

VBS 2021 PRESCHOOL BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute teaching plan is designed to train and equip teachers of 3s–Pre-K, Kindergartners, and multi-age groups of preschoolers with LifeWay’s 2021 Destination Dig™ preschool Bible study materials.

Needed Resources

- VBS 2021 Preschool Starter Kit (005827011)
- VBS 2021 Keepsake Book (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2021 Babies–2s Leader Guide (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2021 Babies–2s Leader Pack (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2021 3s–Pre-K Leader Guide (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2021 3s–Pre-K Leader Pack (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2021 Kindergarten Leader Guide (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2021 Kindergarten Leader Pack (included in Starter Kit)
- 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 (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2021 Music for Preschoolers CD (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2021 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack (included in Starter Kit)
- VBS 2021 Parent Guides
- VBS 2021 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards (005826459)
- VBS 2021 Backpack (005828276)
- VBS 2021 Preschool Memory Maker (005826996, one included in Starter Kit)
- Item 1: “Dig into the Bible Content” — Photocopy 1 per conferee.
- Plastic tub — Fill with shredded brown paper or play sand.
- 5 flat disks or plates (1 per day) — Cut each disk into four pieces to create a puzzle. Draw dots on the corners of each set of pieces to indicate which day of VBS the disk matches. (For example, one dot on each of Day 1’s pieces, two dots on each of Day 2’s pieces, etc.) On each of the day’s four pieces, print the following information: *Daily Point*, *Daily Icon*, *Bible Story Title*, and *Session Title*. Bury all 20 pieces in the shredded paper.
- Small cylindrical cardboard container with lid — Create a scroll jar by covering the cylinder with crumpled brown paper, distressed with a brown crayon) to make the paper look aged. Glue in place. Cut two small holes in the lid. Insert one end of a chenille stem (cut in half) in each of the holes. Bend and twist the ends to hold in place.
- Brown paper lunch sack — Cut open and lay flat on the table (trim off bottom flap). Print the preschool Bible verse paraphrase on the bag. Crumple several times until paper looks aged. Roll up like a scroll and tie with twine. Place in the prepared scroll jar.
- Parachute — Open on the floor in an open area of the room.
- Various archaeology tools such as a paintbrush, tongs, flashlight, spade — Place on top of the parachute.
- **Optional:** VBS 2021 Supersized Backdrop (005826464) or VBS 2020 Super Duper Sized Backdrop (005826468); VBS 2021 Visual Pack (005826470); VBS 2021 Dig Site Tent (005829830); VBS 2021 String Flags (005828287); VBS 2021 Collapsible Crates (005828274); VBS 2021 Tablecloths (005826469)
- Marker
- Twine
- CD Player

Room Setup

Arrange the Visual Pack posters or Supersized Backdrop on the focal wall. Enhance with the Dig Site Tent, String Flags, Collapsible Crates, wooden crates, shovels, buckets, and other dig site items. Arrange chairs in a semi-circle in front of the focal area. Cover table with tablecloth and display the VBS curriculum any other resources or decorations you plan to make available to your leaders. Place the parachute and tools near the front of the room.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome and Theme Overview (7 minutes)

- Play the *VBS 2021 Music for Preschoolers CD* as conferees enter the room.
- Welcome everyone and open with prayer.
- Introduce the theme and motto.
- Play “Grab the Treasure” (Preschool Recreation Rotation Card 17).
 - Draw attention to the archaeological tools on the parachute. Describe how each of them might be used at a dig site.
 - Ask group to gather around the parachute. Explain that on the count of three the group will rise together and lift the parachute. Lead the group to say the motto together (*Seek Truth! Find Jesus!*) as they lift the parachute.
 - Practice raising and lowering the parachute together while saying the motto.
 - Explain that you will call out a tool and a conferee’s name. When the group shouts the motto, the conferee should run under the parachute and retrieve the item named. The conferee should then take her place again holding the parachute. Continue until all tools have been retrieved.
- Remind conferees that we want to help kids discover the truth of Jeremiah 29:13—that God reveals Himself to us when we seek and search for Him with all our hearts.

2. Bible Verse and Motto (10 minutes)

- Mention that during the 1940s and ‘50s, scroll jars holding ancient scrolls were found in the caves of Qumran, on the rim of the Dead Sea. Included in these scrolls were scriptures from every Old Testament book except Esther. This year in VBS, each day’s Bible content will focus on a promise found in the Old Testament and the fulfillment of that promise in the New Testament.
- Hand the prepared “scroll jar” to a volunteer. Ask the conferee to pull out and read the paraphrase found inside the container.
- Teach the motions to the Bible verse song, “You Will Find Me” (track 2). (Motions can be found in the Music Rotation materials inside the 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack.) Lead the group to practice a few times.
- Encourage conferees to stand and sing the song and do the motions with you.
- Share this year’s motto: “Seek truth! Find Jesus!” Lead the group to say the motto with you.

3. Choose the Right Dig Site Plan (10 minutes)

- Briefly explain the format options for preschool VBS curriculum. Mention that there are two options based on how your church chooses to group preschool ages: broadly-graded (3-year-olds through completed kindergartners together in one room) or closely-graded (separate rooms for each age: 3s, 4s, and kindergartners).
- Explain that those who prefer a closely-graded format will need to purchase the Preschool Starter Kit (and/or individual items a la carte). Those who choose a broadly-graded approach will want to purchase the new Multi-age Starter Kit (or Multi-age Preschool resources a la carte).

- Walk through each of the resources below. Briefly describe each and answer any questions conferees may have about the resources.
 - Preschool Starter Kit — Show and describe all the age resources available in the kit, including the Rotation Pack and other items.
 - Multi-age Resources — Explain that this resource is specially designed for broadly-graded groups of children ages 3s–Kindergarten. Suggest that this resource is great for smaller churches, which might have fewer children or fewer leaders.
 - Babies–2s Resources — This resource has foundational stories for babies, toddlers, and 2-year-olds (and sometimes younger 3s). The Bible stories are on a 3-year cycle, which includes stories from the Old Testament and New Testament. The theme is the same as with the older age groups, but the Bible stories are different. As always, an accompanying leader pack is available to enhance teaching. This year’s outline is:
 - God Has a Plan for Me
 - Theme Verse: Thank You, God, for Jesus. Luke 2:38
 - Bible Stories:
 - Ruth’s Family
 - Boy Samuel
 - God Chose David to Become King
 - Jesus’ Dedication (Simeon and Anna)
 - Jesus and His Family Visit the Temple

4. Map Out the Dig (15 minutes)

- Point out and discuss the following sections of the leader guides:
 - Get Started
 - Overview
 - 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 the allotted time for activities.
 - Characteristics of Preschoolers
 - Special Needs Article
 - Teacher Tips
 - Days 1–5 Teaching Plans (including daily devotions for teachers)
 - DIY Decoration Information
 - Music Motions

5. Dig into the Bible Content (15 minutes)

- Distribute the handout (Item 1) to each conferee.
- Draw attention to the plastic tub filled with shredded paper. Explain that there are pieces of “pottery” buried inside with the Daily Point, Daily Icon, Bible Story Title, and Session Title for each of the five sessions.
- Challenge the group to dig for matching pieces and put them together to discover the Bible content for each day. (Mention the clue dots on the pieces to help make the search easier.)
- Discuss the Bible content for each day (Bible stories and The Point) and help conferees understand the Bible truth and application for preschoolers.

5. Tools for the Dig (15 minutes)

- Briefly talk through the elements of a session:
 - Worship Rally or Intro Activities
 - Group Time
 - Bible-Learning Activities
 - Rotation Activities
 - Closing Group Time
- Point out that the Preschool Music Rotation DVD (included in the 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack) 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.
- Draw attention to the leader packs for 3s–Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Multi-age Preschool.
 - Explain what is inside each pack (Bible story pictures, gameboards, group time posters, helpful teaching aids, and more. If time allows, give a few moments for the groups to take out the pack items and look at them.
 - Note the Bible story pictures for each day with the Bible stories printed on the back.
 - Explain how to locate the pack items called for in the leader guides by finding the pack item number printed on the lower left of each item. Point out that some items may be on the back of another item. Instructions for prepping the items are listed on the bottom of the items as well.
 - Display and discuss each of the following pack items:
 - This year, all three leader packs (3s–Pre-K, Kindergarten, and Multi-age) will have the same “Focal Wall Poster,” “Bible Verse Puzzle,” and “Artifact Cards.” These are included in each leader pack.
 - 3s–Pre-K Leader Pack: “Flip the Flap Book” (Items 18a-b). Demonstrate how to fold the book.
 - Kindergarten Leader Pack: “Game Board Spinner” (Item 24); Game Board (Item 22); “Game Board Draw Cards” (Item 25); “Bible Skills Poster” (Item 14)
 - Multi-age Leader Pack: “Game Cube” (Item 26); “Bible Object Pictures” (Item 14); “On the Dig Game” Item 25)

6. Rotations (10 minutes)

- Open the 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack and remove the included leader guides and recreation cards. Mention that this pack is included in both the Preschool Starter Kit and the Multi-age Starter Kit. Because it contains individual resources for each rotation, you only need to purchase one per church and then divvy up the individual resources among those leading each rotation. Additional Rotation Packs may be purchased as needed, but the individual elements inside the Rotation Pack are not available for individual purchase.
- Briefly show and mention each rotation resource:
 - Artifact Crafts — Point out that there are four crafts and a free art suggestion provided for each day.
 - Missions Market — A daily missions video is provided for each day, focusing on three different North American Mission Board missionaries and one International Mission Board missionary.

- Desert Cave Music — Instruction and demonstration videos are included for learning and practicing the motions to each preschool song. Preschool Worship Rally and teacher helps are also included on the ROM portion of the DVD-ROM.
- Recreation Ruins — Five of the recreation games tie directly to the five Bible stories.
- Mention three ways to use the Rotation Pack:
 - Preschoolers rotate out — Preschoolers move to other locations for rotations.
 - Teachers rotate in — Rotation teachers come into the Bible study rooms to lead rotation activities.
 - Self-contained classroom — Children and teachers remain in the Bible study room 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–Kindergartners are only available in the 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack. If Bible study teachers are responsible for leading these activities in their classrooms, they will need to get an additional Rotation Pack for each classroom.
 - Also note that preschool-friendly snacks are included in the *VBS 2021 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards*, which is available a la carte or included in the Kids Starter Kit (for Grades 1–6).

7. Treasure the Discoveries (5 minutes)

- Remind conferees that the dig does not end the last day of VBS.
- Suggest resources such as the Preschool Activity Book, Music for Preschoolers CDs, pictures, and others items that can be used to connect with unchurched kids and families.
- Remind them to invite families to small groups and other church activities.
- As time permits, ask conferees to share how their churches continue the connection.
- Thank conferees for attending.
- End by praying for the leaders and upcoming VBS events.

DIG INTO THE BIBLE CONTENT



DAY 1

DAY 2

DAY 3

DAY 4

DAY 5

**SESSION TITLE
TRUTH**

BIBLE STUDY

DAILY POINT

DAILY ICON