

VBS 2022 MULTI-AGE PRESCHOOL AND KIDS OVERVIEW (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute plan is designed to train and equip VBS teachers to lead a broadly-graded group of 3s–Kindergartners and/or 1st–6th graders using Lifeway’s Multi-age curriculum materials.

Needed Resources

- VBS 2022 Multi-Age Starter Kit (005834332) OR the following individual products:
 - VBS 2022 Multi-age Preschool Bible Study Leader Guide (005834086)
 - VBS 2022 Multi-age Preschool Bible Study Leader Pack (005834087)
 - VBS 2022 Multi-age Kids Bible Study Leader Guide (005834068)
 - VBS 2022 Multi-age Kids Bible Study Leader Pack (005834069)
 - VBS 2022 Preschool Activity Book (005834085)
 - VBS 2022 Kids Activity Book (005834075)
- VBS 2022 Memory Makers (005835974)
- VBS 2022 Supersized Backdrop (005836778)
- VBS 2022 Tablecloths (005835980)
- VBS 2022 Devotional Bible for Kids (CSB 005834092 or KJV 005834091)
- VBS 2022 Gospel Wristband (005834129)
- VBS 2022 Gospel Guide (005834360)
- VBS 2022 Parent Guide (005834361)
- *The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me* (005567177)
- Item 1: “Handout” — Copy 1 per conferee.
- 2 tables
- Easel
- Blank canvas (or white poster board)
- Permanent markers
- Various colors of crayons
- 5 brooms
- 60 dessert plates (12 each of 5 colors) — Print 2–3 words of the theme verse (Ephesians 2:10) on each plate so that each color has a complete verse.
- OPTIONAL: 5 pool noodle the same colors of the dessert plates — Insert the brooms in each pool noodle so that they look like paint brushes.
- 5 pieces of poster board (the same colors as the dessert plates) — Cut each board into the shape of a church.
- 60 large pom-poms (assorted colors)
- Plastic spoons (1 per conferee)
- Large ball of yarn

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in five groups. Each of the five groups will be assigned a specific color that will be the group’s color throughout the session. If you are expecting less than 10 participants, arrange all the chairs in one large semi-circle. Cover a side wall with the *VBS 2022 Supersized Backdrop*. Cover two tables with the *VBS 2022 Tablecloth*. Place the curriculum and Bible on one table and place all supplies on the other. Hang both the Preschool “Studio Backdrop” (Multi-age Preschool Leader Pack Item 6), and Kids “Spark Studios Banner” (Multi-age Kids Leader Pack Item 1) on the focal wall. Place an easel near the focal wall with a blank canvas and a container of permanent markers.

Teaching Steps

1. **Welcome** (10 minutes)

- As conferees arrive, lead them to write their names on the blank canvas with a permanent marker. If time and space allow, have them draw an emoji to depict how they feel about VBS 2022. Instruct each conferee to also choose a crayon to use during the first activity.
- Welcome conferees. Introduce yourself.
- Lead participants to introduce themselves to the group by stating their name, the color they chose, and something God made that is that color. If you have a large group (15 or more), ask them to introduce themselves to their small circle group.
- Mention that this activity is modified from the kids activities on Day 1.
- Pray, thanking God that He uniquely made each of us and has a plan for us.

2. **Various Ways to Use Multi-age Resources** (10 Minutes)

- Explain that in VBS, multi-age refers to the following two broadly-graded age groups—preschool multi-age (written primarily for ages 3–completed kindergarten) and kids multi-age (written primarily for completed grades 1–6).
- Mention that each church’s definition of preschool multi-age and kids multi-age may vary. For example, at some churches preschool might include children younger than 3 and kids might include kindergarten or may not include preteens.
- Share with the group that the multi-age resource is great for smaller churches that may not have enough children for each specific age group, few leaders, or those who prefer to have all the children together in one group.
- Another way to use the multi-age resources is enlist one or two teachers and treat the Bible study as another rotation where each group rotates in for the Bible study and Bible study activities.
- Explain that this curriculum is also an excellent resource to use in a mission setting when you may not know exactly what ages or how many children to expect each day.
- Ask conferees to share additional reasons or ways their church has used the multi-age resources.

3. **Scheduling Options** (10 Minutes)

- Point out that the scheduling options for preschool are on page 4 of the *VBS 2022 Multi-age Preschool Bible Study Leader Guide*. Encourage conferees to work with directors and leaders to determine the best schedule for both Preschool and Kids classes.
- Mention that considerations should include the number of hours VBS will be held, what ages will attend Worship Rally, and whether there is a possibility of having a separate Worship Rally for preschool. Additionally, leaders must consider whether kids will rotate through each rotation every day, and whether rotations will occur in different locations or in a self-contained classroom for each age group.
- Explain that if a church chooses to utilize a “master teacher” approach and Bible study becomes another rotation, it is suggested that one rotation tell the Bible story and another rotation lead the Bible study activities.

4. **Resources Needed & Tips for Multi-age Groups** (10 Minutes)

- Tell the conferees that the main resource needed is either the *VBS 2022 Multi-age Starter Kit* or the *VBS 2022 Multi-age Starter Kit with Digital Leader Guide Add-ons*. Explain that the Digital Add-on gives the church access to PDF of each leader guide (Bible studies and rotations) to share with a second teacher.

- Unpack the Starter Kit and briefly describe each item.
- Display any preschool items you have printed from the preschool printables on the Lifeway VBS website and share the URL where they are located:
<https://vbs.lifeway.com/destination-resources/spark-resources/>.
- Show the leader pack items you've prepared and encourage conferees to always prepare pack items in advance of VBS. Tell the group that most experienced leaders prepare bags or boxes for each day with the supplies they will need for that day.
- Give tips for working with multiple ages such as allowing older kids to assist younger kids, not expecting more from younger kids than they are capable of, being flexible, and remembering learning styles.
- Note that in the curriculum there are suggestions for younger and older kids so that teachers can age a lesson up or down, depending on who is in their class.
- Be sure to point out the Leader Devotions in the leader guides to help leaders spiritually prepare for each day.
- Ask participants to share other helpful tips from their own experiences.
- Encourage participants to look on page 46 of the Preschool Leader Guide at the suggestions for activity-based decorations for the preschool room. Explain that these are functional decoration ideas that preschoolers can add to each day.
- Point out the decorating ideas on page 5 of the Kids Leader Guide and suggest that churches create a studio environment where kids can showcase items they make during VBS.
- Mention that additional decorating ideas can be found in the *VBS 2022 Decorating Made Easy* book (005834077).

5. **Daily Content** (10 Minutes)

- Assign each circle group one VBS day to research. Provide copies of both leader guides if attendees don't already have them. Ask groups to write the Bible Story title and Today's Point for both kids and preschoolers on their handouts.
- After each group has found their information, lead them to share with the large group so that everyone can write the information on their handouts.
- Add the appropriate day's "Studio Add-on" (Preschool Leader Pack items 7a–c) and "Spark Studios Banner Add-on" (Kids Leader Pack item 2) to the banners as each group shares its information.
- Give tips for sharing the Bible story with kids such as opening your Bible to the correct passage, stating what book you are reading from and asking if it's in the Old Testament or the New Testament, making eye contact, not being monotone, and using other leaders to handle discipline issues so that you don't have to stop the Bible story.

6. **Bible Verse** (10 Minutes)

- Lead the group to read the Bible verse together.
- Share that preschoolers will learn the Bible paraphrase—"God created us. He planned work for us to do." Comment: "But for this activity, we will learn the complete verse."
- Lead each group to stand on one side of the room and give each group a broom. Scatter dessert plates across the floor as you explain that the broom is a paintbrush, and that groups must get all of their color of "paint" back to their group area. On "Go," the first person in each group will run with the broom to a prepared paper dessert plate in their color and sweep (brush) it back to the group. She will then then hand the "brush" to the next person to sweep another "paint splat" back to

the group. Once groups have collected all twelve of their prepared plates, they may then put the verse in correct order. Continue play until each group has their verse in order and then recite the verse again.

- Discuss other fun ways to learn the verse and ask participants to share their favorite ways to encourage Bible memory with kids.
- Highlight the importance of teaching Bible skills during VBS.

7. **Sharing the Gospel** (10 Minutes)

- Explain to the participants that everyone who helps in any way at VBS should be ready, willing, and able to share the gospel. Those working with preschoolers will be laying a foundation for eventual conversion but should look for opportunities to share the gospel with their parents. Those working with kids will be sharing the gospel as part of the daily sessions and should also look for opportunities to share one-on-one with kids.
- Point out the small cross icon that appears during Bible study in the Kids Leader Guide each day and explain that it is there to help identify opportune moments for sharing the gospel during teaching time as the Holy Spirit leads.
- Share the different resources that Lifeway has for sharing the gospel (*VBS 2022 Gospel Wristband*, *VBS 2022 Gospel Guide*, *VBS 2022 Parent Guide*, and *The Gospel—God’s Plan for Me*) and how each one can be used to introduce the gospel, share the gospel, and follow-up for those who have made a salvation decision.
- Tell the conferees that one thing that everyone can do is share their own testimony of how they became Christians. If time permits, share your testimony, and encourage the participants to share with a partner.

8. **Continuing the Connection** (15 Minutes)

- Scatter the large pom-poms around the room.
- Tell each group that each person in their group should take a spoon and run around the room picking up one pom-pom at a time and taking them back to their assigned color of the church cut-out. Explain that the pom-poms represent people and that they can pick up any color of pom-pom. When time is up, the team with the most pom-poms “in” their church wins.
- Set a timer on your phone for 2 minutes and let conferees play.
- Explain that this is a modified activity from the Preschool Leader Guide (Day 5) encouraging preschoolers to help friends get to church, as they learn about how the Holy Spirit helps us follow God’s plan.
- Lead the group to stand and form a large circle. (If you have a large group, form two or three groups). Hold the ball of yarn and say, “My favorite TV show is ...” Ask everyone to agree/disagree if that is also their favorite show. Hold one end of the yarn and throw the ball to someone who answered yes. Then, have them share something like their favorite color, favorite snack, favorite hobby, favorite sport, a pet they own, or a favorite Bible verse. That person will keep hold of a piece of the yarn and then toss the ball to someone who answered affirmatively to their statement. Continue passing the ball until everyone has had a turn. If time permits, encourage attendees to continue by making statements that children and/or preschoolers would make.
- Tell the group that this is a modified activity from the Kids Leader Guide (Day 3)
- Explain that sometimes we get so caught up in the “mechanics” of VBS that we forget to make connections with kids and their families. We can’t continue the

connection if we've never made connections in the first place. Encourage conferees to intentionally look for ways to make connections with the families who come to their VBS.

- Encourage participants to take part in their church's plan to reach out to families who are part of their VBS. Let them know that it will mean a great deal to a new family to see the teacher who has taught their child at VBS.
- Invite participants to tell what their churches do to follow up with families.

9. Closing (5 Minutes)

- Thank the participants for coming and ask if there are questions. (If there are questions specific to a certain situation which aren't pertinent to the larger group, ask that person to stay afterward to discuss).
- Read the Bible verse again.
- Stand by the canvas where the participants first wrote their names and put your hand on the canvas. Pray, thanking God that He created each one of us for good works and that He will equip us for the task. Ask God to work through all of us to guide kids and families to seek God.

SPARK STUDIOS MULTI-AGE NOTES

DAY 1

GOD, THE CREATOR

Bible Story:

Kids Point:

Preschool Point:

DAY 2

GOD, THE DESIGNER

Bible Story:

Kids Point:

Preschool Point:

DAY 3

JESUS, THE KING

Bible Story:

Kids Point:

Preschool Point:

DAY 4

JESUS, THE REDEEMER

Bible Story:

Kids Point:

Preschool Point:

DAY 5

HOLY SPIRIT, THE HELPER

Bible Story:

Kids Point:

Preschool Point:

Best Tips for Preparation –

Best Tips for Teaching Multi-age Groups –

Best Tips for Continuing the Connection –