

VBS Showcase

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Loudon County Baptist Association

VBS Showcase 2021

In 2020 we were faced with the unexpected Covid pandemic that really changed up outreach options for our churches. Vacation Bible School still remains the biggest outreach for most of our churches. Many churches had to cancel their VBS plans all together and some were able to modify their plans in an effort to reach boys and girls during one of the worst times our generation has seen.

Here we are in 2021 and it is now time to get in full VBS planning mode. Keeping in mind that this pandemic is far from over we must expand our ways and thinking in how we can effectively reach children with the Gospel of Christ while adhering to safety protocols.

In an effort to reach as many children as we possibly can we must think outside of the box. We have many options available this year.

Traditional VBS - We are all familiar with the traditional style VBS where we have a week long program and rotate between Bible, Craft and Music. This option is still available for those that feel like this is something they can safely host at their church while adhering to the CDC safety protocols.

Alternative VBS- This is when you take the traditional VBS and modify it. Modification options that churches could consider will help to keep groups small and able to socially distance. For churches with limited volunteer support having smaller groups of children will allow for better volunteer coverage.

- Scheduling- stagger days per grade level to allow for smaller groups at one time. Staggering options could be grades K-2 on Monday and Wednesday and then grades 3-6 on Tuesday and Friday.
- Consider hosting a weekend VBS event for a Friday & Saturday then finish on Sunday. There are weekend VBS programs to choose from, however any of the programs can be modified to use in a 2-3 day format.

Online VBS- A contactless VBS is possible by hosting an online VBS. To do this you can pre-package crafts, snacks and scripture handouts for parents to pick up at a drive thru event. Churches can use pre-recorded or live streamed videos of the bible lessons, craft instruction, games and worship. Children can log in from home with the assistance of parents to watch and follow along each night. This is a great alternative for many churches however; it would require children to have access to the internet to watch the videos.

Neighborhood VBS - This option is a great opportunity to get out into the community by hosting one or more VBS sites. A great place to hold a neighborhood VBS is in a park. Being outside offers a better way to social distance and have more children at one time. With neighborhood VBS you can set up stations for children for crafts and snacks and have someone sharing the Bible lesson in groups.



The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an earthquake for the church--unlike anything we've seen. And it's happening right in the middle of planning time for VBS! So, how will you respond? What is God's desire for your ministry during this unprecedented time? Don't be paralyzed. Use this time to take a breath. Relax. Grab a favorite beverage. And look forward. God is with you. As so are we, here at Group. One thing you can count on is Group will be there to help, whatever the situation. So, let's start planning, full steam ahead!

PURSUE YOUR MOST POWERFUL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

VBS has always been a powerful outreach tool into the community, and into the hearts and souls of children. This year, it's true more than ever. After your church has been forced to close its doors, VBS can be the most effective reach into your community. And, in this time of uncertainty, anxiety and stress, kids and their parents need the life-giving ministry of VBS. Not to mention the welcome relief that VBS will offer to parents who have been cooped up with their kids for weeks and weeks.

This is the most significant year for VBS in your church's history. Grab the opportunity. God is with you.

PRAY

Talk to God. Encourage your entire team to pray. Make a prayer calendar and (virtually) gather the team. Give them specific things to pray for. Pray together. Have your kids pray for VBS. It's one effort that can involve everyone.

BE READY TO ADAPT

No one knows what the summer months will look like. But with some planning and creativity, you can make VBS happen, no matter what.

- If your VBS dates are early in the summer, **plan alternate dates** later in the summer, in case Coronavirus concerns need more time to clear.
- If you normally run a big VBS program, consider planning **multiple sessions**. If gatherings are restricted on size this summer, split your VBS into multiple, smaller sessions. And other locations, such as backyards. VBS PRO provides multi-session support to make registration and admin easier too.
- For **alternate scheduling**, consider conducting VBS over a weekend, or evenings, or once a week over several weeks.
- Prepare for a **VBS-at-home** option. Many churches are already conducting Sunday school online for their children. So, if your area is still in a stay-at-home status in the summer, you can make VBS happen in every child's home. You can supply a packet containing everything each child needs, and provide an online experience that children follow each day. If this option is necessary this summer, Group will provide everything you need, including permissions, to make this transition to the web.
- Who said VBS must happen in the summer? Consider **offering VBS later**--as a back-to-school kick-off, or during fall break, or a fall weekend, or in the evenings, or Thanksgiving or Christmas break.

While many people are currently drowning in hopelessness, you can be a make-it-happen follower of the “all things are possible” Christ Jesus.

AFFORD IT

The current stay-at-home situation has led some churches to limit ministry spending.

This needn't limit your VBS, however. Consider:

- Remind your church leaders of the prime importance of VBS. It is the most powerful ministry event to attract and keep families involved in your church. Leaders know the financial importance of families with children. In addition to the spiritual investment, your church's VBS provides a **practical investment** in your church's future.
- Invite a few major donors to step forward and provide a **special gift** to make VBS happen in this critical year. Every congregation has people who are ready to respond to a compelling need. Approach them individually. Explain the need. Share your dream of how children will be transformed by God's love.

- If you have not before asked families for an **admission fee** for VBS, this may be the year to consider it. Many families spend hundreds of dollars for summer camps. They understand the value of quality experiences for their children. Your VBS is a top-quality spiritual experience. And, of course, you may offer scholarships to those families unable to pay.
- Remember, if you don't use some of your Group VBS supplies, you may return them to group for a **refund**. No risk. We'll work with you according to your needs and timing.

PREPARE YOUR TEAM

VBS may look different this year. But God has big things in store for you and your kids. So, continue to prepare, train, and encourage your workers. Communicate often. Use simple web tools such as Zoom, available free online, to gather your team virtually to get ready for a great VBS.

And watch for announcements from Group for the **VBS FunShop** training—coming to you and your volunteers, online and available when you're available. And the online FunShops are **free!**

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

If you're doing your part to practice social distancing, if you're confined to your home or office, use this valuable time. Keep planning for your life-transforming VBS ministry. The families in your church are counting on you.

Your friends at Group are with you. We're watching the changes swirling around us, and preparing contingency plans to make sure your Group VBS is the best ever. We're with you.

And, most importantly, God is with you. All the way.

Three VBS Alternatives

What to do instead of Vacation Bible School?

Vacation Bible School is a tradition in many churches but it's not always feasible to present such a program to the community. If you are limited by volunteer staff, finances or time—or for any reason then there are options available to you. Think outside the box! You can still reach the children in your community and an impressive and powerful way. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Team Up with a Community VBS

If putting on a Vacation Bible School is impossible now why not reach out to local churches and ministries? Chances are they'll understand. You could pool your resources! You don't have to do everything yourself. Ask them when they plan to offer Vacation Bible School. Offer your hands and bring along your team to build the larger vision of bringing children to Christ. It's okay to set aside your ministry bragging rights in the name of Higher Purpose.

Take Your Bible School Online

The internet is a great resource and it's a place where a lot of folks are going now to reach a wider audience. Have you thought about taking children's ministry events like Vacation Bible School online? You don't even have to have a technical degree to get started with these fun videos. A kid-friendly YouTube channel with a few connected videos and links to crafts and other resources is a good way to bring the Vacation Bible School concept into the future.

If you go the YouTube or Vimeo route, you can take all the time you need to edit and refine your videos and add all the fun things that you have in mind. You can film snippets with different volunteers doing different things like performing with puppets or hosting a game. Share craft ideas on your VBS video too. This is an especially innovative idea for teachers and pastors that like to create their own VBS themes. (I happen to be in that camp.) Let your imagination loose and see what happens!

One Night Only – VBS Event

If a three or five-day Vacation Bible School is just not possible then why not compact your activities into a one-night event. Often called kids' crusades, a one-night event is a wonderful option for smaller churches or those operating on a limited budget. A kids' crusade is also a great option to increase the excitement level in your children's ministry between larger Vacation Bible School programs. A one night Nickelodeon style event centered around one Bible verse or one Bible concept is a perfect way to excite your volunteers and any visitors who are interested in your church. Look at current culture for inspiration.

Why not Host a Not-So-Angry-Birds night and share with children what the Bible says about anger and how to control it. Can you imagine stacking a dozen cardboard boxes up just like in the Angry Birds game? You know those boxes are going come down several times and kids will love it. What a fun way to present the gospel to children! And it only takes one night!

Table of Contents

❖ VBS Programs Overview

- Destination Dig - Lifeway
- Treasured- Group
- Wonder World- Regular Baptist Press
- Rocky Railway – Group
- Wilderness Escape- Group
- Mystery Island – Answers in Genesis

❖ VBS Helpful Tips

- Planning & Promoting
- Safety & Security
- Scheduling
- Presenting the Gospel
- Follow Up

❖ Associational VBS Help

- Mailers
- Printing
- VBS Consignment Materials
- VBS Volunteer Teams
- VBS Décor Sharing

The logo consists of the letters "VBS" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The "V" is blue, the "B" is green, and the "S" is purple.

T e a c h i n g C h i l d r e n A b o u t J E S U S

DESTINATION



UNEARTHING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS
JEREMIAH 29:13

Publisher: Lifeway

Excavate the Truth! Grab your pickaxe and shovel!

VBS 2021 is headed to present-day Israel where discovery awaits at Destination Dig. Kids will unearth more than dirt as they dig up exciting evidence that proves biblical events were not just stories. As junior archaeologists, kids will explore real-life archaeological finds that have helped to uncover the truth about Jesus! Along the way, they'll discover the truth of Jeremiah 29:13, that God reveals Himself to us when we seek and search for Him with all our hearts.

BIBLICAL CONTENT

Trustworthy gospel centered content where children unearth the truth about Jesus!

VBS 2021 BIBLICAL CONTENT

DESTINATION DIG

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
TRUTH:	Jesus Came as God Promised	Jesus Demonstrated God's Power	Jesus Was Betrayed and Rejected	Jesus Died and Rose Again	The Bible Is True
BIBLE STORY TITLE:	Jesus Was Born (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18–2:6)	Jesus Healed a Blind Man (Psalm 146:8; Isaiah 35:5-6a; John 9:1-4)	Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection (Psalm 41:9; Isaiah 53:3,7; John 13; 18:1–19:16)	Jesus Is Alive (Isaiah 53:5,9-11; John 19:17–20:18)	Philip Told the Good News (Isaiah 53:7-8; Acts 8:26-40)
TODAY'S POINT:	Jesus is the Savior God promised.	Jesus has the power God promised.	Jesus knew what would happen and still followed God's plan.	Jesus fulfilled God's plan to be our Savior.	The Bible is true and helps us tell others about Jesus.
BONUS VERSE:	<p>For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us. <i>Isaiah 9:6a</i></p> <p>For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. <i>Isaiah 9:6a (KJV)</i></p>	<p>If this man were not from God, he wouldn't be able to do anything. <i>John 9:33</i></p> <p>If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. <i>John 9:33 (KJV)</i></p>	<p>The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. <i>Matthew 20:28</i></p> <p>Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. <i>Matthew 20:28 (KJV)</i></p>	<p>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live." <i>John 11:25</i></p> <p>Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. <i>John 11:25 (KJV)</i></p>	<p>For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. <i>Romans 1:16</i></p> <p>For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. <i>Romans 1:16 (KJV)</i></p>
ARTIFACT:	pottery jars holding Qumran scrolls	Pool of Siloam	Caiaphas' steps	Grave stone (rolling stone)	Qumran Scrolls

Decorating Ideas



CRAFTS



Dig VBS Scratch 'N Reveal Activities

Oriental Trading.com

Item #1397173

\$7.99 per dozen



Dig VBS Self-Adhesive Shapes

Oriental Trading.com

Item #13971674

\$7.99 (300 Pieces)

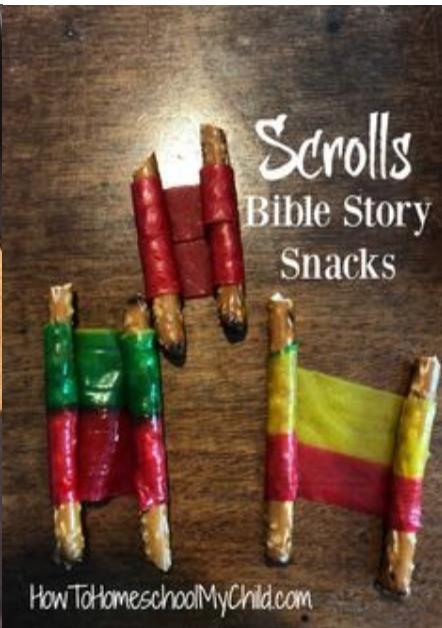


Destination Dig Picture Frames

Lifeway.com

Picture Frames Pkg. of 10

\$6.49



1. **Dirt Cups – Pudding, crushed Oreos and Gummy Worms**
2. **Fossil Cookies – press plastic toy shapes into cookie dough before baking**
3. **Scrolls- Pretzel Sticks and Fruit Roll Ups**



Publisher: Group

Embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. At Treasured VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold – it's them!

DAILY BIBLE CONTENT

Experiencing God's Word

At Treasured, one memorable Bible Point is reinforced throughout each station, each day—making it easy to apply long after VBS is over.

Day 1 - Bible Point: God Knows You

Bible Verse: "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me"
Psalm 139:1

Bible Story: God identifies David as the future king. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

Day 2 Bible Point: God Hears You

Bible Verse: "I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy"
Psalm 116:1

Bible Story: David escapes Saul and writes psalms to God. (1 Samuel 23:1-14,
Psalm 86)

Day 3 Bible Point: God comforts you.

Bible Verse: "He comforts us in all of our troubles so that we can comfort others."
2 Corinthians 1:4

Bible Story: God reassures King Hezekiah. (2 Kings 18:5-19:34)

Day 4 Bible Point: God forgives you.

Bible Verse: "But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfamiliar love." Nehemiah 9:17

Bible Story: Jesus reinstates Peter. (John 18:1-21:19)

Day 5 Bible Point: God chooses you.

Bible Verse: "I have called you by name, you are mine." |saiah 43:1

Bible Story: God chooses Ester to save her people. (Ester 2-8)

Decorating Ideas



CRAFTS



Picture Frame Magnet Craft Kit

OrientalTrading.com

Item #13972099

\$8.99 Makes 12



Treasure Hunt VBS Scratch 'N Reveal Activities

OrientalTrading.com

Item #13972134

\$7.99 Makes 12



Homemade Treasure Box made from
popsicle sticks, glue and markers

DIY GEM DIG



What You Need

- Play sand
- Clear glue
- A sand mold, small plastic bin, bowl or cup with a wide base. Sand molds are great for easy removal but can be large. A simple red Solo cup will get the job done.
- An inexpensive mixing bowl
- A disposable fork
- Trinkets to hide like little figurines or loose gems
- Tool Kit to excavate the trinkets from your DIY gem dig. Here are a few ideas:
 - Nail polish scraper tool
 - Toothbrush
 - Paint brush

Fill mixing bowl with sand measure using 1 cup. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ bottle of clear glue for every cup of sand. Mix with plastic fork . Fill your mold or container half full with the sand/glue mixture and press down. Press in your trinkets then cover with the remaining mixture. Let dry for 24 hours. Remove from the mold and use the tools to dig and find the gems!



Treasure Jar

Use a mixture of cereal, goldfish, gummies and chocolate in a cone



Rice Krispy Treasure Boxes

1 tsp of icing
1 rice Krispy treat
1 package of gushers



Publisher: Regular Baptist Press

Wonder World Funfest

Grab some cotton candy! The gates are opening at Wonder World Funfest. With this fair theme, kids will experience a bustling fairground, carnival activities, and extraordinary exhibits, complete with rides, animals, and treats.

In the Bible lessons, students will marvel at the Scriptures' revelation of Jesus long before He came to earth and at the show stopping events of His earthly ministry. Amazed by Jesus, students will learn to love Him and live for Him.

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."
2 Corinthians 9:15

BIBLE CONTENT

Day 1- An Extraordinary Plan: God's Word Anticipates Jesus

BIBLE TEXT - Genesis 1–3, esp. Gen. 3:15; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 53

TOPIC- Jesus, the Promised One

MEMORY VERSE - "All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:44).

THEME- In Jesus, God's promise of salvation is fulfilled.

Day 2- Extraordinary Power: Nature Obeys Jesus

BIBLE TEXT- Luke 8:22-25

TOPIC- Jesus, the wonder-working Son of God

MEMORY VERSE- "But the men marveled, saying, what manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" (Matthew 8:27).

THEME- Before Jesus, all creation must bow.

Day 3- Extraordinary Food: Jesus Satisfies a Crowd

BIBLE TEXT- John 6:1-14, 22-35, 47-51

TOPIC -Jesus, all we need forever

MEMORY VERSE- "He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. I am that bread of life" (John 6:47, 48).

THEME -With Jesus, our spiritual hunger is satisfied.

Day 4- Extraordinary Light: Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

BIBLE TEXT- John 9:1-41

TOPIC- Jesus, our Light Giver

MEMORY VERSE- "I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

THEME- With Jesus, spiritual darkness becomes light.

Day 5- Extraordinary Faith: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

BIBLE TEXT- John 11:1-45

TOPIC- Jesus, the life-giving Savior

MEMORY VERSE- "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

THEME- With Jesus, we don't have to fear death.

Decorating Ideas





Photo Frame Magnet Craft Kit

Rbp.com

(Pkg. of 12) \$9.99



Hot Air Balloon Tissue Paper Craft

Rbp.com

(Pkg. of 12) \$10.44

SNACK TIME





Publisher: Group

Climb aboard for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway!

On this faith-filled adventure, kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

Experiencing God's Word

At Rocky Railway, one memorable Bible Point is reinforced throughout each station, each day—making it easy to apply long after VBS is over.

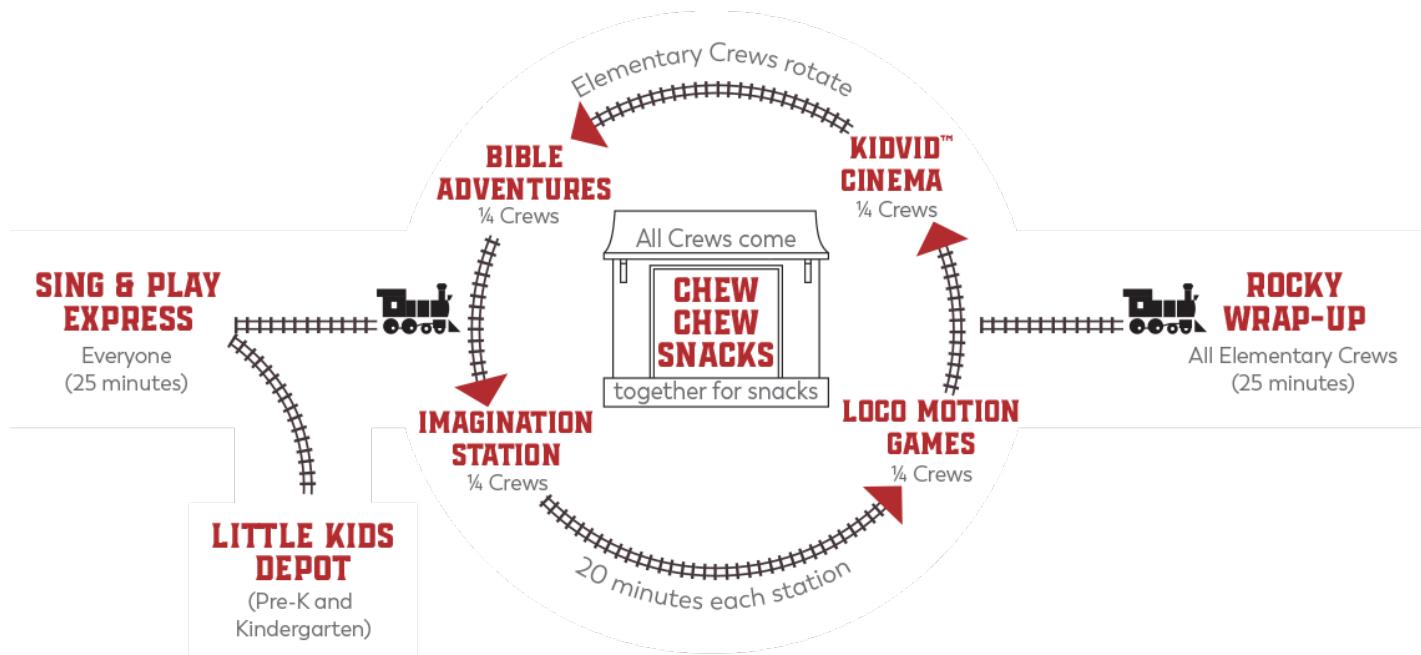
Day 1- Jesus' power helps us do hard things. (Philippians 4:13)

Day 2- Jesus' power gives us hope. (Psalm 31:24)

Day 3- Jesus' power helps us be bold. (Isaiah 40:29)

Day 4- Jesus' power lets us live forever. (Romans 8:11)

Day 5- Jesus' power helps us be good (John 15:12)



Set the scene at Rocky Railway VBS!

Transform your church into a bustling depot without losing track of your budget! Rocky Railway VBS 2020 is full of vibrant colors, dynamic decorations, and majestic mountain views.



CRAFTS



©2019

OrientalTrading.com
Railroad Conductor Hat Kit
#13943364
\$12.89 makes 12



©2019

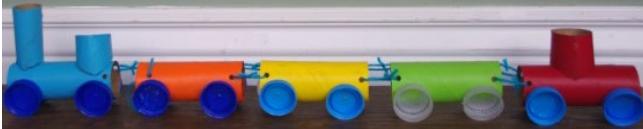
OrientalTrading.com
Coloring Conductor Hats
#13943344
\$8.19 makes 12



©2020

OrientalTrading.com
Railroad Picture Frames
#13943370
\$27.59 makes 48

Toilet Paper Roll Train



- Toliet paper rolls
- Hole punch
- Plastic drink bottle lids
- Yarn

Paint the paper rolls. Hole punch two holes on side and each end. Glue plastic lids to the side of each roll. Thread the yarn through the holes and tie. Cut a roll in half and glue to top of the first and last roll.



- Construction paper
- Cotton balls
- Glue

Easy as 1,2,3! Cut s shapes from construction paper and glue on large construction paper. Use a marker to draw the track and to write the child's name.



Kid-Made
Tin Can Lanterns

- Tin cans
- Nail
- Hammer
- Pipe Cleaners

You can pre-print a picture outline to tape on the can or free hand a design. Tap the nail around the edge making small holes for the design. Make holes on the top sides to string the pipe cleaner through for the handle. Place a battery operated tea light candle inside.

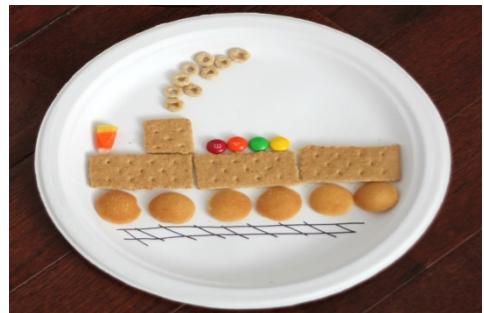
SNACK TIME



Chocolate Covered Oreos



Rice Krispy Treats
& M&M's

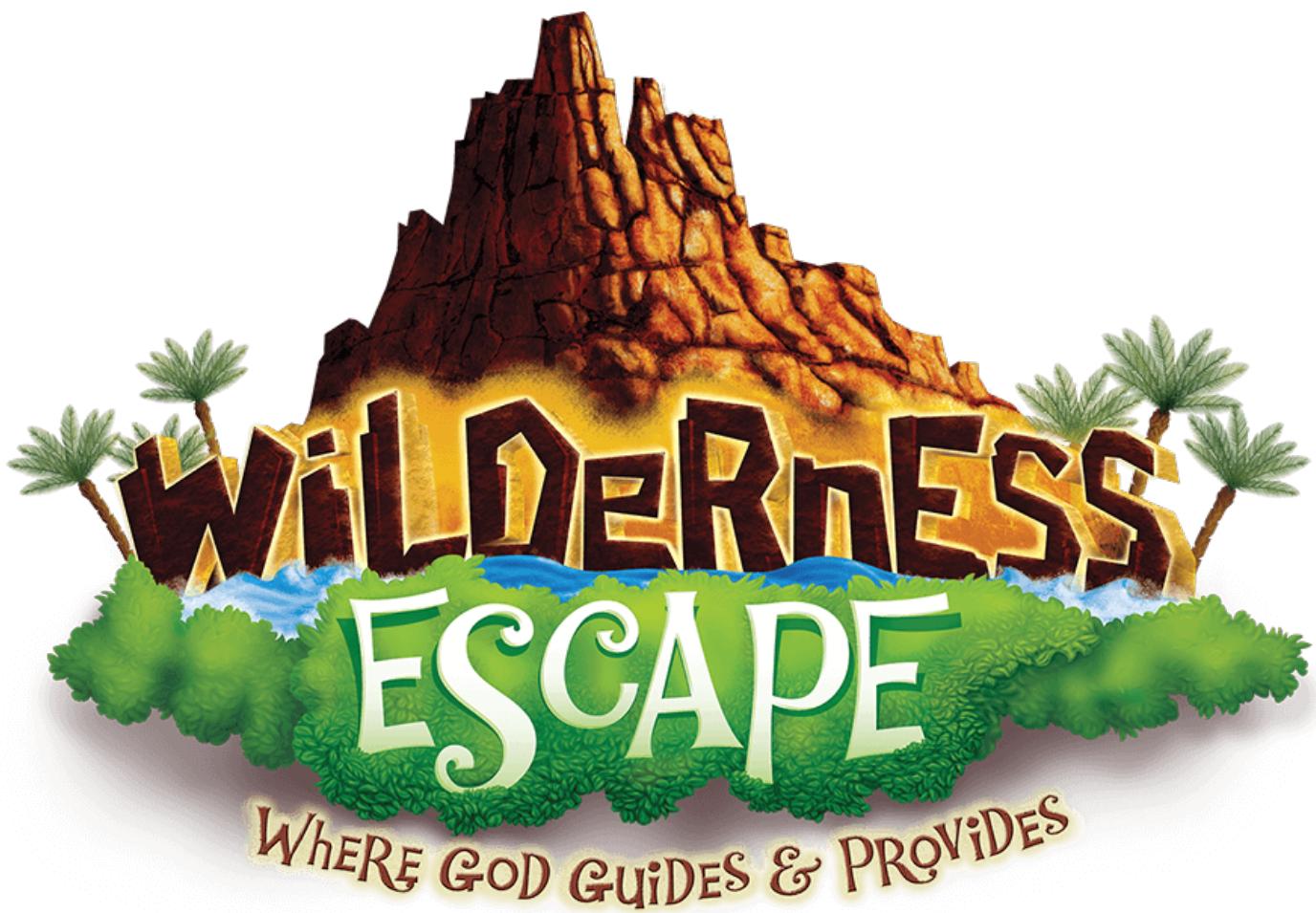


Graham crackers
Vanilla wafers
Cheerios
Skittles
Candy Corn



Fruit Trains
Easy and fun snack for the kids





Wilderness Escape VBS 2020 By Group

Welcome to Wilderness Escape—an exciting journey with God's people, the Israelites, that brings God's Word to life for kids and adults!

Bible Content | Wilderness Escape

At Wilderness Escape VBS, you'll reinforce Bible truth in a big way because the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each activity. God's Word comes alive through engaging interaction with Bible history!



Day 1

Bible Point: God is with us, so...*trust God!*

Key Verse: "God answered, 'I will be with you.'" **Exodus 3:12**

Bible Story: The Israelites cross the Red Sea **Exodus 14:1 - 15:21**

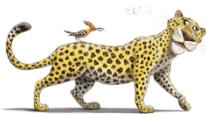


Day 2

Bible Point: God gives us what we need, so...*trust God!*

Key Verse: "For your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" **Matthew 6:8**

Bible Story: God provides manna and quail **Exodus 16**



Day 3

Bible Point: God gives us strength, so...*trust God!*

Key Verse: "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" **Philippians 4:13**

Bible Story: Israel defeats the Amalekites **Exodus 17:8-16**



Day 4

Bible Point: God saves us, so...*trust God!*

Key Verse: "'For I am with you and will save you,' says the Lord" **Jeremiah 30:11**

Bible Story: Moses remembers Passover. **Exodus 12:1-30**



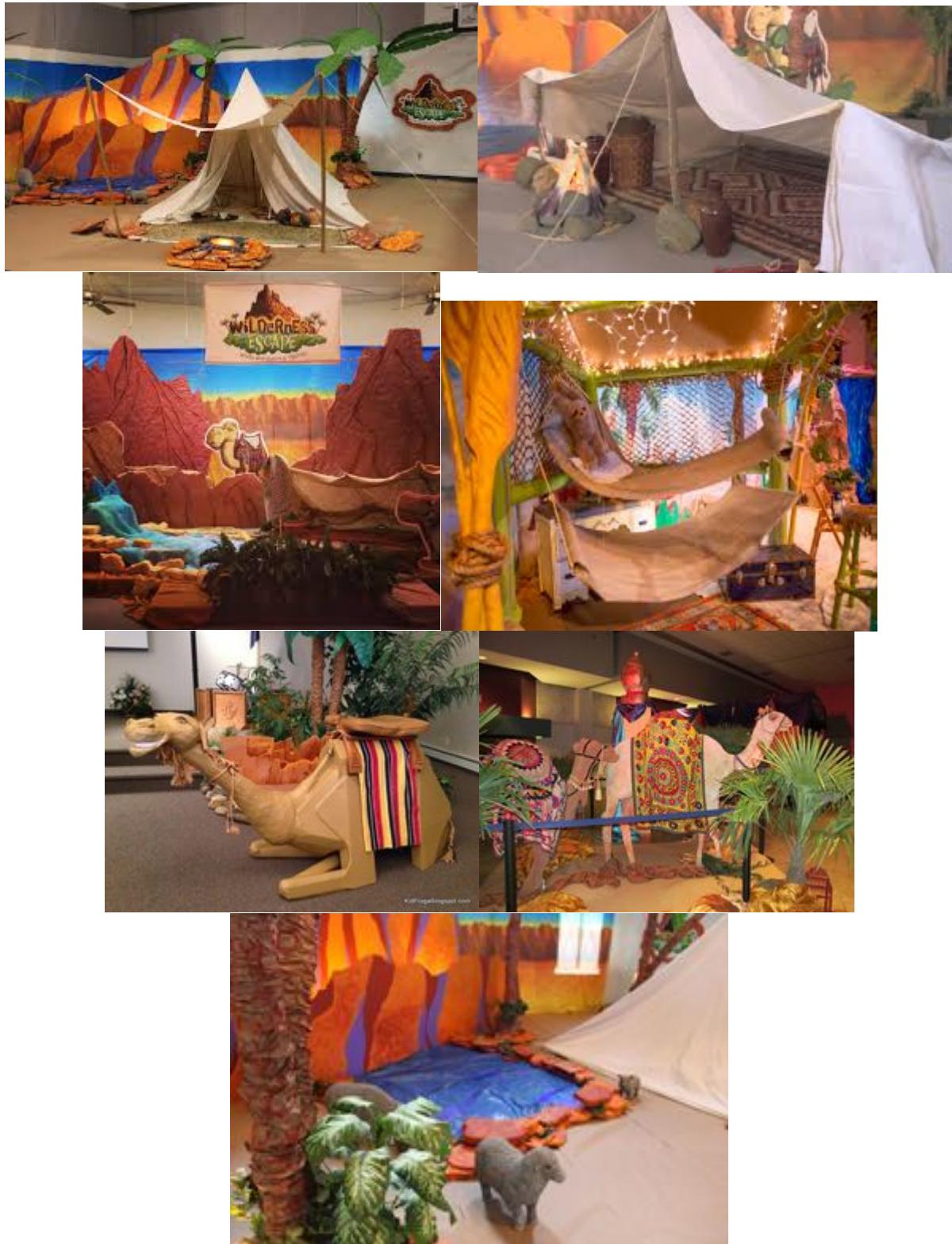
Day 5

Bible Point: God guides us, so...*trust God!*

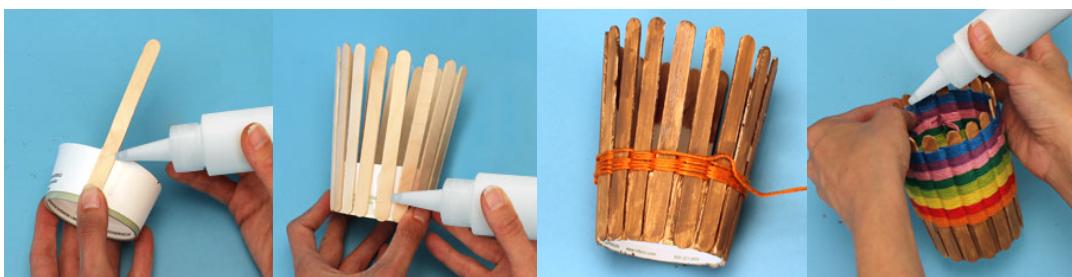
Key Verse: "I will bless the Lord who guides me." **Psalm 16:7**

Bible Story: God gives the Ten Commandments. **Exodus 20**

Decorating Ideas

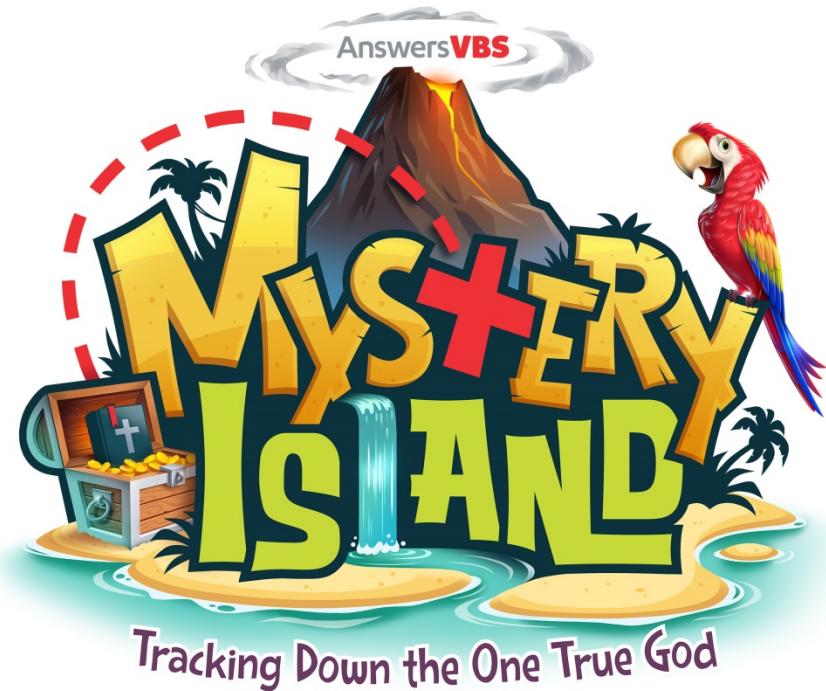


CRAFTS



SNACK TIME





JOIN THE FUN IN THE SUN WITH THIS UNIQUE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAM.

Is there just one God? . . . Who is God? . . . What is God like? . . . Does God love me? . . . Can I know God?

Our kids grapple with questions like these every day. At Mystery Island, we'll uncover the truth about our Creator God! There's a sea of confusion about who God is and what he's like, so we'll track down the one true God and learn how amazing he is through the pages of Scripture.

Mystery Island VBS is packed with teaching that connects the Bible to the real world and gives kids a better understanding of our awe-inspiring Creator and the salvation he offers through Jesus Christ.

Each day, kids will learn more about one of God's amazing attributes (great, almighty, ruler, Emmanuel, trustworthy) and how that applies to their lives.

Grab your sunscreen and get ready for a taste of paradise as you track down the one true God at Mystery Island!

DAY 1: GOD IS GREAT!

BIBLE PASSAGES: Paul in a City of Idols, [Acts 17:16–34](#)

LIGHTHOUSE LESSON FOCUS: God is GREAT! He is the one and only God who is the awe-inspiring Creator.

TREASURED VERSES: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.[Psalm 145:3](#)

APOLOGETICS FOCUS: There's only one God as revealed in the Bible. You can't make up a god of your own choosing.

DAY 2: GOD IS ALMIGHTY!

BIBLE PASSAGES: Jonah, Book of Jonah, Psalm 139

LIGHTHOUSE LESSON FOCUS: God is ALMIGHTY! He is all knowing, all powerful, and all present.

TREASURED VERSES: Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?

[Jeremiah 32:27](#)

APOLOGETICS FOCUS: God can do all his holy will without effort. God's miracles are real and effortless.

DAY 3: GOD IS RULER!

BIBLE PASSAGES: Isaiah's Vision, [Isaiah 6:1–3](#), Psalm 8

LIGHTHOUSE LESSON FOCUS: God is RULER! He is the majestic king who is holy and perfect.

TREASURED VERSES: And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” [Isaiah 6:3](#)

APOLOGETICS FOCUS: God is the same in the Old Testament as he is in the New Testament. He was and is and always will be in charge.

DAY 4: GOD IS EMMANUEL!

BIBLE PASSAGES: God Came to Earth, (Gospel Presentation), Select Scriptures

LIGHTHOUSE LESSON FOCUS: God is EMMANUEL! He is the loving, good Savior who came to earth.

TREASURED VERSES: But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [Romans 5:8](#)

APOLOGETICS FOCUS: God is three-in-one— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Even though there is mystery to this, God is also knowable.

DAY 5: GOD IS TRUSTWORTHY!

BIBLE PASSAGES: David Trusts God, 1 Samuel 17

LIGHTHOUSE LESSON FOCUS: God is TRUSTWORTHY!

He is our rock. We should praise, thank, worship, adore, and live for him.

TREASURED VERSES: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

[Proverbs 3:5–6](#)

APOLOGETICS FOCUS: God is bigger and greater than our unanswered questions. We can trust him.

Decorating Ideas



CRAFTS



OrientalTrading.com
3D Island Cross Stand Up
#13795093
\$4.97 makes 12



OrientalTrading.com
Island Ornament Craft
#13797976
\$3.97 makes 12



OrientalTrading.com
Island Lacing Cards
#13798349
\$4.67 makes 24



OrientalTrading.com
Island Hunt Activity Sheet
#13798078
\$4.77 makes 50



- Styrofoam bowl
- Paint
- Googly Eyes
- Construction paper

SNACK TIME



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MamaBuzz Photos



VBS

HELPFUL TIPS

Promotion & Advertising

PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE...

Promotion is vital to any successful gathering. Tons of social tools are available to spread the word about your VBS. Choose the tools that you want to use (and that are relevant to the community you serve), and use them well.

Host a pre-VBS block party. Hold a free outreach event two to four weeks before VBS. Host a barbecue, a carnival with bouncy rides and free food or another event that will provide family fun and encourage people to register. Invite families to register by providing their name, address, phone number and email so you can contact them about VBS and other family events. You might offer door prizes to encourage guests to share their contact information.

Ask organizations in your community to spread the word. Create invitations to hand out at preschools, community centers, neighborhood swimming pools, local clinics and any other place you can think of where families go. Local businesses may be willing to help. Some may even place an invitation in shoppers' bags as they check out. Place one invitation on the store's bulletin board and make sure there are more for families to take home. Consider making placemats with the date, location and other information to use on the tables of local diners and restaurants.

Spread the word with yard signs. Find a local company or one online to create signs for your members to display in their yards for three weeks prior to VBS. Avoid making a generic sign, if possible. Spend the money to create a custom sign for your event. It will have a stronger impact and a higher likelihood of generating a response. Make sure to include the church name, the dates of VBS, a phone number and a URL that people can contact to learn more and register.

Publish engaging content on YouTube and Flickr. Your church needs to have a YouTube channel for videos and [Flickr](#), [Instagram](#) or [Pinterest](#) accounts for photos. Create an event video to post on Facebook and Twitter and encourage people to share it. Provide a link to last year's VBS photos that show the highlights that will make people want to come this year. It lets people know what to expect.

One word of caution: Make certain you have permission to use the pictures of the children who attended VBS in your video. Give parents who do not want their children photographed or recorded for a video an opportunity to tell you that — and then honor it!

Promotion & Advertising

Encourage sharing invitations via Facebook. Facebook's focus is on your friends, colleagues and personal connections. Make it easy for your congregation to spread the word to their friends. Create a [Facebook page](#) to keep everyone in the loop and create an event linked to it. Invite everyone in your congregation to "like" the page and encourage them to share it.

Spread the word using Twitter. [Twitter](#) focuses on distributing and consuming information. Use your church's Twitter account to promote your event as well as to link to blog articles talking about it. Encourage others in your church to retweet your tweets to let more people know. Create a VBS hashtag. Promote it to help you follow the conversation.

Link to community calendars and event websites. Most local newspapers and radio and TV stations have community calendars online. Find the ones in your area, register your event and include information to direct people to your event site. Also, use social calendars like [Upcoming](#) or [Meetup.com](#) to make everyone aware of the date.

Tie everything back to your event blog or micro-site. Point all of your promotion back to your central site. Make sure a new visitor can understand what VBS is, when it is and why it is important. Include a strong call to action to register so you can follow up periodically in the weeks and days leading up to the event.

Invite the media. In many towns, the local newspaper and radio and TV stations are looking for local stories. Invite them to your VBS. Develop a press release and then make it special. Create a package that includes a handwritten invitation and a completed craft for the recipient to enjoy. Highlight the special elements, especially a key event or activities that would make good photographs or video content. If your VBS is raising money for a mission, include what the mission is and why you selected it. This can provide a unique angle for news coverage.

Promoting VBS or any other event is not a matter of throwing everything against the wall and seeing what sticks. It is being intentional as you use the tools with which your community connects and creating a drumbeat of communication leading to your event.

Promotion & Advertising

KEEP THE CONNECTION GOING

VBS is not over when participants sing the final song and go home. This is the time to turn a weeklong event into a lifelong connection. Request social media and email contact information for both children and parents so you can stay connected. Send them a thank-you note, provide updates, invite questions and promote friending or following of your social media accounts.

Send a thank-you note. People attending VBS or any other event at your church are giving a gift of their time and energy. Send an electronic or handwritten thank-you note or postcard. Include a specific invitation to engage with your church by visiting Sunday morning worship or attending the next family event.

Post a highlight video. Turn the pictures you took at VBS and into a two- to three-minute highlight video reel. Show some of the key moments. Make sure to have good music in the soundtrack. Say "thank you" and create a strong call to action at the end. Post the video on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter and include it in your thank-you email. Again, be certain you have permission to use the children's images.

Share photos and videos. Share photos via your [Flickr](#), [Instagram](#) or [Pinterest](#) account and post videos on your YouTube channel or other channels related to the event. Tag each video with relevant key words to increase your search-engine ranking. Post key two- to five-minute videos from the event. Be certain they are focused.

Keep communicating. Add people's information to your email list and keep communicating. Use [Constant Contact](#) or other [top email service providers for churches](#) to provide a relevant newsletter and other information to attendees. Use your list for the next event, and invite them.

Tips for Ensuring VBS Safety & Security

- Enlist a minimum of two teachers over 18 years old for each room. *Preferably two unrelated adults; age reflects liability issues (under 18 can increase liability if something occurs); if teenagers are present, enlist two adults with teens.*
- Use a security system to insure children are released to authorized adults. *Systems can be simple or complex—permanent cards; temporary cards/tags; computerized systems; paper systems. Churches of all sizes/kinds should use some type of security system.*
- Complete a background check on all leaders that work with children. *Screening forms; application; make it mandatory for everyone; staff and other leaders should be example.*
- Train all teachers on your policies and procedures. *Policies and procedures give back-up to the leader or teacher; enforcement is key (for everybody); only thing worse than no policies are unfollowed policies.*
- Maintain child-teacher ratios, the recommended number of children per teacher. *Recommended are 1:3 younger preschoolers; 1:4 older preschoolers and pre-K; 1:5 Kindergarten; 1:6 grades 1-6. Even if classrooms have lots of kids, work to maintain ratios.*
- Post allergy signs to inform parents when you offer tasting, touching, or smelling activities. *Create a system for knowing kids' allergies and what to do if allergic reaction occurs.*
- Gather all pertinent information and keep good records. *Including child info sheets (with allergy info), permission slips and medical releases, and any custodial issues.*
- Keep classroom doors closed. *Closed door keeps kids from leaving or others from entering, or at least slows down that process and lets the teacher know something is happening; minimizes distractions for both kids and teachers.*
- Doors should have window in or beside them to allow visibility in the room. *Window should be smaller but allow clear and easy visibility into the room. Protection for kids, leaders, and the church.*
- The best way to maintain a clean environment is hand washing. *Regular hand washing prevents spread of illness and keeps everything as clean as possible.*
-

Tips for Ensuring VBS Safety & Security

- All materials and activities should be age appropriate, suitable to the age and developmental level of children in the room. *Many issues related to safety can be avoided if we make sure that what we are using/doing with kids is right for their age/development.*
- Keep a fully stocked first aid kit that is easily assessable for teachers. *Leaders know locations of these kits. Keep them maintained on a regular schedule.*
- Post a list of leaders who are certified in first aid and CPR. *Determine a system to locate these teachers/leaders; also a system to notify medical personnel of emergencies.*
- Post a map marked with the emergency exit route in each room of your children's ministry. *Map of exit routes for fire and route/location for other emergencies; make sure teachers are familiar with primary and secondary exit points and safe places within the building for other emergencies.*
- Make sure teachers know what the fire alarm sounds like and what to do if it sounds. *Sound the alarm for leaders and children; practice fire drills. Make sure leaders know where to take children when evacuating the building. Parents should know where to meet kids. Develop a simple system to reconnect parents and children away from the classroom.*

Tips on Scheduling and Rotations

1. Include missions in large group Worship Rally time.
2. Add an extra 15 minutes to the total time and include 5 minute per 3 rotations to change classes.
3. Give snacks to take home and eat.
4. Eliminate recreation rotation and include craft with snack time.
5. At the end of each rotation, play a different musical instrument and the kids have to guess what it is. The first correct answer receives a prize.
6. Include music during large group Worship Rally time.
7. Use a block schedule that is color coded, then give it to the staff to follow (i.e.- blue – recreation, green – Bible study, etc.)
8. Post the complete schedule in a central area for all to see.
9. Instead of a Bible study room for each class/grade, create a Bible study site of K-2 and 3-5 with a team of 5 workers for each room. The team works together to decorate and each person teaches one time and assists the other four.
10. Serve a meal at the beginning and eliminate snack time.
11. Do the mission lesson while the children are eating their snacks.
12. Have a morning VBS and an evening VBS due to limited space. Morning session from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon and an evening session from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
13. Combine crafts with missions or other videos, if you're crunched for time.
14. Place schedules on the backs of nametags for quick reference.
15. Split children in two groups during one 30-minute time frame. One group has missions while the other group goes to crafts. Then, flip-flop the groups.
16. Conduct VBS from Saturday thru Wednesday evening. Begin on Saturday at 3:00 p.m., have an hour or more of games, feed the kids dinner, and begin VBS. End with Worship Rally. The remainder of the week, classes run from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
17. Have Bible Study at the same time. All classes are studying at the same time frame.
There are fewer distractions this way. No rotations occur at this time.
18. Run a 3-day schedule, Friday-Sunday. Begin Friday night, run all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon. End with the Family Night on Sunday evening.
19. To facilitate better use of space, we split the fellowship hall between dinner and crafts. We then feed the children on a split schedule as well as speed the process as well as help with space issues.
20. Due to limited space in church, we have held Bible study outside in tents, in a motor home, under a canopy, or whatever might work with the theme.
21. On Friday evening, cut two rotations and host the musical.
22. Host outside activities (games, races, etc.) for a pre-rally gathering. Call to Worship is the line-up time.
23. Divide kids into family groups (all ages) so the older can help the younger and don't have as much peer pressure.
24. Rotate the leaders rather than the kids. This saves time.
25. Expand VBS time for the day by 15-30 minutes.
26. Have teachers help relieve each other, so everyone gets a break.
27. Rotate everything!
28. Put Worship Rally in the middle of the schedule.

HOW CAN I BECOME GOD'S CHILD?

The answer is in God's Word, the Bible.

Admit that you are a sinner.

We are all sinners; we all do wrong things (Romans 3:23). God is perfect. He must punish sin (Romans 6:23). We cannot get to Heaven by trying to be good (Ephesians 2:8, 9). God showed His love for us by sending His Son, Jesus, to die for us (Romans 5:8).

Believe Who Jesus is and what Jesus did.

Jesus is God's Son, Who came to earth and was the only One ever to live a perfect life. He died on the cross to take the punishment for sin. He was buried and rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4). God promises eternal life to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23).

Choose to trust in Jesus.

Believe that Jesus, God's Son, took the punishment for your sin. Trust Jesus as your Savior, knowing that He is the only way you can have your sin forgiven and become a child of God.

When you trust Jesus as your Savior, God forgives your sin. He makes you part of His family (John 1:12) and promises you a home in Heaven with Him forever (John 14:2, 3).



9 No-Fail Vacation Bible School Follow-Up Ideas

9 no-fail VBS follow-up ideas you can use—from the creators of Group's vacation Bible school!

Picture this: It's summer, and vacation Bible school is over. You've gone through the rigors of selecting curriculum, recruiting and training volunteers, coordinating publicity, preparing crafts and songs, and buying truckloads (it seems) of snacks. Now you're finished for another year. Right? Wrong.

It's the time after VBS that's the most crucial to your program's success as an outreach tool. You need a follow-up plan to ensure that children—and their families—return to your church. Use these ideas to make this year's VBS your **Very Best Success**.

1. VBS Adoption Kit

Make a kit with each child's vital statistics: birthday, age, likes, interests, address, phone number, and family information. Then connect each child with a church family. Families can use the kits to get to know their "adoptees" throughout the year and encourage them to come to church and Sunday school.

2. VBS Reunion

Invite all the VBS children to a get-together every month or quarter. Make each reunion a wildly fun event that fits your VBS theme. For example, if you had a "treasures" theme, have a treasure hunt one time and a "treasures of the heart" auction the next where teams bid on treasured character qualities.

3. VBS Follow-Up Team

Before vacation Bible school begins, form a follow-up team of volunteers who'll be very visible throughout the week as they get to know visitors. For example, they may do all the drama or lead the singing so will children identify with them quickly. Team members stop by each visitor's home during the week and deliver a Special Guest Pack with a children's Bible, homemade cookies, church information, phone numbers to call if children need a ride to church, and a T-shirt that says, "I'm Special to God," with your church name printed in small letters.

4. VBS Part 2

A few weeks after your VBS, schedule a few more sessions so children who've committed their lives to Christ during VBS can learn how to keep growing spiritually. Have teachers explain what being a Christian means and how children's lives will be changed. Also, prepare children to share their newfound faith with others and then conduct an outreach event for them to practice.

5. Shepherd List

Use registration list to make follow-up "shepherding" visits to children's homes. Ask children about their interests and any questions they may have about your church. Explain to children that they're Jesus' little lambs and that you and he want to see them become a permanent part of your flock!

6. Parents Night

Build relationships with children's parents by having a Parents Night during your VBS. Encourage children to invite their parents or older siblings who can attend either an adult Bible study or VBS activities. Also, always require parents to come inside to pick up their children so you can make contact with them.

7. Visitors Day

Have a designated Visitors Day during your VBS with an ice cream social afterward. Make special name tags to recognize visitors and their parents. Have a group hug before everyone leaves, and send colorful fliers home with families so they know what your church has to offer all age levels.

8. Mini Outdoor VBS

After your regular VBS program, set up a mini-VBS in a backyard or cul-de-sac. Use leftover materials and crafts. Put up fliers in the area beforehand to attract kids' attention, and invite them to your church when you're done.

9. Keep the fun going with a Fall festival!

Fall Festivals are not only a great VBS follow-up idea, but it's also a great way to kick-off your school year. Kids love the fun games and activities, parents love the safe and fun environment—and you'll love seeing kids learn more about Jesus.

VBS Follow Up

Churches typically see about twice as many kids participating in their VBS as their regular weekend programs. This represents a great opportunity to grow your ministry by inviting kids to Sunday school, Children's Church, or whatever weekend activities your church offers.

Don't miss these obvious, but often overlooked, steps to make sure they come back:

1. **Personally invite them.** Encourage your VBS volunteers to make an effort to personally invite kids to come back for weekend services. Show photos of kids in your ministry interacting, learning, and having fun.
2. **Mail them an invitation.** Give each crew leader pre-stamped and addressed postcards for each crew member on the last day. All they have to do is write a brief note of encouragement and drop it in the mail. Kids love getting something personal in the mail!
3. **Plan your curriculum.** Make sure to select a curriculum that encourages active learning and teaches Biblical truth through multiple learning styles. **Set the stage for your next event.** Always make sure to set the stage for the next major kid-themed event coming up on your church calendar. This might be your fall quarter kick-off or a Fall Festival. Group's new Kingdom Fest program offers a medieval-themed family event that helps kids remember that Jesus is always with us.
4. **Pray!** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and situations of the kids who attend your VBS program.

VBS

ASSOCIATIONAL
HELP

Associational VBS Help

Mailers – LCBA has bulk mailing available for our churches. We are able to create, print and mail VBS flyers to residential households within a specific radius of your church. Churches will be invoiced for the printing and postage costs.

Flyers should be sent 2 weeks in advance of your event to teresalcba@gmail.com in the form of a high resolution jpeg. A two week lead is needed in order needed supplies of paper and tabs (as required by USPS for flyers) We are happy to post and advertise church events on our Facebook page and website www.lcbachurches.com for free.

Printing Services – LCBA can do your church printing for you. We offer both printing and binding services at a discounted price for our churches. We offer print of letter, legal, tabloid size and cardstock in both full color and black/white. We also have a laminating machine that churches are welcome to use with the purchase of the laminating pouches.

VBS Consignment – Last year was our first year to offer the VBS consignment. As an Association we can purchase the Lifeway VBS materials (online version) and rent them out at a price of \$50. In addition to the \$50 consignment fee churches will be responsible for the cost of printing the booklets.

To sign up to consign VBS programs and materials please email teresalcba@gmail.com for more information.

VBS Volunteer Teams – If your church is in need of volunteer teams to help teach or do crafts at your VBS please contact Teresa at 986-2292 ext. 5 or via email to teresalcba@gmail.com. We have several volunteers from other area churches that would be willing to come and volunteer time at your VBS as needed.

VBS Decorations – The Association has many VBS decorations that are available for use by churches. Please contact Teresa at 986-2292 ext. 5 to see what we have available.

VBS Decoration Sharing - If you would like to sign up to share your decorations with other churches please get signed up on the schedule. This allows smaller churches the ability to do larger VBS projects because they do not have to make all the decorations from scratch. Many churches do the same VBS programs and will work together on doing different items then sharing them all.

THE TRUE VALUE OF VBS

It doesn't matter how large or how small your church is, whether you have 5, 50, or 500 kids.

You can do VBS and it's always worth it!

VBS brings energy to your church in a way nothing else can. It's fun for kids, and it's great for families. You'll see conversations about Jesus happen in a natural setting and hearts changed for an eternity.

It's no secret that Vacation Bible School requires a hard-working, dedicated team of staff and volunteers to make it happen every year. So it's easy to think, "Is VBS worth it?" To that we say, "Yes!" and here are a few reasons why:



2.5 million people attended VBS.



Over 155,000 unchurched families connected with the body of Christ.



Over 70,000 people made professions of faith.



Over 1,300 kids responded to God's call into ministry or missions.



In a single week, kids received 15 hours of intense discipleship. That's equivalent to 7 months of ministry!



\$6.5M given to mission causes through VBS offerings.

The ministry of VBS is always worth the effort.