

Skit Book



PROMISE VBS

REDEMPTION
RANCH

BRANDED IN
THE IMAGE OF JESUS

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Consultants:

David Hall, Judy Hall

Contributing Illustrators:

John Jordan

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From

21st Century Christian, Inc.

REDEMPTION RANCH

Skit Book Overview



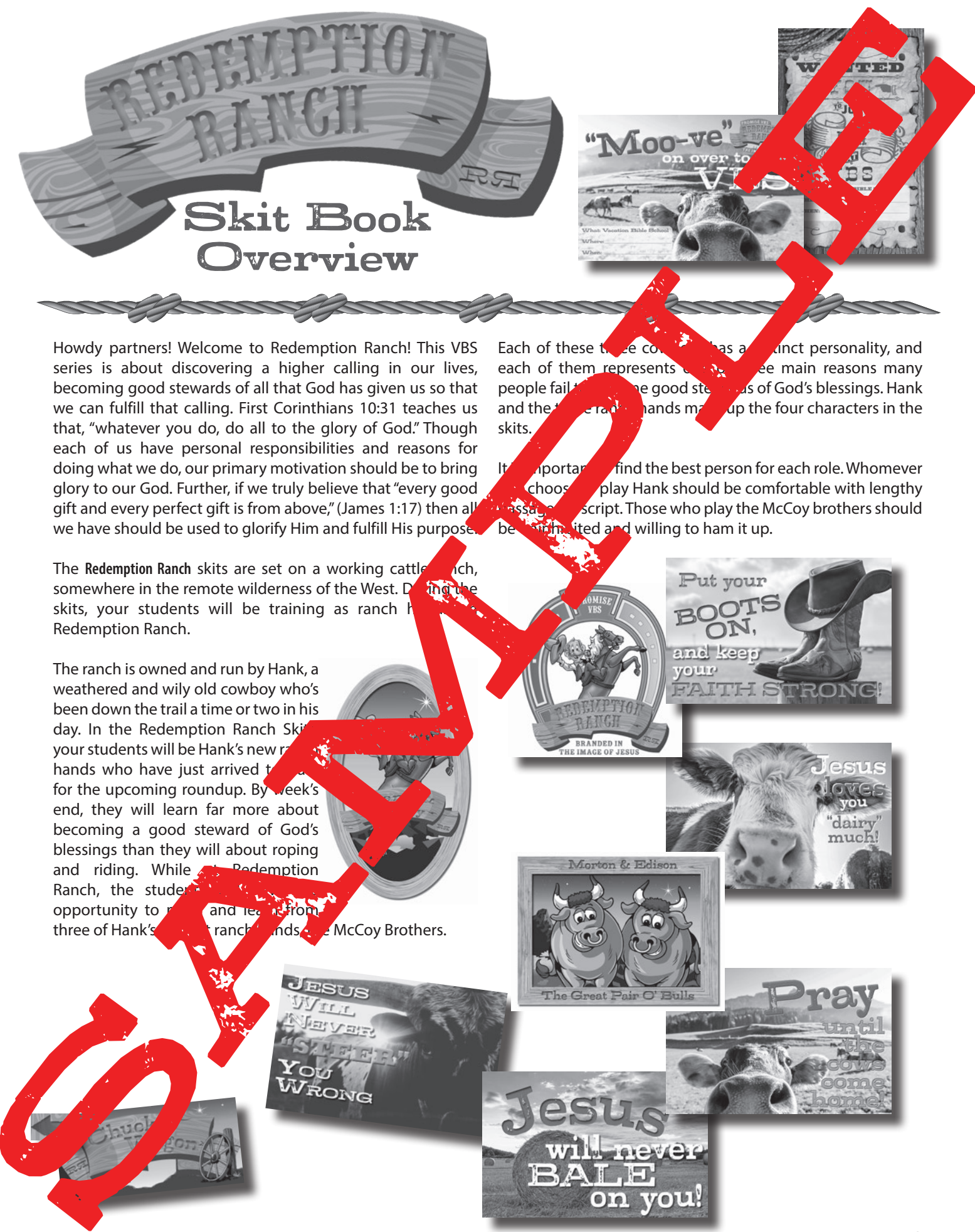
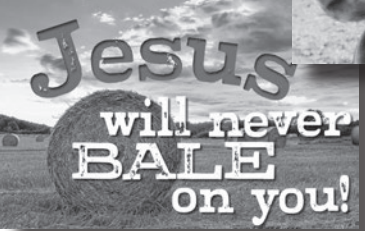
Howdy partners! Welcome to Redemption Ranch! This VBS series is about discovering a higher calling in our lives, becoming good stewards of all that God has given us so that we can fulfill that calling. First Corinthians 10:31 teaches us that, "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Though each of us have personal responsibilities and reasons for doing what we do, our primary motivation should be to bring glory to our God. Further, if we truly believe that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above," (James 1:17) then all we have should be used to glorify Him and fulfill His purpose.

Each of these three cowboys has a distinct personality, and each of them represents one of the three main reasons many people fail to become good stewards of God's blessings. Hank and the other ranch hands make up the four characters in the skits.

It is important to find the best person for each role. Whomever you choose to play Hank should be comfortable with lengthy passages of script. Those who play the McCoy brothers should be confident and willing to ham it up.

The Redemption Ranch skits are set on a working cattle ranch, somewhere in the remote wilderness of the West. During the skits, your students will be training as ranch hands at Redemption Ranch.

The ranch is owned and run by Hank, a weathered and wily old cowboy who's been down the trail a time or two in his day. In the Redemption Ranch Skits, your students will be Hank's new ranch hands who have just arrived to work for the upcoming roundup. By week's end, they will learn far more about becoming a good steward of God's blessings than they will about roping and riding. While at Redemption Ranch, the students will have the opportunity to meet and learn from three of Hank's ranch hands, the McCoy Brothers.



The **Redemption Ranch Skit Manual** contains five skits that will begin each lesson with a Ranch Hand Roundup. Each of the **Redemption Ranch** skits takes place at—where else?—Redemption Ranch! You can use the same basic set design and change the look for each skit using a few different props.



The skits are designed to be performed at the beginning of each VBS session. Each skit is approximately 10 minutes in length. The impact the skits will have on your students will far surpass the amount of work that must be done to implement them. Have fun while presenting the skits! Although each skit is designed to present a lesson, each one is also designed to be fun. The more fun our actors have, the more enjoyable the skits will be for those who are watching. What are you waiting for? Get the board!

The best presentation of any skit occurs when each person who plays a part in the skit has memorized his lines. However, in the busy world in which we live, most people do not have the time to do so. That is okay. There are several ways in which you can help the characters present their lines without forcing them to memorize them. The best idea is to make cue cards on poster board and assign one person the duty of sitting on the floor in front of the set and holding the cue cards. Another idea is to hide scripts in props the characters are using (examples: a day planner, a book, a large bowl, etc.) Each person playing a part in the skits should at least become familiar with the script so that he is able to give the best presentation possible.

Feel free to make duplicate copies of the skits for VBS needs within your own congregation only. (Pages which may be duplicated are marked at the bottom of the page.) However, copying the contents of this book for any other purpose is prohibited.





Lesson One

Use

God's Gifts

Props: Redemption Ranch Mini Cow Bell, mirror, comb, daytime planner or smartphone calendar, two classroom chairs, two ropes (at least 10' long), two hula hoops, two pieces of paper, and two markers (Tape the two pieces of paper to the backs of the chairs, and tie the ends of the two ropes to the hula hoops.)

Hank enters the stage area, looking all around for his three ranch hands. He does not yet notice the students.

Hank: Boone! Crockett! Houston! Where are you fellars? It's time to get a new herd! The new ranch hands are coming today! *(talking to himself)* Now where could those cowboys be? *(look up and sees the students)* Well, you must be my new ranch hands. It's good to see you! Let me give you a great big H-O-O-O-O-O-W-D-Y! *(listens for a response)* Well, I can see you're greener than a new baby calf. You got a lot to learn. This here is the best. When you meet someone out here, you greet them with a great big "Howdy!" So, when I yell howdy, you yell howdy. Let's try it again. H-O-O-O-O-W-D-Y! *(response)* That's a heap better. You do want to be ranch hands, doncha? Welcome to Redemption

Ranch. My name is Hank Hatfield, and I'm the owner of this here spread. I'm also your trail boss. This ranch was founded on Christian principles, and I want all the ranch hands who work here to become good stewards of all the things God has given us. You've arrived in the nick of time because it's roundup time at Redemption Ranch. Are you ranch hands ready to saddle up and get started in a good ole Western roundup? *(response)* *(Hank shakes his head in disappointment)* No, no, no. You greenhorns are more city-fied than a three-piece suit. If you're a real ranch hand and someone asks you if you're ready to do something, there is only one way to respond. Y-E-E-E-E H-A-A-A-A-W! That's how we do it out here. Let's try it one more time. Are you ranch hands ready for a roundup? *(response)* That's a heap better! There are a few cowboys I'd like for you to meet. In fact, I was just looking for 'em when I saw you. Let me try ringing the dinner bell. They should come a-runnin'. *(rings Mini Cow Bell)* Boone! Crockett! Houston! Come on out here, boys! The new ranch hands are here!

Crockett: *(walks slowly and sheepishly onto the stage area)* Yeah, boss?

Lesson One

Hank: Well, howdy, Crockett. Where ya been? Didn't you hear me callin' for ya?

Crockett: Well, yeah, I guess I did.

Hank: Well, why didn't you come when I called?

Crockett: Um, you sounded kinda angry. I was afraid I was in trouble.

Hank: In trouble? Why would you be in trouble? As far as I know, you haven't done anything.

Crockett: Well, you're technically right. I haven't done anything. That's why I thought I was in trouble.

Hank: Do you mean to tell me you haven't finished your chores for the day?

Crockett: No. If I'm being honest... I haven't even started my chores for the day.

Hank: You haven't started? Why not?

Crockett: I was afraid I wouldn't do 'em right.

Hank: You can't live your whole life being afraid, Crockett, but I'll let it go for that later. I was just about to introduce you to our new ranch hands out here. *(addressing students)* Ranch hands, this here is Crockett McCoy. He's a bit of a fraidy cat, but he's a fine cowboy. *(addressing Crockett)* They're here to help you on the ranch, and I don't believe you're getting the right example for them. Crockett.

Crockett: I was afraid of that.

Hank: We ain't got time to be afraid. You know Boone and Houston? *(Boone enters stage area. He is combing his hair and looking into a mirror as he walks.)* Here comes Boone now. *(addressing students)* Cowboys, this here is Boone McCoy. *(addressing Boone)* Boone, come here! I'd like you to meet some of the folks.

Boone: *(still combing his hair and looking in the mirror)* Oh, hey, boss. Just a minute. *(combs his hair a few more times and smiles in the mirror)* Oh, yes. Perfect! *(addressing Hank)* Boone, yes. Perfect! You're one handsome cowboy! *(looking at Hank)* Did you say something, boss?

Hank: I said I want you to meet some folks. Say howdy to our new ranch hands.

Boone: Howdy, y'all! I'm sure it is a real pleasure for you to meet me.

Hank: Boone, I want you and Crockett and Houston to help train our new ranch hands over the next few days.

Boone: Of course, you do. And you've come to the right person. I'm sure they can learn a lot from me.

Hank: Well, I was hoping so.

Boone: *(addressing students)* Little junior ranch hands, you are looking at the last of the great Western heroes. With my muscles of steel *(flex)*, my charming personality *(big smile)*, and my rugged good looks *(gaze into mirror)*, what more could a ranch hand ever want to be? If you'll just watch me and stay out of my way, you'll be incredibly blessed by spending time in my presence.

Lesson One

Hank: Okay, that's enough, Boone. I'm sure everyone would love to stand around and talk about you all day, but we've got work to do. Now if we could just find Houston. *(Houston begins walking quickly across the back of the stage area.)* There he is now! Houston! Slow down a minute. Where are you going in such a hurry?

Houston: Oh, hey boss. Sorry. I've got to get to my Karate class. Could I get back with you in just a little while?

Hank: No, you can't get back with me in just a little while. We've got work to do now. It's roundup time, and I need you to help me train these new ranch hands. *(speaking to students)* Ranch hands, this is Houston McCoy, and he is another one of my fine ranch hands here at Redemption Ranch. He is going to help train all of you.

Houston: Of course, I am. You know me, boss. I'm always willing to be helpful. As soon as I start helping out just as soon as I get back from my next appointment, but I've gotta run right now. *(speaking to students)* Looking forward to working with you soon. See you later!

Hank: Wait a minute, Houston. What do you mean by later?

Houston: Well, I'm not quite sure. I've got a pretty busy schedule today. *(pulls out his day planner or smartphone calendar and begins to check his calendar. Let me see... that day is no good...no, I'm busy there...Oh, yes! How about a week from Tuesday?)*

Hank: A week from Tuesday? I don't think so. You're gonna have to adjust your schedule, cowboy. I need you now. I need all three of you now. All three of you go and get me the tools we need to train these new ranch hands. Today, we're gonna learn how to brand a calf.

Crockett, Boone and Houston exit stage to retrieve the props.

Hank: *(speaking to students)* I'm sorry about all this delay, ranch hands. We're gonna get you trained. As soon as I'm really happy you're all here and I think you're gonna learn a lot from Houston, Crockett, and Boone. They're fine cowboys. But the truth is I'm hoping they are going to learn a lot from you, too. I want all my ranch hands to be the type of servants God wants them to be. And that's the part that Houston, Crockett, and Boone still need to learn.

When Hank is speaking, the three ranch hands return to the stage area with the two chairs with paper taped to the backs, two ropes tied to the two hula hoops, and the two markers. They should place one chair at either side of the stage area.

Hank: One of the things we do here at Redemption Ranch is to brand cattle. That means we round up all the cattle and place a mark on their skin so everyone will know they belong to us. We're gonna train you how to brand cattle today. First we need to choose the right ranch hands to do the jobs they do best. That is called using your talents wisely. So, I need a few volunteers. The first volunteer I need is someone who has a good aim. Which one of you ranch hands can aim well?

Choose one volunteer from the students, and ask them to come up to the stage area. You can choose anyone you wish, but 2nd-5th graders might work best for this task.

Lesson One

Hank: Okay, which one of you ranch hands is really strong? (Choose another volunteer.) And the last volunteer I need is someone who has good handwriting. (Choose another volunteer.) Okay, we're gonna have a contest to see which group of ranch hands can rope a calf, pull him in, and brand him. (Point to one of the chairs.) This is the calf. (Hold up a marker.) And we will brand the calf with this marker. Who out there thinks Boone, Houston, and Crockett will win? (response) Okay, and who out there thinks our new ranch hands will win? (response)

*Explain the rules of the contest. One volunteer with good aim will attempt to throw the hula hoop tied to the rope onto the chair. The volunteer who is strong will then pull the chair to the center of the stage. Once the chair has been pulled to the center of the stage, the volunteer with good handwriting will write RR (the ranch brand) on the paper taped to the chair. The first team to do so wins. **Note:** Once the student ropes the chair, ensure that the hula hoop falls over around the legs so the chair will not tip over when it is pulled.)*

Hank: (speaking to Boone, Houston, and Crockett. Boone is combing his hair and looking in the mirror again.) Okay, it's time to begin. Boone, are you ready?

Boone: (still combing his hair) Almost boss, just a little last-minute preparation.

Hank: Well, you better get prepared in a hurry because we will start at the count of three. (speaking to students in audience) You ranch hands out there be sure and cheer for your team. Are you ready? 1-2-3 Go!

At this point, the student volunteers will begin to accomplish their task, each student performing only the duty he was assigned. Meanwhile, Boone continues combing his hair while Houston and Crockett do little to complete the task. Each of these three men should stay in character, but might begin to try to throw the hula hoop over his legs and stops. Houston might continue to look nervous as if he has somewhere he needs to go. All three might argue with one another occasionally making a futile attempt to perform their duties until the other team wins.

Hank: And we have a winner! Everyone, give our three new ranch hands a big Yee-Haw! Are you ready? Y-E-E H-A-A-A-W! (send the three students back to their seats.) (addressing Boone, Crockett, and Houston) As for you three, I don't know what to think. What happened?

Crockett: Well, it's Boone and Houston's fault.

Hank: I think you're all to blame. Just why do you think it wasn't your fault?

Crockett: Because both of them are better at roping and pulling and branding than me. I was afraid that, if I tried to help, I'd just mess it up. If I could rope and brand as well as they can, I would have tried harder.

Hank: Crockett, I declare, you're more nervous than a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. Just because you think you can't rope or brand as well as Boone and Houston, that doesn't mean you couldn't do something. You know, that reminds me of a parable that Jesus told. You three know all about the parables don't ya?

Crockett: Well, I know about the pair of bulls we got out there in the pasture, but they scare me.

Lesson One

Hank: No, I'm not talking about that pair of bulls. I'm talking about the parables Jesus told. A parable is a story that teaches a lesson. Jesus loved to tell parables. One of the parables He told was about a man who had to travel to a faraway country. While he was gone, he put his three servants in charge of his money. He gave each servant a different amount of money to manage. He gave one a whole heap of money. He gave another a little less money than the first. And he gave the third servant just a little bit of money. While he was gone, the first two servants used their master's money wisely and made more money for him. But the servant who was only given a little bit of money was afraid, just like you, Crockett.

Crockett: I was afraid of that.

Hank: He didn't do a thing with the money that was given to him. Instead, he hid it. We don't really know why. He may have been jealous because he didn't have as much as the other two servants had. He may have been afraid because he wasn't as good as the other two. But the point is he didn't use what was given to him like he should have. Crockett, do you think you used your God-given talents wisely?

Crockett: I'm afraid now. I try to do better, Hank.

Hank: That's a good question. Remember, God blesses us with many things, but He also blesses each one of us differently. We can't all be good at throwing a ball. We can't all be strong enough to pull on a calf. And we can't all have good handwriting, but there is always something that each one of us does well.

Crockett: Really? What do I do well Hank?

Hank: *(thoughtfully)* Well, you're real good at looking for trouble. Maybe if you could use that talent to look for trouble and then find a solution for it.

Crockett: *(thoughtfully)* Yeah, I could do that.

Hank: *(addressing students)* And you ranch hands did a great job in our contest today! You each used your talents wisely. Remember, God doesn't expect you to be like everyone else. He expects you to use the blessings you have been given to the best of your ability. Ya know, one reason folks don't become good stewards is that they're more concerned with what they don't have than what they do have. You have to use whatever you're given, whether it's your talents, your money, or anything else, to glorify God. That's how you become a good steward of God's blessings. If you can learn that, then your time here at Redemption Ranch will be well worth it. Are you ready to learn more about becoming a good steward of God's blessings? Then let me hear another great big Yee-Haw! Ready? 1-2-3! *(response)* Good job, ranch hands! We'll see you here next time, and we'll learn another important way to become good stewards of God's blessings.