

## VBS 2020 GRADES 3–4 BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (2 HOURS)

### Purpose Statement

This two-hour plan is designed to train and equip VBS teachers to lead 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders in LifeWay's Concrete & Cranes VBS curriculum.

### Needed Resources

- *VBS 2020 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Pack* — Prepare pack items as directed.
- *VBS 2020 Kids Activity Book*
- *VBS 2020 Tablecloth*
- *VBS 2020 Kids Memory Maker*
- *VBS 2020 Mega Carabiner*
- *VBS 2020 Parent Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Kids Gospel Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Gospel Wristbands*
- *VBS 2020 Wrecking Ball*
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me*
- *I'm a Christian Now! Older Kids Activity Guide*
- *The ABCs of Becoming a Christian Tract*
- Item 1: "Handout" — Print and photocopy 1 per conferee.
- 5 bags with handles — Label for each day (Day 1–5).
- Nuts and bolts (1 per conferee) — Paint equal numbers red, blue, yellow, orange, and green.
- Poster board — Prepare according to the Day 2 "Start It" activity (see leader guide).
- 2 baking sheets
- Cotton balls
- Interlocking blocks OR index cards
- Pool noodles, plastic cups, rocks and 1-inch dowel rods — Prepare per instructions for the Day 5 "Know It" activity.
- Orange poster board — Prepare according to the instructions for Day 5 "Live It" (see leader guide).
- Decorative tape
- Construction paper
- Markers
- 4 small safety cones — Label two cones *OT* and two *NT*.
- Paper plates — Prepare according to the instructions for Day 1 "Safety Cone Ring Toss" (see leader guide).
- Brown and gray construction paper — Prepare according to the instructions for the Day 2 "Rubble Race" activity (see leader guide).
- Dust pans or small shovels
- 3 small toolboxes — Prepare according to the instructions for the Day 4 "Gospel Toolbox" activity (see leader guide).
- Toolbox
- CD player
- Bible

## Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the focal wall. Decorate the Blueprint Bible Study to look like the inside of a contractor's trailer using ideas from the *Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*. Prepare and place Item 1 from the leader pack as the focal point of the room. "Banner Add-ons" (pack item 2) will be added to the banner as the conference progresses. Cover a table with the *VBS 2020 Tablecloth* and display the leader guide, leader pack, kids activity, and Memory Maker. Place handouts and teaching items on the table. Place the *VBS 2020 Wrecking Ball* beside the table. Place the 5 bags marked for each day on the table.

## Teaching Steps

### 1. Welcome (10 Minutes)

- Play the *VBS 2020 Music for Kids CD* (from the leader pack) as conferees enter and ask them to choose one of the painted nuts and bolts to take to their seat.
- Welcome conferees and distribute handouts for taking notes during the session.
- Display the prepared poster board with the color key and ask each person to share according to the color nut or bolt they have chosen. For large groups, they share with a few people close to them.
- Say: "No matter what you like or dislike, Jesus loves you! He loves us if we are good at something or even if we are really bad at it. He also loves us even though we sin."
- Mention that this activity is taken from Day 2.

### 2. Lay the Foundation—Prepare Your Heart (5 Minutes)

- Read Philippians 1:6. Explain to the conferees that not only is God working in the lives of the children we will teach in VBS, He's also still working in our lives. Let's not get so caught up in preparing to teach kids that we miss what He is trying to teach us through His Word.
- Show the Bible verse, Bible story, and personal blueprint for the leaders each day. Tell leaders that as they prepare, they must carve out extra time to spend in His Word and in prayer.

### 3. Find and Study the Blueprints—Get the Basic Facts (5 Minutes)

- Ask conferees what some of the basic facts are that they'll need to get from their VBS Director.
- Mention the following: Where is my room? What is the schedule? How many should I expect? What are the expectations? Do I need to purchase supplies or turn in a supply list?

### 4. Tools Needed—Resources (10 Minutes)

- Comment: "We wouldn't begin building a skyscraper without the proper tools. VBS has a variety of materials that are necessary for a successful VBS."
- Show the materials displayed on the table.
- Walk conferees through the layout of the leader guide, pointing out the daily teaching plans, prep helps, and especially the Sharing the Gospel icons.
- Show the leader pack and overview the variety of resources contained inside.
- Explain that the *Kids Activity Book* is used daily.
- Show the Memory Maker Tags and explain that these tags are used daily to help children remember the daily point and what they learned in VBS. Kids will be adding to the carabiner throughout VBS so that they can take it home and use the items they have collected to share what they learned. The Memory Maker Tags also include a tag with the gospel icons.

- Show the five bags prepared for each day and share how this simple step can help to keep pack items and supplies organized and prepared for the following day.

### **5. Let's Start Building—Teaching Plans (55 Minutes)**

- Teach the motto to the group and lead them to shout it out several times. Explain that this could be a way to get children's attention during the week. When the teacher shouts out, "Jesus," the kids shout out, "Our Strong Foundation."
- Divide into groups by the color of nut or bolt chosen at the beginning. Assign each group one day and ask them to record the Foundation, the Bible Story, and the Point for their day.
- Let each group share and add the banner add-ons (pack item 2) to the banner (pack item 1) as you work through each day.
- Explain that each day starts with "Start It," which is a welcoming get-to-know-you type activity. "Learn It" is next, which is when the Bible story is told. Next is "Know It," where the kids will work on the Bible verse. After that is "Live It," which is a life application activity as well as a time to work activities in the Kids Activity Books. And finally there is "Finish It," which is a time to use the Memory Makers, have a prayer, and issue a challenge to the children.
- Explain that there are also four additional activities for each day. Two are application activities, one is a Bible skills activity, and one is a Bonus Verse activity. Discuss ways these could be used. (*Great activities to fill time after Bible study or during rotations, or for a final Bible study time at the end of the day, etc.*)
- Mention that they will now participate in an activity from each of the sections. Remind conferees that they already completed the "Start It" activity.
- Keeping the same groups as before, lead the groups to attempt to build with interlocking blocks or index cards on top of a foundation of either baking sheets or cotton balls (Day 5 "Learn It"). Then tell the Day 5 Bible story while holding your Bible open. Share with the group that a lunch pail is used most days during the "Learn It" portion.
- Lead the groups to do the "Know It" memory verse activity from Day 5. Offer alternative ideas such as putting the cut pool noodles on a plunger or on a cord.
- Encourage the entire group to take part in "Live It" game from Day 5. Show them the activity book pages for that day.
- For "Finish It," show the Memory Maker for Day 5. Highlight the *VBS 2020 Mega Carabiner* and suggest that it is useful for helping leaders keep up with the Memory Makers and name tags from day to day.
- Allow time for everyone to participate in the "Name It" activity on Day 1 and lead the group through the instructions.
- Form two groups and lead them participate in the "Safety Cone Ring Toss" activity from Day 1, expanding it for two groups for competition.
- Lead the group to participate in Day 2's "Rubble Race."
- Brainstorm ways to incorporate the Additional Activity Options as a group.

### **6. Nailing It Down! Sharing the Plan of Salvation (10 Minutes)**

- Share that one of the most important things we will do at VBS is share the gospel and give the children an opportunity to respond.
- Do the "Gospel Toolbox Activity" from Day 4.
- Show the different resources on display that can be used to share the gospel with children. Highlight the response card from the pack and talk about how it can be used.

- Encourage conferees to prepare their own testimony of how they came to know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior so that they can share it with the children.
- Discuss with the group how important it is that each child who shows an interest in knowing more about becoming a Christian has a time of personal counseling.
- Point out the icon in the leader guide that notes “Gospel Opportunities” or activities that give you opportunities to share the gospel.
- Show The Gospel God’s Plan for Me on the inside front cover of the leader guide so that conferees are aware of the helps.

#### **7. Building on Relationships—Continue the Connections (10 Minutes)**

- Explain that if VBS is going to be an outreach activity for our church and we really want to continue connections, then we truly have to make connections and build on the relationships we’ve made. Say: “Sometimes we get caught up on our teaching outline and getting through what we have planned that we don’t take time to get to know the children or their families at VBS.”
- Brainstorm as a group some things leaders can talk about with kids in order to get to know them better. Then brainstorm ways we can help the kids connect with one another.
- Encourage conferees to help with their church’s plan for follow-up after VBS. Say: “It’s never ‘one and done’ when it comes to continuing the connections. It’s something we have to keep trying and keep connecting with the families we encounter at VBS.”

#### **8. No Wrecking Balls—Preventing Problems Before they Happen (10 Minutes)**

- Ask the entire group to stand and form a circle and bring the Wrecking Ball to the circle. (If you don’t have a Wrecking Ball, obtain a large ball to use.)
- Encourage the group to think of something that can “wreck” VBS. Suggest something like disruptive children, and then quickly brainstorm way to avoid letting disruptive children wreck your VBS.
- Roll the ball across the circle to someone else who will name something else that could wreck VBS. Then quickly brainstorm ways to avoid or deal with that challenge as well.
- Continue as time allows, then ask everyone to return to their seats.

#### **9. Certificate of Occupancy—Praying for VBS (5 Minutes)**

- Explain that a new building can’t be occupied until the inspectors have checked to be sure everything is complete and safe.
- Say: “We can’t have VBS without praying first.” Divide into the original groups and let each group pray for one another.
- Close with prayer and dismiss.
- Remind the conferees to return their nuts and bolts before leaving.

# VBS 2020 GRADES 3–4 BIBLE STUDY

**Lay the Foundation**—Prepare Your Heart

**Find and Study the Blueprints**—Get the Basic Facts

**Tools Needed**—Resources

**Let's Start Building**—Teaching Plans

**Nailing It Down**—Sharing the Plan of Salvation

**Building on Relationships**—Continue the Connections

**No Wrecking Balls**—Preventing Problems Before They Happen

**Certificate of Occupancy**—Praying for VBS

	Foundation	Bible Story	Point
Day 1			
Day 2			
Day 3			
Day 4			
Day 5			

