

## VBS 2020 GRADES 1–2 BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (2 HOURS)

### Purpose Statement

This two-hour conference plan is designed to train and equip VBS leaders who will teach LifeWay's *Concrete & Cranes* VBS Bible study to 1st and 2nd graders.

### Needed Resources

- *VBS 2020 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Pack (2)* — Prepare the following items from one pack, leaving the other pack fully intact:
  - Pack Item 1: “Concrete and Cranes Banner” — Display on focal wall.
  - Pack Item 2: “Banner Add-ons” — Cut apart.
  - Pack Item 3: “Tool Cards” — Cut apart and place in small toolbox.
  - Pack Item 4: “Day 1 Bible Story Picture”
  - Pack Item 5: “Philippians 1:6 Poster”
  - Pack Item 6: “John 15:9 Poster”
  - Pack Item 7: “Day 2 Bible Story Picture”
  - Pack Item 9: “Romans 5:8 Poster”
  - Pack Item 11: “Day 3 Bible Story Picture”
  - Pack Item 12: “ID Badge” — Photocopy on heavyweight paper; make enough copies so that each person will have a badge; cut apart.
  - Pack Item 13: “John 15:3 Poster”
  - Pack Item 15: “Day 4 Bible Story Picture”
  - Pack Item 18: “Gospel Poster”
  - Pack Item 20: “Matthew 28:20b Poster”
  - Pack Item 21: “Day 5 Bible Story Picture”
  - Pack Item 22: “Point Cards” — Photocopy on heavyweight paper; cut apart the points.
  - Pack Item 24: “2 Timothy 3:4 Poster”
- *VBS 2020 Kids Activity Book*
- *VBS 2020 Kids Memory Maker*
- *VBS 2020 Devotional Bible for Kids (CSB)*
- *VBS 2020 Devotional Bible for Kids (KJV)*
- *The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me*
- *Concrete and Cranes Devotions*
- *VBS 2020 Parent Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Mega Carabiner*
- *VBS 2020 Sticky Foam Shapes*
- Item 1: “Framework Fill In” — Photocopy one per person.
- Item 2: “Framework Signs” — Print each and tape on walls around the room. Display the following pack items with the designated signs:
  - Day 1: Items 4, 6, appropriate point from item 22.
  - Day 2: Items 7, 9, appropriate point from item 22.
  - Day 3: Items 11, 13, appropriate point from item 22.
  - Day 4: Items 5, 20, appropriate point from item 22.
  - Day 5: Items 21, 24, appropriate point from item 22.
  - LOBL and Christ Connection: display only these signs with no pack items.
- Item 3: “Characteristic Cards” — Print and cut apart. Tape each card to a large wooden block or small box.

- Item 4: “Construction Vehicle Cards” — Print and cut apart. Place the cards around the room or under chairs.
- Item 5: “Rocks” — Print and cut apart. Ball each strip into a loose paper wad. Place them inside the back of a toy dump truck.
- Small toolbox with “Tool Cards” (pack item 3) inside
- Index cards or paper squares — Print the words of Philippians 1:6 on the cards, one or two words per card. Mix and place the word cards in a clean oatmeal container or other cylindrical box or carton.
- Several boxes of different sizes and one brown flat sheet — Stack the boxes close together in a corner of the room. Cover the boxes with the sheet to create a “mound of dirt” in the construction site. Set the blocks with the characteristic cards on the various levels.
- Yardstick, length of yarn, small inflatable ball, two chairs — Tie one end of the yarn to the ball and the other end around the yardstick. Wrap the yarn around the stick to shorten. Lay the yardstick across two chairs near the “mound of dirt” in the corner of the room. Ball should hang down like a wrecking ball.
- 4–5 cones — Place cones around the room. Lay curriculum resources in these groups near the cones (one group with each cone):
  - Leader Guide and Leader Pack
  - Kids Activity Book and Memory Maker
  - Devotional Bible and God’s Plan for Me booklet
  - Parent Guide and Concrete and Cranes Devotions
  - Mega Carabiner, any other VBS 2020 accessories
- Toy dump truck — Fill with the paper ball “Rocks” (Item 5).
- CD player

## Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Display the “Concrete and Cranes Banner” (pack item 1) on the focal wall with space to add additional signs around it. Cover a table with a *VBS 2020 Tablecloth* and display the curriculum alongside wooden blocks, interlocking plastic blocks, construction vehicles, hard hats, and other tabletop decorations. Drape *VBS 2020 String Flags* across the doorway. Cover another wall with a *VBS 2020 Supersized Backdrop*, if available. Create the “mound of dirt” with the wrecking ball in a corner of the room (see above).

## Teaching Steps

### 1. Starting Time (5 minutes)

- Play music as the leaders arrive.
- Ask each leader to choose a card from the toolbox.
- Welcome leaders to the conference. Ask leaders to stand and find 1 or 2 other leaders with matching tool card. In the smaller groups, ask them to talk about the tool they chose and how that tool represents teaching in VBS.
  - Examples: Hammer—nail down the truth of Scripture; measuring tape—help kids extend their understanding of Jesus.
- After a few minutes, ask leaders to return to their seats. Ask a couple of volunteers to tell what they discussed in their smaller groups.
- Pray. Ask God to guide the preparations for teaching VBS.

### 2. The Blueprint (15 minutes)

- Say: “Let’s check the VBS 2020 blueprint to get an overall look at what we are building during this week of Bible study. The goal of Concrete and Cranes is for kids to discover that Jesus’ love provides a foundation that will last. Kids will face storms and anxieties. They will

feel the winds of change and even feel unworthy at times. Jesus is the One who will be with them until the end of the age. We want kids to understand that true worth comes from being a child of God and knowing that Jesus loved them enough to die for them. We pray they will build their lives on the true foundation and trust the God who will be faithful to complete the work that He begins in them.”

- Ask: “Why is knowing the true foundation important in today’s culture?” Pause for responses.
- Play “Concrete and Cranes” (CD). Lead conferees to pretend to hammer, saw, or use other tools as the theme song plays.
- Mention that the Bible is the blueprint—the guide for what is taught in VBS. Open the Bible to Philippians 1:6 and read the verse.
- Roll the oatmeal box with the word cards to a conferee. He can roll it to another person. Allow several rolls of the box. Call stop and ask the person to remove a card. Put the lid back on the box and roll a few more times. Repeat until all the cards have been removed from the box.
- Tell the leaders to put the words of the verse in order. When the verse is assembled (or if help is needed), display “Philippians 1:6 Poster.” Say the verse as a group.
- Comment that “Concrete Mixer” is a verse game that first and second graders may play in VBS (Day 2).

### **3. The Framework (25 minutes)**

- Say that the framework of Concrete and Cranes on which everything is built is the Bible content. Tell the leaders that they are going to inspect the framework of VBS for first and second graders.
- Hand out the “Framework Fill In” sheets. Tell the leaders to walk around the site, finding the “Framework Signs” and filling in their sheets. Play music as they move around the room.
- Call the group back together. Call attention to the “Concrete and Cranes Banner.”
- Lead the group to review the Bible content for each day. Add the “Banner Add-ons” as you talk about the Bible study sessions.
  - Day 1: Love
  - Day 2: Forgiveness
  - Day 3: Worth
  - Day 4: Promise
  - Day 5: Life
- Talk about the other two parts of the framework.
  - Level of Biblical Learning: Statement from the LOBL document that reflects the core understanding for VBS 2020.
  - Christ Connection: Statement of how the VBS 2020 study connects to the story of Christ and the gospel

### **4. The Crew (15 minutes)**

- Say: “When you enter a job site, it’s important to know the crew with which you are working. Our crew are the kids we are teaching in VBS. We need to know what they are like and how they learn. Let’s examine some general characteristics of first and second graders.”
- Move to the “wrecking ball” area. Choose two leaders to hold up the yardstick with the wrecking ball; unwrap the yarn to lengthen as needed.
- Ask another leader to pull back the ball and knock down one of the blocks. When the block is knocked down, read that characteristic.
- Ask leaders to take turns using the wrecking ball. Swap out those holding the yardstick so they can have turns to swing it, too.

- After all the characteristics are knocked down and discussed, ask leaders to group up into partners. Tell them to discuss with partners one or two of the characteristics that they think are important to remember on the VBS construction site.

### 5. Working Conditions (5 minutes)

- Ask volunteers to search the room and find the construction vehicle cards. Ask volunteers to read the cards, one at a time. Tape each card around the Banner and discuss each part as needed for the leaders.
- Say: “Each day’s Bible study time is divided into these sections.”
  - *Start It:* Activity that engages kids and introduces the day. (5 minutes)
  - *Learn It:* Activities that teach the Bible story in a creative way, review the content, and emphasize the VBS Bible verse. (10–15 minutes)
  - *Live It:* Activity that teaches the Point for the day and applies to the kids’ lives. (5–10 minutes)
  - *Finish It:* Activity to help review the day and reinforce concepts learned. (5 minutes)
  - *Additional Activities – Application:* 2 options for activities that lead kids to explore the Point further (10 minutes each)
  - *Additional Activity – Bible Skills:* Optional activity that leads kids to use the Bible and practice Bible skills (10 minutes)
  - *Additional Activity – Bonus Verse:* Optional activity that helps kids learn and understand the daily Bible verse. (10 minutes)
- Say: “These three options can be used for Bible study in VBS.”
  - *30 minutes for Bible Study:* Use the Bible study plan as written for each session; leaders will not need any of the additional activity options unless they choose to use them as a substitute for an activity in the 30-minute plan.
  - *40 or more minutes for Bible Study:* Use the Bible study plan as written and select activities from the Additional Activity options to extend the time as needed.
  - *Two Bible Study Times:* For the opening Bible study session, use the 30-minute Bible study plan; supplement with Additional Activity options as needed to extend the time. For closing Bible study session, use any of the remaining activity options.
- Say: “Your VBS director should tell you how much time you will have in Bible study rotation and give you information on the overall schedule for your church’s VBS.”

### 6. The Tools (20 minutes)

- Create 4–5 groups of leaders. Ask each group to locate a cone in the room with resources.
- Tell the groups to examine the resources they have and be prepared to talk about those resources and how they help teachers, kids, or parents during or after VBS.
- After a few minutes, call the group back together. Ask leaders to bring the resources with them to the large group.
- Lead each group to talk about their resources. Add each resource to your display table or arrange resources on the floor as groups discuss.
  - *VBS 2020 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Guide:* This resource helps equip and prepare leaders. The guide includes leader devotions to help leaders prepare spiritually, tips on decorating the classroom, and Bible study plans for creating an engaging Bible study time for kids.
  - *VBS 2020 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Pack:* This pack includes a large banner, Bible verse posters, games, and printables for teaching boys and girls. One *Music for Kids* CD is included in the Leader Pack.

- *VBS 2020 Kids Activity Book*: This book includes activities that engage kids daily in the Bible study rotation and challenge them to continue studying the Bible after VBS. One Kids Activity Book is recommended for each child.
- *VBS 2020 Kids Memory Maker*: An orange carabiner for collecting memories and 7 tags to add as the week goes on. Additional items are suggested in Bible study and VBS rotations to add to the Memory Maker throughout VBS.
- *VBS 2020 Devotional Bible for Kids*: This is a full-text Bible containing 30 days of devotions to encourage kids to develop a practice of daily Bible reading at home. Includes shaded verses and margin notes with the gospel plan of salvation. Available in CSB and KJV.
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me*: A witnessing booklet that emphasizes God's plan of salvation from creation to Jesus and how we respond to the good news. Can be used during or after VBS.
- *Concrete and Cranes Devotions: 100 Devotions Building on the Love of Jesus*: This book leads kids and their families to learn God's blueprint for their lives and build on the love of Jesus as they learn.
- *VBS 2020 Parent Guide*: This guide is packed with five daily devotions for families, fun activities, and a gospel presentation to help parents follow up on what their kids have learned during VBS.
- *VBS 2020 Mega Carabiner, VBS 2020 Sticky Foam Shapes, other accessories*: Show and discuss any decorating materials, accessories, or other VBS 2020 resources you have displayed.

#### **7. Wise Builder (5 minutes)**

- Say: "As the crew chief, you must let the Bible content impact you before you can teach the Bible to impact kids."
- Point out the leader study at the beginning of each day. Say that these words are for the leaders, not the kids.
- Point out the Personal Blueprint and notes area. Tell leaders to reflect on the content and what it means to them as well as what it can mean to boys and girls.

#### **8. Gospel Plan (10 minutes)**

- Say: "Each day of VBS is about Jesus and leaders can share the gospel every day at VBS. Opportunities in the Bible study and application will naturally occur based on the Bible content."
- Display the "Gospel Poster" and point out "God's Plan for Me" on the inside cover of the leader guide. Also point back to the *God's Plan for Me* witnessing booklet.
- Talk through the phrases and the points.
- Say: "Our responsibility is to share the gospel. The Holy Spirit is the one who leads a person to trust in Jesus. Younger kids should hear the gospel and continue to learn more about Jesus as Savior. But reassure children that it is okay if they don't feel the Holy Spirit leading them to trust Jesus right now. And encourage them to talk with one of the leaders privately if they have questions or need to talk more about trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord."

#### **9. Hard Hat Area (15 minutes)**

- Say: "Before VBS, leaders must plan and prepare for the kids they will teach. Let's think about what we need to do to prep our Concrete and Cranes site."
- Roll the dump truck with paper "rocks" to a leader. Ask him to remove one of the rocks, open it and read it.

- Discuss that preparation step.
- Ask him to roll the truck to another person. Continue until all preparation steps are read.
- Point out the materials lists on pages 43–44 in the leader guide.
- Talk about any tips regarding decorating the Bible study room and point out any items you have on your display regarding decoration.
- Lead leaders to share ideas for decorating as well.

**10. Closing Whistle (5 minutes)**

- Say: “Prayer is a key tool as we prepare to teaching boys and girls in VBS. God can impact our communities through what we do in our churches in VBS. Prayer is also a tool to support one another as we teach.”
- Give each leader an “ID Card” (pack item 12). Ask the leader to print her name and church name on the card.
- Tell leaders to find a partner from a different church. Lead the pairs to trade ID cards. Ask the pairs to pray for one another’s church and VBS.
- Tell the pairs to place the ID cards in their Bibles or with their VBS materials and continue to pray for their fellow teachers.
- Lead the group to say the motto together as you close: “Jesus! Our strong foundation!”

## VBS 2020 Grades 1-2 Bible Study Framework Fill-In

Day 1	
Day 2	Day 3
Day 4	Day 5
LOBL	Christ Connection



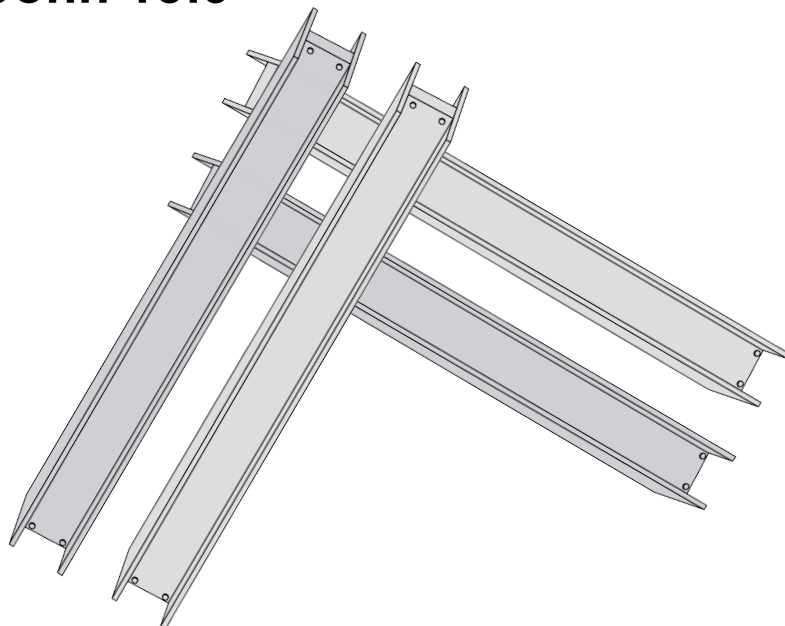
## **Day 1 Foundation of Love**

### **Bible Story: Jesus Chose Matthew (Matthew 9:9-13)**

Jesus called Matthew, a tax collector, to follow Him. Matthew left everything behind and followed Jesus. Matthew hosted a banquet. Jesus and His disciples came to the banquet. The Pharisees complained and questioned why Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus told the Pharisees that He came not for the righteous but for sinners.

**Point: Jesus chooses to love me. I can't earn it.**

### **Bonus Verse: John 15:9**







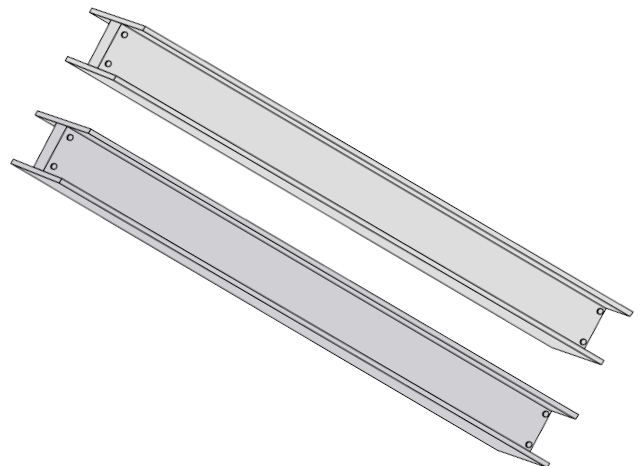
## **Day 2 Foundation of Forgiveness**

### **Bible Story: Paul's Redemption (Acts 26:1-29)**

Paul was chosen by God to bring the good news about Jesus to the Gentiles. He was arrested and later taken to King Agrippa to tell his story. Paul told how he used to persecute believers. But one day, on the road to Damascus, he saw a bright light and heard a voice speaking to him. The voice was Jesus. Paul obeyed Jesus' command and told people everywhere that Jesus is the Messiah.

**Point: Jesus loves me regardless of my sin.**

**Bonus Verse: Romans 5:8**





## **Day 3 Foundation of Worth**

### **Bible Story: Jesus Prayed in the Garden (Matthew 26:36-46)**

On the last night Jesus spent with His disciples, He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He asked His disciples to remain awake and pray while He went further into the garden. Jesus was distressed because He knew He was going to die on the cross to save people from their sins. Jesus returned to the disciples three times and found them asleep each time. The last time He told the disciples to get up and follow Him. Jesus knew the time had come to follow through with God's plan.

**Point: Jesus chose to die for me.**

**Bonus Verse: John 15:13**





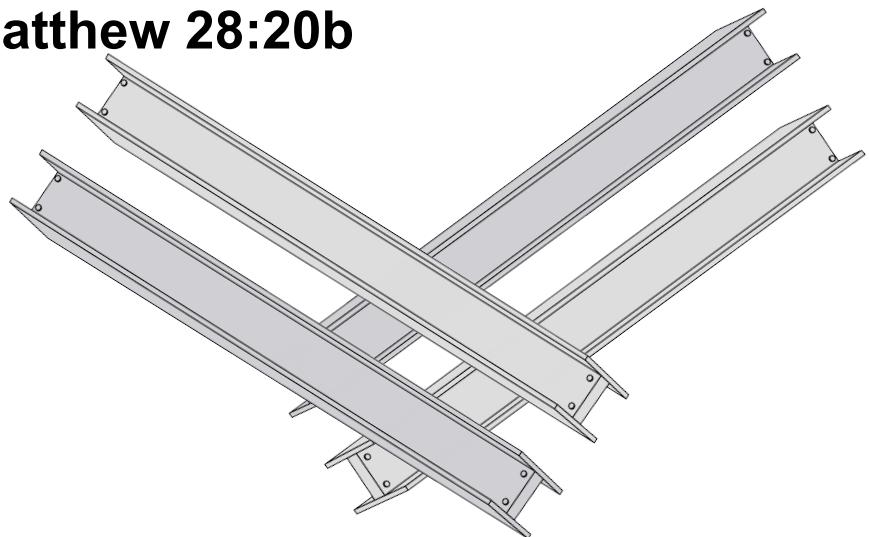
## **Day 4 Foundation of Promise**

### **Bible Story: Jesus' Resurrection and Promise (Matthew 28:1-10,16-20)**

On the Sunday after Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James went to the tomb. When they arrived, they saw that the stone had been rolled away and an angel was sitting on it. The angel told the women that Jesus had risen. He instructed them to go tell the disciples to meet Jesus in Galilee. Later the disciples traveled to Galilee, where they saw Jesus. The disciples received instructions from Jesus and the promise that He would be with them always!

**Point: Jesus will always love me.**

**Bonus Verse: Matthew 28:20b**





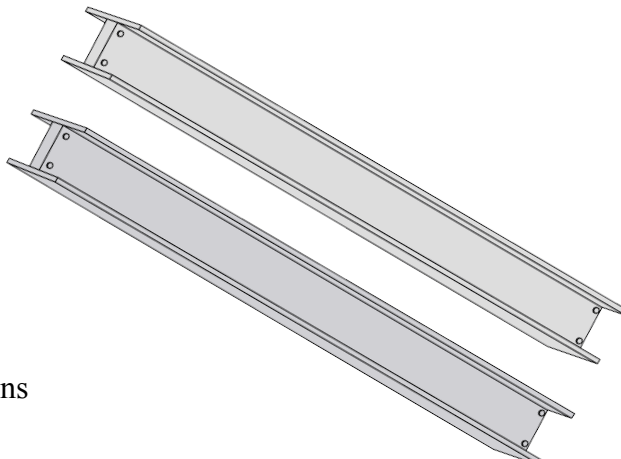
## **Day 5 Foundation for Life**

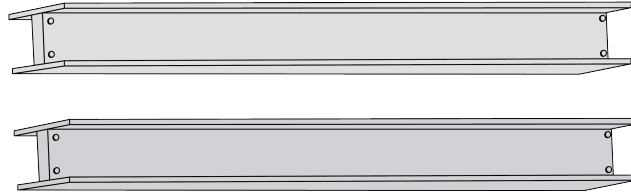
### **Bible Story: Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-29)**

Jesus told a parable about two builders. He said that everyone who heard His words and acted on them would be like the wise man who built his house on the rock. The house had a strong foundation and would stand against the wind and the rain. However, those who did not listen would be like the foolish builder who built his house on the sand. Once the wind and rains came, the house collapsed. If people listen and obey Jesus, they will have a strong foundation for whatever happens in their lives.

**Point: Jesus' love is the foundation for the rest of my life.**

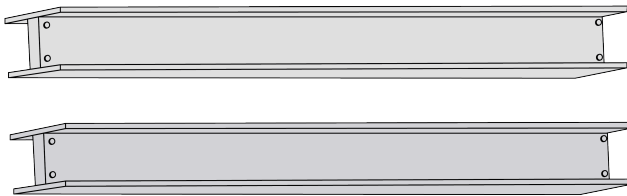
**Bonus Verse: 2 Timothy 3:14**





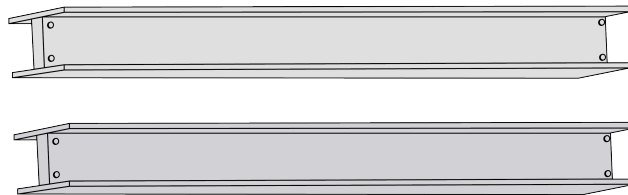
## **LOBL: Jesus was sent to be my Savior.**

The Levels of Biblical Learning<sup>®</sup> are a tool that reflects levels of understanding at each age that follow how God designed children to learn. For more information visit [www.lifeway.com/lobl](http://www.lifeway.com/lobl).



## **Christ Connection**

The foundation of the gospel is faith. Jesus lived a perfect life and died the death we deserve. By grace, God saves everyone who trusts in Jesus as Savior and Lord.



First and second graders use their whole bodies to learn. They need to move and be active. Provide a variety of activities that are high energy, moderate energy, and low energy. Involve all the senses as you teach.

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First and second graders are still developing their abilities to think abstractly. Many spiritual concepts may be difficult for concrete thinkers to grasp. Kids need clear and concrete explanations of concepts. Use simple terms and define words that are abstract and avoid abstract object lessons or analogies. Give simple and short directions.

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Children love to be creative. They want to explore and discover as they learn, following their curiosity. Provide activities like drama, art, solving problems, and games. Offer ways for kids to express their own ideas in different ways.

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Children need time to complete their work. They often want things to be perfect or 'just right.' Make sure you provide time for them to complete their activities and let them know when transitions are coming.

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First and second graders are sensitive. They seek approval from adults and from peers. Listen to what they say; be prepared for mood changes or impatient reactions. Offer positive words and facial expressions during activities.

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First and second graders are moving toward independence. However, they still need consistent rules and routines that offer the security of boundaries. Offer choices and some autonomy in activities whenever possible.

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First and second graders are growing spiritually. They are learning to view Jesus as a friend and are beginning to feel the need to trust Jesus as Savior. Share information about becoming a Christian without pressuring kids to make immediate decisions. Guide kids to learn more about Jesus and the gospel, reassuring them that it is okay if God's Holy Spirit is not leading them to trust Jesus right now.



**Start It: Activity that engages kids and introduces the day. (5 minutes)**

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**Learn It: Activities that teach the Bible story in a creative way, review the content, and emphasize the VBS Bible verse. (10–15 minutes)**



**Live It: Activity that teaches the Point for the day and applies to the kids' lives. (5–10 minutes)**

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**Finish It: Activity to help review the day and reinforce concepts learned. (5 minutes)**



**Additional Activities – Application: 2 options for activities that lead kids to explore the Point further (10 minutes each)**

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**Additional Activity – Bible Skills: Optional activity that leads kids to use the Bible and practice Bible skills (10 minutes)**

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**Additional Activity – Bonus Verse: Optional activity that helps kids learn and understand the daily Bible verse. (10 minutes)**



**30 minutes for Bible Study: Use the Bible study plan as written for each session; leaders will not need any of the additional activity options unless they choose to use them as a substitute for an activity in the 30-minute plan.**



**40 or more minutes for Bible Study: Use the Bible study plan as written and select activities from the Additional Activity options to extend the time as needed.**

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**Two Bible Study Times: For the opening Bible study session, use the 30-minute Bible study plan; supplement with Additional Activity options as needed to extend the time. For closing Bible study session, use any of the remaining activity options.**

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Read daily Scripture passages so God can speak to you through His Word.

Use the CD or digital music downloads to learn the songs used in VBS 2020.

Prepare spiritually by reading the leader devotions for each day.

Choose the activities you will use to teach and plan each day's session.

Pray for yourself, other VBS leaders, and the kids you will teach.

Make a list of supplies and gather what you need.

Find out how many kids are expected in your class.

Sort and assemble items from your leader pack.

Check with your VBS director about the schedule so you know how much time you have for Bible study rotation each day.

Plan for ways to continue the connection with children after VBS is over.