

VBS 2020 MULTI-AGE KIDS BASE CONFERENCE PLAN

Purpose Statement

This two-hour plan is designed to train and equip VBS teachers to lead a broadly-graded group of 1st–6th graders using Lifeway's new *Multi-age Kids* Bible study curriculum.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2020 Multi-age Kids Leader Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Multi-age Kids Leader Pack*—Prepare items 1–3 and 10 for display. Also have ready to use items 9, 20. The following items can be placed into bags as described below: 5–7, 12, 14–17, 19, and 21–22.
- *VBS 2020 Kids Activity Book*
- *VBS 2020 Memory Maker Tags*
- *VBS 2020 Kids Gospel Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Parent Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Bookmarks*: One for each conferee
- *VBS 2020 String Flags*
- Item 1: “Assignment Cards” — Print onto cardstock and cut apart.
- Item 2: “Handout” — Photocopy 1 per conferee and place on chairs.
- Pack Item 3: “Tool Cards” — Cut apart and tape the cards to the walls around the room.
- Pack Item 9 — Write one statement on the back of each picture: 1) *Older children are bored with activities that interest younger children.* 2) *Younger children are having a hard time keeping up with the older kids.* 3) *Older kids are embarrassed when a younger child knows something that they don't.* 4) *Non-readers are struggling with activities that require reading.*
- 4 hard hats — Write one word of the VBS motto onto the front of each hard hat.
- Mini marshmallows
- 4 pads of self-stick notes
- Picture of a dump truck (from clip art available at lifeway.com/vbs or *Decorating Made Easy DVD-ROM*) — Display on wall.
- 5 white gift bags striped with orange tape to resemble a construction barrel — Place one of the “Assignment Cards” (item 1) inside each bag along with each day's Bible story picture and bonus verse poster. Also add the following items for these days:
 - Day 1: Plastic bag with coins, flip-flop sandal, two bread slices wrapped in plastic, adhesive bandage
 - Day 2: from “Learn It” (p. 15 of leader guide): 6 disposable cups — Write one phrase from the verse, Philippians 1:6, onto 6 cups. Also add one thick rubber band with 4 pieces of yarn tied on.
 - Day 3: Divide Philippians 1:6 into six phrases. Write each phrase on a sheet of paper and place into the construction barrel. Make a second copy of the phrases. Provide two toy trucks.
 - Day 4: Leader pack item 17
 - Day 5: Write one word of Philippians 1:6 onto craft sticks. Also include a *Kids Activity Book*.
- From the Additional Activity Options, prepare the following items and set one activity in each corner of the room:
 - “Sledgehammer Swing” (p. 11): swim noodle, gift wrap roll, and duct tape
 - “Rubble on the Double” (p. 25) — write each word of John 15:13 on a scrap of paper (make two sets), trash bag

- “Washer Drop” (p. 19): blue construction paper, chalk markers, Bible verse references, and flat 1- to 1¼-inch washers
- “Mix It and Fix It” (p. 26): coffee can with lid, stones — Write each word from John 15:13 on a separate stone and place into the can.
- Index cards — 1 per participant
- CD player

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Hang the “Concrete & Cranes Banner” (pack item 1) on the focal wall and place the “Banner Add-ons” (pack item 2) nearby to be added to the banner as you teach. Cover a table with a *VBS 2020 Tablecloth* and display the leader guide, leader pack, and activity book alongside accessories such as small hand tools or a tool belt or toolkit. Drape *VBS 2020 String Flags* across the doorway. Additional ideas for decorating can be found on page 42 of the leader guide.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play “Concrete & Cranes” (*Music for Kids CD*, track 1) as conferees enter and welcome them to Blueprint Bible Study.
- Tell conferees that in order to be a leader in Concrete & Cranes, it would be important for them to be able to pass an Equipment Proficiency Test. Call attention to the “Tool Cards” (pack item 3) around the room. Follow the instructions from the leader guide in “Start It,” step 2 and lead participants to walk to the tool that would help with the listed jobs.
- Tell conferees that this is also the first activity that the children in their class will do on Day 1 of VBS.

2. Introduction and Motto (10 minutes)

- Explain to conferees that beyond being familiar with tools and construction, the most important part of VBS is that we are building a biblical foundation for children to understand these five foundations that Jesus gives to us: Love, Forgiveness, Worth, Promise, and Life.
- Give four volunteers each a prepared hard hat. Guide them to stand in the front of the room with the motto words out of order.
- Invite several conferees to take turns tossing four marshmallows at the hard hats in the correct order of the motto. Invite the group to say the motto as the marshmallows hit the correct words in the correct order.
- Repeat until you feel the conferees know the motto. (This activity is similar to an “Older Kids Bonus Verse Activity” from Day 1.)

3. Knowing Your Tools (10 minutes)

- Comment: “When setting out on a construction project, it is important to be familiar with the tools needed for the job. This new curriculum for 2020 is specifically designed to help churches that may have all ages in one class or churches who choose to put a variety of ages into each class. Here are some of the essentials needed for your 2020 Multi-age Classroom.”
 - Leader Guide: The Leader teaching plans for five days are on pages 8–40. Note that there are teacher helps both before and after the teaching plans.
 - Leader Pack: Note that the leader pack not only contains the Bible story pictures and the bonus verses for each day, but also the banner for the focal wall and a

variety of resources needed for each day. The *Music for Kids CD* has all the music on it. Remind conferees that it is no longer a CD-ROM with items that need to be printed. Instead, all reproducible items are included as loose pages in the leader pack.

- Kids Activity Book: Each child in VBS needs a book for himself, as he will be writing in it or doing the activities each day. The book also contains some activities that children can be challenged to complete after VBS. The last page of the book is also “The Gospel Plan” which is a great evangelistic resource to send home at the end of VBS.
- Memory Maker Tags: 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 so that kids can share the gospel with their friends.
- Gospel Plan Poster (pack item 10): The gospel is explained throughout the week within each day’s teachings. Explain that this year there is cross icon in the leader guide to help identify opportune times to share the gospel, as lead by the Holy Spirit. Point out the first time it is used is during Step 3 of “Live It” on Day 1.

4. Dumping Failures and Filling Up with Success (15 minutes)

- Explain that working with multiple-age groups can be a challenge. Point out the dump truck on the wall and tell conferees that they are going to dump the failures (challenges) of teaching multi-age groups and instead fill up on ways to help children succeed in a multi-age setting.
- Group conferees into four groups. Give each group one of the pictures from pack item 9 and a stack of sticky notes. Lead the group to notice the “construction fail” in the picture and remind them that we want to avoid any failures of combining age groups and instead, set children up for success.
- Lead the groups to read the failure statement on the back of each picture. Give groups five minutes to write down their ideas on sticky notes for turning that failure into success. Lead them to write each idea on a separate sticky note.
- When time is up, allow each group to share their failure and then share their ideas for turning it into success. Encourage them to add their sticky note ideas around the dump truck.
- Point out that page 5 of the leader guide has tips for teaching multi age groups. Share any tips that haven’t already been mentioned by the groups.

5. Studying the Blueprints (35 minutes)

- Tell conferees that if they were crane operators, it would be very important to know some of the crane signals that direct an operator’s movement of a large crane.
- Teach the group these signals from pack item 20, leading them to stand and repeat the motions with you: Hoist, Lower, and Move Slowly. (An extra motion mentioned in the leader guide is called ‘Dog Everything’ which means to pause. The motion for ‘Dog Everything’ is to fold hands together in front of you at waist level.)
- Add the motions to the theme verse, Philippians 1:6. Ask a volunteer to stand in front of the class and be the operator as the rest of the class repeats the verse. If the operator gives the signal to hoist, the conferees can raise their voices. The signal to lower means to lower your voice. The signal to move slowly means to speak slower. The signal to “dog everything” means to pause.

- Repeat several times with different volunteer as the leader until the verse is familiar to conferees.
- Form five groups and set out a “construction barrel” for each group. Tell conferees that each barrel has instructions from one of the days Bible study. Ask each group to work together to complete the instructions given inside the barrel.
- Allow each group to share the answers to their assignments. As each group shares, emphasize these ideas from the leader guide:
 - Day 1: Talk about the four steps into which teaching is divided each day: Start It, Learn It, Live It, and Finish It. Discuss the importance of each step.
 - Day 2: Talk about how each lesson gives tips for adapting activities for older and younger children.
 - Day 3: Talk about the importance of the Finish It activity to reinforce the point of each day.
 - Day 4: Discuss the importance of helping children understand the gospel plan.
 - Day 5: Discuss the activity book and how it is used. Discuss alternatives for churches that can't budget a book for each child.

6. Scheduling with Additional Activities (25 minutes)

- Draw attention to the Schedule Options on page 4 of the leader guide. Discuss the three ideas for scheduling Bible Study and how to adapt depending on how much time is allotted for Bible Study.
- Point out that every day in the leader guide there are four additional activity options. There are two activities each for younger kids and older kids. One of the activities supplements the lesson and the other activity helps children learn the bonus verse.
- Tell conferees that they will have the opportunity to rotate through one of each of these activities to get an idea of how to incorporate these additional activities into their teaching time.
- Divide into four groups and send each group into one corner of the room to start an activity. Give participants 5 minutes at each activity before rotating to the next one.

7. Gospel Plan (10 minutes)

- Take a few minutes to focus in on the Gospel Plan using pack item 10. Explain each of the five steps.
- Ask conferees to pair up with a partner and together come up with five ways to build relationships with kids during the week of VBS. Allow a few minutes to discuss, then invite volunteers to share ideas.
- Discuss the importance of building trust with kids so that they will listen when you teach them how to trust Jesus.
- Show samples of the resources available to help share the gospel including the *Kids Gospel Guide*, *Gospel Wristbands*, *Parent Guide*, and *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* booklet.
- Encourage conferees to practice sharing their own testimony in under two minutes so that children can hear their personal example of how they came to know Christ as Savior.

8. Finding Your Power Source (10 minutes)

- Explain that an important part of the leader guide is the teacher Bible study located on the first page of each session. Share the importance of meditating on and studying the Scripture so that you can be a better teacher of that Scripture.

- Point out that at the end of each teacher Bible study there are three questions to challenge us to think about our own personal blueprint.
- Pass out an index card to each conferee. Ask conferees to answer these three questions as a way to think about how to pray for VBS:
 1. What are you worried about as you prepare for VBS?
 2. Write down names of children that you are praying for God to work in their hearts during VBS.
 3. How does the theme verse, Philippians 1:6, speak to you today?
- Encourage participants to place their index card in their Bible or wallet as a reminder to be working on their own personal blueprint to get ready for VBS.
- Give conferees a *VBS 2020 Bookmark* as a reminder to keep praying and learning from God's Word as they plan for VBS.
- Repeat the motto together, challenging conferees to add motions: point up for "Jesus," pound your fist into the palm of your other hand while saying, "Our Strong Foundation."
- Close in prayer, then dismiss.

DAY 1:

1. Be ready to share a brief synopsis of the Bible story and The Point from Day 1.
 2. What are the four parts of the lesson? (*Hint: They each end with "It."*)
 3. How do you use the props in the bag to tell the Bible story?
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Day 2:

1. Be ready to share a brief synopsis of the Bible story and The Point from Day 2.
 2. What do the bold words indicate in the Bible story ("Learn It")?
 3. Practice using the cup and rubber band as explained in Step 6 of "Learn It." What is the adaption for this activity for younger kids?
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Day 3:

- 1) Be ready to share a brief synopsis of the Bible story and The Point from Day 3.
 - 2) Use the provided material to do "Learn It" steps 1 and 2.
 - 3) In "Finish It," what activity is used to reinforce today's Point?
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Day 4:

- 1) Be ready to share a brief synopsis of the Bible story and The Point from Day 4.
 - 2) Practice using pack item 17 as instructed in "Learn It," step 6.
 - 3) Where do you find the response cards to use with older kids in "Live It"?
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Day 5:

- 1) Be ready to share a brief synopsis of the Bible story and The Point from Day 5.
- 2) Use the provided craft sticks to do "Learn It," step 6.
- 3) How is the *Kids Activity Book* used in "Live It," steps 3 and 4?

Teaching Multi-age Kids

Motto: _____! _____! _____!



Dumping Failures & Filling Up with Success When Teaching Multiple Ages:

Bible Verse: *Philippians 1:6* "I am _____ of this, that _____ who
_____ a good _____ in you will _____ it to
_____ until the day of _____."

Day	Foundation	Point	Bible Story	Scripture Passage
1				Matthew 9:9–13
2				Acts 26:1–29
3				Matthew 26:36–46
4				Matthew 28:1–10, 16–20
5				Matthew 7:24–29