

VBS 2022 GRADES 3-4 BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (90 MINUTES)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute plan is designed to train and equip VBS teachers to lead 3rd & 4th graders in Lifeway's Spark Studios curriculum.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2022 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide* (005834051)
- *VBS 2022 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Pack* (005834067) – Prepare items 1, 2, and 5 to display on the focal wall. Be prepared to share suggested pack items as they are referred to when daily reports are given.
- *VBS 2022 Kids Activity Book* (005834075)
- *VBS 2022 Memory Maker* (005835974)
- *VBS 2022 Devotional Bible for Kids* (CSB, 005834092; KJV, 005834091)
- *VBS 2022 Tablecloth* (005835980)
- Item 1: “Conference Handout” — Print and photocopy 1 per conferee. Place a handout in each seat.
- Item 2: “Sharing the Gospel Icon” — Print the icon on a sheet of white 11x17 heavyweight paper. Use watercolors to decorate. Frame by using scalloped bulletin board trim.
- Item 3: “Group Assignment Cards” — Print the provided cards on white, heavyweight paper. Print and cut apart. Review and be familiar with the correct answers for each day's assignment.
- 6 sheets of white 11x17 heavyweight paper — Create “Session Outline Title Art” by using a permanent marker to boldly print the following titles on separate sheets: *Start It, Learn It, Know It, Live It, Finish It*, and *Additional Activity Options*. Use watercolor paints to decorate these banners and frame them by using scalloped bulletin board trim.
- Paint swatches — Collect multiple swatches of 5 different colors (example: shades of blue, red, green, purple, and gray) from a hardware or paint store. You'll need 1 swatch for every expected conferee to create 5 “color swatch” groups. Place the swatches on a small table/desk by the door of the room. (Note: You'll need to control the distribution of the paint swatch tints to ensure equal groups.)
- 4 empty, clean pint-sized paint cans (empty vegetable cans with labels removed and edges sanded will work, too) — Label each can with one of the following phrases on the side: *Physical/Social, Spiritual, Emotional, Bible Skills*.
- Print each of the 23 characteristic statements found on page 4 of the *VBS 2022 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide* on small strips of paper.
- 23 watercolor paintbrushes — Attach one of the 23 characteristic statements to each brush.
- Study page 3 of the *VBS 2022 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide* and be prepared to share a synopsis of each day's Bible story.
- 5 sentence strips (or pieces of poster board cut into strips) — Print “Today's Point” from each day (found at the beginning of each session) on individual sentence strips.
- Review and be prepared to briefly present the teaching content represented in each day's Start It, Live It, and Finish It.
- Crown (paper or toy)
- CD player

Room Setup

Attach the “Spark Studios Banner” (leader pack item 1) to the focal wall. Attach the prepared “Session Outline Title Art” above the banner. Along one side of the banner attach the “Sharing the Gospel Icon” (Item 2 of this plan) and the “Ephesians 2:10 Poster” (leader pack item 5). Leave the other side of the banner clear to add the prepared “Today’s Point” sentence strips.

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the focal wall. Place a table off to one side of the focal wall and cover with a *VBS 2022 Tablecloth*. On the table, display a *VBS 2022 Devotional Bible*, a *VBS 2022 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*, a *VBS 2022 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Pack*, a *VBS 2022 Kids Activity Book*, and a *VBS 2022 Memory Maker*. Include the prepared paint cans and paintbrushes. Prepare the “Banner Add-ons” (leader pack item 2) and display them at the front of the table. Optional: Consider creating examples of artwork 3rd and 4th graders will be asked to create during VBS and displaying these examples in an “Art Studio” on a separate wall close to the focal wall as described on page 6 of the leader guide. (Activity options are found on pages 20, 27, 28, 33, and 38 in the leader guide.)

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome and Prayer (2 minutes)

- Play music from the *VBS 2022 Music for Kids CD* (found in the leader pack) as conferees enter. Allow participants to choose a paint swatch and find a seat.
- Start the conference at the appointed time by saying: “Welcome to the 3rd and 4th Grade Bible Study Studio! This is a place for being creative! Did you know that God is the Creator? In fact, God created everything that exists. He thought up every funny animal and He designed all the systems of the human body to work together just right. He made mountains and the sunshine and all the bugs. And He made YOU and designed that you would be here to learn how to lead 3rd and 4th graders in VBS 2022. All of it was His idea and we will praise Him for what He’s done.”
- Lead the group in prayer, praising God for how He designed each person in the room and asking Him to guide the time together that it might be helpful in equipping and empowering teachers to lead 3rd and 4th graders well during VBS 2022.

2. Ice Breaker and Motto (8 minutes)

- Call attention to the paint swatches that each participant chose when entering the room. Lead conferees to find other participants who are in their same color family. (Example: all the greens will group together, all the reds, and so forth). Explain that color families will be sitting together for the remainder of the conference.
- Once participants have found their color swatch teams share the VBS 2022 motto: “Created! Designed! Empowered!” Explain that God created, designed, and will empower each of them to lead 3rd and 4th graders in VBS.
- Instruct groups to create movements that demonstrate each word in the motto and be prepared to share their creations with the class. (This is an adaptation of the Day 1 Start It and Know It activities in the leader guide).
- After 2 minutes, allow each group to share.
- Lead teams to be seated with their new color swatch teams.

3. Understanding 3rd and 4th Graders (15 minutes)

- Share the importance of understanding the kids we teach. Explain that often we are disappointed in a child’s behavior because we’ve not taken the time to understand general characteristics and abilities of the kids we’re teaching. When we understand their general development and skill level, we create learning environments and activities

with those expectations. Share that on page 4 of the leader guide are 23 general characteristics of 3rd and 4th graders.

- Refer to the four labeled paint cans and explain that these characteristics have been placed into four categories: Physical/Social, Spiritual, Emotional, and Bible Skills.
- Call attention to the prepared paintbrushes. Share that volunteers will choose a brush on which one of the characteristic statements have been attached. Once chosen, the volunteer will read the characteristic to the group, decide which paint can the brush should be placed, and walk to the front to place the brush in the appropriate can. (Note: Some characteristics are easier to determine which category they belong in than others. That part isn't as important as simply hearing and considering the characteristics. Keep this activity to 15 minutes. If all the characteristic statements aren't read, refer conferees to review the statements on their own.)

4. **Introduce the Grades 3–4 Bible Study Teaching Resources** (5 minutes)

- Refer conferees to the focal table and share that Lifeway has provided 5 essential resources for a successful 3rd and 4th grade VBS.
- Introduce participants to the 5 displayed resources and briefly explain each:
 1. **The Bible:** While Lifeway has provided biblically solid, developmentally appropriate, and fun curriculum, the Bible is our most important resource. Never allow kids to wonder from where the content of their Bible study comes. Explain that, if possible, each child will need access to a Bible every session.
 2. **VBS 2022 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide:** Explain that this guide contains 5 daily session plans. Additionally, great teacher helps are found both at the front and back of this resource. Give special attention to page 3 (the Bible content overviews) and pages 43–44 (supply lists for the week and for each day). Each Bible study leader will need a copy of the leader guide
 3. **VBS 2022 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Pack:** Leaders will love the time-saving features of the items in this pack, and kids will love the fun! Share that the leader pack contains theme related colorful items used to enhance the Bible Study Studio. Share a few of the resources including the displayed “Spark Studios Banner” (item 1), the teaching pictures with the printed Bible story and review and discussion questions on the back (items 3, 11, 16, 21, and 24), the Bible verse posters in CSB or KJV (items 5, 10, 14, 19, 20, 29), and the *VBS 2022 Music for Kids CD*. Mention that during the conference, other pack items will be shared. Explain that each Bible study class will need one leader pack.
 4. **VBS 2022 Kids Activity Book:** There are two ways this resource can be used. The church may choose to buy one copy for each child to use each day. Alternatively, churches may buy a few books for each classroom and allow kids to share. These books are designed to engage kids in fun application activities, creative challenges, and can serve as a take-home remembrance of what they learned during VBS 2022. You'll find all this and more covered by a kid friendly, cover, designed to be personalized.
 5. **VBS 2022 Memory Maker:** These bags provide a place for kids to collect daily tags and other memory reminders received each day that will help them recall biblical content and application learned during VBS. It is recommended that each child be given her own Memory Maker.

5. Overview the Daily Teaching Outlines (45 minutes)

- Assign one of the 5 days of VBS to each of the color swatch teams and give each group a prepared assignment card (Item 3 in this teaching plan). Review the assignment and share that teams will have 5 minutes to answer the 3 questions for their assigned day.
- After 5 minutes, explain that each day the Bible Study Studio consists of a 30-minute core and four, 10-minute additional activity options totaling 70 minutes of Bible study content. Share that today, you will be reviewing in detail each day's 30-minute core.
- Refer to the "Session Outline Title Art" hung above the focal wall banner and explain that the core session is broken down in to 5 parts, Start It, Learn It, Know It, Live It, and Finish It.
- Walk the group through each day's 30-minute core Bible study content by using the following sequence, pausing after day 2 to complete step 6 below. Invite participants to add the information to their handouts:
 1. The conference leader will introduce each day by sharing the session title and adding the Spark Studio daily "Banner Add-on (leader pack, item 2) to the focal wall banner. Share the prepared Bible story overview. Encourage teachers to spend time studying the Bible content (*Leader Devotion and Reflection*) and seeking what God would have them learn.
 2. The conference leader will share and add the daily "Today's Point" to the clear side of the focal wall banner.
 3. The conference leader will provide a quick overview of the teaching content found in "**Start It.**"
 4. Small groups will report from their "**Learn It**" group assignment #1.
 5. Small groups will report from their "**Know it**" group assignment #2.
 6. Small groups will report from their "**Sharing the Gospel**" group assignment #3.
 7. The conference leader will share the teaching content found in "**Live It.**"
 8. The conference leader will share the teaching content found in "**Finish It.**"(Note: As reports are given, share suggested pack items and resources.)
- Close this portion of the conference, reminding leaders that in addition to the daily 30-minute core, there are four 10-minute additional activity options (two Application Activities, one Bible Skill Activity, and one Bonus Verse Activity) totaling 70 minutes of potential Bible Study Studio content each day.
- Option: If you have chosen to prepare an "Art Studio" wall, explain the art added to the studio during VBS are projects completed by kids during the additional activity options (Days 1—3) and Live It and Start It activities (Days 4 and 5).

6. Learn the VBS Scripture Memory Verse (10 minutes)

- After the Day 2 information has been reported, lead the group to participate in that day's memory verse activity.
- Guide the group to stand in a circle. Review the memory verse by allowing each person in the group to say one word of the verse, in order. Start with the tallest person and continue to his right. Don't forget the reference!
- Next, begin passing the crown around as you play "Spark Studios" (Music for Kids CD). Pause the music in different places and ask the conferee holding the crown to say the memory verse. Share that this is an adaptation of the Day 2 Know It activity.

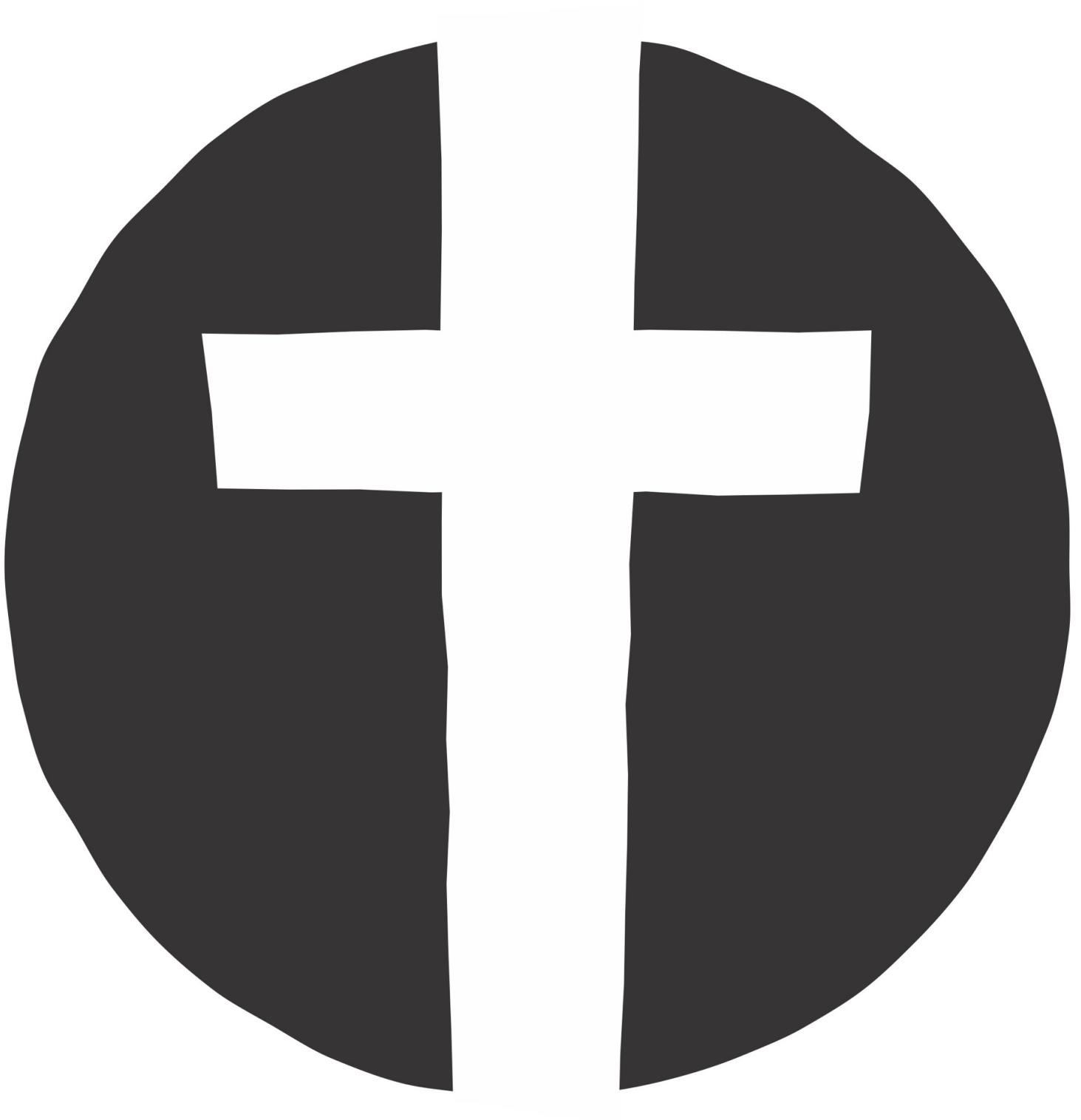
7. Closing Challenge and Prayer (5 minutes)

- Refer to the participant's paint swatches.
- Lead each conferee to print her first name on the swatch. If participants are from different churches, encourage them to add the date of their church's VBS to the swatch.
- Instruct participants to swap swatches with someone and plan to pray for that conferee over the weeks leading up to VBS.
- Lead the group to say the VBS motto: "Created! Designed! Empowered!"
- Remind the group that they were Created in Christ, Designed for God's Purpose, and Empowered to do His will.
- Close the session with prayer asking God to help each person as they prepare, lead, and follow-up with 3rd and 4th graders at VBS 2022.



Grades 3–4
Bible Study Studio
Overview

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
START IT	God, The Creator	God, The Designer	Jesus, The King	Jesus, The Redeemer	Holy Spirit, The Helper
LEARN IT					
KNOW IT					
LIVE IT					
FINISH IT					



Day 1 Team Assignment Card



- #1 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders are actively involved as the Bible story is presented during “Learn It.”
- #2 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders learn the VBS 2022 Scripture memory verse during “Know It.”
- #3 Discover where the “Sharing the Gospel” icon is found and what it says.

Day 2 Team Assignment Card



- #1 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders are actively involved as the Bible story is presented during “Learn It.”
- #2 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders learn the VBS 2022 Scripture memory verse during “Know It.”
- #3 Discover where the “Sharing the Gospel” icon is found and what it says.

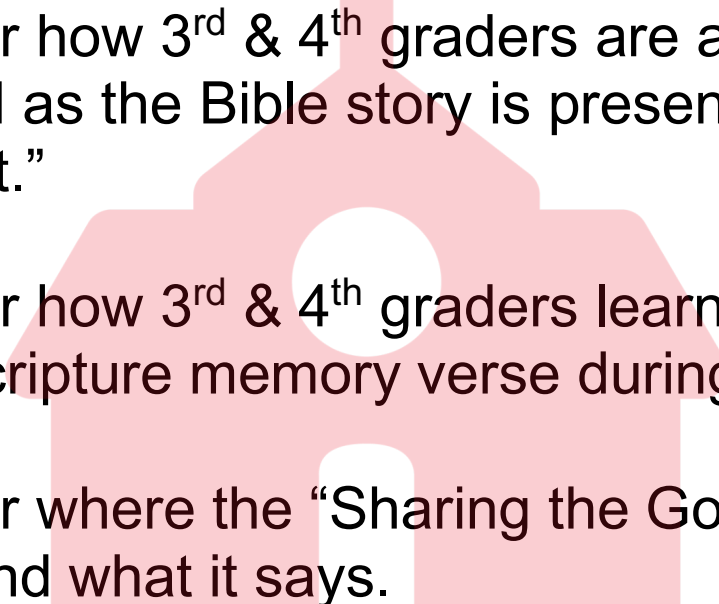
Day 3 Team Assignment Card

- #1 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders are actively involved as the Bible story is presented during “Learn It.”
- #2 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders learn the VBS 2022 Scripture memory verse during “Know It.”
- #3 Discover where the “Sharing the Gospel” icon is found and what it says.

Day 4 Team Assignment Card

- #1 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders are actively involved as the Bible story is presented during “Learn It.”
- #2 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders learn the VBS 2022 Scripture memory verse during “Know It.”
- #3 Discover where the “Sharing the Gospel” icon is found and what it says.

Day 5 Team Assignment Card

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- #1 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders are actively involved as the Bible story is presented during “Learn It.”
 - #2 Discover how 3rd & 4th graders learn the VBS 2022 Scripture memory verse during “Know It.”
 - #3 Discover where the “Sharing the Gospel” icon is found and what it says.