

VBS 2021 MULTI-AGE PRESCHOOL AND KIDS OVERVIEW

Purpose Statement

This 50-minute plan is designed to train and equip VBS teachers to lead a broadly-graded group of 3s–Kindergartners or 1st–6th graders using Lifeway’s Multi-age Bible study curriculum materials.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2021 Multi-age Starter Kit* (005829563); OR *VBS 2021 Multi-Age Starter Kit with Digital Leader Guides Add-on* (005829678); OR
 - *VBS 2021 Multi-age Preschool Bible Study Leader Guide* (005825728)
 - *VBS 2021 Multi-age Preschool Bible Study Leader Pack* (005825729)
 - *VBS 2021 Preschool Activity Book* (005825709)
 - *VBS 2021 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* (005825730)
 - *VBS 2021 Multi-age Kids Bible Study Leader Guide* (005825626)
 - *VBS 2021 Multi-age Kids Bible Study Leader Pack* (005825628)
 - *VBS 2021 Kids Activity Book* (005825633)
 - *VBS 2021 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards* (005825629)
 - *VBS 2021 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards* (005826459)
 - *VBS 2021 Crafts Rotation Leader Guide* (005826456)
 - *VBS 2021 Missions Rotation Leader Guide with DVD-ROM* (005826457)
 - *VBS 2021 Music Rotation Leader Guide with DVD* (005826458)
- *VBS 2021 Preschool Memory Maker* (005826996)
- *VBS 2021 Kids Memory Maker* (005826995)
- *VBS 2021 Devotional Bible for Kids CSB* (005826892)
- *VBS 2021 Devotional Bible for Kids KJV* (005826891)
- *Lifeway VBS App* — Download from your mobile device's app store.
- Item 1. Artifact Match — Make one copy for each conferee.
- Item 2. Artifact Match Answer Key
- Disposable latex- and powder-free disposable gloves — Place a box of gloves near the curriculum display with a sign that states: *Please wear gloves while touching curriculum materials.*
- Hand sanitizer

Room Setup

Place a tent in a corner of the room, such as the *VBS 2021 Dig Site Tent* (005829830). Play VBS 2021 music as conferees arrive. Arrange chairs in a semi-circle, at least 6 feet apart for social distancing purposes. Cover the focal wall with a *VBS 2021 Supersized Backdrop*. Cover a table with a *VBS 2021 Tablecloth* and display the curriculum alongside hand tools and other tabletop decorations. Drape *VBS 2021 String Flags* across the doorway. For additional decorating ideas, consider using suggestions found in the *VBS 2021 Multi-age Preschool Bible Study Leader Guide* (005825728) or the *VBS 2021 Multi-age Kids Bible Study Leader Guide* (005825626).

Teaching Steps

1. Why Am I Here? (3 minutes)

- Play music from the Music for Kids CD as conferees enter.
- Welcome conferees. Introduce yourself, stating what your VBS role is at your church.
- Acknowledge the challenges churches faced with VBS in relation to COVID-19.
- Invite volunteers to briefly share their VBS experiences during the past year.
- Pray, thanking God for using VBS in 2020 and asking for His blessing on VBS this year.

2. Why do I Need Multi-age Resources? (5 minutes)

- Explain that in VBS, multi-age refers to the following two broadly-graded age groups:
 - Preschool (ages 3–completed Kindergarten)
 - Kids (completed grades 1–6)
- Mention that churches can fine-tune their own definitions of preschool multi-ages and kids multi-ages. For example, preschool might include children younger than 3 and/or younger than Kindergarten. “Kids” generally refers to elementary-aged children and might include Kindergarten and may or may not include preteens.
- Talk about the heart behind the multi-age resources by answering the question, “What is the purpose of the multi-age resources?”
 - Three possible reasons we might choose to use the multi-age resources are:
 - Allow for multiple ages to rotate together.
 - Provide interaction and relationship building with more than one age group, such as teacher-to-child and child-to-child interactions.
 - Provide a solution for churches with only a few children in each age group or grade.
 - Provide a solution for churches with few volunteers.
 - Ask conferees to list additional reasons a church might choose to use multi-age resources.
 - Stress that multi-age resources are for all sizes of churches meeting in a variety of locations, from a park to a traditional building.

3. What Resources Do I Need to Teach Multi-age Groups? (5 minutes)

- Say: “The basic resource you need is either the *VBS 2021 Multi-age Starter Kit* (005829563), or the *VBS 2021 Multi-Age Starter Kit with Digital Leader Guides Add-on* (005829678). This will include everything you need to get started.”
- Unpack the Starter Kit (or show the individual components if you don’t have the actual box). Briefly describe each item.
- Remind conferees of the importance of the *VBS 2021 Preschool Activity Book* (005825709) and the *VBS 2021 Kids Activity Book* (005825633). These resources are used both in Bible study and at home to reinforce Bible learning and life application of Bible truths.
- Mention that this is the second year that *Memory Makers* have been a part of Lifeway’s VBS.
- Comment: “Both the *VBS 2021 Preschool Memory Maker* (005826996) and the *VBS 2021 Kids Memory Maker* (005826995) are designed to help preschoolers and kids remember foundational Bible truths long after VBS is over.”
- Explain that the Memory Makers this year include daily tags with icons to remind children of a simple, essential truth from each day’s Bible story. The daily tags are stored in a drawstring bag. Rotation and Bible Study leaders are encouraged to give kids additional reminders and keepsakes to place in their bags that are designed to help kids recall Bible truths and other fun experiences from VBS.
- Show your device with the downloaded LifeWay VBS app and talk about how the app can be used in class and at home to continue Bible learning.

4. What Does a Multi-age VBS Schedule Look Like? (5 minutes)

- Briefly present the Preschool schedule options:
 - Opening — Choose one of the three options, below:
 - Attend Worship Rally (Either attend with older elementary kids, or...)

- Use the Preschool Worship Rally Outline included in the *VBS 2021 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* (005825730), or...
 - Use the Introductory Activities in the *VBS 2021 Multi-age Preschool Bible Study Leader Guide* (005825728).
- Bible Study:
 - Group Time
 - Bible-learning Activities
- Rotation Activities:
 - Rotate Out — Teachers accompany kids to each rotation, stay with them during rotation activities, and then lead them back to their main room for closing group time.
 - Rotate In — Teachers are enlisted to come to the preschool rooms and lead rotation activities. After teaching the 20-minute session, rotation teachers then move to another classroom.
 - Self-contained Classroom — Children and teachers remain in the same room for all activities.
- Closing Group Time
- Briefly talk about schedule options for Multi-age Kids:
 - Worship Rally — Opening
 - Bible Study:
 - 30 minutes for Bible Study — Use the 30-minute Bible Study Plan as written for each session. You will not need the Additional Activity Options unless you choose to substitute one of the Additional Activities for an activity in the 30-minute plan.
 - 40 or more minutes for Bible Study — Use the 30-minute Bible Study Plan. Then, select activities from the Additional Activity Options found at the end of each session to extend your time as needed.
 - Two Bible Study Times (opening and closing Bible study sessions) — Use the 30-minute Bible Study Plan during the opening session. Add Additional Activity Options as needed for an opening session of more than 30 minutes. Use any of the remaining Additional Activity Options for the closing Bible study time.
 - Rotations
 - Closing Bible Study and/or Worship Rally — Closing

5. Tips for Teaching Multi-ages in One Room (10 minutes)

- Preschool — Brainstorm tips and discuss. Be sure to include these tips:
 - Use the *Extend the Activity* suggestions in the Leader Guide.
 - Guide kindergartners to help younger preschoolers.
 - Allow extra time for younger preschoolers to complete activities, transition, etc.
- Kids — Brainstorm tips and discuss. Be sure to include these tips:
 - Ask older kids to be your “assistant” and help the younger kids with games or activities. They may be able to assist early readers with *Activity Books* and other reading activities. Older kids will be focused and learning right along with their younger peers.
 - For games requiring gross-motor skills, pair older kids with younger kids in order to even the playing field.
 - Share the Bible story with the whole group, but break into smaller groups for application activities.
 - Group older kids together and younger kids together.

- Give directions prior to class time to assistant teachers who will be responsible for those groups.
- Add a challenge to the older group's activity.
- Simplify the younger kids' activity.
- **Remember to make sure no teacher or assistant is alone with kids.**
- In a multi-age group of kids, older kids may not be the most knowledgeable when it comes to Bible skills or facts. Kids new to church may not know as much as the younger kids who are regular attenders. Older kids can be embarrassed for a younger child to help them, so some Bible skills are best to teach as if the whole group is learning for the first time.
- Use a variety of teaching methods:
 - Kids will tend to gravitate toward others with similar interests. If you offer options like a game to play, a craft to make, or something musical, kids may naturally group themselves by similar interests. When kids are interested in an activity, behavior is better and learning happens more effectively.
 - In each daily session, the *VBS 2021 Multi-age Kids Bible Study Leader Guide* (005825626) provides activities designed specifically for younger and older kids. (Show conferees an example from the *Leader Guide*.)
 - The Leader Guide also suggests adaptations for younger and older kids. (Show conferees an example from the Leader Guide.)
- Be flexible. This tip helps no matter what combination of ages you are teaching, but it is especially true with multi-age groups. If something is not working, be prepared to move to the next thing. Always have a couple of things planned you might not use. Having a couple of good "back pocket" ideas that would work anytime is a good idea. This saves the time of preparing these each time you teach.

6. What Exactly Will I be Teaching Multi-age Groups? (5 minutes)

- Briefly overview the Preschool Bible content:
 - Day 1
 - Truth: Jesus Came as Promised
 - Bible Story: Jesus Was Born
 - Day 2
 - Truth: Jesus Demonstrated God's Power
 - Bible Story: Jesus Healed a Blind Man
 - Day 3
 - Truth: Jesus Is Our Example
 - Bible Story: Jesus Helped His Friends (Washed Their Feet)
 - Day 4
 - Truth: Jesus Is Alive
 - Bible Story: Jesus Is Alive!
 - Day 5
 - Truth: The Bible Is True
 - Bible Story: Philip Told the Good News
- Briefly overview the Kids Bible content, pointing out when it is different from Preschool:
 - Day 1
 - Truth: Jesus Came as God Promised
 - Bible Story: Jesus Was Born
 - Day 2
 - Truth: Jesus Demonstrated God's Power

- Bible Story: Jesus Healed a Blind Man
- Day 3
 - Truth: Jesus Was Betrayed and Rejected
 - Bible Story: Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection
- Day 4
 - Truth: Jesus Died and Rose Again
 - Bible Story: Jesus Is Alive!
- Day 5
 - Truth: The Bible Is True
 - Bible Story: Philip Told the Good News

7. How Can I Connect Multi-ages with Biblical Archaeology? (10 minutes)

- Talk about the importance of immersing preschoolers and kids in the Bible by teaching about the original context of the biblical text.
- Say: “Kids get excited when they learn about the existence of real places and objects that are either mentioned in the Bible or that are thousands of years old.”
- Emphasize: “Each day’s Bible story ties an Old Testament prophecy with its fulfillment in the New Testament.”
- Talk about how the artifact in each daily session helps kids make that connection:
 - Day 1—*Qumran Jar*: In the late 1940s a shepherd made an exciting discovery, a cave containing what appeared to be ancient scrolls. Others soon began to explore the caves located amid the limestone cliffs along the northwestern rim of the Dead Sea. This amazing collection, known as the *Dead Sea Scrolls*, not only includes a few near-complete scrolls, but also tens of thousands of scroll fragments from every book of the Old Testament except for the book of Esther. The collection includes more than 900 different texts in various languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek).
 - Day 2—*Pool Of Siloam Steps*: In June 2004, the steps leading to the Pool of Siloam were found! Workmen doing repair to a large water pipe south of Jerusalem’s Temple Mount discovered two ancient stone steps. After further excavation, it was determined that the steps were part of a pool from the Second Temple, the Pool of Siloam. The structure was 225 feet long.
 - Day 3—
 - Preschool—*Water Jar*: Jesus probably used a water jar when he washed the disciples’ feet.
 - Kids—*Steps To Caiaphas’ House*: A path of stone steps at one time descended from Mount Zion to the Kidron Valley. Jesus and His disciples would have most likely followed this path to Gethsemane and, later, back up to Caiaphas’ house.
 - Day 4—*Rolling Tomb Stone*: During Jesus’ lifetime, the poor or lower class utilized nearby caves for burial. Only the wealthy could purchase a tomb cut out of the rock, and only the wealthy could afford a rolling stone for the opening. In fact, very few exist. The vast majority of people would simply place a square block stone against the cave entrance.
 - Day 5—*The Great Isaiah Scroll*: Today’s artifact is the same portion of Scripture the Ethiopian was reading. In fact, *The Great Isaiah Scroll* is one of the original seven Dead Sea Scrolls found. It is the largest and best-preserved biblical scroll and dates to about 125 BC.
- Distribute copies of “Artifact Match” (Item 1) to each conferee. Guide conferees to match each day’s Bible story with the daily truth and artifact.

- Review the conferees' answers, using the "Artifact Match Answer Key" (Item 2).

8. Wrap Up (2 minutes)

- Comment: "Using biblical archaeology, Old Testament prophecy, and New Testament Bible stories, this year, more than ever before, we can help boys and girls discover the truth of God's Word as we guide them to discover the truth about Jesus."
- Mention that the theme verse reminds us and the kids we teach that we will discover the truth if we follow God's instruction: "You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart." (*Jeremiah 29:13, CSB*)
- Close by praying again for God to work through all of us to guide families and kids to seek God as we present the gospel of Jesus.

Artifact Match

Below the image of each pair of artifacts, place the number of the corresponding Bible story and the letter of the matching truth. Some pairs of images may require more than one answer. For an added challenge, name each artifact.



STORY

TRUTH

ARTIFACT



STORY

TRUTH

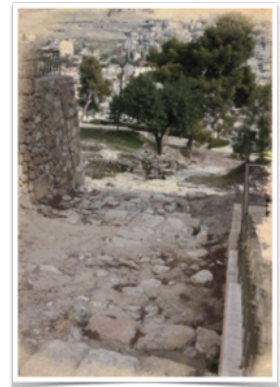
ARTIFACT



STORY

TRUTH

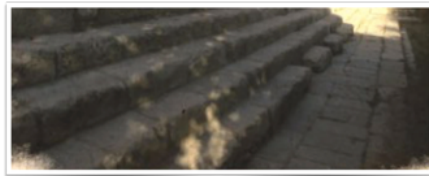
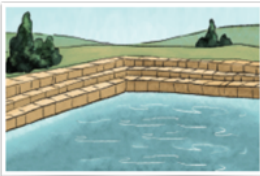
ARTIFACT



STORY

TRUTH

ARTIFACT



STORY

TRUTH

ARTIFACT

Bible Story

1. Jesus Is Alive!
2. Philip Told the Good News
3. Jesus Healed a Blind Man
4. Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection
5. Jesus Was Born
6. Jesus Helped His Friends

Truth

- A. Jesus Demonstrated God's Power
- B. Jesus Was Betrayed and Rejected
- C. Jesus Came as Promised
- D. Jesus Is Our Example
- E. The Bible Is True
- F. Jesus Is Alive
- G. Jesus Died and Rose Again

Artifact Match (Answer Key)

Below the image of each pair of artifacts, place the number of the corresponding Bible story and the letter of the matching truth. Some pairs of images may require more than one answer. For an added challenge, name each artifact.



5

C

Qumran Jar

STORY

TRUTH

ARTIFACT



2

E

The Great Isaiah Scroll

STORY

TRUTH

ARTIFACT



1

F,G

Rolling Tomb Stone

STORY

TRUTH

ARTIFACT



6,4

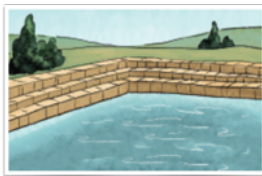
D,B

Water Jar,
Steps To
Caiaphas' House

STORY

TRUTH

ARTIFACT



3

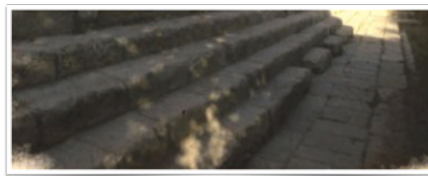
A

Pool Of Siloam Steps

STORY

TRUTH

ARTIFACT



Bible Story

1. Jesus Is Alive!
2. Philip Told the Good News
3. Jesus Healed a Blind Man
4. Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection
5. Jesus Was Born
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Truth

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