listen to them say last nights memory verse.
- ~ encourage them if they need assistance in learning the memory verses.
- ~ log your kids names and keep track of who has said the verses for the grand prize to be given out on Thursday in the final rotation.

At the Final Rotation each night kids will be picked up by their parents. Your role is to

- give the kids their Bible Buddies to take home.
- make sure they get a snack.
- ~ help with matching the tags and collecting them as parents pick up.

#### **Restroom Breaks**

- ~ Try to go to the restrooms as a group.
- Leaders should never go into the restroom with the kids alone. If help is needed, find another Crew Leader to go with you.
- Never allow a child to go to the restroom by themselves! Have other Crew Leaders help out if you have to take some kids to the restroom. Never be alone with a child.

To assist with crowds, those whose 1st rotation is the Imagination Station, try to go to the restrooms between Activity A & B.

Those coming out of Bible should go to the restrooms on Main Street before the Fin-tastic Rally.

# god is a friend who's real.

**Bible Story:** God shows himself to Elijah through ups and downs. (1 Kings 18–19)

**Bible Verse:** "We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:69)

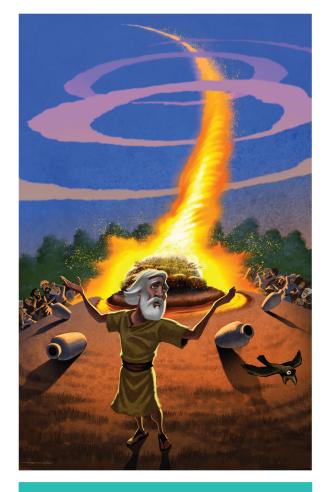
### Diving Into the Bible

A harsh drought plagued Israel for years due to the wicked deeds of idol-worshipping King Ahab. Finally, to show God's existence, God's prophet Elijah summoned 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah to Mount Carmel. The prophets built an altar, then prayed to their false god, Baal, for fire. For hours the hundreds of prophets prayed, shouted, and even cut themselves. But no one answered. Then Elijah built a simple stone altar and dug a trench around it. Servants poured water on his altar again and again. Elijah prayed, "O Lord, answer me...so these people will know that you, O Lord, are God." Instantly fire came from heaven and burned up Elijah's sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the soil! God—the only true God—answered.

Yet Elijah's triumph soon turned to terror as Queen Jezebel swore she'd have Elijah killed. The prophet fled into the wilderness, where hunger and depression wore him down. God appeared, not in a flash of fire but in a gentle whisper. The one true God answered again.

### **Connecting With Kids**

Like Elijah, kids swim in a culture increasingly resistant to any one source of truth. Today's kids doubt the integrity of the Bible. They're dubious about the church. And many view the idea of one true God as judgmental and exclusive. The kids at your VBS really can understand what Elijah faced—living in a world that embraced countless false gods and warred against God's truth! Fundamentally, when we believe God is real, the existence of God gives us hope. Belief in one true God grounds us, providing stability and firm footing through life's ups and downs. Today, root kids in the truth that the one amazing, powerful God really and truly desires a friendship with them!



#### Why It Matters

Elijah experienced the reality of God through fire, and later in a whisper. This passage can help kids who are questioning the truth of a God they can't see or hear.



# day 1

Bible Point: **God is a f<u>riend who's real.</u>** 



# God Sightings®

Every day at Scuba, kids and leaders will share evidence they've seen of God. We call these *God Sightings*, and they're an easy, practical, and powerful way to help kids realize that God is still active in our everyday lives. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

Today help kids talk about times it's hard to remember that God is real. Here are a few examples:

- Talk candidly about times you've relied on God's presence. Kids will appreciate your transparency, showing that even grown-ups struggle.
- Suggest Bible verses and songs that offer examples of ways we can "see" God at work around us.
- Point out ways you see evidence of God around you right at VBS!

# ★ SCUBA CLUE ★

Sit in knee-to-knee circles for discussions. Call on kids by their "name". There is nothing more encouraging than to be known.

# ★ SCUBA CLUE ★

A God Sighting is not "I see God in that tree." A God Sighting is "I see God's creativity and power because only God can make a tree." God Sightings are seeing things that God has created, allowed, provided, done, or revealed to us.

# W(ap-up questions: Flinchy Fish

ASK How did it feel to get faked out sometimes in the game?

How would you feel about a friend who was fake or tricked you?

Crew Leader, share an example of your own, then let each person share an example.

God is the real deal-- He won't ever try to trick you or be fake. He's really and truly the best friend ground!

#### Scuba Clues From Your Director

On Monday, we ask you to be here at 5:30 if possible. We will pray and receive instructions from our 1st rotation leader and directors.

We will divide the kids into Crews. Please listen closely to your Directors and large group leaders. If you are in a room to have specific kids on your crew, please let them know.

Do NOT allow kids to take home the "Super Sand" as it is dangerous if swallowed!

Thank you for giving generously of your time and talents!



# god is a friend who loves.

**Bible Story:** God shows compassion to the people of Nineveh. (Jonah 1-3)

**Bible Verse:** "Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." (John 13:34)

#### Diving Into the Bible

When God told Jonah to go preach to the people of Nineveh, Jonah jumped on the first ship...headed in the opposite direction! He'd likely heard of the Ninevites' reputation for cruelty. In Jonah's estimation, these people didn't deserve to hear about—or experience— God's love. But God had other plans. He sent a big fish to swallow the reluctant prophet. Deep inside the fish's belly, Jonah finally submitted to God's will. God forgave Jonah, then used him to deliver a warning to the people of Nineveh. As soon as the people heard Jonah's message. they stopped their evil deeds and asked for God's forgiveness. God lovingly forgave an undeserving people, demonstrating his heart of mercy for all.



### Why It Matters

Jonah didn't think the people of Nineveh deserved God's mercy. Jonah's attitude can challenge kids to think about who *they* may doubt God could love.

### **Connecting With Kids**

Jonah seems to have viewed the Ninevites as unredeemable—so sinful that they were unworthy of God's salvation. When do you first remember a feeling of shame or unworthiness? For many of us, the sense of being unlovable came as a child when we'd disobeved, been caught in a lie, or disappointed an adult. Perhaps caring friends or family members demonstrated Christ-like forgiveness, modeling unconditional love! Unfortunately, plenty of kids who come to your VBS won't have experienced genuine love and forgiveness. Today is a great day to immerse kids in God's overwhelming love for all people. Joyfully share the truth that a friendship with God means we are loved—and so are those we don't think are lovable.

Don't forget to listen to Monday's memory verse as your crew members arrive.





# God Sightings®

God Sightings are a great way to help kids see that God is active all around us. Remember, the more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

As a Crew Leader, you are the chief God Sightings encourager! Have fun with your Crew members as you look for God in action each day. Today help Crew members identify people who've shown them God's love. Here are a couple of examples:

- Thank God for loving parents and caregivers.
- Keep watch for ways your church staff demonstrates God's love to kids and to each other. Point these out as demonstrations of how people can pass along God's loving friendship to others!

# Wiap-up questions: Pass the Pearl

What words describe how you had to move as you carried the pearl?

Let each Crew member say one word.

How do you feel when someone treats you [say some of the words kids shared, such as gently or slowly or takes their time]?

Invite several responses.

Today we're exploring that **God is a friend who loves.** (*Thanks*, *God!*) Loving people means we treat them gently—with kindness and care. Jesus said it this way in the book of John, chapter 13, verse 34: "Just as I have loved you, you should love each other." We can treat each other with the same loving kindness that God shows us!

#### Scuba Clues From Your Director

In Bible, crew leaders will be asked to go into the big fish first so you can keep kids from touching the fan, tuna or destroying the fish!

Today's Imagination Station includes an experiment that will only work 1 time-but the leader will ask you to try it a second time. So, don't be concerned when it doesn't work.

Encourage all your crew members to answer questions and get involved. Repeating a child's answer shows respect and helps others to hear if you have a soft-spoken kid.

Immerse your crew members in God's overwhelming love for everyone by showing them your love for each and everyone.

# god is a friend we can trust.

**Bible Story:** Jesus calms a storm. (Mark 4:35-41)

**Bible Verse:** "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of

mind and heart." (John 14:27)

### Diving Into the Bible

After a long day of teaching along the Sea of Galilee, Jesus gave his followers instructions to cross to the other side of the water. The disciples put their backs into rowing, while Jesus, weary from the long day, quickly fell asleep. Before long, a sudden storm blew in. Gale-force winds stirred up powerful waves that broke over the side of the boat. Jesus' friends panicked! What if the wind tipped the boat over? What if the boat filled up with water and sank? How could Jesus sleep through all this? In terror, the disciples woke Jesus up. Jesus commanded the wind and waves to be silent and still...and they obeyed! An immediate calm settled over the waters.

### **Connecting With Kids**

What storms are kids at your VBS facing? Divorcing parents? Loneliness? Bullying? Food insecurity? A child may even be trying to navigate relationships with others who are facing challenges. At times, kids may feel like Jesus' disciples, asking where Jesus is when hardships swell into a tidal wave of fear, uncertainty, and doubt. What a comfort to know we have a trustworthy friend nearby! God is a friend we can trust to comfort, guide, listen, and love us. Today, bring peace (just like Jesus did!) as you explore with kids what it means to have a trustworthy friend in God.



### Why It Matters

Jesus commanded wild wind and waves to be still, showing his power and his ability to bring peace. This passage shows kids they can trust God when life's troubles crash around them.



# day 3

God is a friend we can trust.



# God Sightings<sup>®</sup>

Keep looking for evidence of God all around you. Find God's creativity, joy, and comfort in kids' words or the words of Station Leaders...then point it out!

Throughout the day, look for opportunities to encourage kids to lean on God, even when life feels stormy or uncertain. Encourage kids to...

- identify people around them who might need a comforting reminder that they can trust God.
- release worry and accept God's peace and comfort.
- sing boldly as a celebration of God's power in our world.



# WIOP-UP QUESTIONS: Bubble Trouble

SAY

We had to work together to move inside the bubbles.

ASK

How did we show we trusted each other as we worked together?

SAY

Trust is important in our friendships. It helps us get along and work together. God is a friend we can trust. (Thanks, God!) Think of a hard task you have to do. Crew Leader, share your own example. You might think of telling someone about Jesus or taking care of a small child at home. (Kids won't share, but your example shows them that even grown-ups have to trust God through challenges.)

ASK

What would it feel like to trust God with that hard thing in your life?

SAY

God is a friend we can trust. (Thanks, God!) You can trust God's guidance and help, no matter what.

#### Scuba Clues From Your Director

In Imagination Station, your crew will get a sand dollar. Don't smash it, break it like a cookie to have this work correctly.

In Bible, kids will share about a time they were in a scary storm. Make sure they do not over share!

The best way that you can show your crew members that you care is by listening to them when they share. We praise God for your impact on the kids this week!

# god is a friend forever.

**Bible Story:** Jesus dies and comes back to life. (John 18–20)

**Bible Verse:** "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." (John 11:25)

### Diving Into the Bible

Betrayed by a friend, accused by religious leaders, and arrested by the Temple guards, Jesus' future seemed grim. The religious leaders saw Jesus as a threat, a liar, and a blasphemer...and apparently the crowds demanding his crucifixion agreed. His hurried trial ended in a death sentence—one usually reserved for criminals. Jesus died on a cross, under a sign mocking him as King of the Jews. His fearful friends scattered, leaving two men who'd followed Jesus from afar to prepare his body for burial. Jesus' lifeless body lay in a borrowed tomb, sealed behind a heavy gravestone. It seemed like the end...but was it?

Three days later, Jesus' friends discovered the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty! Jesus' body hadn't been stolen or moved—Jesus appeared repeatedly to his followers! They saw him, felt his breath, and touched the wounds on his hands! Jesus turned the end into eternity!

#### **Connecting With Kids**

Jesus' followers felt they'd lost their closest friend forever. Kids have felt that, too. Friends come and go. They move away, discover new interests, make new friends, or sometimes just abandon us. The idea of "forever" seems impossible. Yet God had something surprising in store! Jesus' death wasn't the end—it was just the beginning of a friendship that will last into eternity! God always has been and always will be—he is forever! And even better, his love for us is forever, too! Things like sadness, loneliness, and worry won't last forever. Today, share the exciting news that a friendship with God is one that will never ever end!



# Why It Matters

Jesus died on a cross, paying the price for the sins of the world once and for all. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, kids can have a forever friendship with God.

Listen to the kids reciting their memory verses and be prepared to give your number for those earning the Grand prize to your director.



# day 4

Bible Point:

God is a friend forever.



# Helping Children Follow Jesus

During the week, if you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to believe in Jesus, give this simple explanation:

God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. When we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s).



# God Sightings<sup>®</sup>

Today help your Crew members think of God Sightings that are reminders of God's unending love.

- Point out things in nature that come back every year, such as flowers or the leaves on trees.
- God gives us joy in worship.
   Point out how light our hearts feel when we celebrate and praise God.

# W13p-Up QUESTIONS: Whale of a Tale

- Let's finish this sentence: Racing with the pillowcase made me... (Kids might say things like slower, clumsy, tired, tangled up.) Let each person answer.
- The pillowcase made it hard to be our best—to move the way we're meant to!
- ASK Now think about a time you did something you knew you weren't supposed to. Crew Leader, share your own example, such as taking something that wasn't yours or calling someone a mean name.
- Things like that are called sin—and we all sin! The Bible tells us that sin tangles us up. Sin is a little like that fish tail—it keeps us from joyfully doing all the things God made us to do.

Today we're learning that **God is a friend forever.** (*Thanks*, *God!*) That means God forgives those sins, freeing us to have friendship with him forever!

Lead kids in cheering "Thank you, God!"

#### Scuba Clues From Your Director

Tonight we will be tearing down the rooms and decorations. If you can stay and assist, it would be greatly appreciated!

# notes

# notes

# all about my crew 🔊



Name:
Address:
Birthday:
Family members:
Favorite things:
Name:
Address:
Birthday:
Family members:  Equarite things:
Favorite things:
Name:
Address:
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