

VBS 2021 CHILDREN'S RECREATION ROTATION CONFERENCE PLAN (50 MINUTES)

Purpose Statement

This 50-minute conference plan is designed to train and equip VBS directors and church leaders to have a successful recreation rotation.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2021 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*
- *VBS 2021 Decorating Made Easy*
- *VBS 2021 Tablecloth*
- *VBS 2021 Supersized Backdrop*
- *VBS 2021 String Flags*
- Print five tools from the clip art (available on the *Decorating Made Easy* DVD-ROM or online at lifeway.com/vbs) and write one of the following on each: *Be prepared, Keep Rules Simple and Short, Interact with the kids, Design a Cool Down area, Pray.*
- Supplies to play the following games as listed on the recreation cards:
 - Day 1: Seek and Find — Cones or rec domes, 1 bean bag
 - Day 1: Pottery Jar Bust — Balloons, Jeremiah 29:13 printed/cut out and placed inside each inflated balloon
 - Day 2: Artifact Museum — None
 - Day 3: Follow the Plan — 9 Hula hoops, 6 bean bags (3 each of 2 different colors)
 - Day 4: Rolling, Rolling, Rolling — Straws (1 per person), table tennis ball, painters' tape
 - Day 5: Tools of the Trade — Painter's tape
- *VBS 2021 Music for Kids CD*
- CD player

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a horseshoe shape around the room, keeping the center open and free of chairs for playing games. Decorate the room using ideas found in the *VBS 2021 Decorating Made Easy* guide for Recreation Ruins. Hang the *VBS 2021 Supersized Backdrop* on the focal wall. Cover a table with a *VBS 2021 Tablecloth* and display the *VBS 2021 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*, recreation supplies, and other tabletop decorations. Drape *VBS 2021 String Flags* across the doorway.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome conferees to Recreation Ruins. Mention that when children rotate to recreation, they will continue to seek truth and find Jesus! Each day includes several recreation games to choose from to reinforce each day's Bible study content.
- Say: "All of the games in the rec cards have been kid-tested and kid-approved so your kids are sure to love any game you pick!"
- Get to know your archaeologists (conferees). Lead conferees to play the Day 1 game: "Pottery Jar Bust" according to the instructions on Rec Card 2.
- Once all balloons have been popped, lead the group to put the Bible verse words in order. Lead the group to read aloud the Bible verse (Jeremiah 29:13) together. Emphasize that this is the theme verse.

- Lead the group to repeat sections of the verse after you or to say it multiple times while removing a piece of the verse each time until no more words remain.

2. Tools for the Dig (5 minutes)

- Comment that in order to be successful at Recreation Ruins, leaders are going to need to be prepared with many tools.
- Display the *VBS 2021 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*. Walk through the key features of the recreation card set.
 - Fronts of cards:
 - Day & name of game
 - Session title
 - Bible story and Scripture reference
 - Bible verse
 - Point (main point of each day/life application)
 - Backs of cards:
 - Name of game
 - Materials needed
 - Instructions for the game
- Walk through other VBS 2021 resources that can help them enhance their recreation environment:
 - *VBS 2021 Decorating Made Easy*
 - *VBS 2021 Tablecloth*
 - *VBS 2021 Supersized Backdrop*
 - *VBS 2021 String Flags*
 - *VBS 2021 Music for Kids CD*

3. How Recreation Shapes Learning (5 minutes)

- Remind conferees that rec time can be teaching time—not just play time—and not break time from the kids.
- Discuss the following ways to incorporate learning into recreation:
 1. Utilize moments of transition to ask review questions from the daily Bible content.
 2. Play VBS music to reinforce what kids are learning.
 3. Recite Jeremiah 29:13 often.
 4. Share the VBS motto (Seek truth! Find Jesus!) during recreation.
 5. Share the gospel during recreation.
 6. Build relationships with the kids.
 7. Keep language simple.
 8. Share your own testimony.
 9. Learn through play.
 10. Pray with the kids.

4. Dig In: Let's Play! (20 minutes)

- Lead the group to play one game from each day, according to the instructions on the recreation cards.
 - Day 1: Seek and Find
 - Day 2: Artifact Museum
 - Day 3: Follow the Plan
 - Day 4: Rolling, Rolling, Rolling
 - Day 5: Tools of the Trade

- Ask the conferees which games they liked and how they might modify the games for small and large groups.

5. Optional Recreation Games: Water Games & Tabletop Games (10 minutes)

- Explain that the rec cards also include options to participate in water games and tabletop games.
- Form two groups. Assign one group to "Water Games" and the other to "Tabletop Games."
- Distribute the water games cards and the tabletop games cards to each group.
- Allow each group time to look over their assigned games and be prepared to present a brief summary to the entire group.

6. Recreation Tools (5 minutes)

- Encourage conferees to add a few more tools to their dig site tool bag for recreation. Show each (clip art) tool one at a time as you explain the tips below:
 - 1. Be Prepared**
 - Find out how many kids will be participating.
 - Have a backup plan for when kids begin to lose interest; indoor/outdoor options for weather. Remember Murphy's Law: "Whatever can go wrong, will go wrong."
 - Recruit help.
 - 2. Keep Rules Simple and Short**
 - Enforce the rules of the game.
 - Be discreet when correcting behavior.
 - Remind kids that the goal is to have fun and to continue enforcing the biblical content.
 - 3. Interact with the Kids**
 - Kids love it when adults are involved in the activities with them.
 - Encourage, affirm, and congratulate kids.
 - Stay focused on the kids ... it's easy to get distracted.
 - 4. Designate a "Cool Down" Area**
 - Utilize a cool down area when kids get too competitive or exhibit bad behavior.
 - A cool down area gives time for brief rest periods, if needed.
 - 5. Pray**
 - Pray as you recruit recreation helpers.
 - Pray as you plan and prepare.
 - Pray with kids at recreation.
- If time allows, ask conferees for other recreation tips that have worked for them. (You may wish to have additional tool cards printed out on which to write their suggestions.)

6. Closing (2 minutes)

- Thank conferees for attending.
- Close in prayer.