

VBS 2021 PRESCHOOL ROTATIONS CONFERENCE PLAN

Purpose Statement

This 50-minute plan is designed to train and equip teachers to lead preschool rotation activities using LifeWay's Destination Dig™ *3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack*.

Needed Resources and Resource Preparation

- *VBS 2021 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* (005825730)
- *VBS 2021 Rotation Signs* (005827005)
- *VBS 2021 Tablecloths* (005826469)
- *VBS 2021 Theme Stickers* (005826997)
- *VBS 2021 Sticky Foam Shapes* (005826994)
- *VBS 2021 Logo Stickers* (005826989)
- *VBS 2021 Jesus Heals Eyeglass Case Craft Pack* (005829660)
- *VBS 2021 Dig Site Water Pouch Craft Pack* (005829661)
- *VBS 2021 Pottery Shard Frame Craft Pack* (005829664)
- *VBS 2021 Chariot Craft Pack* (005829667)
- *VBS 2021 Inflatable Lizard* (005829827)
- *VBS 2021 String Flags* (005828287)
- Item 1: “Coins” — Print on gold heavyweight paper. Cut out the coins. Write one of the following statements on the back of each coin, then place the coins in a bucket filled with shredded brown paper:
 - Test each game before using in a session.
 - Enlist other adults to help. Plan games based on group size and space.
 - Plan for inclement weather.
 - Cover electrical outlets and remove any hazards from the game area.
 - Gather and inspect equipment.
 - Know your church's procedures for emergencies and accidents. Obtain a first aid kit.
 - Be familiar with each day's Bible story and the week's verse.
 - Set up games in a safe area.
 - Pray daily for leaders, kids, and safe play during games.
 - Explain and demonstrate each game to the kids.
 - Use the margin note entitled “Story Connection” on the Bible Game cards to reinforce Bible learning.
 - Monitor play and redirect as necessary.
 - Plan water breaks for kids.
- Copies of DVD-ROM teacher helps from Music Rotation Guide: Bible Verse Poster, J cards, and the first page of the Destination Dig lead sheet
- Prepare a sample of the Free Art for each day (Arts & Crafts Guide)
- Prepare at least one craft for each day (from the Arts & Crafts Guide)
- Craft Packs — Prepare a sample of each craft pack craft.
- Paper and twine — Roll into a scroll and tie.
- Bucket filled with shredded brown paper
- Missions Leader Guide — Print the “Mission Project Letter” from page 17.
- Sample of the missions flowerpot — Prepare a sample to display.
- Small hand tools for decoration
- CD player
- TV/DVD

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Cover a table with a *VBS 2021 Tablecloth* and display the *VBS 2021 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack*, any other VBS 2021 resources, and small hand tools. Drape VBS String Flags across the doorway. Define rotation areas throughout the room by spreading a *VBS 2021 Tablecloth* on the floor or a table and posting the appropriate rotation sign. **Desert Cave Music:** Display the Music Rotation Guide, Music for Preschoolers CD, Music DVD-ROM, and a copy of the Teacher Helps printed off DVD-ROM. **Artifact Crafts:** Display the Arts & Crafts Rotation Guide, prepared crafts, *VBS 2021 Sticky Foam Shapes*, *VBS 2021 Logo Stickers*, and prepared crafts. **Recreation Ruins:** Lay the 3s–K Recreation Rotation Cards alongside supplies needed for the chosen games. **Missions Market:** Place a *VBS 2021 Inflatable Lizard* alongside the Missions Rotation Guide and a sample of the mission project flowerpot.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play “Destination Dig” (track 1) from the Music for Preschoolers CD.
- Welcome conferees. Comment: “This year in VBS we are leading kids to discover long-hidden treasures, amazing finds, and exciting evidence that provides biblical events were not just stories. They really happened!”
- Allow conferees to introduce themselves.

2. Why Rotations? (10 minutes)

- Show conferees the 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack. Explain that the pack includes teaching plans for Recreation Ruins, Artifact Crafts, Missions Market, and Desert Cave Music.
- Share the following options and tips on using the Rotation Pack:
 - Rotation Options:
 - Teachers lead kids to each rotation, stay with them during the activities, and lead them back to the main classroom for closing group time.
 - Teachers are enlisted to come to the room to teach the rotation activities.
 - Children and teachers remain in the room for all activities.
 - Rotation Tips:
 - Locate rotation sites close to each other.
 - Maintain appropriate teacher/child ratios (1:4) when traveling to and from rotations.
 - Use a walking rope or buddy system to keep kids together.
 - Keep daily attendance/emergency contact information with you as you travel.
 - Post rotation schedule in room as parents and other leaders can find you.
 - Keep the focus on the Bible truth, Bible verse and Today’s Point which will help kids to Seek Truth and Find Jesus through these activities.
 - Each rotation should last 25 minutes, which includes time for transition.
 - Comment: Each rotation is designed to help our preschoolers discover the truths found in the Bible Story, the Bible Verse and the Today’s Point.

3. Rotation Sites (30 minutes)

- Say: “This year, you and your kids have the opportunity to Seek Truth as you explore Recreation Ruins, Artifact Crats, Missions Market, and Desert Cave Music. Let’s begin our exploration of Preschool Rotations at Desert Cave Music.”

- Show conferees the *3s–K Music Rotation Leader Guide*. Explain that included in the Music Rotation Leader Guide are instructional and demonstration videos for each of the preschool songs and the Destination Dig Theme song.
 - Mention that this year there is not a shortened verse of the theme song because the words are simple, and the motions are pretty simple as well.
 - Also included on the ROM portion of the DVD are music lead sheets, daily Bible pictures, Bible verse poster, and “J cards.” These can be found in the printables folder.
 - Show the “At a Glance” section in the leader guide and explain that this gives an overview of the week that includes the Bible Truth, Today’s Point, Bible Story, and songs suggested for each day. Each daily teaching plan also includes the Bible Truth, Bible Verse, Bible Story, and Today’s Point, along with instructions on how to teach the songs to your preschoolers.
 - Invite conferees to stand and learn the Bible verse song for the week, “You Will Find Me.” If time allows, sing through song twice. Use the demonstration video.
 - Call attention to the motions and words that are provided at the back of the Music Rotation Leader Guide.
 - If time allows, you may teach additional songs.
- Comment: “Now we are going to move our expedition to Artifacts Crafts.”
 - Show the *3s–K Crafts Rotation Leader Guide*. Explain that these crafts are designed to reinforce the Bible story, biblical truths, and enhance the overall VBS experience. They are written for preschoolers ages 3 through completed kindergarten.
 - Mention that there is always at least one craft that relates specifically to the Bible story each day. All crafts provide the teacher with a “connect” paragraph to help tie it to the Bible truth. No matter which craft you choose, be sure to share the Bible story summary and “connect” thoughts to reinforce the Bible truths being taught.
 - Mention that a “free art” suggestion is provided each day and is designed to be relatively self-directed with minimal supervision. Use these options for early finishers or an easy additional activity as needed. Show the free art samples, then talk about the other crafts that are displayed.
- Say: Let’s continue to excavate and examine truths at Recreation Ruins.”
 - Show the *VBS 2021 3s–Kindergarten Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*. Explain that the rec cards include 5 Bible story games, 15 theme-related games, and 5 free play games.
 - State that the Bible-related game is designed to help preschoolers connect and understand the Bible Story and Point for that day.
 - Lead the group to play the Bible-related game from Day 5, “Search For Truth.”
 - Invite the group to stand in a circle. Pass the scroll around the circle while music plays. When the music stops, the person holding the scroll must say the VBS motto: Seek Truth! Find Jesus!
 - Add variations such as changing the direction the scroll is passed, passing behind the back, passing faster/slower, and so forth.
 - Draw attention to the Story Connection on the recreation card: “Remind preschoolers that today’s story is about how Philip told the Good News about Jesus to a man having a hard time understanding what he was reading from the scroll. This story reminds us the Bible is true and helps us tell others about Jesus.”

- Show the administrative cards at the back of the rec cards. These cards include Leader Responsibilities, Kid Characteristics, Teaching Tips, and Decorating ideas.
- Select two volunteers to draw a coin from the bucket, read the statement, and decide if the statement is a “Before VBS” or a “During VBS” responsibility.
 - Test each game before using in a session.
 - Enlist other adults to help. Plan games based on group size and space.
 - Plan for inclement weather.
 - Cover electrical outlets and remove any hazards from the game area.
 - Gather and inspect equipment.
 - Know your church’s procedures for emergencies and accidents. Obtain a first aid kit.
 - Be familiar with each day’s Bible story and the week’s verse.
 - Set up games in a safe area.
 - Pray daily for leaders, kids, and safe play during games.
 - Explain and demonstrate each game to the kids.
 - Use the margin note entitled “Story Connection” on the Bible Game cards to reinforce Bible learning.
 - Monitor play and redirect as necessary.
 - Plan water breaks for kids.
- Comment: “Our final site is the Missions Market.”
 - Show the *3s–K Missions Rotation Leader Guide*. Point out the camera icon in the teaching plans. Explain that this icon helps to quickly identify video resources.
 - Show that the front of the guide includes a DVD, which contains a short video segment for each day. If a TV/DVD is not available during missions rotation, a synopsis of the videos are written out in story form in the leader guide so that you can share those with your preschoolers instead.
 - Mention that all of the resources on the DVD (videos and printables) are also available as digital downloads. Go to my.lifeway.com/redeem and enter the unique code provided in the missions guide to redeem.
 - Point out that there are activities each day which coordinate with the mission stories. These activities include crafts, quiet games, active games, an “I Dig Missions” segment, and prayer time. Templates are also included in the back of the guide.
 - Explain that this year’s North American Mission emphasis is on church planting.
 - On Day 1 preschoolers will meet Tim Wolfe, a Send City Missionary in South Florida, as he tells them about the church plant Christ Family church. Kids will also meet Angelie and Isabella, who are daughters of the co-pastors, Jose and Jonathan.
 - On Day 2, preschoolers will meet George Ross, a Send City Missionary for New Orleans, Louisiana, and his daughter Hannah, as they share what God is doing at Lakeshore Church NOLA.
 - On Day 3, preschoolers will meet John Yi, a Send City Missionary for Chicago, IL and a young man named Demaj Splunge whose life has been changed because of the church plant, Reborn Community Church in Garfield Park.
 - Show the Day 1 video segment to the conferees.
 - Explain that this year’s International Mission emphasis is on the work being done in London, England.
 - Show the Day 5 video segment to the conferees.

- Explain the hands-on mission project: “I Dig Missions.”
 - Show the Mission Project Letter in the guide and a sample of the flowerpot.
 - Explain that each day will have a focus on the “I Dig Missions” project for preschoolers.

4. Closing (5 minutes)

- Answer any questions or clarify any information as needed.
- Offer the following final words of encouragement:
 - Be flexible. Adjust your plans to make VBS the best experience possible for you and your preschoolers.
 - Help kids to “Seek Truth and Find Jesus” through every activity.
 - Build relationships with your kids.
 - Remember that the process is more important than the finished product.
 - Enjoy the dig!
- Close by pray for the VBS rotation teachers in attendance.



Item 1. Coins