

# SU News

An inside view of  
Scripture Union

## SU's Path Forward in 2022

**T**he start of a New Year feels a bit like freshly fallen snow – a clean and beautiful slate ready for new pathways. Sparked by the gifts of imagination and creativity given by God, Scripture Union is forging ahead with new plans. Now little more than a month into the new year, and I am excited by the tracks we are already laying for ministry and Bible engagement impact.

Two significant new resources for outreach programs are launching this year that you will read about in this issue. I encourage you to pass them along to those in your circles who may be interested in running an afternoon workshop for students in their community who are about to enter middle school or forward to someone who is interested in launching a new summer outreach, either at their church, a park or even a beach.

Thinking about this summer brings to mind the wonderful beach gathering for leaders and emerging leaders that Scripture Union hosted at Harvey Cedars last November. We are developing a long-term strategic plan that will enable us to build on the existing vibrant ministry and launch new outreaches along the U.S. coastlines. There are many ways that you can help advance these life-changing programs. Let us know if you want to be a part of what God is doing. We would be thrilled to hear from you.

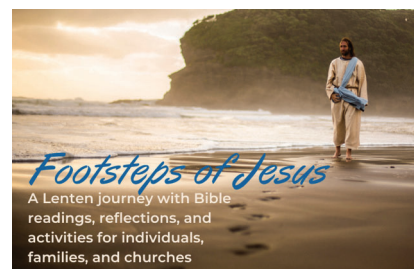
Lent is drawing near, and I encourage you to sign up for our daily Bible reading journey; you'll also find an all-age family resource that will keep children engaged and learning about Jesus, ready to rejoice when Easter comes.

I'm excited for another year to share God's Word. Join us – and make your own eternal mark in your community with Scripture Union.



Every blessing,

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



### Save the Date!

Scripture Union's *Footsteps of Jesus* Lenten Journey begins Wednesday, March 2!

During the season of Lent, join us for daily Scripture readings and reflections that follow the footsteps of Jesus as he sets his face toward Jerusalem and to the Resurrection. An activity-filled family resource and interactive journey map for children will also be included.

Sign up on our website at [www.ScriptureUnion.org](http://www.ScriptureUnion.org) to receive the FREE daily email and all age activity resource in your inbox beginning on Ash Wednesday.





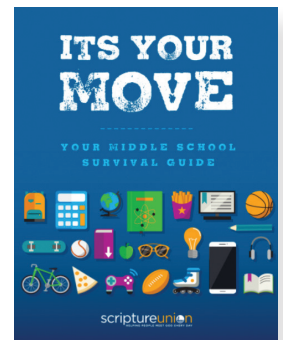
# New outreach program for students entering Middle School – *It's Your Move!*

COMING  
SOON!



Scripture Union is getting ready to launch a new program in 2022 called ***It's Your Move***. This program is designed to introduce unchurched children to the Gospel while helping them transition from elementary to middle school. The *It's Your Move* booklet is filled with important principles found in Scripture, as well as practical information, fun activities, and a journal. It will provide valuable tools for their anticipated move up to middle school.

SU will be partnering with churches and youth groups to host events for connecting with 5th graders in their communities who may have no acquaintance with the Gospel. In addition to the *It's Your Move* booklet, SU will provide free, downloadable guidelines. We are also preparing training webinars for churches and youth groups hosting community *It's Your Move* programs.



**Contact us at 610-422-3853 to find out how to host an event at your church and to pre-order books!**

**Go to [Scriptureunion.org/its-your-move](https://scriptureunion.org/its-your-move) to order.**

Bulk discounts available on most items.

# Discovery and Fun with Scripture Union this Summer!



## WHO IS JESUS? – INVESTIGATION IN JOHN’S GOSPEL

Scripture Union USA has prepared *Who is Jesus?* for this summer’s SuperKids®/VBS outreach, and is excited about this newly updated curriculum based on the Gospel of John. In this 5 or 10-day program, children ages 5-12 will look for clues about Jesus with detectives Shorty Sherlock and Wallaby Watson. It can be used wherever children safely gather – in a virtual setting or in person.

In *Who Is Jesus?* children will use their detective skills and explore the evidence of eye witnesses in John’s Gospel to find clues about Jesus. The children will have a Detective Diary to ask their own questions and draw conclusions. *Who Is Jesus?* is filled with Bible story dramas, games, and creative interactive materials, while including Bible memory, Bible Digger discussions, and age-appropriate take-home sheets. Everything is purposed to show who Jesus is and invite children to respond to him in faith.

Leaders and volunteers will be happy to see updated information relevant to everything needed to provide a safe and productive SuperKids®. They will love the step-by-step instructions for each day’s program, all designed to help children come to faith in Jesus.



### Bible Story Dramas

## >>OVERVIEW

**Ideas for Rehearsal:**

- Begin by reading the drama through once.
- Practice the skit segment by segment so you can change it and adapt it to your needs and context.
- Rehearse stage directions and movements to avoid traffic problems.

**Planning for Performance:**

- Try to use your setting to good effect. Adjust and adapt the drama to use what you have available (for instance, water’s edge or sand/pulpit at the beach).
- Use props, but they need not be realistic. Big and fun is the key.
- Use simple but creative costumes.
- Avoid standing in straight lines; use semi-circles, kneeling, or isolate the main characters physically to maintain focus and heighten the dramatic effect.

**When performing, remember the following:**

- Keep the drama moving: when it gets slow, kids lose their focus.
- Speak loudly and slowly and always towards the audience.
- Add your own energy, creativity, and humor.

**Crowd Control:** team members not participating in the drama should always sit with the children with all attention focused on the program.

This section contains all the Bible Story Dramas needed to introduce the Bible story for the day. Drama is an effective tool in communicating with children. It brings the Scripture to life and helps keep their attention.

To prepare the daily dramas, begin by selecting a leader of the drama team, someone with experience if possible. The same people may remain on the drama team the entire mission, or may change, depending on the size and gifts of the team.

The drama team should ideally review and rehearse all dramas several days in advance of the beginning of the SuperKids® mission. This will provide the team with an overview of the theme of each drama and the lesson to be taught. Rehearsing each drama the day before its presentation is helpful to remind team members of their roles and to ensure all props are prepared and collected. Plan to allow about 45 minutes for daily rehearsals.

### Detective’s Diary

Today’s witness: John the Baptist

What I discovered about Jesus

Questions I have

What I think about Jesus

John 1:34 John said: “I am a witness that this is God’s Chosen One.”

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### who is Jesus?

Grade K-2 / Day 1

## The Clue in the Desert

Pray: Father, thank you for sending John the Baptist to help people get ready for Jesus. Use his story to help us meet Jesus too. Amen.

**What are some things people do to get ready for an important visitor?**

In today’s story, a prophet named John is being questioned by some very important leaders. Read today’s passage to discover what John had to say about Jesus.



## SU Global Snapshot

This past July, Scripture Union Romania was able to run a children's camp for the 11th year in the Negrești area of the country. National Director, Cristi Maritan said, "This is a place where there are many needs, especially spiritual ones. Every day, we had more than 80 kids showing up and participating in the activities. They spent half a day with us and were full of joy and energy. We were glad to show them love and more importantly, to tell them about God's love for them. Beside the Bible lesson, songs, crafts, and games, every day we offered them lunch, and at the end of the week, we gave them gift bags." Along with the children's camp, the SU team also made food packages for families in need that they distributed in the afternoons. Cristi said, "We talked to these people, we listened to their problems, and we prayed for them." One of the volunteers at the camp, Samy Trif, said, "This summer, I experienced a different kind of serving. I still remember the faces of the kids who would stand on the margins, that needed someone to go there and just show them love and compassion. They just needed to see kindness without any agenda. I'm glad we were able to do that."

**For more information go to [www.scriptureunion.global](http://www.scriptureunion.global)**

### ABOUT ROMANIA

**Population:** 21,904,551

**Religion:** Eastern Orthodox 87%,  
Protestant 8%,  
Roman Catholic 5%

**Population under 15:** 14.8%



## Volunteer Spotlight

**Meet Don Reed, CEV (Chief Executive Volunteer) of Scripture Union.**

Don first heard about Scripture Union from a friend at church many years ago, as well as from seeing the Bible guides available there. He now has been volunteering with Scripture Union for more than 12 years, beginning just one week after his engineering retirement! Don coordinates our bimonthly volunteers and, although often tedious, he is a wizard at getting much of our outgoing mail out of door. From hand stuffing monthly prayer cards to operating postage and inserting machines for thousands of pieces of mail, he does it all.



We asked Don how he felt SU has made a positive impact on his life and he responded that he was thankful for the free lunches. (Don is also known for his wit and sense of humor!) Seriously, though, he said that the many friendships he's made and what he has seen in the dedication of the SU staff as they work to achieve SU's goal to help people meet God every day are the positive impacts he values most. He also believes that by encouraging daily Bible reading and helping children set priorities for their life's direction through after-school, as well as beach ministry programs during the summer, SU is making a difference in today's complex world.

We are so thankful for Don and all he does to help us at our national office in Valley Forge, PA. Opportunities are available all around the country, not just in Valley Forge! Please reach out to [info@ScriptureUnion.org](mailto:info@ScriptureUnion.org) if you would like to volunteer with us.



## Testimonials

"Thankful to be a member again. In the past our family vacations always started our day (after breakfast) with reading the Bible and reading Encounter with God as our devotional. Many wonderful memories." - **WE, Seattle WA**

"God bless you. I love Encounter with God and Encounter with God Together. Thank you for all that you do to bring the living Word of God into our lives and make it relevant...and essential nourishment for every day." - **KS, Dallas, TX**

"Thank you for all your ministries. I continue to be blessed each morning with your insights into Scripture. I often send a link to others in my family for your daily devotions." - **TS, Plymouth, MN**