














Virtual VBS

DIRECTORS GUIDE

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Introduction

Vacation Bible School is more than just a week of fun. For many churches, it is the **single most evangelistic outreach event of the year**. VBS opens the doors of your church to your community and reaches children and their families like nothing else. It connects the people of your church to your neighbors, and it deepens your connection to the kids and families who attend your church regularly. VBS is all about sharing the gospel and allowing the Holy Spirit to do His work. It's worth doing—regardless of what form your VBS may take—because it facilitates relationships, encourages conversations about Jesus, plants the seeds of the gospel, and allows hearts to be transformed for eternity!

This Virtual VBS Directors Guide is a supplement to (not a replacement for) the VBS Administrative Guide. You'll want to consult the Administrative Guide for timelines, budgeting, tips for enlisting and training volunteers, kick-off and follow-up ideas, and so forth. A virtual VBS, however, has a few unique challenges, which are addressed in this guide. We hope it will be helpful to you in organizing and conducting a virtual or hybrid VBS (combining a traditional, in-person VBS with a virtual option either concurrent with or after the on-site VBS).

As you plan, keep in mind that a virtual VBS will not naturally provide the same kind of engagement as in-person gatherings. That will take work and intentionality! Ask your team: "What can we do to provide intentional opportunities for relationship-building and engagement through our virtual VBS?" Look for ways to provide families more than just something else to watch. Create engagement and community—not consumers. Consumers will watch if they feel like it, don't if something better comes along. Consumers don't feel the same level of commitment or the longing to be part of what's going on. Remember that the best way to share the gospel is in the context of relationship. So look for ways throughout your virtual VBS that will allow relationships to develop naturally and draw people to Christ.

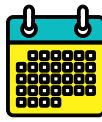
Blessings on your VBS!

Lifeway VBS Team



Recommended Resources for Virtual VBS

- **DIRECTORS KIT**—Full of resources to help you begin planning. Includes samples of the music and activity books for every age (3s–6th grade) so that you can decide if you want to include one for each child in whatever you send home with families for the week of VBS.
- **MULTI-AGE STARTER KIT WITH DIGITAL LEADER GUIDES ADD-ON**—The digital add-on is an extra \$30, but is essential for a virtual VBS. The Starter Kit includes everything you'll need for Bible study and rotations. The digital add-on gives you the video files for music rotation and missions rotation so you can share them easily during a Virtual VBS. It also gives you a PDF of every leader guide so that you can share them easily (via email) with the people who will be on camera leading a Bible study or a rotation time. With a virtual VBS, you'll have a wide age-range in the audience so you won't need to break it down any further than all preschoolers and all kids (if you break it down by ages at all).
- **DIGITAL WORSHIP RALLY PACK**—Includes everything you'll need for a virtual worship rally such as choreography videos to learn the motions ahead of time, lyrics and motions videos to show on the screen to help the kids at home, presentation files (for ProPresenter® or PowerPoint®) so that you can show the verse, motto, pledges, and Bible story pictures on the screen, a free font to use in all of your graphics, and more. This will be your go-to resource for making your virtual VBS look and feel like Destination Dig in an all-virtual environment. (Also available as a physical guide and CDs/DVDs.)
- **KIDS CRAFTS BUNDLE** (available for Destination Dig® only)—Includes five crafts (1 for each day), individually packaged per child. Everything is already pre-sorted and pre-cut, making it easy to deliver a daily craft to each child.
- **FAMILY CONNECTION BUNDLE** (available for Destination Dig only)—The perfect “at home kit” for a virtual VBS. Deliver one to each family registered for your VBS. Contains:
 - One Gospel Guide (plan of salvation)
 - One Parent Guide (daily family devotions and activities for each day)
 - One Music for Kids CD (to enjoy the VBS songs)
 - One Worship Rally Booklet (contains the motto, scripture, and lyrics to the VBS songs)
 - One Dig Site Tool Set (a set of 3 archaeology tools for kids to use in VBS activities)
 - One Folding Magnifier (to use with activities)Customize the Family Activity Bundle by dropping in additional things like one Kids Craft Pack for each child in the family, a beanbag or bandanna for games, prepackaged snacks, etc.
- **KIDS FUN BUNDLE**—Includes one each of the Kids Memory Maker, Kids Activity Book, Name Tag, Kids Wrap, and a themed backpack (which can be used to collect all of the “per child” items for delivery).
- **DAILY BIBLE STORY VIDEOS** (available for Destination Dig only)—Families can watch these videos of a storyteller telling the Bible story each day (optional). Join the free VBS Directors Club at lifeway.com/vbsdirectorsclub to download these videos.
- **“VBS AT HOME” ON MINISTRY GRID** (available for Destination Dig only)—Free “family VBS” resources for families to view and complete at home. Simply send the access link to families each day of VBS. Access to “VBS at Home” resources will be emailed to those who purchase one of the Destination Dig Starter Kits with Digital Leader Guides Add-on.



Pick Your Time Frame & Format

A virtual VBS is a scaled back VBS. You won't be able to hold kids' attention as long in a virtual setting as in person. Consider adjusting the length of each segment in your schedule or only offering certain rotations on certain days (rather than all rotations every day). How many days of virtual VBS will you offer? Lifeway provides five days of Bible study. If you plan to do less than five days, choose which of the following you will include.

WE WILL USE THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS:

DAY 1

- **Truth:** Jesus Came as God Promised
- **Bible Story:** Jesus Was Born (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18–2:6)
- **Today's Point:** Jesus is the Savior God promised.

DAY 2

- **Truth:** Jesus Demonstrated God's Power
- **Bible Story:** Jesus Healed a Blind Man (Psalm 146:8; Isaiah 35:5-6a; John 9:1-41)
- **Today's Point:** Jesus has the power God promised.

DAY 3

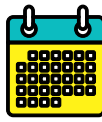
- **Truth:** Jesus Was Betrayed and Rejected
- **Bible Story:** Jesus Experienced Betrayal and Rejection (Psalm 41:9; Isaiah 53:3,7; John 13:18:1–19:16)
- **Today's Point:** Jesus knew what would happen and still followed God's plan.

DAY 4

- **Truth:** Jesus Died and Rose Again
- **Bible Story:** Jesus Is Alive (Isaiah 53:5,9-11; John 19:17–20:18)
- **Today's Point:** Jesus fulfilled God's plan to be our Savior.

DAY 5

- **Truth:** The Bible Is True
- **Bible Story:** Philip Told the Good News (Isaiah 53:7-8; Acts 8:26-40)
- **Today's Point:** The Bible is true and helps us tell others about Jesus.



Pick Your Time Frame & Format

TIME OF DAY

Do you want every family to “attend” (watch) live at the same time? Or will you allow families to attend whenever is convenient for them?

- Watch live.
- Watch later.

If live, will you stream your VBS live or prerecord and schedule videos to go live at a certain time?

- Livestream
- Prerecord

What platform will you use to host your virtual VBS?

- Zoom®
- Facebook®
- YouTube®
- Church website
- Livestreaming service
- Other

Who typically handles your church’s audio/video/streaming? _____

- Consult with this person before selecting which platform you’ll use. He/she will understand your church’s capabilities and restrictions and help you choose the best option.
- Enlist this person NOW to be the point person for all tech elements of your virtual VBS.
- Get the dates of your VBS on his/her calendar.
- Ask him/her to enlist a media team who will handle all A/V, lighting, recording, and streaming/web posting.

WILL “VBS AT HOME” MATERIALS BE GEARED TOWARD THE CHILD OR THE FAMILY?

When preparing items to send home for families to use during VBS, you’ll need to decide if you want to send home things specific to the age of each child, or keep things more general for a wide age-range of children. (Keep in mind some families may have a preschooler and a preteen at home.)

OUR “VBS AT HOME KITS” WILL BE:

- Child/age-specific
- Family-centered
- Family Kit with additional items per child

Refer to page 18 for ideas on what to include in “VBS at Home Kits.”



Schedule Suggestions

OPTION 1 (1 HOUR)

This option works well for livestreaming as each element can happen back-to-back in the same room.

(TIP: Leaders will need to move into place quickly to avoid long delays between each element.)

- **Theme Song** (dancers on stage, lyrics on screen) 3 minutes
- **Welcome** (VBS Director, Pastor, or Children’s Minister) 2 minutes
- **Opening Skit** (from Worship Rally Guide) 5 minutes
- **Song of the Day** (briefly teach key motions) 4 minutes
- **Bible Story** (plus game or application activity) 15 minutes
- **Craft** (choose one that goes along with the Bible story) 10 minutes
- **Daily Drama Video** (from Worship Rally DVD) 7 minutes
- **Recreation Game** 5 minutes
- **Missions Video** (from Missions Rotation DVD) 3 minutes
- **Closing Skit** (from Worship Rally Guide) 2 minutes
- **Closing Announcements** 2 minutes
- **Theme Song** 3 minutes

TIP: Keep the age of the “audience” in mind for all games, crafts, and Bible stories. Aim for the middle (2nd or 3rd grade level).

OPTION 2 (90 MINUTES)

- **Worship Rally** 20 minutes
 - Livestreamed or prerecorded—includes music, motto/Scripture, skit and/or daily drama video, announcements, and so forth.
- **Bible Study** (prerecorded or live gathering via Zoom or similar)
 - Preschool (Bible story, game, song) 15 minutes
 - Children (Bible story, game, application activity) 20 minutes
- **Craft** 15 minutes
 - Printed instructions and supplies; one craft per day per child; demonstration video optional
- **Recreation Game** 10 minutes
 - Printed instructions or demonstration video
- **Missions** 10 minutes
 - Daily video or missionary story summary; plus prayer, game, or activity

WHAT ABOUT SNACKS?

Provide prepackaged snacks or pre-measured ingredients & instructions for families to assemble snacks at home. Families can enjoy the snacks at any point during their virtual VBS experience.

Something to Think About: *Not every element has to be included every day of your virtual VBS. For example, you might opt to offer crafts on three days and missions on the other two days. A little variety from day to day will keep things feeling fresh!*



Organize Your Teams

Virtual VBS may not require as many volunteers as an in-person VBS, but it will require you to assign specific tasks to specific teams. Enlist a point person (or team leader) for each team and allow that person to recruit help as needed. (Keep in mind that some teams may consist of only one person.) Omit any teams that will not be included in your VBS.

PREP YOUR TEAMS

- Create a punch list for each team. Be specific in what you need each team to accomplish.
- Schedule time and space on the church calendar for teams to meet together to organize and prepare.
- Schedule “packing days” to assemble everything that will be sent home for families to use during VBS.

MUSIC TEAM

This team is responsible for leading music during VBS. (Note: It is not necessary to have a separate Music Rotation and a Worship Rally in a virtual VBS.)

- The team leader will recruit “dancers” to perform the music and motions.
- The team leader will conduct rehearsals and ensure each team member learns the songs and motions for VBS.
- The team leader will select the songs to be included each day.
- Videos to learn and practice the motions can be found on the Worship Rally DVD Set, Music Rotation DVD, and the VBS app. Purchase the digital versions to share the videos easily.
- Participate in follow-up strategies after VBS.

DRAMA TEAM

This team of actors is responsible for performing the skits during Worship Rally. Two actors are needed to:

- Memorize the scripts found in the Worship Rally Guide. To customize the skits, please see the digital files located on Disc 2 of the Worship Rally CD Set.
- Secure any costumes and props needed.
- Rehearse ahead of time.
- Perform the skits during VBS.

DECORATING TEAM

This team will be responsible for decorating any areas that will be seen on camera including, but not limited to:

- Worship Rally stage.
- Focal walls for video recordings.
- Outdoor banners and promotional displays.

PRESCHOOL BIBLE STUDY TEAM

This team is responsible for an age-appropriate Bible study experience for preschoolers (and their parents). The team will:

- Review the Multi-age Preschool Bible Study Leader Guide and select activities and games that work well in a virtual setting. (A recommended list is available on pages 13-14.)
- Use the Bible Story Pictures included in the Multi-age Preschool Leader Pack (digital files available on Disc 2 of the Worship Rally CD Set) and other pack items as needed.
- Hold the Bible while telling the Bible story to help preschoolers understand that the story is true and comes from the Bible.
- Lead preschoolers (and their parents) in a short virtual group time whether in a prerecorded, livestreamed, or interactive virtual (Zoom) setting.
- Participate in follow-up strategies after VBS.

NOTE: If you do not have the personnel or the technology to record the five Bible stories, preschool Bible story videos (for Destination Dig only) are available in the VBS Directors Club (lifeway.com/vbsdirectorsclub).



Organize Your Teams

CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY TEAM

This team is responsible for an age-appropriate Bible study experience for children (Grades 1–6).

The team will:

- Review the Multi-age Kids Bible Study Leader Guide and select activities and games that work well in a virtual setting. (A recommended list is available on page 14.)
- Use the Bible Story Pictures included in the Multi-age Kids Leader Pack (digital files available on the Worship Rally CD Set) and other pack items as needed.
- Hold the Bible while telling the Bible story to help kids understand that the story is true and comes from the Bible.
- Lead kids in a large group Bible study experience whether in a prerecorded, livestreamed, or interactive virtual (Zoom) setting.
- Participate in follow-up strategies after VBS.

NOTE: If you do not have the personnel or the technology to record the five Bible stories, kids Bible story videos (for Destination Dig only) are available in the VBS Directors Club (lifeway.com/vbsdirectorsclub).

CRAFTS TEAM

This team is responsible for selecting the crafts for VBS. The team will:

- Review the Crafts Rotation Leader Guide, Preschool Arts & Crafts Rotation Leader Guide (found in the 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack), and Craft Pack options.
- Select one craft per day. (Will you provide separate crafts for preschoolers and children or simply choose one craft that will work for all ages?)
- Create and photocopy instructions for each craft to be sent home.
- Optional: Create an instructional video, walking children through how to make each craft.
- Create a complete and detailed supply list. Purchase supplies or submit the list for a staff member to purchase.

- Sort and count out supplies, then individually package each craft (per child).
 - Save Time! Purchase one VBS 2021 Kids Crafts Bundle (005834533) for each child. This pack includes five crafts (1 per day) already presorted and prepackaged for one child. More information on page 16.
- Participate in follow-up strategies after VBS.

RECREATION TEAM

This team is responsible for selecting games for VBS. This team will:

- Review the Recreation Rotation Cards and Preschool Recreation Rotation Cards (found in the 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack).
- Select one recreation game per day that meets the following criteria (see recommended list on page 15):
 - Requires only basic, household items.
 - Can be played alone or as a family unit (no large groups).
 - Requires little to no adult supervision.
- Create and photocopy instructions for each recreation game to be sent home.
- Optional: Create an instructional video, explaining how to play the game.
- Create a list of any simple/cheap supplies that need to be purchased and given to each family (for example: cups, bandannas, beanbags).
- Purchase supplies or submit the list for a staff member to purchase.
- Sort and count out supplies and instructions for each family.
- Participate in follow-up strategies after VBS.



Organize Your Teams

MISSIONS TEAM

This team will prepare and lead the missions segment during VBS. The team leader will:

- Review the Missions Rotation Leader Guide and Preschool Missions Rotation Leader Guide (found in the 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack) and select activities and games that work well in a virtual setting.
- Outline a daily missions segment to fill the amount of time allotted by the VBS Director. Keep in mind the ages of the children who will be watching and choose elements that work well for all ages.
- Work with your VBS Director to determine a hands-on mission project and/or offering goal that families can contribute to during VBS.
- Download the daily missions videos and send the ones you want to include to your Media Team Leader. (Note: If your church purchased a Starter Kit with the Digital Leader Guides Add-on, you already have the video files. If not, follow the instructions in the front of the Missions Rotation Leader Guide to download the videos from the cloud.)
- If you do not wish to use the missions videos, you may use the story summaries included in the leader guide to talk about the missionaries each day.
- Prerecord or present the missions segment during the livestream of your church’s virtual VBS.
- Participate in follow-up strategies after VBS.

SNACK TEAM

This team will be responsible for snacks during VBS. The team will:

- Review the Snack Rotation Recipe Cards.
- Work with the VBS Director to determine how many snacks will be supplied to each family (e.g. 1 per day, or 3 total).
- Select suitable snacks.
- Create a detailed supply list. Purchase supplies or turn in the supply list for a staff member to purchase.
- Create a card for each snack (this may include assembly instructions, a Bible review statement, or a question for families to discuss as they enjoy their snacks). Photocopy one per family.
- Sort and assemble snack packs for each family.

REGISTRATION/COMMUNICATION TEAM

This team will be responsible for setting up online registration and maintaining records as well as communicating with families before, during, and after VBS. Preregistration is critical to the success of a virtual VBS as it is imperative to know how many

families will be participating, the ages of the children, and home addresses in order to prepare and deliver “at home kits” prior to VBS as well as follow up with families after VBS.

- Choose a method for collecting registration. (We recommend *Lifeway’s KidEvent Pro*® KidEvent Pro allows you to:
 - Create a custom landing page with details about your virtual VBS and links to register online.
 - Register participants online.
 - Send emails to parents.
 - Print mailing labels.
 - And much more!
- Decide what information needs to be gathered.
- Create the registration form.
- Manage registration prior to VBS. Set an appropriate cut-off date to close registration.
- Report your attendance totals to Lifeway within two weeks of your event by completing the VBS Report at vbs.lifeway.com/churchreport.
- Supply mailing labels and/or address lists for delivery of the “at home kits.”
- Assist the VBS Director with follow-up efforts after VBS.
- Frequently communicate details about how and when to access virtual VBS with families leading up to VBS.
- Send daily communications to families with updates; direct links (URLs) to access virtual VBS; the Bible story reference(s), motto, Scripture, and The Point; daily offering totals; and so forth.

MEDIA TEAM

The media team will be responsible for all A/V, lighting, recording, and streaming/web posting. The team will:

- Commit to being available each day of VBS.
- Decide on an online platform for delivering your virtual VBS (e.g. YouTube, church website, etc.).
- Troubleshoot prior to and during VBS.
- Schedule rehearsals and/or recording slots for all videos.
- Secure media releases as needed (particularly for any minors appearing on video).
- Ensure the proper steps are taken for compliance with U.S. copyright laws (see p. 17).
- Handle all technical aspects of streaming or posting your VBS online.
- Monitor any live chat or comments during the virtual VBS and delete any inappropriate comments.



Tips for Recording Good Video

If professional video equipment is not available, don't despair! Most cell phones have excellent cameras that will work just fine for recording videos for your virtual VBS. If using a cell phone to record video.

VIDEO:

- Record using the REAR camera on your phone. (The rear camera is much better than the front-facing camera on your phone. No selfies.)
- Turn the camera sideways to record in horizontal/landscape mode. Do not record video in vertical/portrait mode.
- Use a tripod to keep your phone steady and still.

LIGHTING:

One of the best ways to achieve good video is to have proper lighting. Large, soft sources are key to having good lighting.

- Hold your arms out at shoulder height in front of you in a V. If at all possible, place a soft light source where each of your hands is to point light back at you. (For example, a window on one side and a lamp with the shade removed on the other side.) Your face should be well lit. Do not film with your back to a window or a bright light, as this will cause your face to be in shadow.
- Face a large window that has daylight coming in. Position the camera in front of the window facing the room, then adjust your distance to the camera to frame up the shot. It's OK to have the sun coming in through the window, but avoid sitting/standing in direct sunlight. (Note: Sheer curtains can help soften the harsh sun pouring in.)

SHOT COMPOSITION:

- Make sure the camera is at eye-level (not angled up or down at you).
- Ask your camera operator to put you in the center of the frame (left to right). There should be no more than the width of your little finger between the top of your head and the topmost edge of the frame. (NOTE: Your camera operator may need to move closer to you in order to achieve the best shot composition. Do not use the zoom feature.)

- Visualize dividing the image on the screen into thirds with horizontal lines. Your eyes should be around the intersection of the top and middle third (see example below).

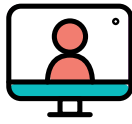


- Use a tripod or stabilize the camera phone using something stable like a desk or table.
- Look at the camera lens on the back of your phone. Make eye contact with the camera just as you would maintain eye contact when talking live to a person.
- Remember to smile often and use your facial expressions to convey the heart behind your words. Be as engaging as possible to connect with your audience.
- Pause for a moment after you hit record ... take a deep breath, settle, smile, then begin.

AUDIO:

Record in a quiet room free from background noise from kids' or coworkers' voices, lawns being mowed, noisy construction, etc.

- Record a short "test" video and play it back to ensure your voice is loud and clear. You may find that plugging in a pair of headphones with a built-in microphone (such as Apple earbuds) yields better audio.
- Speak clearly and confidently. Don't yell, but do project as if speaking to a group.
- *Enunciate.* Speak clearly and slowly. Presenters tend to speed up when they're nervous or when they get too comfortable. Check yourself to make sure your pace is measured and your



Tips for Recording Good Video

words are articulated clearly without running together.

- Don't record in a big EMPTY room. Audio will bounce off hard surfaces and produce an echo in an empty room. Rooms with furniture/curtains help absorb ambient sound, in addition to creating an inviting environment.

BACKGROUND:

Ideally there should be lots of room between you and the background. Sitting with your back right up against a wall or bookshelf doesn't give a lot of separation or depth to your background.

- Create a themed backdrop suitable for VBS.
- Cover the wall behind you with the Supersized Backdrop or Super Duper Sized Backdrop. Use other VBS decorations as desired.
- For green screen or virtual backdrops, use the art files provided in the "Theme Art" folder on the Decorating Made Easy DVD-ROM. (Also remember to not wear green clothing or it will disappear too!)

WARDROBE:

Consider asking everyone who appears on camera to wear a VBS t-shirt (Lifeway offers three different styles) or themed costume/attire.

- Avoid small stripes and checkered patterns, which can cause a moiré effect on camera.
- Beware of shadows caused by hats. Push hats further back (or adjust the lighting) so that the presenter's face is fully visible on camera.



Suggested Bible Study Activities

A virtual Bible study time will likely be much shorter than an in-person Bible study, as it is harder to keep kids engaged without the highly interactive components of an in-person VBS. Consider limiting the time to a maximum of 15 minutes for preschoolers and 20 minutes for kids in Grades 1–6.

A virtual Bible study may include any combination of the following elements:

- Bible Story
 - Enlist an engaging storyteller from your own church or use the prerecorded Bible story videos available from Lifeway (available at lifeway.com/vbsdirectorsclub).
 - Digital Bible story pictures are located on the Worship Rally CD Set.
- Bible Story Review
 - Begin by reviewing the previous day's Bible story.
 - Review the current Bible story after telling it to make sure kids grasp the key facts and application.
 - Use the pictures on the Memory Makers to review each day's Bible story. (Include a set in each child's "VBS at Home Kit.")
- Game
- Song
- Bible Skills
- Application Activity

SUGGESTED PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The following are recommended adaptations to activities in the Destination Dig Multi-age Preschool Bible Study Leader Guide for virtual Bible studies. Refer to the Multi-age Preschool Leader Guide for full instructions and supplies. Some items will need to be sent home in advance in order for kids to participate.

DAY 1:

"Form Clay Containers" (p. 13)

Optional: Include a small container of playdough for each child in the "VBS at Home Kits." Guide preschoolers to create using playdough instead of air-dry clay. Talk about the use of clay in Bible times. Read the book, "What Is It?" (pack item 19), to the kids.

"Make a Banner" (p. 14)

Send home copies of "Jesus' Name" (pack item 16) and stickers. Give verbal directions as preschoolers decorate their individual banners. Thank God for Jesus.

DAY 2:

"Play a Game" from Group Time (p. 18)

Arrange the tray of tools so that it can be seen on camera. Play as directed in the leader guide, pausing to let preschoolers guess which tool is missing before revealing the correct answer each time.

"Make Some Mud" from Group Time (p. 18)

Send home a freezer bag for each child and wide tape along with instructions to parents to fill the bag with a small amount of dirt and water, remove all air, and secure the seal well with tape. Lead preschoolers to move the mud around inside the bag and draw designs in the mud with their fingers. Suggest shapes and letters to write.

DAY 3:

"Sift Sand" (p. 24)

Send home a copy of "Verse Words" (pack item 23) for each child with the instructions to parents to cut apart the words, crumple each one into a ball, and hide them around the room. Lead preschoolers to find all 9 hidden "artifacts" and uncrumple them to reveal the words. Parents or older siblings can help put the words in order (note the dot key below each word).

"Paint with Shoes" (p. 27)

Suggest kids trace around their shoes onto pieces of paper and decorate the shoe shapes. (Older preschoolers may also enjoy cutting out their footprints.) Remind them that Jesus showed love to His friends by washing their feet.



Suggested Bible Study Activities

DAY 4:

“Thank God for Jesus” from Group Time (p. 33)

Read the book “The One God Promised” (pack item 18) to the group. Pray and sing as directed in the leader guide.

“Sort Discoveries” (Bonus Activity, p. 35)

Challenge preschoolers to go on a Dig (scavenger hunt) around their houses. Either provide a list ahead of time for parents to collect, or call out common household items/toys/art supplies one at a time and allow time for kids to search for them. Sort the items as a group (or individually) using different criteria such as by color, size, toys, kitchen items, and so forth.

DAY 5:

“Toss and Move” from Group Time (p. 39)

Show a “Movement Card” (pack items 30a–f) to the camera (can also mount the cards to a square box or insert in the *Giant Inflatable Game Cube* and roll as on p. 42). Lead kids (and families) to move to music as instructed by the card. Pause the music and select a new movement periodically.

“Write on Scrolls” (p. 41)

Hold up the verse for older preschoolers (or parents/siblings) to copy. Lead kids to roll up their papers like a scroll and tie (or secure with a rubber band).

SUGGESTED KIDS ACTIVITIES (GRADES 1–6)

The following are recommended adaptations to activities in the Destination Dig Multi-age Kids Bible Study Leader Guide for virtual Bible studies. Refer to the Multi-age Kids Leader Guide for full instructions and supplies. Some items will need to be sent home in advance in order for kids to participate.

DAY 1:

“Shovel Skills” (p. 11)

No adjustments needed.

DAY 2:

“Pottery Shard Puzzles (p. 18)

Send home a paper plate puzzle for each child.

Guide kids to solve their puzzles, then look up the reference in their Bibles. Ask: “Who has 1 John 1:9? Who has Romans 6:9?” and so forth. Encourage all kids with that verse to read aloud what is written on their completed puzzle. Continue as directed in the leader guide.

DAY 3:

“Lace Race” (p. 26)

Cut apart the “Shoe Lacing Cards” (pack item 17) and fill in the blanks on one of the cards with phrases from the Bible verse (Matthew 20:28) in scrambled order. Photocopy this lacing card onto heavyweight paper for each child. Punch holes where indicated. Send home a lacing card and a 24-inch piece of yarn for each child. Show the “Matthew 20:28 Poster” (pack item 16) on the screen and lead the group to read the verse aloud. Remind kids that Jesus showed us how to love others by washing the disciples’ feet. At your signal, kids should thread the yarn through the holes in their cards in correct verse order. Challenge them to beat the clock or to race against each other (if kids can see each other on the screen).

DAY 4:

“GPR Stomp” (p. 33)

Create a page with the phrases of John 11:25 separated by cut lines and instructions for kids (or parents) to cut along the lines to create strips. Photocopy one per child and send home along with a brown, gray, or black balloon. Lead kids to roll up each strip and place it inside an uninflated balloon, then inflate and tie off the balloon. Lead the activity as directed in the leader guide.

DAY 5:

“Scroll Roll” (p. 40)

Send home a small pack of sticky notes. Lead kids (or parents) to write each word of Romans 1:16 on a separate sticky note (this can be done as you call out one word at a time) and place the words randomly on the wall. On your signal, lead kids to “roll like a scroll” across the floor to retrieve one sticky note at a time (in verse order). Laugh with and encourage kids as they complete this really fun task! Lead the kids to read the completed verse out loud.



Suggested Recreation Games

Recreation in a virtual VBS can be led by an on-screen leader giving instructions, or game instructions and supplies can be supplied to families for parents (or older siblings) to lead. Keep in mind that:

- Some children will be playing by themselves without siblings or parents. Games must work even if only one child is playing.
- Games should require minimal adult guidance and supervision.
- Games should require few supplies and any necessary supplies should be common, household items that almost everyone will have on hand.
- Children of every age will be playing the games. Make sure the games you choose work as well for a preschooler as they do for a preteen.

Choose one game per day. Consider the following adaptations to games from the *VBS 2021 (Destination Dig) Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*, which work well in a virtual setting:

“Seek and Find” (Rec Card 3)

Set up several cones in a line on a table. Number the cones. Ask viewers to close their eyes (or cover the cones with a sheet) while you hide a beanbag under one of the cones. Invite kids to shout out which cone they think is covering the beanbag. Ask: “Do you think the beanbag is under cone 1, cone 2, cone 3 (and so forth)?” as you point to each cone. Reveal the correct answer. Play again as time allows.

**Note: This game can also be played together as a family. Consider including a stack of 5–7 cups and a small beanbag in each family’s “VBS at Home Kit.”*

Blindfold Drawings

Guide kids to grab a pencil, crayon, or marker and some paper. Lead kids to close their eyes (or cover their eyes with a bandanna or mask like a blindfold). Call out an item for kids to draw (while “blind”). No peeking! Allow 30–45 seconds to draw, then let kids look at their drawings. Continue calling out additional items for kids to draw. Remind kids of the Bible story of Jesus healing the blind man. Comment: “Jesus has the power God promised!”

“Nature Archaeology Hunt” (Rec Card 5)

Create a list of items that kids will likely have at home (inside the house). Call out the items one at a time. Allow 30–60 seconds for kids to find each item and bring it back to “show” you. Use a fun video countdown or play music while kids hunt for items.

**Note: This game can also be played together as a family. Provide a list of nature items. Encourage families to search for and collect the items from their own yards, neighborhood green space, or park.*

Rolling, Rolling, Rolling (Rec Card 12)

Encourage kids to blow through straws to move a table tennis ball from one side of the room to the other. Add adaptations such as: Siblings compete to see who can get their ball across the room the fastest; create a path using pillows or jump ropes to roll the ball through; create an obstacle course using household objects for the ball to roll through. Remind kids that Mary found the stone in front of the tomb rolled away and saw Jesus alive again!

**Note: Include one table tennis ball and a straw for each child in each family’s “VBS at Home Kit.”*

“Gather the Artifacts” (Rec Card 8)

Lead kids to look around their house for items an archaeologist might use. Give examples such as a hat, pencil, tape measure, string, small shovel, bucket, brush, and so forth. Allow 2 minutes for kids to find (and bring back) 5 items to use in the game.

Lead them to place the 5 items on one side of the room (along the wall), then to stand against the opposite wall from the items. Explain that on “Go!” kids will run across the room, pick up one item, and bring it back to the starting position. (If multiple kids are playing together, they should alternate turns.) On “Go!” count backwards from 5 to 1. Explain that kids should try to be back at the starting line before you finish counting down. Repeat for all 5 items.



Suggestions for a Virtual Crafts Rotation

Determine how many crafts to provide (e.g. 1 per day, 3 per week, etc.). Choose crafts that will appeal to a wide age-range of children and can be completed with minimal supervision. Keep in mind that not all children will have a parent present to help.

Package items needed to make one craft per child. Consider also including basic supplies such as glue sticks, tape, crayons, or child-sized scissors if needed.

INDIVIDUAL CRAFTS BUNDLE

Simplify with the VBS 2021 Kids Crafts Bundle (available for Destination Dig only). This special craft bundle includes one each of five different crafts (one craft per day), pre-sorted and packaged for an individual child. Includes printed instructions for all five crafts.

- Isaiah Scroll Ornament (ages 6–12)
- Jesus Heals Eyeglass Case (ages 3–12)
- Magnetic Cross Bookmark (ages 6–12)
- Pottery Shard Frame (ages 3–12)
- Chariot (ages 3–12)

Price: **\$3.99**
Item Number: **005834533**
ISBN-13: **978-1-0877-5320-1**

COLORING PAGES

- Coloring pages for each day's Bible story can be found in the Preschool Crafts Leader Guide (included in the 3s–K Rotation Pack inside the Multi-age Starter Kit).
- Photocopy and send the coloring pages home for an easy "extra" craft.

TIP: Add the text of the Bible story to the back of each coloring page so parents can easily share the Bible story with their children. (Bible stories can be copied from the leader guides or the back of the "Bible Story Pictures" in the leader packs.)



Music and Video Usage

U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW COMPLIANCE

In order to use Lifeway's VBS music, choreography or lyric videos, daily drama videos, or missions videos in your virtual VBS, you will need to follow these steps:

1. Music and videos from Lifeway's VBS resources may only be used in the context of a livestreamed or prerecorded Worship Rally or teaching video. (They may not be uploaded to public sites as stand-alone videos.)*
2. Your church must have a current, valid CCLI license and a current, valid CCLI Streaming License.**
3. Report the VBS songs included in your virtual VBS according to CCLI requirements and expectations.**

* Remove each live teaching video within 2 weeks of your streaming date; if possible, post to a password-protected site/group.

** If you have questions about CCLI licenses or reporting, start by talking to the person in charge of the worship ministry of your church. For more information about online reporting, visit CCLI's guide [HERE: *https://us.ccli.com/olr-guide/*](https://us.ccli.com/olr-guide/)

WHERE CAN I FIND DIGITAL FILES FOR MUSIC AND VIDEO?

MUSIC (AUDIO FILES)

- Worship Rally CD Set (Disc 1)
- Music Rotation and Musical CD
- Music for Kids/Preschoolers CD
- lifeway.com (by individual track or by album)
- iTunes (by individual track or by album)

PRESENTATION FILES (LYRICS, BLANK BACKGROUNDS, ASSETS FOR POWERPOINT® OR PROPRESENTER®)

- Worship Rally CD Set (Disc 2)
- Digital Worship Rally Pack

MUSIC/CHOREOGRAPHY VIDEOS

- Worship Rally DVD Set (Disc 2)
- Digital Worship Rally Pack
- Downloadable bundle from lifeway.com
- Preschool videos available in the Multi-age Starter Kit with Digital Leader Guides Add-on and at lifeway.com

DAILY DRAMA VIDEOS

- Worship Rally DVD Set (Disc 2)
- Digital Worship Rally Pack
- Downloadable bundle from lifeway.com

MISSIONS VIDEOS

- Multi-age Starter Kit with Digital Leader Guides Add-on (separate videos for preschool and kids missions rotations)



VBS at Home Kits

Plan to provide some kind of “VBS at Home Kit” for each family (or child) that registers for your Virtual VBS. These will include items kids will need in order to participate in VBS activities.

WHICH DELIVERY METHOD WILL YOU USE?

- Porch Packs**—Items in a bag or box are delivered to each home (porch).
- Church Pick-up**—Containers are prepared and labeled at church. Families can pull through and pick up a “VBS at Home Kit.” Families could also call or text when they arrive in the parking lot for a runner to bring it to the car.
- Mail Delivery**—Either choose the maximum size box you plan to ship and work with teams to keep things within the limitations, or gather everything for a single mailing address and package accordingly. (For example, you might choose a flat rate shipping box from the post office and work with your teams to be sure everything fits inside.)

BUILD READY-MADE KITS FOR DESTINATION DIG WITH THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES:

- BEGIN WITH** the VBS 2021 Family Connection Bundle. Includes one of each:
 - VBS 2021 Parent Guide (daily family devotions and activities)
 - VBS 2021 Gospel Guide
 - VBS 2021 Music for Kids CD
 - VBS 2021 Worship Rally Booklet (printed lyrics, motto, VBS Scripture, and more)
 - VBS 2021 Folding Magnifier
 - VBS 2021 Dig Site Tool Set

Price: \$9.99
Item Number: 005834532
ISBN-13: 978-1-0877-5319-5

- ADD** one VBS 2021 Kids Fun Bundle for each child in the family. Includes one of each:
 - Kids Memory Maker
 - Kids Activity Book
 - Name Tag
 - Kid Wrap
 - Destination Dig Backpack

Price: \$9.49
Item Number: 005826999
ISBN-13: 978-1-0877-2006-7

- ADD** one VBS 2021 Kids Crafts Bundle for each child in the family. Includes one of each of the following craft packs (pre-sorted for 1 per child):

- Isaiah Scroll Ornament (ages 6–12)
- Jesus Heals Eyeglass Case (ages 3–12)
- Magnetic Cross Bookmark (ages 6–12)
- Pottery Shard Frame (ages 3–12)
- Chariot (ages 3–12)

Price: \$3.99
Item Number: 005834533
ISBN-13: 978-1-0877-5320-1

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO CONSIDER INCLUDING:

- Bible story coloring pages
- Any items needed for Bible study or rotations
- Reproducible pages from the Bible Study Leader Packs
- A “Daily Challenge” for families
- Missions offering container (and information about the missions cause)
- A “Parent Letter” with information just for parents
- Prepackaged snacks
- Flier about your in-person VBS Celebration and other upcoming church activities
- Fun souvenirs or themed items

ONLINE OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES:

- “VBS at Home” on Ministry Grid** (available for Destination Dig only)—Free “family VBS” resources for families to view and complete at home. Simply send the access link to families each day of VBS. (Access to these resources will be emailed to those who purchase one of the Destination Dig Starter Kits with Digital Leader Guides Add-on.)
- Lifeway VBS App** (includes both Concrete & Cranes and Destination Dig)—Families can download either theme’s app for \$2.99. Includes all six VBS songs, written Bible stories, themed games, and more!



Family Celebrations and Follow-up

Consult the VBS Administrative Guide for follow-up strategies and ideas for connecting with families. Be sure to have a plan in place to follow up with new families (as well as church members who have not yet returned to church) and work to enfold them in your church's ongoing ministries.

Consider planning some kind of in-person event on campus before, during, or after your Virtual VBS. This will be important to helping families feel connected to your church. Ideas include a drive-thru event to pick up supplies, a parking lot family worship rally or VBS Celebration, or other socially distanced activity for families to participate in together. VBS Celebration ideas can be found on page 53 of the Administrative Guide.

Lifeway™ kids

lifeway.com/kids