

VBS 2022 STUDENT VBS CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute plan is designed to train and equip leaders, directors, and pastors to conduct Lifeway's Spark Studios™ Student VBS for middle and high school students (Grades 7–12).

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2022 Student Starter Kit* — Display the following items on the focal wall:
 - Kit Item 2: VBS Scripture Poster
 - Kit Item 3: Session 1 Poster
 - Kit Item 6: Session 2 Poster
 - Kit Item 9: Session 3 Poster
 - Kit Item 12: Session 4 Poster
 - Kit Item 15: Session 5 Poster
- Student VBS Printables (located in the folders of the digital leader kit or may be downloaded using the redeemable code in the leader kit) — Print all items, place in a binder, and place on the display table.
- Student Leader Guide — Print/Photocopy and laminate the following pages from the leader guide to use during Teaching Step 4: “Leader Devotion” on page 23, “Worship” on page 24, “Motivate” on page 25, “Examine” on pages 26–27, and “Apply” on page 28.
- Cut several strips of construction paper in equal parts of red, yellow, blue, and green.
- Four sets of the same basic art supplies (construction paper, tape, cardboard tubes, markers, etc.) to be during Teaching Step 1.
- VBS 2022 Tablecloths
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2022 Studio Supply Bag*
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2022 Giant Inflatable Guitar*
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2020 Decorating Made Easy*
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2020 Supersized Backdrop*
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2022 Whirleys*
- Projector or TV (to use with laptop)
- Bluetooth speaker

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the focal wall. Create the effect of being in an art studio by arranging art supplies, various ribbon, modeling clay, and so forth on shelves or tables in the focal area. OPTIONAL: Hang the *VBS 2022 Supersized Backdrop* on the focal wall. Place a *VBS 2022 Giant Inflatable Guitar* by the door and hang the *VBS 2020 Whirleys* from the ceiling and door jam.

Teaching Steps

1. **Welcome to the Studio** (10 minutes)
 - Play music from your own Spark Studios playlist.
 - Greet conferees and give each a colored slip of paper (red, yellow, blue, green) to use later in the session.
 - Welcome conferees and say: “Our theme is Spark Studios, where a spark of creativity will ignite as we draw, paint, build, design, and explore ways to celebrate who God is and who He has made us to be.”

VBS 2022 Student VBS Conference Plan

- Instruct conferees to take out their colored slips of paper and find the others with the same matching color. This will form four groups.
- Invite one person from each group to come to the front of the room and collect the supplies for his or her group. Each group should have the same basic supplies (construction paper, tape, cardboard tubes, markers, cardboard, etc.).
- Say: “Use your creativity and work together to create a masterpiece. Be sure that every person in your group participates in some way.”
- Give a few minutes to work, then call time. Allow each group to show and talk about their designs, then display the masterpieces at the front of the room.
- Call attention to the VBS Scripture Poster and invite conferees to read it with you.
- Point to the masterpieces on display and say: “Just as these are your creations and workmanship, we are God’s workmanship.” Ask: “For what does this verse say we were created? (*Good works.*) What are some examples of good works?” Invite conferees to respond and discuss briefly.
- Point out that this activity came from the Worship section of Session 1.

2. Plan Your Project (10 minutes)

- Lead a discussion of the various elements to include in Student VBS based on the available timeframe.
 - For a 1½-hour timeframe:
 - Worship — 30 minutes
 - Motivate — 15 minutes
 - Examine — 30 minutes
 - Apply — 15 minutes
 - For a 2-hour timeframe:
 - Worship — 30 minutes
 - Motivate — 15 minutes
 - Examine — 30 minutes
 - Apply — 15 minutes
 - Recreation — 15 minutes
 - Snack — 15 minutes
 - For a 3-hour timeframe:
 - Worship — 30 minutes
 - Motivate — 15 minutes
 - Examine — 30 minutes
 - Apply — 15 minutes
 - Recreation — 15 minutes
 - Snack — 15 minutes
 - Mission — 30 minutes
 - Craft — 30 minutes
- Show conferees where to find the teaching plan for each element in the schedule. Bible study plans, crafts, and recreation are all included in the Student VBS Leader Guide. Missions teaching plans are on the printables (CD-ROM and/or downloads). Snack ideas may be pulled from the *VBS 2022 Grades 1–6 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards*.
- Mention that in order to plan ahead, leaders will need to know approximately how many students to prepare for as well as how many leaders are available to teach. Encourage them to enlist leaders for all small groups and rotations.

VBS 2022 Student VBS Conference Plan

- Suggest conferees use the “Daily Overview Chart” (CD-ROM or downloads) to get an overall understanding of the week.
- Encourage leaders to study each daily session in depth. Planning ahead is key! Say: “If you forget to have the craft assembled until the last minute, that’s one thing; but if you don’t KNOW the biblical content each day and how it applies to the lives of your students, you will not be successful.”

3. Gather Needed Supplies (15 minutes)

- Say: “When starting any project, you must make sure to have all the needed supplies. What are some items you would need to have if you were painting a picture?” (*Canvas, brushes, paint, etc.*) For Student VBS, it’s also important that we gather the needed supplies.”
- Briefly overview each of the following essential supplies for Student VBS.
 - o **Bible:** Many students may prefer devices instead of traditional Bibles, but it’s critically important for them to see their leader using an actual Bible. It drives home the fact that God’s Word is our authority, not Google.
 - o **Student Leader Guide:** One is included in the Student VBS Starter Kit. A PDF version is also available on the CD-ROM (or digital download). Point out the special page layout, which features content in the center of the page with margins containing helpful information for planning each session. Also share the preparation, planning, scheduling, promotion and decoration tips at the beginning of the book.
 - o **Student Learner Guide:** Need one per student. One is included in the Student VBS Starter Kit. Learner guides keep students engaged in each session.
 - o **Posters:** Posters in the kit are referenced in the *VBS 2022 Student Leader Guide* by item number as needed for sessions. See margin notes for details.
 - o **CD-ROM:** The CD-ROM is included inside the Student VBS Starter Kit. For computers without disc drive readers, all ROM contents may be downloaded from www.my.lifeway.com/redeem using the unique code found at the front of the leader guide. CD-ROM files include:
 - Clip Art
 - Daily Overview Chart
 - Evaluation Form
 - Mission Rotation Plans
 - Student Music Playlist
 - Promotional Flyer
 - Registration Cards
 - Sharing the Gospel with Students
 - Student Characteristics
 - Student Leader Guide
 - Print Items for Daily Sessions
 - o **Digital Resources:** The entire Student VBS Starter Kit may be purchased as a digital download instead of as physical product. A digital leader guide, digital learner guide, all PDFs, and all kit items (posters) are included in the Digital Student Starter Kit.
 - o **Supplies:** Once activities are planned, purchase or locate supplies for crafts, recreation, missions, snacks, and so forth.

VBS 2022 Student VBS Conference Plan

- Mention that the person who is properly prepared can relax a bit once VBS begins and actually enjoy the opportunity to build relationships and impact the lives of students.
4. **Start Creating** (7 minutes)
- Say: “Once you have a plan and gathered your supplies you can start creating.”
 - Assign each conferee one of the following words: brush, paint, canvas, easel, palette. Instruct them to group up with others who were assigned the same word.
 - Say: “Each session includes four main components of the teaching session: Worship, Motivate, Examine, and Apply. A leader devotion is also included each day to prepare the leader to teach the Bible content. Let’s look at each of these elements.”
 - Give each group one of the laminated sections from the leader guide that highlight “Leader Devotion,” “Worship,” “Motivate,” “Examine,” and “Apply.”
 - Instruct the groups to read their section and answer the following questions about it:
 - How does this promote the theme verse?
 - Why is this important for the daily session?
 - How does this grow you as a leader or grow the students you’re teaching?
 - What are some prep or tips for your section?
 - Are these prep and tips helpful?
 - Share any additional information about your section.
 - Allow a few minutes for groups to work, then comment: “These five elements work together to allow you to create a successful and informative Student VBS.”
5. **Biblical Overview** (40 minutes)
- Remind conferees that the most important part of any VBS is the biblical content.
 - Overview each day’s biblical content. (The content below comes mostly from the daily leader devotions.)
 - **Session 1: God, The Creator**
 - **Bible Story:** David Praised God the Creator (Acts 13:21-23; Psalm 104)
 - **Today’s Point:** God is the marvelous Creator
 - **Bonus Verse:** Psalm 104:24 (CSB or KJV, use the side of the Bible verse poster that matches your preferred translation)
 - Comment: “In the beginning God created ...” (Genesis 1:1). This might be where you expected to start this week as we talk about God as the Creator. We certainly do not want to overlook those vital first five words of Scripture, but God’s creativity is not limited to Genesis 1–2. His creativity is on display throughout all of God’s Word. As Scripture unfolds, we gain new glimpses into the majesty of God’s creativity. Many of the psalms, in fact, show us insight into God as the marvelous Creator through the eyes of David the poet/songwriter. This is where Day 1 takes us. Let’s look together at God, the amazing Creator of all things, to see His creation as an expression of His infinite creativity and sovereignty. Before getting to Psalm 104, we’ll need to set up who David was and why he is important to the overall story we are telling this week. We see from Acts 13:21-23 that God was working out His plan for the nation of Israel, which ultimately included David being anointed as king. More on that on Day 2.”
 - Ask conferees to open their Bibles (or apps) and read all of Psalm 104. (You may also choose to call on multiple volunteers to read aloud various sections.)
 - After a few minutes, say: “Notice two expressions of God’s creativity in this passage. The more obvious are the works of God in the sky (v. 2-4), the earth and water (v. 5-9), the springs and the animals (v. 10-14), the trees and birds (v. 16-17), and much more. The second expression of creativity may not be as

obvious at first. Consider the words David used to paint a picture for us to see in our minds. It is God's creativity at work being displayed through David's descriptions as he reflects on God's creativity throughout the psalm. As David points to God, we see God's creativity reflected in David's poetry.

- "How countless are your works, LORD! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures." (Psalm 104:24)
- Say: "At the heart of Day 1, we want to encourage students to notice David's response to God's creation and how his understanding led him to worship God. We want to challenge students to think about how they respond to God in light of seeing His creative nature. God is at work, even now, in the world around us."
- **Session 2: God, The Designer**
 - **Bible Story:** God Prepared David to Be a King (1 Samuel 16)
 - **Today's Point:** God uniquely designed us for His purpose.
 - **Bonus Verse:** 1 Samuel 7:8b (CSB or KJV)
 - Say: "Many of us who have been Christians for a while can testify to how God has orchestrated the moments in our lives toward a bigger purpose. We can look back, for example, and see how, when God gave us one experience early in life, He prepared us for something new down the road. We often don't or can't see it in real time, but later on we can see how God was equipping us for the "good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do (Ephesians 2:10)."
 - Lead conferees to consider the scene of 1 Samuel 16 from David's perspective. Ask them to describe the scene.
 - David was out in the field taking care of the sheep (1 Samuel 16:11). From what we can tell, he was simply going about his daily work, likely just as he had done on countless other days.
 - Perhaps he had his lyre with him as he sat out in the field considering how God is like a shepherd leading us to green fields and quiet waters. Maybe he was gazing up at the majesty of the skies.
 - Mention that David no doubt had many experiences, even as a young boy, in which he was likely unaware how God was crafting his story to accomplish God's purposes. As David watched over the sheep that one God-ordained day, perhaps he didn't even know that Samuel had gathered his family together and that his life was about to radically change.
 - Comment: "On Day 2 we will see how God designs His plans for us. God is still actively creating meaningful and purpose-filled lives for those who follow Him. (See Romans 8:28.) God's creativity is displayed in our lives. He designs our experiences, talents, giftedness, family and friends, and so much more into a purpose-filled life to give Him glory."
- **Session 3: Jesus, The King**
 - **Bible Story:** The People Welcomed Jesus (Psalm 118:26; Acts 13:21-23; Matthew 21:1-11)
 - **Today's Point:** Jesus is the King that God promised to save us.
 - **Bonus Verse:** Mathew 21:9b (CSB or KJV)
 - Ask conferees to answer the question Jesus posed his disciples in Matthew 16, "Who do you say that I am?" Ask: "How would the world of today answer this question? How do you answer it?" Encourage responses.
 - Explain that even in Bible times there were many misunderstandings about who Jesus is.
 - Remind conferees that long ago, God had promised that a King of all kings would one day be born. This King would come through the line of King David.

VBS 2022 Student VBS Conference Plan

Jesus was born into the world according to God's perfect plan to be the fulfillment of God's Old Testament promise. The first two days of VBS included stories about David, but today they will shift to Jesus.

- Comment that each moment of Jesus' life carefully moved Him toward fulfilling God's purpose of redeeming His people and saving them from sin. Jesus purposefully lived each moment of His life perfectly pursuing God's plan and glorifying God.
- At the beginning of His final week on earth before being crucified, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, receiving a king's welcome from the people. They hoped that Jesus would finally set them free and be the king God had promised. Unfortunately, the people who were welcoming Jesus as a king did not understand God's plan and how Jesus fit into it. Jesus was the King that God promised, even if the people in Jerusalem weren't able to see it yet.
- Remind conferees that we're often like the people of Jerusalem, trying to make life decisions without being able to see God's design. We seek God's wisdom and do the best we can to follow God's plan, but we can't know and understand all of God's plans for our lives. God calls us to trust Him and be faithful with whatever circumstances in which He places us (Philippians 4:11-13).
- Jesus came to fulfill God's promise as the one, true King. One day Jesus will return, and all will see Him as the mighty King He is. Ultimately, we can trust Jesus will come in power because God, who promised Jesus' first coming, is faithful and true.
- **Session 4: Jesus, The Redeemer**
 - **Bible Story:** 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.
 - **Bonus Verse:** Luke 24:46 (CSB or KJV)
 - Ask: "Can you think of a time when you got something you didn't deserve? Maybe it was something good, like a prize or unexpected gift. Or maybe it was something not so good, like receiving blame or consequences for something you didn't do. What was it?" Encourage a few responses.
 - Comment: "When we receive something good, we do not deserve, many of us are full of gratitude. We are thankful for the unexpected blessing. But if we are wrongly accused of an error or mistake, we are often quick to take up arms and defend ourselves and our motives."
 - Continue: "Jesus was facing accusations based on lies. He had done nothing wrong, yet false accusations ultimately led Him to the cross. Jesus, the only person to live and never sin, was condemned to receive the death of a criminal. But there's more. Jesus not only received punishment for these false accusations, but He also bore the weight of God's wrath toward our sin—neither of which He deserved. Because of all of this, when we hear the story of Jesus' death, we should respond in deep gratitude that Jesus stood in our place."
 - Mention that as Jesus faced the death He knew was coming, He did so with the understanding that He was fulfilling God's plan that had been in motion "from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). As we see from Jesus' prayer in the garden, He certainly wasn't eager about this specific part of God's plan, but He knew it to be necessary so He submitted and prayed: "Nevertheless, not my will, but Thine, be done" (Luke 22:42)."
 - Remind conferees that knowing something is part of God's plan does not mean that thing will be easier. Whether it's a hard decision that needs to be made, a monetary sacrifice for your family, a call to missions away from home, a difficult conversation with a friend, or any other circumstance we face, following God's

VBS 2022 Student VBS Conference Plan

plan is not always easy. We must trust God's never-ending faithfulness and goodness.

- **Session 5: Holy Spirit, The Helper**
 - **Bible Story:** God Sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-14; Acts 2)
 - **Today's Point:** The Holy Spirit gives us the power to follow God's plan.
 - **Bonus Verse:** Acts 1:8 (CSB or KJV)
 - Ask: "Do you remember the last time you tried something brand new?"
Comment: "It can be intimidating trying something new. Most of us probably wish we could be great whenever we try something for the first time, but for many of us, this is not the reality. We try and we fail, or at least we aren't great the first time. If we want to be good at something, we must work at it. We must practice. We must devote time and energy to build up the strength or learn to do that new thing well."
 - Remind conferees that while it does take time and discipline on our part, we can be thankful that being godly is not dependent on our own strength. Even more, our mission to make disciples and be Jesus' witnesses is not dependent on our own strength either. God calls us, but He also empowers us. He doesn't expect us to just muster up our own strength and evangelize the world. No, He has equipped us for this mission through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It is in the Holy Spirit's strength that we are able to grow in godliness and be effective witnesses of the gospel. Praise God, He gives us exactly what we need for the kingdom work He calls us to do.
 - These "good works" God has prepared for us are ultimately designed to bring Him glory (Ephesians 2:10). God gives us gifts and strengthens us to bring Him the glory He alone deserves.
 - Invite conferees to reflect on times in their own lives when they have seen the Holy Spirit empower them to do something they would not have been able to do in their own strength. Invite a few volunteers to share.
 - Comment: "God has good works planned for the students you lead. Help them be confident that God will empower them through the Holy Spirit to do all He has in store for them."

6. **Continuing the Masterpiece** (5 minutes)

- Say: "Perhaps the greatest masterpieces made during VBS are the relationships we create. It's through those relationships that many will come to faith in Christ."
- Remind conferees of the importance of continuing the masterpiece—or building on relationships created during VBS—by all leaders following VBS.
- Stress the need for complete registration and contact information to ensure your church can continue to build relationships with those who attended.
- Challenge conferees to keep the connection alive by looking for ways to stay connected with the students you taught, such as through the church's official social media accounts.
- Ask conferees what other methods they have used to "Continue the Connection" (follow up) following Student VBS.

7. **Pray** (3 minutes)

- Close in prayer by praying for specific prayer requests shared by conferees for their VBSs.
- Pray for leaders, students, parents, pastors, volunteers, directors, and that the gospel be the center of VBS.