

shipshape With Sailor Jack

Props

- clipboard
- compass
- anchor (use one from your High Seas decorations, or make one from a large piece of foam or cardboard)
- ship's wheel (use one from your decorations, or make one!)
- lightweight bathroom scale
- large purse (big enough to hold the bathroom scale)
- Bible
- life preserver
- air cannons (get from The Floating Finale Leader)
- fog machine
- sailor spyglass**
- microphone/sound system
- *Sing & Play Splash Music* CD*
- CD player
- costumes (see the character descriptions)

* available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

**available at groupoutlet.com

Closing Production

How to Use This Closing Production

Congratulations! Most of the hard work in preparing your High Seas Expedition Closing Production is already done!

This High Seas Expedition Closing Production is flexible. Kids and staff who have been a part of your High Seas Expedition VBS can perform it for

- ▶ a family-night program to cap off High Seas Expedition
- ▶ a Sunday morning service
- ▶ a special Sunday school program
- ▶ a community-wide matinee, and more!

“Shipshape With Sailor Jack” features—you guessed it—Sailor Jack, who has starred in the daily skits throughout High Seas Expedition VBS. Sailor Jack teaches a group of new students (actors as well as the audience) how to be the best sailors possible. After all, he’s had a whole week of experience now! His antics provide a fun way for kids to share the Bible truths they’ve learned at High Seas Expedition.

This High Seas Expedition Closing Production is easy to prepare for. Simply follow these steps.

- 1. Read this entire script.**
- 2. Use clip art to decorate flyers, bulletins, and posters to publicize the event.** Check out the *Clip Art & Resources* CD for cool clip art! Send information home with children during High Seas Expedition so their families will be sure to come to this exciting event!
- 3. Have kids help you collect and create costumes and props.** You should have most of the props already on hand after using them in High Seas Expedition. Additional props can be gathered from your church or borrowed from kids and church members.
- 4. Determine who will play the various roles.** For the sake of continuity, the person who is playing Sailor Jack in *Sing & Play Splash* should continue in this role. The remaining roles can be assigned to children and adults who have been involved in the High Seas Expedition VBS.
- 5. Practice the play with your actors.** For best results, practice the play one time with all the children participating. The VBS children will be standing and leading the audience in singing at various points. One dress rehearsal with all the children in place will assure kids of what they’re to do and when.

SHIP TIPS

You might want to serve refreshments following the production. If so, choose a room for the reception. Decorate the walls with the God Sightings Maps from the VBS week! Get with the Goodies From the Galley Leader and choose a snack. (How about Chipwrecks from Day 2?) Set out the ingredients; then after the show, let the audience members assemble the snacks, serve each other, and eat!

Setting the Stage

- ▶ Position the ship's wheel and anchor as part of the set decoration.
- ▶ Place the life preserver and Bible where they can be easily reached onstage.
- ▶ Set the air cannons and fog machine offstage, where the Captain and two Sailor Students can prepare to use them during the production.

The Characters

Sailor Jack—(same actor from the VBS week) the star of the show. He's a bit of a goofball who has learned to be a good sailor! He's enthusiastic in all he does, especially in telling people about Jesus!

Suggested costume: Hawaiian print shirt, Bermuda shorts, dark socks and dress shoes, and a sailor hat. Sailor Jack carries the clipboard and has a compass in a pocket.

Miley Spyglass—(girl) one of Jack's students. She's trendy and fun and looks like she enjoys hanging out at the beach.

Suggested costume: sunglasses on top of head, T-shirt and shorts or other casual clothing.

Frank Jonah—(boy) one of Jack's students. The cool guy who's into sports.

Suggested costume: any athletic team wear, such as a baseball jersey and cap.

Sarah Jessica Pirate—(adult or teen female) one of Jack's students. Sarah's all about fashion and glitz.

Suggested costume: blouse or dress with sequins, high-heeled shoes, and lots of blingy jewelry. Sarah will carry the lightweight bathroom scale in her large purse.

Steven Seagull—(adult or teen male) one of Jack's students. Steven loves to flex his muscles and show how tough he is.

Suggested costume: jeans and a T-shirt. For fun, could also stuff his T-shirt with fabric or inflated balloons to make it look like he's got huge muscles.

Captain Russell Crowsnest—(adult or teen male) the captain of the ship. Crowsnest is a bit scruffy and appears gruff, but he's actually a nice guy.

Suggested costume: navy blue pants and jacket with a captain's cap. You could sew a bit of gold braid on the jacket for the finishing touch. He carries a spyglass in a pocket.

Shipshape Kids—VBS kids, who lead everyone in singing songs from *High Seas Expedition*. Have the kids sit onstage—standing when they're cued to sing and sitting down when the song is over.

Sailors-in-Training—the audience!

SHIP TIPS

The characters can be male or female; just adjust the respective pronouns in the script!

The Script

(The production begins with the Shipshape Kids onstage and ready to sing. The six main characters are offstage.)



(Play "Vast Voyage" from the Sing & Play Splash Music CD. The Shipshape Kids sing along and do motions. As soon as the song ends, they quickly sit down.)

Sailor Jack: (Walks onstage, carrying a clipboard. Looks as if he is reading notes and then notices the audience.) Oh! There you are! I'm so glad you made it here today! I'm Sailor Jack. As most of you already know, I boarded this ship a few days ago, thinking it was a cruise ship. I quickly learned otherwise! (Gestures toward ship props around him.) This is actually a clipper ship, and I became part of the crew. I've progressed so quickly that I'm now in charge of giving a Shipshape test to anyone applying to be new sailors. Of course we have the Shipshape Kids here (motions toward the kids), who have already passed the test. And we have people like you Sailors-in-Training (motions toward the audience), who are new to my Shipshape program. Then we have a few Sailor Students who will be taking their Shipshape tests today. Let me take role to see if they are here. (Looks at clipboard.) First we have Miley Spyglass.

Miley: (Runs onstage, raising her arm and answering cheerfully.) I'm here!

Sailor Jack: Frank Jonah.

Frank: (Jogs onstage, raising both fists in the air.) Present.

Sailor Jack: Sarah Jessica Pirate.

Sarah: (Walks carefully onstage in her high heels. Waves to the audience as if they are her fan club.) I'm here. Hello, my fans!

Sailor Jack: And finally, Steven Seagull.

Steven: (Walks on, flexing his muscles). Here.

(Students stand in a line facing the audience. Steven flexes his muscles, Miley cheerfully smiles, Frank jogs in place, and Sarah flips her hair now and then.)

Sailor Jack: Perfect. You've all been through my Shipshape program and are ready for your final test.

(Again consults his clipboard and then talks to the Sailor Students.) The first test is basic: directions. When I call out a direction on this ship, you point in that direction. Got it?

(Sailor Students all nod.)

Sailor Jack: Good. Here we go. (Calls out loudly.) Starboard!

(Each Sailor Student points in a different direction—left, right, toward the audience, and away from the audience.)

Sailor Jack: (Scratches his head. He's already getting confused.) Um...that's not right. Let's try another. (Calls out loudly.) Aft!

(Again, each Student points in a different direction—left, right, toward the audience, and away from the audience.)

Sailor Jack: (Even more confused.) Oh no. I think I'm getting mixed up myself. You all should know this one. Even I should know this one! (Calls out loudly.) Port!

(Again, each Student points in a different direction—left, right, toward the audience, and away from the audience. As they are doing this, Captain Russell Crowsnest walks onstage, shaking his head.)

Captain: (Gruffly) What's going on here?

Sailor Jack: *(Surprised and a bit afraid of the Captain, jumps to attention and salutes.)* Ahoy! I mean, avast! I mean...aye, aye, Captain!

(The Students follow his lead, jump to attention and salute.)

Sailor Jack: Students, you haven't met our captain yet. This is Captain Russell Crowsnest.

(The Students drop their salutes, switch hands, and salute again with the other hand.)

Sailor Jack: Captain, these students are taking their Shipshape final exam. We're working on directions.

Captain: It looks like you're all mixed up.

Sailor Jack: *(Hangs his head a bit.)* Yes, even I've gotten a little confused. Would you help us review?

Captain: Okay. Everyone face forward.

(Students, Jack, and Captain all face the audience.)

Captain: Port is to our left.

(They all point left but stay facing forward.)

Captain: Starboard is to our right.

(They all point right but stay facing forward.)

Captain: The bow is in front of us.

(They all point toward the audience.)

Captain: And the stern or aft is in the back.

(They all turn and point toward the back, then turn around and face the audience again.)

Captain: Got it?

Sailor Jack and Students: *(Salute)* Yes, sir!

Captain: And while we're at it, let's review the directions on the compass. You do have your compass...right, Sailor Jack?

Sailor Jack: *(Pats his pockets in a bit of panic but then locates the pocket with the compass and proudly pulls it out.)* I sure do have it!

Captain: Good job. All of the best sailors know that a compass shows us true directions. So let's review. North.

(Captain points toward the audience, and Jack and the Students follow his lead.)

Captain: South.

(Captain turns and points away from the audience, and Jack and the Students follow his lead.)

Captain: East.

(Captain faces the audience again and points toward his right, and Jack and the Students follow his lead.)

Captain: West.

(Captain points toward his left, and Jack and the Students follow his lead.)

Captain: In fact, didn't you just learn a song that mentions these directions?


Steven: We sure did, Captain! And I know all the motions. *(He flexes.)*

Captain: Are those the right motions?

Steven: Actually, I'm not really sure. *(Drops his arms.)* But they could be! *(Flexes again.)*

Miley: *(Waves her hand.)* I know the motions! So do the Shipshape Kids!

Sailor Jack: Then let's sing that song! Shipshape Kids, stand up and help us, and everyone else—Sailors-in-Training—join in too!

 **CD TRACK 3** *(Play "Shout to the North" from the Sing & Play Splash Music CD. Have the Shipshape Kids lead the singing. When the song is over, the Shipshape Kids sit down.)*

Captain: Great singing, everyone! *(Sailor Jack and the Students give him a crisp salute. He begins to walk away and then turns back toward Sailor Jack and the Students.)* As you were, sailors...or...almost sailors.

(After the Captain exits, Sailor Jack and the Students relax and exhale.)

Sailor Jack: *(Looking like he has an idea)* You know what, Students? *(Holds up the compass again.)* This compass that shows true directions makes me think of something we learned at High Seas Expedition! *(Holds up a Bible.)* We learned that **GOD'S WORD IS TRUE.**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let's go!

(Sailor Jack repeats the Bible Point. Shipshape Kids repeat the response words and action, and everyone practices it together.)

Sailor Jack: God's Word—the Bible—is filled with true stories, like God freeing Peter from prison. Peter was telling about God, who loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus. Some angry people locked Peter up because they didn't want him to teach about Jesus. Then God freed Peter from prison. It's all true, and it's in the Bible! **GOD'S WORD IS TRUE!**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let's go!

Sailor Jack: God's love is huge—just like mighty waves on a mighty sea. Since we sailed on the high seas all week, let's make some waves. When I point to you, Sailors-in-Training, yell "Whooooosh" as you stand up, throw your hands up, and then sit down. Students and Shipshape Kids, help me lead the wave! *(Sailor Jack points from one side of the room to the other for some "wave" action.)*

Wow! Look at those huge waves! God's love is huge. He loves us so much. *(Refers to his clipboard.)* Well, we need to get back to our test. Looks like the next thing we have to do is weigh the anchor. Students, get to work! Weigh the anchor!

Steven: I'll get it! This will be easy for me! *(Flexes his muscles, walks over to the anchor, and starts dragging it—huffing and puffing—toward the others.)* It's a little heavier than I thought.

Sarah: I've got a scale! *(Pulls the bathroom scale out of her purse and sets it on the floor.)* I carry this with me everywhere because the camera adds 10 pounds and I have to keep track!

(Sailor Jack helps Steven lift the anchor onto the scale. Everyone gathers around to see how much it weighs. While this is happening, Captain Crowsnest wanders back onstage and looks over the shoulders of this little crowd to see what they're doing.)

Captain: *(Clears his throat.)* Ahem. *(No one notices him so he clears his throat again, more loudly.)* Ahem!

(Everyone jumps to attention, and the anchor falls on Steven's foot.)

Steven: *(Yelps and jumps around the stage, holding his foot while he yells.)* Ow! Ow! Ow!

Captain: *(Loudly)* What's going on here?

(Steven stops jumping around but still hops a little as he stands in line with the others.)

Sailor Jack: We're weighing the anchor, Captain!

Captain: *(Tries not to laugh.)* Well, you're going about it all wrong, Students. "Weigh the anchor" means to bring it up out of the water. It doesn't mean you should see how heavy it is!

Sailor Jack and Students: *(Laughing at themselves)* Oops!

Captain: That's okay! You'll get the hang of it. Now, clear off this deck. I think a storm might be brewing, and the water's going to get rough. In fact, we might need to toss that anchor overboard to keep us from blowing off course.

Sailor Jack: That's right! An anchor keeps the ship steady in a storm. It reminds us that...it reminds us that... *(Scratches his head.)*

Miley and Frank: *(In unison)* **GOD'S WORD IS COMFORTING!**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let's go!

Sailor Jack: That's right! **GOD'S WORD IS COMFORTING!**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let's go!


Sailor Jack: *(Holds up the Bible.)* There's so much in the Bible that comforts us and reminds us of God's love for us! At High Seas Expedition, we learned that God comforted Paul during a storm at sea! Even when storms and troubles are all around us, God's Word helps us feel better. God loves us so much. God's love is huge!

Miley: God's love is deep...

Frank: Really deep...

Captain: In fact, it's a deep, deep love!

Sailor Jack: Let's sing a song about that right now!

 **CD TRACK 8** *(Play "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" from the Sing & Play Splash Music CD. Have the Shipshape Kids lead the singing. When the song is over, the Shipshape Kids sit down.)*

Captain: I need to get going. I have a surprise I'm working on for you all. In fact, I could use a couple young Students to help me. You! *(Points to Miley, who salutes.)* And you! *(Points to Frank, who salutes.)* Let's go!

(Captain leaves, with Miley and Frank following behind. Sarah and Steven start whispering together.)

Sailor Jack: Stop whispering!

(Sarah and Steven keep whispering together.)

Sailor Jack: *(Yelling)* I said stop whispering! What's going on?

(Sarah and Steven stop whispering and jump to attention.)

Sarah: We're wondering about the surprise.

Steven: What do you think it is?

Sarah: I wonder if the Captain's going to surprise us by tossing us overboard and seeing if we can swim! I'd better get ready—I'm a terrible swimmer! *(Busies herself with a life preserver, trying to fit it over her head; adjusts her hair and primps to see how she looks with it on.)* This life preserver makes me look fat.

Steven: No, it doesn't. And that can't be the surprise anyway! Maybe the Captain is going to surprise us with something from the galley.

Sarah: This ship has an art gallery?

Steven: No, *galley*. You know, where they keep the food! I could use a protein shake right about now. *(Flexes his muscles and admires his arms.)*

Sailor Jack: *(Looks at his clipboard.)* Well, I don't have any notes about this surprise. But that'll make it a surprise, won't it?

(While they are talking, Sailor Jack, Steven, and Sarah should move a bit closer to the audience. Then the Captain, Miley, and Frank come back onstage behind them, without being noticed by them. All the cannons are filled with fog. Of course, the audience will see them, and even if kids call out "Look out behind you!" Jack, Steven, and Sarah should ignore those comments.

Miley, Frank, and the Captain start popping the cannons at the same time—shooting smoke rings in the air above Sailor Jack, Steven, and Sarah, who jump as high as possible, reacting as if they've been caught totally off guard.)

Captain: Surprise! Aren't these fun?

(Sailor Jack, Steven, and Sarah calm themselves after the surprise.)

Captain: These cannons are great for surprising people.

Miley: And they remind me of something we learned this week.

Frank: Me too! **GOD'S WORD IS SURPRISING!**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let's go!

Miley: There are a lot of surprises in the Bible! Even stories about Paul surviving a bite by a poisonous snake!

Steven: How do we find all the surprises in the Bible?

Frank: We read it! We know a song about reading God's Word. God's Word is exciting. **GOD'S WORD IS SURPRISING.**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let's go!

Sarah: Oh, yeah! Let's sing the song now!



(Play "Your Life Will Change" from the Sing & Play Splash Music CD. Have the Shipshape Kids lead the singing. Captain, Miley, and Frank move through the audience shooting smoke rings in the air during the song. Immediately after the song ends, everyone onstage should suddenly lean hard to the left, over-leaning to the point that they might be hopping on a left foot or grabbing onto something as if trying to keep their balance. The ship is changing direction, and they are falling over with the suddenness of it. They can all call out things like "Whoa!" and "Yikes!" to indicate their surprise at

SHIP TIPS

Sing "Your Life Will Change" like you might have done during the VBS week. Have half of the Shipshape Kids lead half of the audience in singing Part 1, "From the page to your heart, God's Word is where you are..." and the other half of the Shipshape Kids lead the other half of the audience in singing Part 2, "God's Word will surprise you. God's Word will amaze you...."

being caught off-balance. The Captain, Miley, and Frank run to the stage and put down their cannons. The Captain makes his way toward the ship's wheel.)

Miley: Something's happening!

Frank: *(Jogs back and forth across the stage, leaning over this way and that.)* The ship is doing something strange! Really strange!

Sailor Jack: My hat!

Sarah: My hair!

Steven: MY hair!

(Things start to calm down a bit, and everyone begins to regain their balance.)

Captain: That wind is blowing us off course. But don't worry, I can use the ship's wheel to steer us in the right direction. *(Moves to the ship's wheel and starts steering with a gentle motion.)* We don't want to go in the wrong direction!

Sailor Jack: Hey! Can I drive? *(Makes steering motion and "Vroom!" sounds as if driving an imaginary race car.)*

Captain: *(Laughs)* When you've had a little more time on the ship, maybe I'll teach you how to steer the ship. Every move of this ship's wheel makes a difference and can help us change direction.

Frank: We talked about changing direction at High Seas Expedition.

Miley: And about how God's Word can help us change direction. We learned that **GOD'S WORD IS LIFE-CHANGING.**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let's go!

Sailor Jack: Here's what "life-changing" means! *(Motions for everyone to stand and face one direction.)* Before we know about God's love from his Word, we might do wrong and not think anything about it. *(Has everyone walk in place.)* But when we learn about how much God loves us, we want to do what's right. We want to stop doing wrong. *(Motions for everyone stop.)* We want to change. *(Motions for everyone to face the opposite way and walk in place.)* We want to try to do what's right and tell everyone about how much God loves us. **GOD'S WORD IS LIFE-CHANGING.**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let's go!

Steven: I need to know more about God's life-changing Word! I haven't heard enough about this. I want my life to change.

Captain: *(Holding up a Bible)* I'd be glad to share my Bible with you.

Sailor Jack: And there are a lot of kids here who know about Jesus and would be happy to tell you. In fact, they've gotten so excited about God's Word and having Jesus as a forever friend that they're jumping with joy! *(Jumps up and down a few times.)*

Miley: I'm jumping! *(Starts jumping.)*

Frank: And me! *(Starts jumping.)*

Captain and Sarah: Me too! *(Start jumping.)*

Miley: *(Still jumping)* I feel a song coming on! We'll all be jumping soon!



(Play “Jump, Jump, Jump” from the Sing & Play Splash Music CD. Have the Shipshape Kids lead the singing. When the song is over, the Shipshape Kids sit down.)

Captain: *(Catching his breath)* Wow! That was great! *(Looks offstage through his Sailor Spyglass.)* Ahoy! *(Points toward that direction; everyone looks in that direction.)* Land ho!

Sarah: There are more people over there. Maybe they’re my fans. Hello! I’m here! *(She waves and flips her hair around.)*

Sailor Jack: You know, even if they are your fans, Sarah, there might be people who haven’t heard about Jesus and how life-changing, surprising, comforting, and true God’s Word is.

Steven: Do you think we should tell them?

Sarah: Or is it a secret?

Miley: No! It’s not a secret!

Frank: **GOD’S WORD IS FOREVERYONE!**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let’s go!

Steven: You all have made me curious. You say **GOD’S WORD IS FOREVERYONE.**

Shipshape Kids: *(Pointing forward as they shout)* Let’s go!

Steven: But I didn’t know the Bible was for me.

Captain: Steven, the Bible IS for you. And for me. And for everyone. Even though it was written a long time ago—some people might even say it’s ancient—it still has amazing messages for us from God. I read my Bible every day. Those ancient words are true today, and they change our lives. Let me show you more, Steven. I think we even know a song about this!



(Play “Ancient Words” from the Sing & Play Splash Music CD. Have the Shipshape Kids lead the singing. While everyone else is singing and doing motions, Captain and Steven move off to the side of the stage, and the Captain opens his Bible and starts showing Steven things inside it, pointing to verses and pantomiming that he is reading parts of it. Steven listens intently, nodding every now and then. Then the Captain puts his arm around Steven, and they bow their heads as if they are praying. By the time the song is over, they have stopped praying, and they hug each other.)

Steven: I’ve got a great announcement to make! I’ve decided to ask Jesus to be MY forever friend! *(Shipshape Kids and everyone cheers and claps.)*

Sailor Jack: This has been a pretty crazy voyage!

Captain: But I’m glad you all came along. *(Motions to Students.)* Congratulations, Students! I think you all are shipshape enough to sail on my ship anytime you want! Thanks for all you’ve done, Sailor Jack. You’re a true sailor!

(Sailor Jack beams.)

Sailor Jack: *(To the audience)* Thanks for being a part of High Seas Expedition. Always remember God’s mighty love for you!



(Play “Vast Voyage” from the Sing & Play Splash Music CD to finish the closing production. Have all actors take a bow. Encourage everyone to sing along during the applause!)

SHIP TIPS

If you decided to host a refreshment time, have all participants lead the audience to the area you have set up. Prepare and eat the snacks as you celebrate the mighty love of God!