

VBS 2021 CHILDREN'S MUSIC ROTATION BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute conference plan is designed to train and equip leaders to conduct LifeWay's Destination Dig™ music rotation for 1st–6th grades.

Needed Resources

- 6 Bibles — Locate the theme verse and each day's Bonus Verse and mark them in a Bible with a *VBS 2021 Bookmark* (one verse per Bible). Place the Bibles underneath six different chairs.
- *VBS 2021 Music Rotation Leader Guide with DVD*
- *VBS 2021 Music Rotation and Musical CD*
- *VBS 2021 Music for Kids CD*
- *VBS 2021 Tablecloth*
- *VBS 2021 Supersized Backdrop*
- *VBS 2021 Bookmarks* — Number five of the bookmarks 1–5. Place #1 at Day 1's Bonus Verse reference, #2 at Day 2's reference, and so forth. Mark the sixth bookmark with a star and place it in a Bible at the theme verse, Jeremiah 29:13.
- CD player
- TV/DVD player

Room Setup

Center a large screen on the focal wall. Arrange chairs in a semi-circle in two or more rows in front of the screen. Allow plenty of room to move. Cover the focal wall with a *VBS 2021 Supersized Backdrop*. Cover a table with a *VBS 2021 Tablecloth* and display the curriculum alongside small hand tools and other tabletop decorations. Decorate the room using tips from page 29 of the *VBS 2021 Music Rotation Leader Guide*.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (3 minutes)

- Play VBS music as conferees arrive.
- Welcome conferees and engage them in conversation by asking where they are from, how long they have been doing VBS, or what their favorite part of VBS is. Building these relationships will help create an inviting atmosphere. Some conferees will love motions, but may be intimidated to do them in front of other adults. This will help get them out of their shells.
- Explain that this conference will introduce the songs, motions, and the Bible content for each day of VBS. Explain that while conferees likely will not be able to master all of the movements today, you will help them develop strategies to break down the songs and teach a gospel-centered music rotation.

- Explain the WHY behind music rotation. Explain that it is not just dancing or getting the choreography exactly right. The purpose of this rotation is to create another avenue for kids to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Kids learn in different ways and many of them are active learners. These songs will stick in their minds and hearts long after the week of VBS. These songs are full of biblical truths (and Scripture) that the kids can take with them for the rest of their lives.

2. Tools for Desert Cave Music (5 minutes)

Overview each of the resources needed for music rotation.

- *VBS 2021 Music Rotation Leader Guide* — Includes daily lesson plans for teaching the music and motions, opening and closing activities, as well as an overview of each day's Bible story. The guide also contains step-by-step written instructions of the motions as a quick reference.
- Music Rotation DVD — Located inside the Music Rotation Leader Guide, the DVD includes instructional and demonstration videos for learning and practicing the motions, performance videos (with kid dancers), lyric videos (lyrics synced to animated backgrounds—no choreography shown onscreen), and music videos.
- *VBS 2021 Music for Kids CD* — Includes all six songs from VBS. Distribute these CDs before VBS to help leaders and kids learn all the VBS songs or send them home as a souvenir of the week. Kids will sing them all summer long!
- LifeWay VBS App — The VBS app includes all of the VBS songs. This is a great way to get the music home with a family.

3. Theme Song: Destination Dig (15 minutes)

- Lead the group on an archaeological search under their chairs to find the Bible with the star on the bookmark. Invite the person who finds it to read Jeremiah 29:13: "You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart." (CSB)
- Explain that during VBS we will be looking through God's Word to find biblical truths, but we will also be discovering what people have dug up from the ground to show that proves God's Word is true.
- Lead the group to say the motto: "Seek Truth! Find Jesus!" Clap a rhythm to match and encourage everyone to join in. Lead the group to clap and say the motto a few times.
- Begin teaching the Theme Song. Start with the first move. Next, teach the chorus. Then teach the last pose of the song.
- Explain that teaching just these three parts will introduce the bulk of the choreography, but will also give both adults and kids confidence. Even if they get lost, they will be able to jump back in at the chorus and then nail the last move.
- Play the song and lead everyone to do the motions.

4. Day 1: Jesus Was Born (15 minutes)

- Lead the group to search for the Bible marked with the #1. Invite the person with that Bible to read Isaiah 9:6a out loud: "For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us" (CSB).

- Review the Bible story for Day 1. Reinforce that the purpose of music is not for kids to leave as Broadway-ready dancers, but for them to hear biblical truths they can apply to their lives. Music at VBS is not about performance ... it's about teaching!
 - Day 1: Jesus Came as God Promised
 - The Point: Jesus is the Savior God promised.
- Ask the group what a promise means. Have they ever broken a promise?
 - Talk about the amazing promise God made in the Old Testament to send a Savior. That promise was fulfilled in the New Testament through Jesus!
- Teach the song, "Christmas Song in Summer."
- Teach the first move, the chorus, and the ending pose.
- Play the song and lead the group to sing along and do the motions they just learned.

5. Day 2: Jesus Healed a Blind Man (15 minutes)

- Lead the group to search for the Bible marked with the #2. Invite the person with that Bible to read John 9:33: "If this man were not from God, he wouldn't be able to do anything" (CSB).
- Review the Bible story for Day 2.
 - Day 2: Jesus Demonstrated God's Power
 - The Point: Jesus has the power God promised.
- Ask everyone to close their eyes. On the count of three, lead everyone to open them.
- Ask: "What did you feel when you opened your eyes?" There was probably some transition from complete darkness to the bright light. Ask conferees to think about what it would have been like for the man who was born blind to suddenly be able to see.
- Lead the group to make muscles with both arms and say: "Jesus has the power!"
- Read a phrase from the chorus and lead the group to respond with "Jesus has the power" while making muscles.
 - Stronger than our doubt. (*Jesus has the power.*)
 - Stronger than our fear. (*Jesus has the power.*)
 - Healer of our hearts. (*Jesus has the power.*)
 - Healer of our souls. (*Jesus has the power.*)
- Comment: "Jesus is stronger than all of those things and will always be there to take care of us."
- Teach the first and last motions to "Strong and Mighty."
- Play the music and lead the group to sing along and do the motions.
- After the song, lead the group to remember the phrase "Jesus has the power" by starting the phrase ("Jesus has the...") and leading the group to finish it with "POWER!" as they make muscles.

6. Day 3: Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection (15 minutes)

- Lead the group to search for the Bible marked with the #3. Invite the person with that Bible to read Matthew 20:28: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (CSB).
- Review the Bible story for Day 3. Show how great God's love is for us!

- Day 3: Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection
 - The Point: Jesus knew what would happen and still followed God's plan.
- Explain that Day 3's song is the ABC song. Take some time to go over the ABCs and what they stand for:
 - A—Admit
 - B—Believe
 - C—Confess
- Review "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" found in the inside front cover of the Music Rotation Leader Guide. Explain that the ABCs are one response to hearing the gospel presented. Challenge leaders to be sensitive to the work of the Holy Spirit and to be sure to explain the ABCs clearly when teaching this song during VBS.
- Remind conferees that Bible stories kids will hear during Destination Dig are not just stories heard at church. They are true stories that actually happened. They are true and powerful.
- Teach the chorus and the first and last motions of "Dig It" before playing the song.
- Mention that as conferees perform the motions to this song, you will be looking to see who can do the best "dig it" motion.

7. Day 4: Jesus Is Alive (15 minutes)

- Lead the group to search for the Bible marked with the #4. Invite the person with that Bible to read John 11:15: "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live" (CSB).
- Review the Bible story for Day 4. Explain how God kept His promise by sending His Son to earth and how Jesus was the Savior the people had been waiting for. The best part is that Jesus is no longer dead! He is alive and we get to celebrate this fact and worship Him for what He did for us.
 - Day 4: Jesus is Alive
 - The Point: Jesus fulfilled God's plan to be our Savior.
- Teach the motions for "You Are My Life." As you explain the motions for the chorus, point out that the lyrics are the bonus verse from John 11:15.
- Play the song and encourage conferees to not only watch the motions but to listen to the lyrics and create a posture of worship.

8. Day 5: Philip Told the Good News (15 minutes)

- Lead the group to search for the Bible marked with the #5. Invite the person with that Bible to read Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (CSB).
- Review the Bible story for Day 4. Lead the group to look back and recall each day's point. Remind them of the Old Testament prophecies from each day that found their fulfillment in the New Testament through Jesus. Say: "Every single one of the prophecies about Jesus came true. The Bible is trustworthy and we can use every part of it to help others learn about Jesus."
 - Day 5: The Bible Is True
 - The Point: The Bible is true and helps us tell others about Jesus.

- Teach the motions to "It's True." As you teach the chorus motions, spend extra time with the lyrics, "Every line, every phrase, every word on each page."
 - Comment: "The Bible isn't sometimes true or partially true. It is God's Word and every single word is true. We can trust that when we seek truth in the pages of Scripture, we will find it!"
- Lead the group to sing and do the motions to "It's True."

9. Closing (2 minutes)

- Thank conferees for attending and for their commitment not only to kids but to the gospel. Remind them their main objective is to instill these biblical truths into kid's lives!
- Pray for the leaders, their VBSs, and the kid whose lives will be impacted by these truths.