

## VBS 2021 MISSIONS ROTATION BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

### Purpose Statement

This 90-minute outline is designed to help conference leaders equip VBS missions rotation leaders to teach the missions rotation at their VBS.

### Needed Resources

- *VBS 2021 Missions Rotation Leader Guide with DVD-ROM*
- *VBS 2021 Music for Kids CD*
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (1 per conferee)*
- Missions Insert item 1: "NAMB Mission Poster" (see Missions Rotation Leader Guide)
- Missions Insert item 2: "London Mission Poster"
- Missions Insert item 3: "Mission Project Letter" — Photocopy on white paper (1 per conferee).
- Missions Insert item 4: "Plant Stick Flower Cards" — Photocopy on cardstock. Cut apart and use as directed in the leader guide.
- Missions Insert item 5: "Day 1 Market List" — Photocopy on white paper (1 per conferee).
- Missions Insert item 6: "Flower Petal Questions" — Photocopy on colored cardstock. Laminate the petals to make them sturdier for continued use and cut apart and use as directed in the leader guide.
- 2 pieces of poster board — Print the motto (Seek Truth! Find Jesus!) on one poster board.
- Print the Bible verse (Jeremiah 29:13) on the other.
- Presentation Board — Put the words "Prepare for the Dig" at the top of the presentation board. Put the word "Missions" going down the side of each board.
- Bucket or bin filled with sand or shredded paper
- Thick cardboard — Type or write the following phrases on very thick cardboard. Cut the phrases to look like shards of an artifact puzzle, but keep each phrase intact: *1 – Survey the Site. 2 – Lay Out the Grid. 3 – Excavate & Discover. 4 – Use the Right Tools. 5 – Treasure Your Finds.*
- 5 large (preschool) tweezers
- Tape
- Bible
- 6-petal flower pinwheel — Print the words *Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How* on the spinner or glue the petals from Insert Item 6 to the spinner.
- Game spinner (from an old game)
- 1-ounce plastic cup (1 per conferee)
- Small flower buttons or beads (1 per conferee)
- Green yarn or friendship thread (10-12 inches per conferee) — Thread the yarn (or thread) through the buttons ahead of time to help with time constraints.
- "Memory Maker Flowerpot Toss Game" — Make a sample of the "Memory Maker Flowerpot Toss Game" per the instructions on page 5 of the leader guide.
- Permanent markers
- Flower stickers
- Green craft stick
- ¾-inch label dots in various colors
- Large flowerpot
- Flower seed packet

- Gardening gloves
- CD player
- TV/DVD player

### Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Decorate the room to look like an open-air market. Use the suggestions on page 4 of the *VBS 2021 Missions Rotation Leader Guide*. Place the prepared project board in the center of a table as the focal point. Place the container of sand (or paper shreds) off to one side. Place the cut cardboard phrases into the sand or paper shreds. Put five of the large (preschool) tweezers underneath five random chairs in the room. Place the prepared buttons and thread, one-ounce cups, and stickers under each chair. Place the large flowerpot, gardening gloves, and flower seed packet on the opposite side of the container of sand. Place a copy of Missions Insert items 3 and 5 in each chair.

### Teaching Steps

#### 1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play music from the Music for Kids CD as conferees enter.
- Welcome conferees. Thank them for coming and their interest in both VBS and teaching kids about missions.
- Ask conferees if they have ever been on a mission trip. Let a couple of people share where they have been. Ask if they just decided to go on a whim or if they had to prepare and plan. Remind the group that they will need to prepare and plan to have a successful VBS.

#### 2. Motto and Scripture (5 minutes)

- Point to the poster with the motto and read it to the group.
- Find ways to encourage the group to learn the motto such as forming two teams and leading each team to shout its half of the motto.
- Point to the poster with the Bible verse (Jeremiah 29:13) on it. Read the verse to the group.
- Encourage the conferees to think about how this verse is speaking to them. Share about a time when you lost something that was relatively insignificant so you didn't seek it with all your heart. Then share about a time when you lost something (or someone) that was very valuable to you and you looked for it earnestly (with all your heart). Explain that's how we should be seeking after Jesus—with all our hearts.

#### 3. Decorating Missions Market (5 minutes)

- Point out the things brought in to decorate for the Missions Market.
- Encourage the group to use things they have at home or things that friends may let them borrow to place in the market. Brightly colored fabrics, crates with real or artificial fruit, flowers, pottery, and large flowerpots all work well.
- Tell conferees that the instructions for decorating are found on page 4 in the Missions Rotation Leader Guide.
- Mention that some missions leaders may be traveling from room to room to teach missions. This would be a great opportunity to decorate the TV cart with the items that would be found in the market. For additional ideas, encourage conferees to watch the Missions Market decorating video on the VBS website ([lifeway.com/vbs](http://lifeway.com/vbs)).

#### 4. Prepare for the Dig (5 minutes)

- Encourage conferees to look under their chairs.
- Ask the 5 people who have the large tweezers under their chairs to go to the prepared dig site (sand box or box of shredded paper), find an artifact, and take it back to their seats.

**5. Survey The Site (5 minutes)**

- Ask the person who dug up the first piece (numbered 1) to read the artifact and tape it on the project board under the title.
- Let the conferees know that they need to be aware of the Bible study each day. This information can be found on page 3 of the leader guide. Encourage them to read the Scripture for each day and pray that God will speak to them through His Word. Remind them that we teach from the overflow of what God is doing in our own lives.
- Encourage the group to pray for themselves, the other leaders, and helpers at VBS. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with their community.

**6. Lay Out the Grid (10 minutes)**

- Instruct the person who dug up the second artifact (numbered 2) to read the artifact and tape it on the project board under the first one.
- Ask the conferees to think of information that missions leaders will need to find out from the VBS Director. Lead them to share these with the group. Make sure the following items are shared:
  - Ages and number of children.
  - How long for each rotation?
  - Will I rotate to each classroom or will the children come to me?
  - Where is the room located?
  - The schedule for rotations.
  - Who will enlist other leaders and helpers?
  - Will there be training or other expectations?
  - Am I responsible for my own supplies or is there a process for requesting supplies?
  - Where will first-aid be located?
- Mention that leaders should select activities based on the amount of time and the number of children. Then begin gathering supplies and making copies.
- Suggest that leaders label a box or crate for each day and place the collected supplies in the appropriate box.

**7. Excavate and Discover (5 minutes)**

- Ask the participant who has the third artifact to read it and tape it under number 2.
- Encourage conferees to read through the teaching materials thoroughly to find things they may have originally missed. They should highlight key points to remember and make notes for ways to use the Bible Story Summaries and to reinforce each day's point.
- Remind the group to relax and have fun and enjoy finding ways to build relationships with the children they will teach each day.
- Conferees should also remember to be flexible. Sometimes things come up and we have to change our plans. We must learn to adjust our plans to make VBS the best experience possible for leaders and the kids.

**8. Use the Right Tools (5 minutes)**

- Instruct the conferee who has Artifact #4 to read it and tape it under the others.
- Remind conferees that they will need the Missions Rotation Leader Guide to teach grades 1-6. If preschoolers will be coming to the missions rotation, leaders will need to use the preschool missions rotation guide from the *VBS 2021 3s-Kindergarten Rotation Pack* to teach preschoolers.
- Explain that the DVD is in the Missions Rotation Leader Guide, but if they prefer to tell the missions stories, they are found on pages 22-24 of the leader guide.

**9. Day 1 — Missions Rotation (20 minutes)**

- Tell the person with the 5<sup>th</sup> artifact to hold on to it and you will come back to it, but for now we're going to walk through Day 1 of the missions rotation.
- Explain to the group that as the children come to missions each day leaders should immediately engage them in conversation. Some days it may be reviewing the previous day's missions rotation. On other days, it might be a conversation about what they learned in Bible study. Don't miss this opportunity to talk with the kids and build a relationship with kids.
- Show the "NAMB Poster" (insert item 1) and point out the locations on the map to explain what is meant by North America. Define church planters and talk about how planting a church is like planting flowers. Comment: "We plant a seed, water it, make sure it gets sunlight, and watch it grow. Church planters find fertile soil and plant seeds of faith in peoples' lives. They disciple people and help them understand what it means to be a Christian and then they watch the individuals and the church grow."
- Discuss with the group about SEND cities and how they should be careful that the children clearly understand the word SEND and don't mistake it for "sin."
- Explain that in the daily missions videos they will see kids who are helping their parents start new churches in cities across the United States. The North American Mission Board videos will not focus on just one city, but on multiple cities.
- Show the group the prepared "Flower Petal Spinner." Encourage conferees to watch the video carefully and be ready to answer some questions about what they see and hear.
- Play the Day 1 NAMB video, "Church Planters in Miami" or tell the missions story.
- Review the video by using the "Flower Petal Spinner." Invite one conferee to spin the flower and ask her a question about the video beginning with the word on the petal. As time allows, allow other volunteers to spin and answer questions (see p. 7 of the leader guide).
- Point out the small group tips and large group tips in the margins on page 7 of the leader guide. Offer additional suggestions for this review game such as putting the question petals on green craft sticks and allowing children to draw them out or even using an old game spinner and taping the petals to the old spinner.
- Call attention to the "London Missions Poster" (insert item 2). Explain to the group that the International Mission Board videos this year will focus on missionaries in London.
- Call attention to the "Market List" (Insert Item 5) and instruct conferees to check off the items on their lists as they watch the video.
- Play the Day 1 IMB video, "London Missions" or tell the missions story.
- After the video, review items on the list and invite conferees to comment briefly on each item (as time allows).
- Brainstorm with the group other ideas to produce the market list rather than making a copy for each child. Some ideas may be making a large poster that the group can see or making enough copies for one group and placing them in a transparent sleeve and letting children use a dry-erase marker to check them off. This would enable multiple groups to use the pages.

**10. Kids Dig Missions (Mission Project) (10 minutes)**

- Ask the group if they can think of something that a gardener and an archaeologist have in common. (*They both dig in the dirt.*) Archaeologists dig to discover evidence of what has happened in the past. Gardeners dig to prepare the soil, to sow, and to harvest plants.
- Explain that this year's suggested mission project is to collect seed packets, which will be added to flowerpots decorated by the kids. The flowerpots (with soil and planted seeds) will be taken to people who are homebound on the church roll or in the community, assisted

living centers, or to friends and neighbors as a way to serve others and tell them about Jesus.

- Call attention to the “Missions Project Letter” (Insert Item 3). Explain that if churches choose to do this mission project, advance preparation will be needed and a mission project coordinator enlisted to oversee delivering the flowerpots and seeds. Missions leaders may want to give copies of this letter to the VBS Director to give to parents when they register their child for VBS.
- Give each conferee a craft stick, a prepared flower card, and label dots. Lead them to tape the card to the green craft stick and then place a dot in the center. Explain that each day of VBS they will add a new dot. Talk about each aspect of missions on the flower (Learn, Pray, Do, Give, and Encourage). If time allows, lead conferees to put each dots on their flowers as you discuss each of the aspects.
- Mention that the instructions for the mission project are on page 21 of the leader guide.
- Allow participants to share other missions projects they have done through VBS.

#### **11. Treasure Your Finds (10 minutes)**

- Invite the conferee with the final artifact to read what it says (“Treasure Your Finds”) and tape it to the bottom of the list.
- Explain that one of the optional activities for the week is a “Memory Maker Flowerpot Toss Game.” The game instructions are on page 5 of the leader guide. Lead each participant to make one of the toss games with the prepared items and decorate them with markers or stickers. Allow time for them to try flipping the button up and trying to catch it in the cup.
- Explain that for churches using the *VBS 2021 Kids Memory Maker*, this is an excellent item for kids to add to their Memory Maker Bags. Regardless, this game is a great reminder to kids of what they learned during missions rotation.
- Talk about the importance of building relationships with the children during the missions rotation. Encourage leaders to look for opportunities to share their personal testimonies.
- Give each conferee a “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” tract. Explain that this information is also on the inside front cover of the Missions Rotation Leader Guide. Everyone who will be helping in any way during VBS should become familiar with this info and comfortable talking with a child about salvation. This pamphlet gives the child something to take home after having a gospel conversation.
- Remind participants that they will also need to plan to be a part of their church’s VBS Celebration and other follow-up events.
- Recap: “During this session we’ve discussed the importance of building relationships with the children. We want to make connections with the kids and their families and then we want to look for ways to stay connected with the families.”

#### **12. Closing and Prayer (5 minutes)**

- Ask the group if they have any questions about missions rotation.
- Remind them to encourage churches to find ways to offer missions rotation during VBS, even with an abbreviated schedule. This may be accomplished by incorporating missions into Worship Rally, by combining missions with snacks, or by offering an abbreviated missions rotation. Comment: “Missions is too important for churches to leave it out!”
- Thank the participants for coming and close in prayer.