

VBS 2022 PRESCHOOL CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute conference plan is designed to train and equip VBS leaders to use Lifeway's Spark Studios® preschool curriculum to teach babies through children who have completed kindergarten at VBS.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2022 Preschool Starter Kit with Digital Leader Guide Add-on* (005834359)
- *VBS 2022 Keepsake Book* (included in Starter Kit)
- *VBS 2022 Babies–2s Leader Guide* (included in Starter Kit)
- *VBS 2022 Keepsake Book* (included in Starter Kit)
- 5 copies of *VBS 2022 3s–Pre-K Leader Guide* (1 included in Starter Kit)
- 2 copies of *VBS 2022 3s–Pre-K Leader Pack* (1 included in Starter Kit)
- 5 copies of *VBS 2022 Kindergarten Leader Guide* (1 included in Starter Kit)
- 2 copies of *VBS 2022 Kindergarten Leader Pack* (1 included in Starter Kit)
- 5 copies of *VBS 2022 Multi-age Preschool Leader Guide*
- 2 copies of *VBS 2022 Multi-age Preschool Leader Pack*
- *VBS 2022 Preschool Activity Books* (2 included in Starter Kit)
- *VBS 2022 Music for Preschoolers* (included in Starter Kit)
- *VBS 2022 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* (included in Starter Kit)
- *VBS 2022 Tablecloths* (005835980)
- *VBS 2022 Theme Stickers* (005835966)
- *VBS 2022 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards* (005834071)
- 5 sets of *VBS 2022 Memory Makers* (005835974)
- *VBS 2022 Giant Inflatable Guitar* (005836526)
- *VBS 2022 Inflatable Crayons* (005836542)
- *VBS 2022 Supersized Backdrop* (005836778) or *VBS 2022 Super Duper Sized Backdrop* (005836799)
- 3 *VBS 2022 Backpacks* (005835977) or gift bags — Fill each backpack with one leader pack (any age group) and one of each of the following age-group leader guides: 3s–Pre-K, Multi-age Preschool, and Kindergarten. Place one backpack in the center of each semi-circle grouping of chairs.
- 5 *VBS 2022 Studio Supply Bags* (005835975) or gift bags — Fill each bag with construction paper, easy-release tape, construction paper, markers, VBS Stickers, and various crafting supplies. (These are the “Tinkering Bags” used in Step 3.)
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2022 Visual Pack* (005836785)
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2022 Wall Art* (005836781)
- Various crafting supplies such as glue sticks, cardboard pieces, stickers, construction paper, easy-release tape, and so forth
- Tear sheets — Place 5 tear sheets around the room.
- Markers — Place one marker at each tear sheet.
- Empty paint can
- 6 artist tools such as paintbrushes, rulers, and so forth — Label each tool with a follow-up method. Use the following or create your own list: *Activity Books*, *Pictures from the week*, *Home visits*, *Bibles*, *Music CD*, *Church info*, and so forth. Place the tools in the empty paint can.
- CD player or Bluetooth speaker

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in three semi-circles. Decorate the focal wall with one of the backdrops from Lifeway. Place 1–2 display tables in front of the focal wall and cover with *VBS 2022 Tablecloths*. Place the Inflatable Guitar and Inflatable Crayons next to the tables. Display the contents of the *VBS 2022 Preschool Starter Kit* on the display table. Position decorations such as mic stands, art easels, paint cans, and so forth around the room.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome and Theme Overview (10 minutes)

- Play “Spark Studios” from the Music for Preschoolers CD as conferees enter.
- Open with prayer.
- Introduce the Spark Studios theme. Say: “You may not believe you’re creative, but God does! He created us in His image—and He’s pretty creative!”
- Allow 60 seconds for conferees to jot down as many different ways they can think of to use or cook potatoes on scrap paper. At the end of time, ask each person to count how many ways she listed.
- Invite the person with the highest numbers to read her list out loud.
- Point out that if we as mere humans can do this many things with a potato, imagine what God can do with us!
- Ask: “What’s your favorite ‘creative’ thing to do?”
- Play the song, “Creativity,” from the Music for Preschoolers CD and invite group to join in singing.
- Lead group to say motto together: “Created! Designed! Empowered!”

2. Preschool Starter Kit and Multi-age Resources (15 minutes)

- Overview the resources found in the Preschool Starter Kit. Show each resource and highlight the key features. (Invite conferees to examine the resources found in the center of their semi-circle grouping of chairs.) In the leader guide, discuss the following sections:
 - Get Started
 - Overview
 - Schedule and Rotation Options
 - Talk about options for scheduling.
 - Shorter VBS time — Shorten or omit a rotation activity, intro activity, or closing group time.
 - Longer VBS time — Use all four Bible-learning activities plus the bonus activity and increase allotted time for activities.
 - Child Characteristics
 - Special Needs Article
 - Teacher Tips
 - Follow Up Section
 - Days 1–5 Teaching Plans (discuss leader devotions, Bible activities, groups times)
 - DIY Decoration Information
- Remind conferees that each teacher in the room will need his or her own leader guide. Those who purchase the Preschool Starter Kit with the Digital Leader Guides Add-on will get a PDF of every leader guide in the Kit that can be shared with a second teacher.
- Show the leader packs and explain how the items are numbered, where to find preparation instructions, how to find where the items are used in the leader guides, and

any tips on preparing and storing pack items. Explain that every classroom needs a leader pack.

- Show the Keepsake Book (Babies–2s) and the Preschool Activity Book (3s–K). Explain how these resources are used during the session and how they can continue to be used at home after VBS. Mention that ideally each child would have his or her own book, but that at the very least each room should have a couple copies.
- Explain the difference between the closely-graded resources in the Preschool Starter Kit and the Multi-age Preschool resources. (Multi-age resources are for churches that group all preschool ages together in one room. Closely-graded resources are for churches that offer multiple preschool rooms and group children of like ages together.)

3. Bible Content (40 minutes)

- Teach conferees the preschool paraphrase of the theme verse: “God created us. He planned work for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10).
- Teach the motions to the song, “God Created Us” to the group to help them learn the verse. Then play the song and encourage them to sing and move to the music.
- Form five groups and send each group to a separate tear sheet around the room. Assign each group one of the five daily sessions (if attendance is small, assign more than one day to each group as necessary). Explain that each group will need to give a synopsis of the biblical content for their assigned day (session title, Bible story, The Point, Memory Maker icon, etc.). But the catch is they must present their information in a creative way (create a collage, mime, sing, etc.).
- Give each group a “Tinkering Bag” and encourage them to use the items in their creative presentations. Remind groups that the information needed to create their presentations can be found in the leader guides.

Day 1: God, the Creator

- Today’s Point: God is the amazing Creator.
- Bible Story: David Praised God the Creator (*Acts 13:21-23; Psalm 104*)
- Icon: World

Day 2: God, the Designer

- Today’s Point: God made us for a reason.
- Bible Story: God Prepared David to Be a King (*1 Samuel 16*)
- Icon: Lyre

Day 3: Jesus, the King

- Today’s Point: Jesus is the King that God promised.
- Bible Story: The People Welcomed Jesus (*Psalm 118:26; Acts 13:21-23; Matthew 21:1-11*)
- Icon: Palm Branch

Day 4: Jesus, the Redeemer

- Today’s Point: Jesus followed God’s plan for Him.
- Bible Story: Jesus Died and Rose Again (*Luke 23:13-25,44-56; 24:1-12,36-49*)
- Icon: Cross

Day 5: Holy Spirit, the Helper

- Today's Point: (Preschool) The Holy Spirit helps us follow God's plan.
- Bible Story: God Sent the Holy Spirit (*Acts 1:4-14; 2*)
- Icon: Church

- Allow 15-20 minutes for the groups to plan and prepare their creative presentations.
- Lead each group to present in session order (1–5).
- Add or correct any information that was missed.

4. Babies–2s Resources (5 minutes)

- Point out that the Babies–2s outline differs from the 3s–K outline in order to focus on 5 foundational Bible stories
 - Babies–2s Focus: Jesus Loves Me
 - Theme Verse: Jesus loves you. *John 15:12*
 - Bible Stories:
 1. Jesus and Zacchaeus (Luke 19)
 2. Jesus Fed the 5,000 (Matthew 14; Luke 9)
 3. Jesus Calms the Storm (Matthew 8)
 4. Jesus Makes a Sick Man Well (The Four Friends Story)
 5. Jesus and the Children
- Briefly overview the Babies–2s materials. Remind conferees that babies are capable of learning foundation Bible truths and churches would be wise to take advantage of the opportunity to teach these youngest learners instead of just babysitting them.

5. Rotation Sites (5 minutes)

- Show the *3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* resources. Briefly overview the rotation sites and the resources provided for each one. (Do not go into great detail as this will be covered in a separate conference.)
 - Crafts Design Center
 - Missions Workshop (DVD)
 - Music Sound Stage (DVD-ROM includes Preschool Worship Rally)
 - Recreation Station
 - Snack Pavilion (snack cards shared with Grades 1–6)

6 Follow Up (10 minutes)

- Pull one art tool at a time from the paint can and discuss how each can be used for follow up after VBS.
 - Activity Books
 - Pictures from the week
 - Home visits
 - Bibles
 - Music CD
 - Church website and event info
- Invite conferees to share ideas from their own experiences.

7. Closing (5 minutes)

- Optional: Read an inspirational children's book or tell a story regarding creativity or working with preschoolers.
- Close in prayer.