VBS 2020 PRESCHOOL (3s–K) BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (2 HOURS)

Purpose Statement
This two-hour plan is designed to train and equip VBS directors and pastors to conduct LifeWay’s Concrete & Cranes VBS.

Needed Resources
- VBS 2020 Preschool Starter Kit
- VBS 2020 Keepsake Book (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2020 3s–Pre-K Leader Guide (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2020 3s–Pre-K Leader Pack (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2020 Kindergarten Leader Guide (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2020 Kindergarten Leader Pack (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2020 Multi-age Preschool Leader Guide
- VBS 2020 Multi-age Preschool Leader Pack
- 3 VBS 2020 Preschool Activity Books (2 included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2020 Music for Preschoolers (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2020 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack (included in Starter Kit) — Copy the Preschool Worship Rally Plan from the Music DVD-ROM.
- VBS 2020 Parent Guides
- VBS 2020 Tablecloth
- VBS 2020 Logo Stickers
- VBS 2020 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards
- VBS 2020 Preschool Memory Maker (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2020 Tool Apron (3) — Label each apron with an age group (3s–Pre-K, Kindergarten, Multi-age) and fill with the following items from the matching age group leader packs:
  - 3s–Pre-K: “Fill the Truck Book” (pack items 18a-b), “Fill the Truck Add-ons” (pack item 19), “Cup Building Cards” (pack items 29a-c)
  - Kindergarten: “Flashlight Work Site Book” (pack item 22), “Daily Teacher Tips” (pack item 8e)
  - Multi-age: “Braille Alphabet” (pack item 25a), “Play Dough Mats” (pack item 23a)
- VBS 2020 Concrete & Cranes Backpack — Place the following items inside the backpack: Velcro®, O-rings, bright orange or yellow cups, colored index cards, circle dot stickers, flashlight, glue, play dough
- Item 1: “Daily Building Blocks” — Copy onto paper or cardstock. Attach each block to a box (see below) and display in random order at the front of the room.
- Item 2: “Building a Strong Foundation at VBS” — Copy one per conferee.
- 5 plastic construction cones
- 5 index cards — Write the five rotation sites on individual index cards: Crafts, Music, Missions, Recreation, and Snack. Attach each index card to a cone.
- 5 plastic hard hats — Write the corresponding rotation site names on the front of the hats (one name per hat): Bulldozer, Jackhammer, Excavation, Wrecking Ball, and Food Truck.
- 20 small- to medium-size boxes (such as cereal, tissue, and paper boxes) or classroom blocks
- Brown or gray craft paper — Cover boxes if needed.
- Cardstock
- Construction paper
• Markers
• Tape or glue
• Large toy dump truck
• 16 small, smooth stones — Write one word of the Bible verse paraphrase and reference onto each stone. Place the stones in the dump truck.
• Plastic tools (6) — Label with the following words (1 item per tool) and place in tool box:
  o Music for Preschoolers CD
  o Preschool Activity Book
  o Photo from VBS
  o Church Calendar of Events
  o Small Group Information
  o Parenting Classes
• Toolbox
• CD player
• **Optional:** VBS 2020 Supersized Backdrop (005818608) or VBS 2020 Super Duper Sized Backdrop (005818609)
• **Optional:** VBS 2020 Visual Pack (005818612)
• **Optional:** VBS 2020 Caution Tape (005821522)
• **Optional:** VBS 2020 Construction Barricade (005821536)

**Room Setup**
Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the focal wall. Place a copy of Item 2 on each chair or distribute as conferees enter the room. Decorate the focal wall using Visual Pack posters, Supersized Backdrop, Caution Tape, Construction Barricade, sawhorses, buckets, and other construction items. Cover tables with tablecloths. Display the VBS curriculum on the tables.

**Teaching Steps**
1. **Welcome and Theme Overview** (5 minutes)
   • Play the VBS 2020 Music for Preschoolers CD as conferees enter the room.
   • Welcome everyone and open with prayer.
   • Play “Overworked” (Item 23, 3s–Pre-K Leader Pack). Tell conferees: “Work with one hammer.” (Make a fist and pretend to hammer with one hand.) Call out: “Two hammers!” Lead conferees to pound with both fists. Switch back and forth between one and two hammers. Then call out: Three hammers” for conferees to tap one foot while pounding with hands; “Four hammers” to alternate tapping both feet while pounding with hands; and “five hammers” to add nodding head to the other actions. To end the game, call: “Overworked!” and collapse to the chair or floor.
   • Share with the group that your hope for all of them is that attending this conference will keep them from feeling “overworked” during and after VBS because they will have prepared so well in advance!
   • Remind conferees that we want kids to know that Jesus’ love provides a foundation that will last. We have the honor of laying the first layer of that foundation! As they grow up, kids can remember that Jesus loves them. Our prayer is that they’ll learn to be wise builders who continue in what they’ve learned and firmly believe. And they will discover that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion!

2. **Bible Verse and Motto** (10 minutes)
   • Play the Bible verse song, “A Good Work in Me” (track 2).
   • Draw attention to the toy dump truck filled with the Bible verse stones.
• Ask two volunteers to dump the stones onto the table and place them in correct order. (Option: For larger groups, form two teams and have a competition.)
• Remind conferees that the preschool verse is actually a paraphrase of the Bible verse to help preschoolers understand it better. The full verse can be found in the Bible at Philippians 1:6.
• Lead the group to say the Bible verse together once the stones are in order.
• Teach the motions to the Bible verse song, then sing together.

3. Gather the Right Tools (10 minutes)
• Walk through the various resources available for teaching preschoolers in VBS.
• Preschool Starter Kit:
  o Show all of the age-graded resources available in kit, including the Rotation Pack and other items.
• Babies–2s Resources:
  o Explain that there is a change to this resource because LifeWay saw a need (and heard you). Many have expressed a need for foundational stories for babies and toddlers through age 2.
  o Babies–2s will use different Bible stories than the older ages. This year will launch a 3-year cycle, introducing 5 foundational Bible stories each year (from both the Old and New Testament). The theme will be the same as the older ages each year, including artwork and theme activities. Only the Bible content will be different.
  o Mention that as in the past, an accompanying leader pack and Keepsake Book are available to enhance teaching.
• Multi-age Resources
  o Mention that this is also a new change for VBS 2020. A new multi-age curriculum has been developed for churches who combine 3-year-olds through completed kindergartners into one class (due to small numbers, space restrictions, limited volunteers or resources, or personal preference).
  o The Preschool Multi-age Leader Guide and Leader Pack are NOT included in the Preschool Starter Kit. (This is because churches will most likely choose either a broadly-graded or a closely-graded approach, not both.)

4. Review the Blueprint (15 minutes)
• Draw attention to the handout (item 1). Suggest that conferees take notes as the session progresses, or they may choose to take it home and make copies for planning each day of VBS.
• Hold up a leader guide and point out the following sections:
  o Get Started
  o Overview
  o Schedule and Rotation Options
    ▪ Talk about options for scheduling.
    ▪ Shorter VBS time — Shorten or omit a rotation activity, intro activity, or closing group time.
    ▪ Longer VBS time — Use all four Bible-learning activities plus the bonus activity and increase allotted time for activities.
  o Characteristics of Preschoolers
  o Article on Children with Special Needs
  o Teacher Tips
  o Continue Building on the Foundation
5. Daily Building Blocks (20 minutes)
   • Form five groups and assign each a number from 1–5, indicating which day of the week they will be responsible for. (For smaller conferences, choose 5 volunteers instead of forming groups.)
   • Explain that each group will construct a building from the “daily building blocks” displayed at the front of the room. Point out that the cards on the building blocks have the following information: Bible story title, scripture reference, the point for the day, and the day’s icon.
   • Challenge the groups to match up the blocks to the information corresponding to the day of the week assigned to their group. Mention that this information can be found in the leader guides if help is needed.
   • Once all five buildings are complete, review the information for each day.

5. It’s All in the Details (30 minutes)
   • Briefly talk through the elements of a session (found in leader guides):
     o Worship Rally or Intro Activities
     o Group Time
     o Bible-learning Activities
     o Rotation Activities
     o Closing Group Time
   • Divide the room into three sections, one for each age group: 3s–Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Multi-age Preschool. Hand the corresponding leader pack to each group.
     o Allow a few moments for conferees to take out and examine the pack items.
     o Point out the Bible story pictures for each day with the stories on the back.
   • Pull the items from the prepare backpack. Describe each as you place them on the table (Velcro®, O-rings, bright orange or yellow cups, colored index cards, circle dot stickers, flashlight, glue, and play dough).
   • Distribute the labeled tool apron that matches the leader pack assigned to each group. Instruct each group to read the instructions for their pack items, then come up and get the items from the table that will help them use the pack item in the apron.
     o 3s–Pre-K — “Fill the Truck Book” (pack items 18a-b) “Fill the Truck Book Add-ons” (pack item 19): Velcro®, O-Rings; “Cup Building Cards” (pack items 29a-c): bright orange or yellow cups
     o Kindergarten — “Flashlight Work Site Book” (pack item 22): flashlight; “Daily Teacher Tips” (pack item 8e): colored index cards, circle dot stickers
     o Multi-age — “Braille Alphabet” (pack item 25a): glue; “Play Dough Mats” (pack item 23a): play dough

6. Rotations (15 minutes)
   • Invite five volunteers to each take a construction hat and toss it toward the corresponding rotation site cone.
   • Talk about each rotation in turn.
   • Briefly show and mention each rotation leader guide.
     o Point out that the Preschool Music Rotation DVD-ROM includes an outline for a Preschool Worship Rally. This outline uses songs from the Music for Preschoolers CD, a brief introduction of the day’s Bible story, and Bible verse
memory. Mention that this is a good alternative to sending preschoolers to the kids’ Worship Rally, which can be overwhelming to preschoolers.

- **Mention the 3 ways to use the Rotation Pack:**
  - Preschoolers rotate out — Preschoolers move to other locations for rotation.
  - Teachers rotate in — Rotation teachers move to the Bible study classrooms to lead rotation activities.
  - Self-contained classroom — Children and teachers remain in the Bible study classroom for all activities, including rotation activities. Bible study teachers lead most or all of these activities. Note that ideas for rotation activities (Music, Missions, Crafts, Recreation) for 3s–K are in the Rotation Pack. If teachers are including these activities in their classroom, they will need to get leader guides from the Rotation Pack.

- **Note that preschool-friendly snacks are included in the VBS 2020 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards** (available separately or in the Kids Starter Kit for Grades 1–6).

### 7. Continue Building on the Foundation (15 minutes)

- Pass the filled toolbox to each group.
- Ask two people from each group to pull a labeled tool out of the bag.
- Instruct each group to discuss the tools pulled and talk about how each can be used to continue connecting to VBS visitors as well as the surrounding community.
- Invite each group to briefly share highlights of their discussion with the larger group.
- Close in prayer.
Jesus Chose Matthew

Paul Listened and Obeyed

Jesus Prayed in the Garden
Jesus Made a Promise

The House on the Rock

Matthew 9:9-13
Matthew 7:24-29

Jesus chooses to love me.

Jesus loves me no matter what.
Jesus has a plan for me.

Jesus will always be with me.

Jesus helps me know how to live.
Item 1. Daily Building Blocks
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Building a Strong Foundation at VBS

Intro Activities / Worship Rally

Group Time

Bible Activity

Bible Activity

Bible Activity

Rotations

Closing Group Time