

## “Go Serve Our World”

Vacation Bible School Theme Song ~ Yancy  
Luke 8:4-8, 11-15 & Mark 12:28b-31  
Rev. Jo Ramsey ~ June 28, 2015

Picture for a minute the perfect backyard. What would it have? Big trees? A nice patio or deck? A large, grassy lawn. Perhaps a pool or garden. This lovely backyard belongs to the Runas Family and it has been home to many a big backyard bash – the most recent of which was the triplets 16<sup>th</sup> birthday this past Friday!

What about your backyard? Imagine sitting outside on your back porch, your patio or deck as the sun sets, full and satisfied from a great cookout, gazing at a beautiful sunset



and the flicker of lightening bugs. No mosquitoes, no ticks, no humidity. Even the traffic and neighbors are quiet. Ahh...A little taste of heaven.

We’ve had a little taste of heaven this week at East Union. Sixty-five children, 25 youth and 50 or so adults spent the week in God’s Backyard, under the stars, at our annual Vacation Bible School. We’ve eaten our fill of delicious snacks, enjoyed beautiful sunsets (and some rain), and watched the glow of lightening bugs. But we’ve

also had our fair share of mosquitoes and humidity, and you could never call it quiet here in God’s Backyard during VBS!

But it’s not supposed to be! We think of Vacation Bible School as a sort-of controlled chaos, safe, but boisterous, joy-filled and spirit-led. More like a neighborhood game of capture the flag, than a quiet summer night on the patio.

As many of you know, this summer at East Union, we’ve based our sermons on the songs used in our Fresh Brewed Faith Youth Sunday School over the last year. This week though, we will share a song from Vacation Bible School. So, I’d like to invite up the children and youth to lead the motions and words for our theme song, “Go Serve Our World.” Feel free to join in.

### Go Serve Our World

It’s a big, big world,  
and we’re living in God’s backyard.  
So we’re gonna do all that we can.



Get ready, let's go!

Get on your feet  
and look for new opportunities  
to serve your friends and family  
right where you are.

1 . . . 2 . . . 3, let's go!

Hey, hey! We're living in God's backyard.  
Hey, hey! And we have a part to play.  
Hey, hey! So let's go serve our world every day.  
Hey, hey! We're living in God's backyard.  
Hey, hey! Under the sun and stars.  
Hey, hey! So let's go serve our world every day.

REPEAT



Bridge:

This world is God's backyard.  
(This world is God's backyard.)  
It's a big, big, big backyard.  
(It's a big, big, big backyard.)  
We are living in God's backyard.

(We are living in God's backyard.)  
So let's go serve our world.  
(So let's go serve our world.)

REPEAT VERSE

Words and music by Yancy  
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All week, we've been learning about serving in God's Backyard – that is, in God's big, wide world. We've learned to serve our family and friends, our neighbors and our community. When we serve and care for others, we serve Jesus. Remember he said, 'Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.' Through songs and skits, Bible stories and games, snacks and crafts, activities and service projects, we explored the scripture from Mark that Braden read this morning. It has motions... "Love God, and love your neighbor as yourself." Try it with me.



**We Love God:** We love God because he first loved us. He created this world and called it good. Then, in due time, God sent Jesus into his world, to join us here, to experience life as we do, to heal us and set us free, so that we might walk beside him, serve with him, eat and drink with him, and enjoy life together.

**We Love Our Neighbors:** We love our neighbors because we are all part of God's family. We all live in God's backyard. And, it's a big, big backyard! With wide, open space to run and play and grow and serve together. God builds no gates to keep people out, and no fences to keep people apart. All that separates us is of our own making.



**We Love Ourselves:** We love ourselves because God created each of us, unique and beautiful. He has a plan and a call for each and every one of us. We don't love our neighbors instead of ourselves. No...God wants us to respect and love ourselves, so that we are free to truly respect and love others---out of our abundance, not out of our need.



Not only do we find ourselves in God's backyard. We are part of God's backyard, part of the very fabric of creation. We are like a gardener, and like a gardener, God plants the seeds of faith in our hearts. We can choose to nurture these seeds of hope and love. We can blossom and bear fruit. So that one day, we become part of God's harvest. And there will be a day when people will come from east and west, north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God -- the big picnic table in God's backyard. And all will eat and be satisfied.

At East Union Church, we are not willing to wait for that great day when there will be no more tears and the hungry will be filled. Like the Girl Scouts, we partner with the West Deer Food Bank to feed the hungry now! This year, the proceeds of our VBS Offering will benefit the Food Bank For every \$5 or 5 food items donated, we put one giant lightning bug into our giant bug jar. The children gave more than \$200 and 217 canned goods! We had so many lightening bugs, that we filled our giant jar two times over. We had to open the lid and let them fly through the sanctuary. Our lightening bugs remind us that each of us is a little light, shining in this world. Bringing joy, bringing hope to God's big backyard.





Each of us has a part to play  
in God's big backyard.

How will you shine?

Where will you serve?

What will you give?

Who will you love?

... So that the whole world knows that Jesus loves  
them. For when we shine and serve, and give and love in  
God's big backyard---what a wonderful world it will be!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit, Amen!

