

VBS 2022 GRADES 1-2 BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute plan is designed to train and equip VBS leaders to teach Lifeway's Spark Studios™ to 1st and 2nd graders.

Needed Resources

- 5 VBS 2022 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Guides (005834032)
- 2 VBS 2022 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Packs (005834047) — Prep the following pack items:
 - Pack Item 1: Spark Studios Banner — Display and add Velcro® in each frame.
 - Pack Item 2: Banner Add-ons — Cut apart for each day and add Velcro to back.
 - Pack Item 4: Ephesians 2:10 Key Words — Cut apart and place in a ziplock bag.
 - Pack Item 12: Artist's Model — Photocopy one per attendee on cardstock to distribute. Complete a sample version of step 8 below to show attendees.
 - Pack Item 25: Paintbrush Paddles — Photocopy 8 paintbrushes onto cardstock and cut apart along dotted lines. Write one of the following on each brush: *Motto, Scripture, Levels of Biblical Learning, Getting Started, Christ Connection, Characteristics, Behavior, and Continue VBS.*
- VBS 2022 Visual Pack (005836785)
- VBS 2022 Floor Prints (005835981)
- VBS 2022 Supersized Backdrop (005836778)
- 2 VBS 2022 Tablecloths (005835980)
- VBS 2022 Cups (005835962)
- VBS 2022 String Flags (005835982)
- VBS 2022 Kids Activity Book (005834085)
- *It's Worth It* by Landry Holmes (005814067)
- Paint swatches — Lime/green, pink, purple, yellow, aqua/blue (about 20 of each color, all in the same shade; free from local hardware or paint store. These colors were chosen to match theme colors and will also match tablecloths, markers, and poster board below, but any 5 colors are fine.)
- 5 plastic tablecloths to match the colors of the paint swatches (lime/green, pink, purple, yellow, aqua/blue)
- 5 paint cans (any size) plus extra in various sizes for decorating (Note: Metal pails will stack inside each other well for transport/storage.)
- 5 markers to match paint swatches (lime/green, pink, purple, yellow, and aqua/blue)
- 5 poster board (all white or 1 lime/green, 1 pink, 1 purple, 1 yellow, 1 aqua/blue) — Print the Day (1–5) across the top of each poster board. Down the left side of Days 1, 4, and 5's poster, write: *Reflect, Start It, Know It, Learn It, Live It, Finish It, and AAO.* On Day 2's poster, write: *Reflect, Start It, Learn It, Live It, Know It, Finish It, and AAO.* On Day 3's poster, write *Reflect, Start It, Learn It, Know It, Live It, Finish It, and AAO.*
- Assorted arts and crafts supplies (craft sticks, watercolors, glitter glue, adhesive foam shapes, googly eyes, play dough/modeling clay, markers, colored pencils, paintbrushes, glue, etc.)
- Photocopies of "Sharing the Gospel with Kids" from the inside front cover of the Leader Guide (1 per attendee)
- Set of 5 Velcro dots (for Pack Items 1-2)
- 20 craft sticks

- 20 yellow paper plates with googly eyes — Make 10 smiling faces and 10 frowning faces. Tape each on a craft stick handle.
- 5 small gift bags — Place a small, inexpensive trinket that VBS leaders might enjoy after a busy week at VBS in each bag. (Examples: bubble bath, bath salts, lotion, chocolate, sleep mask, etc.)
- Music for Kids CD (from Leader Pack) and CD player
- Optional: Easels (either floor or tabletop style) for displaying the motto and Scripture posters from the *VBS 20200 Visual Pack*

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Cover the focal wall with a *VBS 2022 Supersized Backdrop*. Add the Spark Studios Banner (pack item 1) to the focal wall. Cover two display tables with *VBS 2022 Tablecloths* and display the curriculum items, *VBS 2022 Cups* filled with colored pencils, a few paint cans filled with paint brushes, and any other art supplies. Drape *VBS 2022 String Flags* across the doorway and place the *VBS 2022 Floor Prints* on the floor at the entrance to the room, leading toward the chairs.

Place 5 paint cans on their sides along the front edge of the display tables with the 5 different colored tablecloths “spilling” out of the cans onto the floor. These will represent Days 1–5. On the floor where each “paint” lands, place that day’s Bible story picture, bonus verse poster, a copy of the Leader Guide, and the corresponding Leader Pack items for that day. Tape the 5 colored “Daily” poster boards around the room.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome to Spark Studios (3 minutes)

- Play VBS 2022 music as the attendees enter. Give each attendee a paint swatch (stack cards so colors will be evenly distributed). Encourage each attendee to write her name on the card and hang onto it for the chance to win a prize later.
- Welcome conferees to your studio. Share that it is your prayer that imagination is ignited, and creativity is awakened here at Spark Studios!
- Pray and thank the Lord for creating us and designing us for His purpose. Ask Him to spark creative ideas as you try to honor Him with your very best as you lead others during VBS. Ask God to give you not only great ideas to teach boys and girls but creativity, strength, and energy over the coming months as you prepare and recruit others to help serve. Ask God to prepare the hearts of those who will be serving and attending.

2. Getting To Know the Artist (5 minutes)

- Encourage attendees to move around the room, introducing themselves. Instruct them to share their names, their churches, their roles at Vacation Bible School, and how many children attend their VBS. (This gives you an idea of how to best meet the needs of the group you are working with.) If the group is too large, consider asking different questions and allowing conferees to raise their hands to indicate if they are state or associational conference leaders, church leaders, first time Bible school rookies, have served more than 10 years, the VBS director of their churches, how many kids their VBS serves (more or less than 200), and so forth.
- Comment on the wide variety of artists (volunteers) serving God by serving many different roles in VBS!

3. It's Worth It (5 minutes)

- Say: "Vacation Bible School is perhaps one of the biggest events that some of our churches do. Do you ever just wonder if it's all worth it? Today we want to begin by quickly looking at the reasons why we do what we do! Let's remember why it's worth it!"
- Lead volunteers to share why they think VBS is worth doing. Some of their answers may be listed below but if not then share these following items taken from the book *It's Worth It* by Landry Holmes
 - **Energizes your whole church!** VBS gets members out of their seats gluing googly eyes, painting cardboard, leading wacky games, and creating crazy snacks! It is fun for kids and great for families! Everyone in your church can have fun!
 - **A dependable and ongoing ministry**, reaching more than 20,000 churches and 2 million people annually. It is a short-term event with long term results. It's a 5 day, pull out all the stops, unforgettable experience!
 - **Creates lasting memories**—VBS uses the creativity of special events and themes to evoke feelings of excitement with games, food, decorations, and music—the whole package!
 - **An event that is customizable**—VBS can take place during the day or the evening, on campus or off campus, for many children or just a few. It's what your church needs it to be so you can make it fit your needs!
 - **69% of all American parents would encourage their child to attend a VBS at a church they don't attend if invited by a friend.** That's all parents—including Muslim, Buddhist, agnostic, and all socioeconomic statuses. VBS attracts the local community when church members make personal invitations.
 - **It works!** It's often a church's largest event with the most people on campus. What other ministry in your church can repeat this?
 - **It's about sharing Jesus!** Whether you have 5 or 5,000, megachurch or a mission trip—it's the message of Jesus! It's an investment for the gospel in children's lives!
- Comment: "Obviously, you know it's worth it because you are here!"

4. Let's Get Focused (2 minutes)

- Ask: "Do you ever get overwhelmed when it's time to get started with this huge undertaking of VBS? Where do we start? Well today let's talk about how an artist might get started or focused. When an artist looks out across a beautiful landscape, how do they know what to paint? Perhaps they use a viewfinder. A viewfinder helps us to see specific things and helps us crop out or cut out all the other distractions so we can focus on the main thing. What distractions do you need to cut out to help you prepare for VBS?"
- Explain that at Spark Studios, we will help boys and girls focus on their creativity as they discover that they are each a masterpiece in progress, created and designed by God!
- Mention that the theme verse, Ephesians 2:10, is our prayer—that kids will discover that their creativity is a gift from the Creator who designed them for His glory. The Master Artist is working to redeem, reclaim, and transform us, His creation, into the original design He planned for us. We are His workmanship!
- Lead the group to read the theme verse together.

5. Let's Get Inspired (6 minutes)

- Lead conferees to move to sit with others who have the same paint swatch color. Ask one team member to collect all the paint swatches and then place them inside the paint bucket at their "paint color" at the front of the room. While they're there, lead them to grab the leader guide for their group.
- Call on additional volunteers to come up and choose a paint brush and read aloud the question. Mention that these are things that might "inspire" us to get creative. Each of these items will be found around the room or inside the Bible Study Leader Guide.
 - What is the Motto? (*Created! Designed! Empowered!*)
 - What is the reference of the VBS theme verse? (*Ephesians 2:10*)
 - What topics are listed for Getting Started? (*Found on page 1 of leader guide: Prepare Your Heart, Get the Basic Facts from Your VBS Director, Plan, Gather and Prepare, Teach, Continue the Connection.*)
 - What is listed as the Level of Biblical Learning? (*People can develop and use their abilities and talents in ways that please and honor God.*)
 - What is the Christ Connection? (*When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He saves us from our sin and gives us new purpose. God gives us good works to do as we follow and tell others about Jesus.*)
 - What are some characteristics of 1st and 2nd Graders? (*Conferees can mention anything from page 4 of the leader guide.*)
 - What are some helpful tips for guiding behavior? (*Conferees can mention anything from page 5 of the leader guide.*)
 - What are some ways to continue VBS at Home? (*Conferees can mention anything from page 6 of the leader guide.*)

6. Decorations Help Inspire (2 minutes)

- Share your own decorating tips and ideas found in the leader guide on page 6.
 - Focal wall suggestions: Keep it simple. Focus on items for teaching biblical truths.
 - Activity based decorations: Art studio area to display kids' creations.
 - Fun options for other areas of the room: Many ideas, be creative!

7. Materials Help Inspire (2 minutes)

- Mention that artists, creators, and crafters use lots of different materials and media to express and create their designs.
- Say: "At Vacation Bible School, we use lots of different materials to meet the learning styles and needs of children. There are also different materials to share the gospel with children and their families."
- Talk about these materials (show them if you have them) and share general information about them and the specific needs they will meet. Let conferees know you will focus in detail on the Bible Study Leader Guide and Leader Pack in a few minutes.
 - *VBS 2022 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Guide*
 - *VBS 2022 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Pack*
 - *VBS 2022 Kids Activity Book*
 - *VBS 2022 Special Friends Leader Guide* (005834337)
 - *VBS 2022 Gospel Guide* (005834360)
 - *VBS 2022 Parent Guide* (005834361)
 - *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* (005567177)
 - Multi-age curriculum (005834333)
 - Spanish VBS resources (005834356)
 - Grades 1–6 rotation materials

8. Materials to Create (10 minutes)

- Distribute a copy of leader pack item 12 to every attendee.
- Explain that conferees may come to the tables at the front of the room to gather art materials. Instruct them to use the materials to design a creative model of themselves demonstrating their gifts, talents, and the abilities that God has gifted and designed for them, as well as how they will use those abilities to share Jesus with boys and girls at VBS this summer.
- Show a sample model that you have created. (Writer's example: I drew a red heart because I love the Lord and He loves me! I painted sparkly fingernails because I play the piano and use my hands to work with boys and girls. I painted big red lips because I spend lots of time talking and teaching! And I added high heels because God gave me the gift of serving and I'm always headed somewhere to serve Him by serving others!)
- Encourage participants to share with their neighbors as they are creating.
- Say: "You are unique and created in His image! Think of a creative way you can demonstrate one or two of your gifts or talents. Tell us how you'll use that in VBS. There's no need to cover the whole page, since we don't have much time. So have fun, fast!"
- Look around as conferees create and ask some of them to share with the group.
- Suggest that conferees use this as a prayer reminder as they prepare for VBS.

9. Schedule Options (2 minutes)

- Point attendees back to page 1 in the leader guide. Remind them that to get started planning, they need to know their VBS schedule. Explain that the VBS Director will plan which format their VBS will use.
- Mention common schedules such as day or night, and typical lengths, such as 2½ or 3 hours.
- Describe potential rotation styles, such as moving their Bible study group to different rotations or staying in a self-contained classroom where all rotations take place in one spot for one group of kids.

10. Leader Guide and Leader Packet (40 minutes)

- Lead each color group to take their paint bucket of materials and sit on the floor or gather their chairs near their corresponding day/color poster as they will explore items together.
- Explain that there are several parts to each daily lesson. Each team should find the 6 components and choose something to write on their poster board under each section. The item they choose from each section must be something they can quickly share with the whole breakout group.
- Note that there will often be several things to choose from and that teams may explain why they chose what they did. Also note that the components appear in a different order on different days, according to the flow of activities each day.
- Instruct each group to also locate where the leader guide suggests an opportunity to share the gospel during each day, and mark that on their poster with a cross.
- Distribute copies of "Sharing the Gospel with Kids" and let conferees know they can keep these and that they are OK to copy.
- Note that each day begins with a time of study and reflection for the leader. Say: "You cannot share what you don't know, so leaders should make sure their hearts are ready."
- Point out that the Bible story is in the "Learn It" section. Remind conferees that the Bible story is in the leader guide and written out on the back of each Bible story picture but

should always be told in the leader's own words, with the Bible open so that the children see and know these are Bible truths.

- Give about 5 minutes for the groups to work. Then give each team a few minutes to tell what they found that might help spark creativity to help Reflect on, Start, Learn, Live, Know, and Finish the connection with kids.
- Use the chart below to help guide teams as needed. As each team presents their day, lead them to add their day's add-on (pack item 2) to the "Spark Studios Banner" (pack item 1) on the focal wall.
 - Day 1: GOD, THE CREATOR — David Praised God the Creator (*Acts 13:21-23; Psalm 104*)
 - Today's Point: God is the marvelous Creator.
 - Reflect
 - Start It
 - Know It
 - Learn It
 - Live It
 - Finish It (Sharing the Gospel Opportunity in #3)
 - Additional Activity Options
 - Day 2: GOD, THE DESIGNER — God Prepared David to Be a King (1 Samuel 16)
 - Today's Point: God uniquely designed us for His purpose.
 - Reflect
 - Start It
 - Learn It (Sharing the Gospel Opportunity in #7)
 - Live It
 - Know It
 - Finish It
 - Additional Activity Options
 - Day 3: JESUS, THE KING — The People Welcomed Jesus (Psalm 118:26, Acts 13:21-23, Matthew 21:1-22)
 - Today's Point: Jesus is the King that God promised to save us.
 - Reflect
 - Start It
 - Learn It
 - Know It
 - Live It
 - Finish (Sharing the Gospel Opportunity in #2)
 - Additional Activity Options
 - Day 4: JESUS, THE REDEEMER — Jesus Died and Rose Again (Luke 23:13-25,44-56; 24:1-12,36-49)
 - Today's Point: Jesus fulfilled God's plan to save us.
 - Reflect
 - Start It
 - Know It
 - Learn It (Sharing the Gospel Opportunity in #5)
 - Live It
 - Finish It
 - Additional Activity Options
 - Day 5: HOLY SPIRIT, THE HELPER — God Sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-14;2)
 - Today's Point: The Holy Spirit gives us the power to follow God's plan.
 - Reflect

- Start It
 - Know It
 - Learn It
 - Live It
 - Finish It (Sharing the Gospel Opportunity in #2)
 - Additional Activity Options
- Thank each team for their contributions. Encourage each person to spend lots of time in preparation for telling the Bible story to kids. Say: “Remember, you want to share these truths so that boys and girls know Jesus, believe in Him, and make Him Lord of their lives.”

11. Is it Worth It? (10 minutes)

- Invite 10 volunteers to take an emoji poll. Distribute a smiling and a frowning emoji to each person. Volunteers will need to listen to each of the following questions and respond with the smiling emoji if the answer is “yes” or the frowning one if the answer is “no.”
- Do you have to do this plan just like we did it today? *(No. This is just a plan to help you. Be creative and do what best fits your needs! VBS is customizable and you can design it to fit what you and your church need.)*
- Do you have to use all these materials? *(No. We just want you to see what’s there! Lifeway provides lots of options. But sometimes, if your budget is limited, you must pick and choose. You can also make variations of some of these items yourself.)*
- Should we encourage kids to bring Bibles to VBS? *(Yes! If a child doesn’t have a Bible, get him one! The “VBS 2022 Devotional Bible for Kids” is a great choice. Purchase a couple to have ready to give to children who do not have Bibles. Then, encourage everyone to bring and use their Bibles! Teachers could consider purchasing the “VBS 2022 Studio Supply Bag” (005835975) and using it during the week to carry all Bibles for the group then use it at the end of the week to bring a gift to a child and family who might be prospects.)*
- Do we have to do the snack and rec like Lifeway designs? Snacks and Games really don’t matter do they? *(Yes, they matter! They are all teaching opportunities, and they reinforce the Bible truths we’re trying to teach daily! So why would you skip an opportunity to keep teaching even at snack and rec time? Snack and rec offer many different suggestions and options to fit your group to continue teaching and sharing God’s Word all day long at VBS. Kids will remember the Bible study even better when it is “tasted” at snack and “played” at rec! But remember, these rotations are just as easy to customize as the Bible study curriculum is, so you can tailor them to your needs!)*
- Do we have to use the VBS 2022 Memory Maker (005835975)? *(No. But it is a great reward and encouragement for children who are new to VBS, are prospects, or are just learning about Jesus and the Bible. It’s a great “hands on” tool for kids.)*
- Should we consider purchasing the VBS 2022 Parent Guide? *(Yes! Use it as a tool to meet and greet with parents early in your VBS week, then follow up with parents as the week goes on. This might just be a way for them to learn about Jesus too!)*
- Are the activity books really a good choice? *(Yes! Even if you can’t buy them for every child, get a few for each room. Seek out the lost or prospects in your group and use them as a follow-up tool!)*
- Should you get rid of all of your VBS curriculum, decorations, and materials right after VBS? *(No! Have a VBS reunion or party in the park a couple of weeks later! Use it to draw folks back to your church for another occasion, then share!)*
- Thank volunteers and ask them to return to their seats.

12. Questions, Giveaway, Closing Prayer (3 minutes)

- Ask each team to place their color swatches with their names on them into their paint cans and pass them forward.
- While collecting names, ask if anyone has any questions and answer them or invite them to stay after class if a question is more specific to an individual situation.
- Thank conferees for being great artists and working creatively as a team as you all got pumped up and empowered for Vacation Bible School!
- Tell attendees you're going to be praying for them—that they'll have lots of creativity and a great time sharing with children and their families as they discover they are created in Christ and designed for God's purpose.
- Also remind them you'll still be praying when they're VBS tired and hopefully it will have all been worth it!
- Draw a paint swatch of each color and call those "winners" up to collect a goody that may help them relax after they are VBS tired!
- Close in prayer and dismiss.