



## Help Wanted

### Devoted gamekeeper Irving is looking to hire!

Irving Carter is back, and he's looking for some helping hands for the game preserve. Join Irving and the Gamekeeper Graduates as they review every VBS Point in a fun and easy way!

### How to Use This Closing Production

Congratulations! Most of the work in preparing your Roar Closing Production is done. Kids already know the songs, you already have most of the props, and your main character has been there all week. You're ready to roar!

This Roar Closing Production is flexible. Kids and staff who have been a part of your Roar VBS can perform it for a special wrap-up event, such as a family-night program, a Sunday morning service, or a special Sunday school program. The closing production is easy to prepare. Simply follow these steps.

- 1. Collect and create costumes and props.** You'll need the Sing & Play Roar Music DVD or CD and a sound system for the songs. The characters will also need the clothes described in the character profiles on page 2.
- 2. Cast your characters.** For the sake of continuity, the person playing Irving Carter during VBS should continue in his role. The remaining roles can be assigned to older children, teens, or adults who have been involved in Roar VBS.
- 3. Practice with your actors.** Communicate to your VBS kids that they will be coming forward and leading the audience in singing at various points as Gamekeeper Graduates.
- 4. Use clip art to decorate fliers, bulletins, and posters to publicize the event.** Check out the Roar Clip Art & Resources CD for a savanna-full of awesome clip art! Send information home with children during Roar VBS so families will be sure to come to this exciting event, and be sure kids know when to arrive, especially if you want them to come a little early.



#### PAWS HERE!

You might want to serve refreshments following the production. If so, meet with the Hungry Herd Café Leader and choose a snack from VBS. Set out the ingredients, and let audience members assemble and enjoy their snacks!

## Set and Props

Just keep the main stage the same way it was for the week of Roar VBS. See? We told you this was easy!

## The Characters

- **Leader:** (Either the Sing & Play Roar Leader or the VBS Director) He or she is happy and excited to be there.

**Suggested costumes:** Roar staff T-shirt, cap, and jeans... or whatever he or she wore during VBS.

- **Irving Carter:** Irving—enthusiastic gamekeeper and friend to all the creatures living in the game preserve—is the same lovable pal kids met at Roar VBS.

**Suggested costumes:** Irving looks the gamekeeper part in khaki pants or long shorts, short-sleeve button-up shirt, and pocketed vest. Hiking boots and, if wearing shorts, crew socks finish Irving's playful outdoorsy look.

- **Amelia Plumb:** Amelia is one of the applicants for the open Assistant Gamekeeper job at the preserve. She's determined to get the job, but she has some personal hurdles to overcome, such as a strong aversion to getting messy or dirty.

**Suggested costumes:** Amelia's extreme tidiness lends itself to a simple outfit of plain, crisply pressed clothing. A button-up shirt that can be buttoned snugly around the neck and tucked into the waist of cotton trousers is a perfect look. Add some dressy shoes and simple cotton gloves, and you have Amelia. Amelia's costume will end up very messy, so it would be good to look for clothing at a thrift store or ask for a donation from someone who doesn't mind what happens to the clothes.

- **Connor O'Connor:** Connor is ultra-hip and tech-savvy but rather disconnected from just about anything but his smartphone. He's fresh out of college and applying for the Assistant Gamekeeper position at his parents' pleading to get out of cyberspace.

**Suggested costumes:** "Hipster" style clothes, leather sandals, aviator sunglasses, a smartphone, and any other wearable tech gadgets (such as a FitBit or Apple Watch).

- **Gamekeeper Graduates:** These awesome elementary helpers aid the Leader in leading the song motions.

**Suggested costumes:** Have kids wear their VBS T-shirts.

## Supplies

- character costumes
- large smartphone for Connor
- Sing & Play Roar Music DVD (or CD)
- several pieces of plain 8½x11-inch paper or card stock
- spray bottle
- hand towel
- gardening shovel
- file folders
- chocolate instant pudding mix
- large mixing bowl or bucket
- large mixing spoon
- table and 3 chairs (can be a small, lightweight table to make it easy)
- 3 plates
- 3 cups
- 3 forks
- DVD player and projection system (or CD player/sound system)

## Getting Ready

- Mix the instant pudding mix with some water in the large bowl until you get a slimy, mud-like mixture.
- Place the bowl of “mud” and other supplies backstage where they can be easily accessed during the program.

## The Script

**Leader:** *(To audience)* Welcome, everybody! First, I want to thank you all for making this week of Roar VBS a wild success. We want to share the fun we’ve had all week with you, and to kick things off, I’ll need the help of my Gamekeeper Graduates. Come on up!

*Gamekeeper Graduates join the Leader onstage.*



Play “I’m Trusting You” from the Sing & Play Roar DVD.

*Gamekeeper Graduates move to the back of the stage.*

**Leader:** Thanks for raising praises with me! Our Gamekeeper Graduates have been roaring all week, and we had some help in learning how to make it here on this African game preserve. Our friend Irving Carter was a faithful, funny, and fearless guide. But sometimes Irving seemed like he could use some help. He was always so busy! Irving has posted a job opening for the preserve, and the last I heard, there were a couple of people interested.

**Irving:** *(Enters holding some papers and waves to audience and Gamekeeper Graduates.)* That’s right! I’m just going over the job applications again now. I’m so excited to have some helping hands on the preserve! Any minute now, they’ll both be arriving to check things out and see what working here might be like.

**Leader:** That’s great, Irving! *(Gestures toward Gamekeeper Graduates.)* Tell us a little bit about the applicants. We can’t wait to meet them!

**Irving:** *(Holds out papers as if reading from them.)* Well, first we have this guy Connor O’Connor—he’s fresh out of college, and I could use someone with lots of energy who’s able to stay up all night with the ornery elephants. No amount of coffee can get me through those elephant all-nighters anymore!

**Leader:** *(Laughs.)* I’m a big fan of sleep too. So what else about Connor makes him a good fit?



**Irving:** Well, he says here he's a champion gamer. (*Sheepishly*) Honestly, I'm not totally sure what that means, but I figure being a *gamer* on a game preserve is a good thing! Oh, and his parents sent a letter of recommendation. They *really* want him to get the job and "connect with nature and reality." Wow—I missed this before—they're even willing to pay me to let him work here. Well, that's very nice of them!

**Leader:** (*Winces.*) Hmm, this could be interesting. Who's the other person applying?

**Irving:** (*Looks at the next paper, which seems perfectly neat and unfolded.*) Her name is Amelia Plumb, and I've never seen such a tidy, flawless résumé in my entire life! (*Inspects the sheet of paper.*) I mean, I'm pretty sure she even ironed out every wrinkle in the paper. She's been a research lab assistant for years, keeping the lab spotless and germ-free, and she wants to try something new to get her outside.

**Leader:** Life on the preserve is definitely different from life in a lab! It's, um...not so neat and tidy. That'll be a big change. But we've learned a lot this past week about how God is good through all of life's ups and downs, twists and turns, and even when life gets wild.

**Irving:** So you think one of them might be a good fit?

**Leader:** Let's see how their time here at the preserve goes. Remember, no matter what, God is good. Before they get here, let's sing a song to remind us all that God is good in every way!

*Gamekeeper Graduates come forward on stage, and Irving exits.*



Lead everyone in singing "Good in Every Way" from the Sing & Play Roar Music DVD.

*Gamekeeper Graduates exit, and Irving and Amelia come onstage. Irving's carrying the spray bottle, towel, and shovel. Amelia looks very nervous and is noticeably keeping her hands to herself, as if she's afraid of touching anything.*

**Irving:** Amelia, I'm really glad you're here and willing to try something new! (*Amelia gives an unsure nod and quick, forced smile.*) I have Connor back in the office working on some filing I've been meaning to get to for...well, I've never filed a thing. I thought I'd let you try out stall cleanup at the animal clinic. We have a sick rhino who had a *reeeally* bad night. (*Fans his hand in front of his face.*) Whoo-wee!

**Amelia:** (*Eyes wide and stammering a bit.*) Yuh-you know, I'm quite good with organization. Perhaps it's more fitting that I do the filing and Connor can—



**Irving:** *(Cuts Amelia off and claps her on the back. She looks at his hand on her back, tentatively.)* Oh, I'm sure you'll do a fine job at the clinic. After all, as you said in your résumé, no one knows clean like you know clean.

**Amelia:** Did I say that? I suppose that's true b-but I...

**Irving:** *(Hands Amelia the spray bottle and towel.)* I have to get back to the office to check on Connor. I'll check in with you later. *(Starts walking away, then stops and hands Amelia the shovel.)* Oh man, I almost forgot. You're definitely going to need this.

**Amelia:** *(Gulps and watches Irving leave the stage.)* No one knows clean like I know clean, but it's because I stay clean—always. I could stay clean if I could do the filing. But...a sick rhino? This is so unfair. *(Takes a deep breath, covers her nose with her arm, and stomps offstage.)*

**Leader:** *(Comes onstage as Amelia exits.)* I know how Amelia feels. We've probably all faced times in our lives when things weren't fair—or at least sure didn't seem fair. But **when life is unfair...God is good!** *(Invites the Gamekeeper Graduates onstage.)* Let's sing nice and loud to help Amelia know God is good even when she's feeling like life isn't fair!



Lead everyone in singing "No Matter What I'm Facing" from the Sing & Play Roar Music DVD.

*Leader moves offstage again with the Gamekeeper Graduates.*

*Connor comes onstage carrying a pile of file folders, plops the folders on the ground, and looks at them for a minute, then shrugs. He pulls out his smartphone and begins "playing a game."*

**Connor:** *(Muttering to himself.)* Enough of that! Now let's see if I can get the high score on this level. *(Moves his phone and hands animatedly as he pretends to play a game.)*

*Irving comes onstage, and when Connor notices his presence, he quickly puts his phone in his pocket and begins shuffling the file folders.*

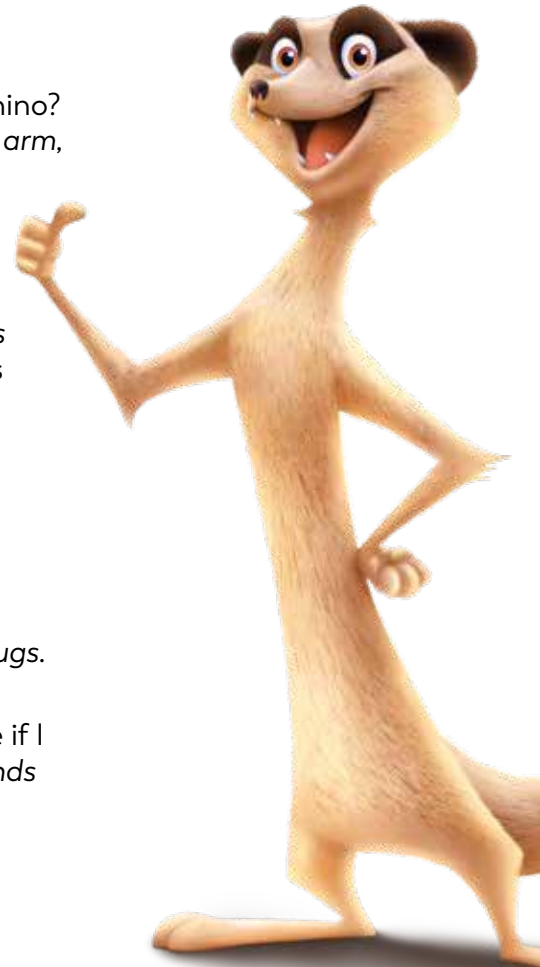
**Irving:** How's the filing going, Connor?

**Connor:** Great! I've just been organizing my thoughts to start, um, organizing.

**Irving:** How 'bout a break? I need a hand tagging a new lion in the preserve.

**Connor:** Tagging a lion? *(Looks confused and concerned.)* I didn't know lions liked playing games. So we just give it a little tap *(delicately taps Irving on the shoulder)* and then run away? That sounds a little crazy.

**Irving:** No, no. You're a champion gamer, so I thought for sure you'd have tagged plenty of animals on other game preserves.



And by the way, I don't advise running around the lions. Not unless you want 400 pounds of cranky wild cat and its razor sharp 4-inch teeth and even sharper claws running you down. (*Chuckles lightheartedly.*) Trust me, that's a race you'll lose every time!

**Connor:** (*Nervously imitates Irving's laugh.*) That might have been an unnecessarily detailed description. (*Sarcastically*) This just sounds better and better all the time! Dude, this terrifying dance with crazy that you call "tagging a lion" definitely wasn't in the job description.

**Irving:** What? I'm sure it was. I was very thorough. (*Starts rifling through the file folders.*) Where's a copy of the job description? I'm sure it's here somewhere. Where's the "new hire" folder?

**Connor:** (*Clears his throat and puts a hand on Irving's shoulder to gently move Irving away from the folders.*) So tell me some more about this lion we need to tag. I imagine we need a really, really, really long stick, yeah? And an armored car?

**Irving:** (*Scoffs.*) No, sticks and armored cars really upset the gazelles. Everything we do on the open savanna of the preserve, we do on foot.

**Connor:** (*Noticeably starts to shake a bit, then crosses arms over chest in an attempt to look more sure of himself.*) All right, so walk me through it. How are we doing this...and why?

**Irving:** (*Acts out tiptoeing and sneaking around behind any onstage props.*) We'll track the big boy, and once we're within blow dart distance (*pretends to use a blow dart*), I'll put him into a nice, light sleep. Then we'll put a comfy tag collar on him to wear for the next few weeks so we can track him with the rest of the lions.

**Connor:** I'm so glad we'll be treating the—as you put it—"big boy" so delicately. Is the lion willing to treat us so nicely?

**Irving:** I can tell you're scared, Connor, but this is a pretty normal part of the job here. Just follow my lead and you'll be fine.

*Irving starts to walk away, and Connor starts to follow and then faints. Irving turns in surprise and crouches over Connor. Then Irving grabs a file folder and starts fanning Connor's face. Connor wakes up and props himself on his elbows just as Irving opens the folder to look inside.*

**Irving:** Hey, look! Here's the job description. Yep, it says, "must be comfortable with a daily risk to life and limb." Did you miss that part?

*Connor faints again. Leader enters stage and takes spotlight as Irving drags Connor offstage.*

**Leader:** I'm not sure who's having a harder first day on the preserve, Amelia or Connor! I think we have a song from this week to help Connor, too. Gamekeeper Graduates, come on up and let's sing "I Will Not Be Afraid" to give Connor some encouragement that even **when life is scary...God is good!**

*Gamekeeper Graduates enter.*



Lead everyone in singing "I Will Not Be Afraid" from the Sing & Play Roar Music DVD.

*Leader and Gamekeeper Graduates exit.*

*Amelia comes onstage with a big, glowing grin on her face. Her tidy clothing is now disheveled and covered in smears of chocolate pudding to look like mud. Irving comes onstage not long after Amelia and looks shocked at her messy state.*

**Irving:** Amelia, I'm so sorry! I knew that job at the clinic would be messy, but not like this. What happened to you?

**Amelia:** *(Giggles.)* Irving, I had the *best* time! Things started out rough. *(Holds her nose.)* That rhino indeed had a terrible night, and that cleanup was quite unpleasant. But then...things changed. Or perhaps I was changed. *(Pauses in happy thought.)* What happened? Baby elephants happened!

**Irving:** Well, are you all right? Are you hurt? You seem...different. You *do* know that you're absolutely covered in mud, right?

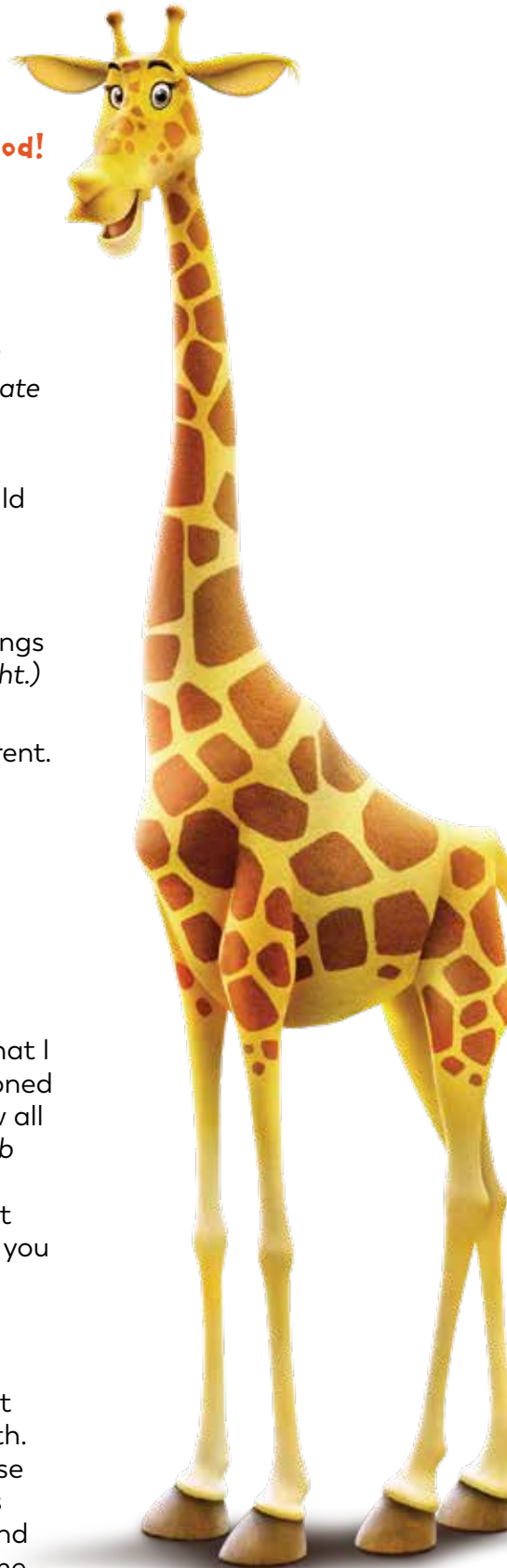
**Amelia:** Oh yes! But you should see the elephants. *(Laughs hard.)* I got them good!

**Irving:** Okay, this sounds like a story I need to hear! Tell me what happened.

**Amelia:** Well, I was in a truly terrible mood cleaning out the rhino's stall. It was gross, germ, and completely unsanitary. *(Gives a shudder.)* I was grumbling about how unfair it was that I had to shovel rhino...stuff while Connor sat in an air-conditioned office leafing through papers. And I kept thinking about how all I wanted to do was soak in a tub of bleach. *(Pretends to scrub her arms.)* I finished cleaning and looked at the clinic's to-do list. I saw that the baby elephants needed a bath, so I took it upon myself to get another to-do done at the clinic without you asking me to.

**Irving:** Very impressive. Nicely done, Amelia.

**Amelia:** To be honest, I was hoping it would encourage you to reward me with a far less messy task tomorrow—and that maybe I could wash myself off as I gave the elephants a bath. *(Pantomimes turning on a hose and spraying.)* I turned the hose on and started spraying them down, and that's when things started to change. The baby elephants became so playful and happy. They started slopping mud on each other and then me... and I didn't mind! *I didn't mind!*



**Irving:** (*Smiling big.*) So what was it that changed? You were in an even bigger mess with the elephants.

**Amelia:** I guess seeing the elephants happy and playing made me happy.

**Irving:** That sounds like a *good* change, Amelia!

**Amelia:** It certainly is! I usually don't like change at all. I like things in order and *my way*. But I couldn't have my way today, and those happy elephants helped me see that my way needed to change. So that's what happened. (*Amelia swipes some mud off her clothes and puts it on Irving.*) An elephant mud bath happened. Change happened...and it's good!

**Irving:** I'm so glad your first day here at the preserve ended well, Amelia. Before we call it a day, do you mind coming with me to check on Connor? He ended up having so much fun tagging the lion that he took off muttering something about the hippo needing its teeth flossed. You think tagging a *lion* is risky!

**Amelia:** Sounds like maybe Connor's done some changing today too. Let's go check on the preserve's new hippo dentist.

*Irving and Amelia exit, and the Leader comes onstage with the Gamekeeper Graduates.*

**Leader:** It's good to see our friends finding good in the changes in their lives at the preserve. We learned this week that life is full of changes for all of us. Change can be hard, but God can bring such good things from change. **When life changes...God is good!**



Lead everyone in singing "Whole Lotta Change" from the Sing & Play Roar Music DVD.

*Leader and Gamekeeper Graduates exit, and Connor comes onstage. Connor sits and looks at the ground, looking very sad. Irving and Amelia come onstage not long after Connor sits.*

**Irving:** There you are, Connor! Uh-oh, you don't look too happy. Did the hippo refuse the flossing?

*Connor wipes his eyes, takes a deep breath, then stands up to face Irving and Amelia.*

**Connor:** Yeah, it didn't go well. I felt like I could do anything after we tagged the lion, but then I almost lost a hand to a hippo! I thought I was ready to take care of the animals on my own, but I'm not and, you know, it makes me a little sad. Maybe I should just stick to playing online games. They're less dangerous...and I don't think nature likes me very much.

**Irving:** No way, Connor! You've grown so much since you've been here. Don't let an unhappy hippo get you stuck in cyberspace again. You're more on the right track than you know.



**Connor:** Really? How did you get so good at what you do?

**Irving:** Believe it or not, I started out really unsure of what to do around here. I didn't know the first thing about taking care of wild animals! I'd been working at a museum and researching animals in books, not face to face with living, breathing, pouncing, stampeding, camouflaging, mud-bathing (*pats Amelia on the shoulder*), and sometimes smelly wild animals. So I didn't expect either of you to come out here and have it all down in a day—I definitely didn't!

**Connor:** Wow, thanks Irving. That makes me feel a lot better!

**Irving:** Sure! You know, sadness can creep in and make us feel like we just can't do anything. But even when we're sad, God is still good! God has placed so much good in you and around you, even if things haven't gone perfectly. Don't let sadness win; don't give up. Even **when life is sad...God is good!** (*Invites Leader and Gamekeeper Graduates onstage.*) (*Speaking to Connor and Amelia.*) Let's sing a song about our good God, and then we'll talk more about this job over some tasty dinner. Sound good?

**Connor and Amelia:** Sounds great!

*Leader and Gamekeeper Graduates take the stage.*



Lead everyone in singing "Good Good Father" from the Sing & Play Roar Music DVD.

*Gamekeeper Graduates exit.*

**Leader:** (*Talks to audience while Irving, Connor, and Amelia work in the background to quickly set up a table and chairs and put some plates and eating utensils on the table. Then they sit around the table.*) It's been awesome to watch Connor and Amelia learn through the wild ups and downs at the game preserve that God is good no matter what comes our way! Connor and Amelia have both learned so much in their first day here, and I'm excited to see who gets the job! Will it be Connor or Amelia? Let's find out!

*Leader exits. Spotlight moves to Irving, Connor, and Amelia sitting around the table.*

**Irving:** (*Stretches arms and leans back in chair.*) Whew, what a meal! Before we have dessert, let's talk about how you two are feeling about the job. You've been here for an action-packed first day. What do you think? Is this the place for you?

*Connor and Amelia both start responding at the same time, then pause and look at each other, smiling.*

**Amelia:** You go first, Connor. I insist.



**Connor:** Thanks, Amelia. *(Turns attention to Irving.)* Well, I'll be totally honest with you. I started out *really* bored and wondering why my parents wanted me to come here so badly. But now I'm feeling like—how do I put this?—I like this place is my new home. A good home.

**Irving:** I'm so happy to hear that, Connor! *(Turns his attention to Amelia.)* How are you feeling, Amelia?

**Amelia:** Well, I've decided my place isn't here at the preserve right now. Not because I don't love it but because I've loved it so much! I'm going to go back to school to become a veterinarian!

**Irving:** *(Looks wide-eyed at Amelia, then Connor, then back to Amelia.)* This is all so good! In fact, I couldn't have asked for this to work out any better because I was going to have a terrible time deciding between the two of you. *(Looks at Connor.)* So, Connor, what do you say? Are you interested in ditching the digital world and moving to the game preserve?

**Connor:** *(Excitedly.)* Yes! Thank you so much! *(Turns to Amelia.)* Amelia, are you sure?

**Amelia:** I'm certain, Connor. Through all of today's wild ups and downs God has led us to what's good for both of us. I'm *thrilled* for you, and maybe the preserve will need a veterinarian soon. *(Looks at Irving.)*

**Irving:** *(Smiles.)* There will always be a place for you here, Amelia.

*Spotlight fades from the table and moves to the Leader coming onstage.*

**Leader:** Things worked out beautifully for our friends at the preserve today! It just goes to show that **when life is good...God is good!** Gamekeeper Graduates, let's sing one more song to celebrate our good God and our good week here at Roar VBS!

*Gamekeeper Graduates enter.*



Play "Every Good Thing" from the Sing & Play Roar Music DVD.

