# VBS Day One — Lotus Blossom in India

## Outreach/Missions 25-minute Rotation Script with Resources

### **Tech resources to engage your audience:**

Visit [www.freewheelchairmission.org/vbs](http://www.freewheelchairmission.org/vbs) to download or order resources.

* [Picture](https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Woman-without-wheelchair-scaled.jpg) of a person crawling
* [Picture](https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/FWM_3_Wheelchairs-scaled.jpg) of three generations of wheelchairs
* [Picture](https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Lotus-Blossom-India.jpg) of Lotus Blossom in her wheelchair
* [Video](https://vimeo.com/79510188) of Lotus Blossom receiving her wheelchair   
  *(4:42–you may choose to show just half of this video)*
* [Video](https://vimeo.com/622825421) celebrating more than 1,000,000 wheelchairs distributed   
  *(:57–a short introduction to Free Wheelchair Mission)*
* [Picture](https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Lemonade_stand.jpg) of a lemonade stand
* [Printable](https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-Church-Coloring-Book-India-1.pdf), two-sided Lotus Blossom activity sheet
* [Printable](https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/download-posters/), customizable lemonade fundraising poster
* One giving box for each child in your VBS   
  *(Free but must be ordered in advance. See a preview* [*here*](https://www.freewheelchairmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/3D-Cube-650.jpg)*.)*

### **Script**

**Leader:** Welcome to the first day of our Mission! My name is \_\_\_\_ and I can’t wait to share with you about a very special person who listened when God spoke to him. But first, I’d like you all to find a space on the floor, sitting criss-cross applesauce. Now, try to move three spaces forward and three spaces backwards, **but you can’t use your legs, just your hands and arms.**

***(Kids move forward and backwards)***

**Leader:** Now, was that easy ***(put one hand up in the air, as if making a choice)*** or hard? ***(Put your other hand up in the air. Kids will shout, “easy!”)*** Ok, for most of us, that was pretty easy. But what if I told you that you had to walk to school every day that way? Would that be ***(one hand in the air)*** easy or ***(other hand up in the air)*** hard? Yes, that would be harder. What if you had to also walk to church or to a store or a friend’s house that way? Would that be easy or hard? Yes, that’s even harder.

***Tech: Show picture of a person crawling***

**Leader:** What would happen to your hands if you had to get around that way? ***(Allow kids to answer, they would get dirty, they might get cuts and bruises, they would hurt.)*** What about your clothes; what would maybe happen to your clothes? ***(They could get holes and become dirty, they would drag in the dirt and mud.)***

**Leader:** The Bible tells us in Matthew 22 that when Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was, “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ’This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.” When we offer help to people who need it, we are loving them the way Jesus told us to.

**Leader:** I know about a man named Dr. Don who went on vacation far away to a place called Morocco. Dr. Don is a very smart man who had invented lots of things to help people. While he was on his trip, he saw a woman whose legs didn’t work, just like we pretended a few minutes ago. This woman was struggling to crawl across a busy dirt road, dragging her legs behind her. She had sores on her hands and knees and her clothes were dirty from crawling on the road. No one was helping her, and as Dr. Don watched, God spoke to his heart and told him that maybe Dr. Don could help! He wanted to buy a wheelchair to help her, but there wasn’t a place he could buy one anywhere.

**Leader:** When Dr. Don got back home, God was ***still*** speaking to his heart and Dr. Don was listening to God. He kept thinking about how much he wanted to help that woman. Dr. Don came up with a great idea to build a wheelchair himself that could go over the rocks, dirt, mud, and pathways in places where it’s hard to find a wheelchair.

***Tech: Show picture of 3 generations of wheelchairs***

**Leader:** Dr. Don worked and worked and came up with a great idea, using a simple plastic white chair and two bicycle tires, like in this picture. Since the areas these wheelchairs would be used in have bumpy roads, rocks and dirt, Dr. Don needed to be sure the wheelchair would be strong, sturdy, and unbreakable. Then, he travelled with his church to a country called India. He met a girl there named Lotus Blossom who needed a wheelchair, but her family didn’t have enough money to buy one. Lotus Blossom’s parents had done the best they could to carry her wherever she needed to go, but as she grew, it became harder and harder to carry her. She spent most of her time inside, unable to play, go to school or visit friends.

***Tech: Show picture of Lotus Blossom in her wheelchair***

**Leader:** When Dr. Don came into her house with a wheelchair just for Lotus Blossom, her parents were so excited! He brought the wheelchair in, and Lotus Blossom was carefully placed in it. Dr. Don watched as she pushed herself through the door of her house for the first time in years! Lotus Blossom was smiling, Dr. Don was smiling. and her parents were crying happy tears! The whole village saw as Lotus Blossom’s face showed the new hope she now had and the freedom the wheelchair brought her! Her parents wouldn’t have to carry her anymore. Now, she could go to school, she could play with friends, and she would never have to crawl on the ground again.

**Leader:** That was more than 20 years ago, and Dr. Don still listens to God’s voice.

**Leader:** Did you know that there are people all over the world, some of them kids ***just like you,*** who have a reason that their bodies can’t walk, and they need to find another way to get to school, church or to a friend’s house? What is something that could help them get around better? ***(Let kids give ideas like a wheelchair, crutches, etc.)***

**Leader:** Those are all great ideas. I think the one that makes the most sense is a wheelchair. Wheelchairs help people move around because they can be pushed by someone else or by the person sitting in the wheelchair. But did you know that…are you ready for this big, big number? 75 million people all over the world need a wheelchair but they don’t have the money to buy one. They need to get to school, to work, to church ***but they can’t*** because it’s too hard to try to get places when your legs don’t work, and you don’t have a wheelchair.

**Leader:** Do you think there’s anything we might be able to do together to lift people into wheelchairs? I think we can! Can you imagine how someone’s life would change ***right away*** if they were given the gift of a wheelchair? Where would they be able to go? What kinds of things do you think they might be able to do with a wheelchair? ***(Take answers from the audience.)***

**Leader:** Wow, those are all great answers. But you’re just kids! How could you do this? Wait; I think I might have an idea. What if you went home, told your parents and your brothers and sisters all about how we want to lift people into wheelchairs together? These wheelchairs are made to go over rough roads filled with dirt, mud, and even rocks. And guess what? They cost only $96 each! That’s not a lot of money for how much they change someone’s life! Maybe your family can work together to see how many wheelchairs you can raise?! What if, together, we try to raise enough for \_\_\_\_ wheelchairs! Who do you think can change someone’s life with a wheelchair? If you think it’s ***you***, say “kids” on the count of three. Ready? One, two three… ***(Kids – KIDS!)***

**Leader:** I don’t think I heard everyone. Do you think we could change lives together? Who can change lives? ***(Kids – louder, KIDS!)***

***Optional tech: Show slide with the number of wheelchairs you’ve decided will be your goal for VBS***

**Leader**: I know some kids who heard about Free Wheelchair Mission and decided that they wanted to be a part of changing someone’s life. You know what they did? With their parents’ permission, they held a lemonade stand!

***Optional: If you use Free Wheelchair Mission’s lemonade stand poster from our free resources, show kids a picture and tell them to be sure to use it to help “customers” understand what their donations are going towards.***

***Tech: Show picture of lemonade stands***

**Leader:** There was another group of kids who decided they’d work to earn money by doing things for their parents, like vacuuming, doing laundry and cleaning out the garage. Right now, I’d like you to get in a circle with your leader and come up with ideas together about how we can reach our goal. ***(Leaders help guide discussion, sharing ideas like dog-walking for a neighbor, giving up going out for dinner and put the money towards a wheelchair instead, etc.)***

**Leader:** OK, let’s hear one idea from each group. Maybe you’ll hear an idea you hadn’t thought of. ***(Have one kid share from each group.)***

**Leader:** These ideas are fantastic! I just know we’ll reach our goal and change \_\_\_\_\_ lives! To help you tell others about Free Wheelchair Mission, when it’s time to go home, each of you will get a giving box like this one ***(show kids the giving box cube),*** and some bookmarks to remind you how we’re trying to change lives this week. ***(Leader gives instructions on how you’d like kids to return donations: daily or at the end of VBS.)***

**Leader:** This is so great! Remind me again, who can change lives? ***(Kids – KIDS!)***  Now, let’s pray for God to be at work this week as we find ways to bless people with a wheelchair who need one. ***Pick a leader and ask if there’s someone in their group who would like to pray.***

***Dismiss:*** I’ll see you tomorrow and I can’t wait to see how many wheelchairs we’re able to raise this week!

### Extra time options:

1. Have more kids share their fundraising ideas with the whole group.
2. Let kids color today’s activity sheet.
3. Encourage kids to work on the memory verse for the week.

***Hand out Free Wheelchair Mission Giving Boxes, bookmarks, story cards, and lemonade stand posters for kids to take home, or have leaders grab enough for their group to give out at pick up.***

### Email Prompts:

Edit the following email prompt to draw families into your VBS wheelchair goal. By sending the links to the same videos their child saw that day, families can join together to get creative along with their kids to jump in and get involved.

**Day One – Lotus Blossom in India:** ***Your family can change lives this week!***

A picture containing person, outdoor, tricycle

Description automatically generated

All this week, we’re getting kids excited about changing lives with Free Wheelchair Mission, a faith-based nonprofit that manufactures, ships, and distributes the gift of a wheelchair to people in developing countries who otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford one. Our goal is to raise enough for \_\_\_ wheelchairs and each wheelchair is only $96 each! We’re empowering the kids to changes lives by creatively sharing the mission with others. This is a wonderful way for your family to work together to bless others by restoring their dignity, offering hope, and generously loving others like Jesus.

Today, your child learned about the first person to receive one of these durable, cost-effective wheelchairs in India. Her name is Lotus Blossom, and you can [watch her receive her wheelchair here.](https://vimeo.com/79510188)

Because of the generous hearts of churches like ours, Free Wheelchair Mission has manufactured, shipped, and distributed more than 1.3 million wheelchairs in 94 developing countries all over the world. However, the need is great. **More than 75 million people need a wheelchair** but can’t afford one.

The kids at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Church VBS got excited today to do our part in reducing that number, making it possible for people to get to school, church, get a job, attend medical appointments, and have a brighter future. Will you please join us in our journey around the world this week at \_\_\_\_\_VBS, lifting people into wheelchairs?

Some ideas to help your family jump into helping us meet our goal: ***(All with parent’s permission)***

* Hold a lemonade stand using our pre-printed (or downloadable) poster! Ask for donations instead of having a price listed and tell customers your church’s wheelchair goal.
* Make homemade dog treats and sell them at your local dog park and friends who have pets.
* Decide how many wheelchairs your family would like to have as your own personal goal.
* Email friends and family with the link to your church’s fundraising page.
* Make art or bracelets and offer them for a donation.
* Ask a neighbor if you could do small jobs for them for a donation.
* Offer to walk a neighbor’s dog for a donation.
* Ask parents to donate whatever amount your family would spend going out to a restaurant and eat at home instead, donating the amount that was saved.
* Collect spare change around the house and donate.
* Hold a backwards bake sale, asking neighbors what they would like you to bake (chocolate chip cookies, brownies, etc.) for a donation.
* Wash cars in your neighborhood for donations.
* Brainstorm with your family and friends at VBS and share your best ideas!

To help our VBS reach the goal of \_\_\_\_\_\_ wheelchairs, make sure you donate through the church so we can keep a record of the amount raised. We’re excited to update you each day!

For more information about Free Wheelchair Mission, visit [www.freewheelchairmission.org](http://www.freewheelchairmission.org)