

VBS 2020 VBX PRETEEN (GRADES 5–6) ROTATIONS CONFERENCE PLAN (50 MINUTES)

Purpose Statement

This 50-minute plan will help conferees become familiar with the recreation and crafts options for preteens in VBX 2020: *Concrete & Cranes™*.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2020 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*
- *VBS 2020 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack*
- *VBS 2020 Kids Memory Maker*
- *VBS 2020 Supersized Backdrop*
- *VBS 2020 Tablecloth*
- *VBS 2020 String Flags*
- *VBS 2020 Crafts Rotation Leader Guide* (optional)
- *VBS 2020 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards* (optional)
- *VBS 2020 Music for Kids CD* (optional, found in Leader Pack)
- *VBS 2020 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards* (optional)
- Item 1: “Handout” — Copy 1 per conferee. Encourage conferees to take notes as desired.
- VBX crafts — Prepare one of each Concrete and Cranes VBX craft found on pages 13, 20, 27, 34, and 41 of the *VBX Leader Guide*. Leader Pack Items 13 and 20.
- Label 5 hard hats 1–5. Write the following on sticky notes: *Nailed It String Art, Carpenter’s Pencil Magnet, Sandpaper Art T-shirt, Jesus Will Never “Lego®” Frame, Wise Builder Fidget Spinner*. Place a sticky note inside the hard hat corresponding to the day. On the display table, place each craft under the construction hard hat of the corresponding day.
- Gather the crafts supplies for the *Wise Builder Fidget Spinner* listed on page 41, enough for each conferee. Place items in individual snack size zip top bags for easy distribution. Use a small bucket or toolbox to hold craft items until needed.
- VBX recreation — Write the following on separate note cards: *Marshmallow High-Rise & Construction Relay, Caution Tape Untangle & Wrecking Ball Bowling, Human Steamroller & Toolbox Tag, Hammer It & Move the Rubble, Carry the Cement & Snag the Safety Cone*. Tape cards to five small orange cones and place each cone behind the hard hat of the corresponding day. Leader Pack Items 21 and 22.
- Game supplies — Roll of caution tape. (Alternate: Crepe paper streamers.)
- Optional: Gather some of the recreation supplies to add to your focal area and aid in explaining recreation activities.
- Optional: Play the *VBS 2020 Music for Kids CD* (or purchase a digital version to play) while conferees are making their crafts.

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Cover the focal with a *VBS 2020 Supersized Backdrop*. Cover a table with a *VBS 2020 Tablecloth* and display the *VBS 2020 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide* with construction hard hats and small orange cones. Drape *VBS 2020 String Flags* across the doorway.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play “Hammer, Saw, Sandpaper” found on page 16 of the *VBX Leader Guide*. Direct conferees to play three rounds, and to choose a new partner each round. Substitute the following questions for the end of each round:
 - Introduce yourself
 - Share about how many years you have served in VBS
 - Share one thing you love about preteens
- As you direct conferees to be seated, mention that this activity is included in the VBX Bible study on Day 2.
- Welcome conferees and explain the goal for this conference is to help conferees become familiar with the recreation and crafts options for preteens in VBX 2020: *Concrete & Cranes*.
 - Explain that because preteens have unique skills and needs, VBX can be a self-contained VBS experience for preteens. Instead of rotating like 1st–4th graders, VBX can encourage preteens through their own special activity rotations.
 - Crafts is designed to be a part of Explore (Bible study time) and recreation is a part of Excel (application time). In a traditional 3–hour schedule, crafts are allowed 25 minutes and recreation is allowed 20 minutes. Times can be adjusted for shorter schedules by doing more prep work in crafts and/or selecting only one activity during recreation.

2. VBX Crafts Overview (13 minutes)

- Walk conferees through each day’s craft. Refer to the leader guide.
- Reveal each craft as you remove each hard hat and discuss how it relates to the Bible study content for the day. Discuss any adaptations or alternate ideas.
 - Day 1: Nailed It String Art
 - Biblical Connection: Love
 - Show the Nailed It String Art sample and briefly explain how the craft is made based on the instructions on page 13 of the leader guide.
 - Share the leader tips on page 13 and any insights you gained when making the sample craft. Show pattern from the leader pack (item 13).
 - Suggest VBX leaders enlist a carpenter or woodworker in their church to cut the wood pieces.
 - Day 2: Carpenter’s Pencil Magnet
 - Biblical Connection: Forgiveness
 - Show the Carpenter’s Pencil Magnet sample and briefly explain how the craft is made based on the instructions on page 20 of the leader guide.
 - Share the leader tips on page 20 and any insights you gained when making the sample craft.
 - Suggest VBX leaders search online for pre-sharpened carpenter’s pencils and an inexpensive set of metal alphabet stamps as these are not readily available in the craft section of a local discount store.
 - Day 3: Sandpaper Art T-shirt
 - Biblical Connection: Worth
 - Share the Sandpaper Art T-shirt sample and briefly explain how the craft is made based on the instructions on page 27 of the leader guide.
 - Share the leader tips on page 27 and any insights you gained when making the sample craft. Show the pattern from the leader pack (item 20).

- Suggest VBX leaders request shirt sizes at registration to ensure the correct sizes are available for this activity or ask preteens to bring in their own shirts for this activity. Also suggest that this would be a good craft to use up some old, broken crayons as the sandpaper will “eat up” the crayons. Suggest fabric markers could be used in place of permanent markers.
- Share alternate ideas to T-shirts, such as bandanas or pillow cases.
- Day 4: Jesus Will Never “Lego” Frame
 - Biblical Connection: Promise
 - Share the Jesus Will Never “Lego” Frame sample and briefly explain how the craft is made based on the instructions on page 34 of the leader guide.
 - Share the leader tips on page 34 and any insights you gained when making the sample craft.
 - Share where you found your blocks and tape.
 - Share how to add a simple cardboard triangle stand to the back of the frame as an alternative to a magnet.
- Day 5: Wise Builder Fidget Spinner
 - Biblical Connection: Life
 - Share the Wise Builder Fidget Spinner sample and biblical connection.
 - Pass out zip bags with supplies to make this craft.

3. Wise Builder Fidget Spinner (7 minutes)

- Invite conferees to make the Wise Builder fidget spinner.
- Walk step-by-step through the instructions to create this craft. Begin with the leader tip on page 41 and start with threading the wing nuts and hex nuts onto the bolt before coloring. Provide colored permanent markers for conferees to share.
- Encourage conferees to place their Wise Builder in a spot where they will see it often and remember to pray for the preteens who will attend VBS this year.

4. VBX Recreation Overview (15 minutes)

- Walk conferees through each day’s recreation options. Refer to the leader guide.
- Remind conferees that each recreation activity has a purposeful connection back to the biblical content for the day, so don’t forget to use the “Cement it in Concrete” debrief discussion. Note there are two recreation choices for each day. Some schedules may allow for both activities.
- As you remove the card from each cone, have a brief discussion with conferees about each day’s recreation activities.
 - Day 1: Marshmallow High-Rise & Construction Relay
 - Explain the directions to both games found on page 14.
 - Point out the option to use non-food items for the High-Rise activity.
 - Day 2: Caution Tape Untangle & Wrecking Ball Bowling
 - Explain the directions to both games found on page 21.
 - Suggest crepe paper streamers as an inexpensive alternative to caution tape.
 - Day 3: Human Steamroller & Toolbox Tag
 - Explain the directions to both games found on page 28. Show leader pack items 21 and 22.
 - Suggest a large playing area to spread out the cards for Human Steamroller. An alternate way to determine a winner: the team with the most complete sets of verses.

- Toolbox Tag is a no supplies needed game. This game could also be played with players seated in a circle. When the builders call out a tool, players must switch to a new seat while builders try to claim the seat of one of the tools called to switch places.
- Day 4: Hammer It & Move the Rubble
 - Explain the directions to both games found on page 35. Show leader pack item 6.
 - Hammer It could also be played with the theme verse for the week.
- Day 5: Carry the Cement & Snag the Safety Cone
 - Explain the directions to both games found on page 42.
 - Carry the Cement is a water game. Provide rain ponchos for preteens who don't want to get wet. Allow preteens to remove their shoes and provide a hose to clean off soapy feet and towels to dry off at the end of the game.

5. Caution Tape Untangle (7 minutes)

- Place conferees into groups and play the game Caution Tape Untangle found on page 21 of the leader guide. If time permits, play the game a second time.
- When groups have finished untangling themselves, explain that sin entangles each of us, just like the caution tape, but through Jesus' forgiveness we are set free.
- Direct conferees to tear off a section of the caution tape they just escaped from and take their seats. Encourage conferees to place their tape in their Bibles so they can remember to pray for preteens who will come to VBS in need of a Savior who can set them free from sin. Point out that this is something that can also be added to kids' Memory Makers instead.

6. Wrap-Up (3 minutes)

- Remind conferees that preteens develop at different rates and do not have all the same skills and abilities. Crafts can appeal to preteen fine motor skills and recreation can appeal to their gross motor skills. These crafts and recreation activities have been designed to help preteens engage with the biblical content and give leaders opportunity to build relationships.
- Share with conferees that optional craft ideas can be found in the *VBS 2020 Crafts Rotation Leader Guide*.
- Share with conferees that optional recreation ideas can be found in the *VBS 2020 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*.
- Answer any questions. Thank conferees for coming.
- Pray with conferees asking God to bless each one as he or she prepares to lead preteens in VBX 2020 and help them learn that Jesus is our strong foundation.

ENGAGING PRETEENS IN CRAFTS & RECREATION

VBX Rotations



Daily Crafts



Recreation Options

1.

1.

2.

2.

3.

3.

4.

4.

5.

5.