

VBS 2022 VBX PRETEEN CURRICULUM BASE CONFERENCE PLAN

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute conference plan is designed to train and equip VBX leaders to conduct Lifeway's *Spark Studios* VBS.

Needed Resources [[12 pt. bold]]

- VBS 2022 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guides (5 copies)
- VBS 2022 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack (2 packs)
- VBS 2022 VBX Preteen Activity Book (5 Copies)
- VBS 2022 Kids Gospel Guide
- VBS 2022 Parent Guide
- VBS 2022 Postcards
- VBS 2022 Supersized Backdrop
- VBS 2022 String Flags
- VBS 2022 Tablecloth
- VBS 2022 Memory Maker
- Large craft sticks (1 for each conferee)
- Play dough or clay (small piece for each conferee)
- Item 1: "Handout 1" — Print and copy one per conferee.
- 8 pieces of different color fabric cut in 10"x10" squares — Write the following phrases on separate pieces of fabric with paint or a marker: *For we are; His workmanship; created in Christ Jesus; for good works; which God prepared; ahead of time; for us to do; Ephesians 2:10.*
- White poster board — Write the following words/phrases on the poster: *On the Go, Growth Spurts, Memorize Easily, Thinks Quickly, Wants to Fit In, Not to Be Rejected, Solves Problems, Enjoys Sports, Likes Competition, Plays Active Games, Emotional Highs & Lows, Questions Authority, Wants to Feel Needed, Accepted, Critical of Themselves and Others, Developing a Value System, and Sensitive to Conviction of Holy Spirit.*
- Leader Pack Item 14: "Bible Story Three In A Row Chart" — Copy one per conferee.
- A small prize (to be given to the winner in Teaching Step #2)
- 2 paint rollers with covers
- 4 tennis balls — Write the following words on separate balls with a black marker: *VBX Leader Guide, VBX Leader Pack, VBX Preteen Activity Book, VBS Memory Maker.*
- 5 Paint sticks — Write each of the following words on separate paint sticks: *Prepare Your Heart, Plan, Gather & Prepare, Teach, and Continue the Connection.*
- 5 paint trays — Write the following words on separate 8 ½ x11" pieces of paper: *Excite, Explore, Excel, Crafts, Recreation.* Tape each paper in a separate tray.
- 5 empty paint cans — Label each can with large letters: *Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, and Day 5.*
- Leader Pack Items 2, 6, 13, 16, and 21 — Cut each poster into 8 puzzle pieces and place them in a clear bag. Label the bag with that Day's number (1–5). Keep each Bonus Verse Poster separated. Place each set in the paint can that corresponds to the day the verse belongs.
- Leader Pack Item 28 — Make 5 copies of the small group questions. Place one in each day's paint can.
- 10 paintbrushes — Write the following words on separate paint brushes, one for each day: *Day 1: Excite; Day 1: Excel; Day 2: Excite; Day 2: Excel; Day 3: Excite; Day 3: Excel; Day 4: Excite; Day 4: Excel; Day 5: Excite; Day 5: Excel.*

- 5 crayon boxes — Write the following on separate cards and insert into the crayon boxes: #1: *God Rules*; #2: *We Sinned*; #3: *God Provides*; #4: *Jesus Gives*; #5: *We Respond—Admit. Believe. Confess*. Place each box in a different location around the room.
- 5 pencil boxes — Fill each box separately with crayons, chalk, craft sticks, pencils, and cotton balls. Make sure to put enough items in each box for conferees to spell out the word “power.”
- CD player

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Cover the focal wall with a *VBS 2022 Supersized Backdrop*. Cover two tables with a *VBS 2022 Tablecloth* and display the curriculum items alongside other tabletop decorations. Drape *VBS 2022 String Flags* across the doorway. Display the second set of the Bonus Verse Posters for each day’s study from the VBX Leader Pack (items 2, 6, 13, 16, and 21) around the room. Display “VBS Scripture Poster” (pack item 1) and “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” poster (pack item 3) on a focal wall.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Welcome conferees and give each person a small piece of clay or play dough, a craft stick, and a copy of Handout 1. Ask them to write their name, church name, and date of VBS on the craft stick. Lead the conferees to shape their clay into a symbol that describes them. It could be a talent, interest, or what they like. Ask them to share with others around them. (Clay Creation is an activity from Day 1 in the Excite section.)
- Encourage conferees to take notes on Handout 1 throughout the conference.
- Say: “Welcome to Spark Studios, where we will explore the VBX Bible Study materials for preteens who have completed 5th & 6th grades.”
- Lead the group to repeat the theme for VBS: “Spark Studios: Created in Christ; Designed for God’s Purpose.”
- Mention that preteens will get their creative juices flowing at Spark Studios, where imaginations are ignited and creativity is awakened. Preteens will be learning to use their talents to glorify God, just like King David did. They will discover that their creativity is a gift from the creative Creator who designed them for His glory.
- Say: “We are God’s workmanship—a masterpiece in the process. He is working to redeem, reclaim, and transform us—His creation—to the original design, he had for us. In the VBX Bible Study, we will help spark preteen’s imaginations and kick their creativity into high gear at Spark Studios.”
- Lead the group to say the motto: “Created! Designed! Empowered!”
- Ask for 8 volunteers to help the group learn the Bible verse. Give each person one piece of the Bible verse fabric. Lead the volunteers to work together to put the verse together in order. (Explain this is an activity suggested on Day 3 in the Explore Section called “Bible Verse Textile Saddles.”)
- Lead the group to read the Bible verse together.
- Open in prayer.

2. Creative Creatures (5 minutes)

- Mention that conferees will be leading preteens in Bible Study during VBS. Ask: “Who are these creative creatures?” Display the list of characteristics (pack item 2). Distribute a “Bible Story Three in a Row” chart (pack item 14) to each conferee.
- Explain that you are going to give an overview of the characteristics of preteens. When you mention one of the characteristics, they will need to mark it on their “Bible Story

Three in a Row” charts. When someone gets three in a row first, ask them to yell, “Three in a Row!” Award the winner a prize.

- Briefly overview the characteristics of preteens from the article on page 5 of the VBX Leader Guide. Make sure to mention each of the characteristics on the poster (pack item 2).
- After one winner gets the prize, continue discussing the remaining characteristics on the list. Explain that this “Bible Story Three in A Row” is an activity from Day 3’s “Explore” section.

3. Resources to Empower (10 Minutes)

- Explain that Lifeway provides resources to empower the VBS leader for VBX. Play a game to introduce leaders to the resources that are available for VBX.
- Invite two volunteers to play the game, “Stone Rollers,” (Day 4, Excel, p. 33). Explain the game and lead the volunteers to play the game using the two prepared paint rollers and tennis balls. At the end of the game, lead the volunteers to read the resource listed on the tennis balls they collected.
- Overview the following resources as each one is read (does not have to go in any certain order):
 - *VBS 2022 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*: Equips leaders to prepare to teach the Bible study and to choose activities to plan a fun Bible study session. Review how the leader book is laid out and what they can find in each session. Mention that inside the leader guide, conferees will find decorating ideas, craft ideas, recreation games, and supply lists.
 - *VBS 2022 VBX Preteen Leader Pack*: Includes teaching aids that correspond to activities listed in the leader guide. The pack includes a *Music for Kids CD*. Each class needs one leader pack.
 - *VBS 2022 VBX Preteen Activity Book*: Promotes learning in class through fun activities and challenges preteens to continue learning after VBS. Includes Bible stories, activities, a personal Bible study plan, and the gospel presentation. Order one for each child.
 - *VBS 2022 VBX Memory Maker*: Includes 6 paint splat-shaped tags and a handy drawstring bag. Tags display the Spark Studies logo, motto, and 5 daily icons. This resource helps reinforce the VBS experience. Each preteen will need one. There are 5 sets in a pack.
- Refer conferees to page 4 in the leader guide and discuss how to be creative with organizing and preparing for each session.
- Give conferees advice on how to prepare for teaching with the information on page 1. Hand out the 5 paint sticks with the steps for successful preparation. Ask conferees to read their paint stick when their step number is called. Discuss these “Getting Started” steps (found on page 1 in the leader guide):
 - Step 1: Prepare Your Heart
 - Step 2: Plan
 - Step 3: Gather and Prepare
 - Step 4: Teach
 - Step 5: Continue the Connection
- Discuss the resources available to decorate for VBX using the ideas on pages 6–7. Point out the decorating ideas used in your conference room, too.

4. Design the Schedule (5 Minutes)

- Explain that VBX Leaders need to create a schedule that keeps Bible study and fun the focus of VBX.
- Hand out the 5 paint trays to 5 conferees. Lead them to come to the front of the group and hold their paint tray up to reveal the VBX rotations and the layout of the lesson plan for the week of VBX. Ask conferees to refer to page 4 of their leader guide as you discuss these points:
 - **Excite:** Introduces the theme and Bible content with two icebreaker activities. (20 minutes)
 - **Explore:** Engages preteens in the Bible story and connection to daily life, which includes a bonus verse activity and small group time. (55 minutes)
 - **Excel:** Time to apply the Bible content to their lives and learn the bonus verse. (40 minutes)
 - **Craft:** Time for preteens to make a themed item as a reminder of the day's point. These crafts are different than what is in the craft rotation guide for younger and middle children. The craft ideas and instructions are in the VBX Leader Guide in each day's study. This is part of the Explore section. (20 minutes)
 - **Recreation:** Time for preteens to burn off energy while learning the main point of the lesson. Instruction for recreation is located at the end of each day's lesson and is different than the recreation for younger and middle children. This is part of the Excel section. (20 minutes)
- Remind conferees to include time for worship, missions, and snacks if their schedule permits.

5. Glue It All Together (25 minutes)

- Say: "Glue is a necessity when being creative; it is what holds a masterpiece together. Likewise, knowledge of the Bible study that will be taught to preteens in VBX is the glue needed to teach at VBX."
- Form 5 groups and give each group one of the daily paint cans that are numbered Day 1 to Day 5. Inside the can, each team will find a VBX leader guide, a bag with the bonus verse for that day's study cut up into puzzle pieces, a copy of the "Small Group Discussion Questions" (leader pack item 28), and a glue stick.
- Lead each team to take out their bag with pieces of the bonus verse poster and set it out on a table in a pile. Lead each group to form a line a few feet away from the table.
- Instruct the first person from each group to race to their Bible verse puzzle pieces and pick up one piece of the verse using only a glue stick. (Conferees will need to remove the cap off the glue stick to do this activity.) Each conferee will then run back to their groups, hand off the glue stick, and the next person in line will run to get another piece.
- Once the group has all of their pieces, they should work together to put the verse together. The first group to put their verse together is the winner.
- Make sure each group finishes its masterpiece. Mention that this is an example of the "Glue Race" preteens will do on Day 2 (Excel, p. 19).
- Lead the teams to remain together and open the VBX Leader Guide to page 3 and find the summary for each day's Bible study. Instruct each team to focus on the summary of the day assigned to their group. Each team should be prepared to report the session title, bonus verse, give a summary of the Bible story, and tell The Point for that day to the large group.
- Refer teams to the "Small Group Discussion Questions" (leader pack item 28) to help explain the Bible story.

- Allow five minutes for teams to read through the information. Play the songs from the VBS Music for Kids CD in the background while they work.
- At the end of five minutes, call on each team to report their information.
- As groups report, share with them how each Bible story will be taught for that day. Refer to the Explore section of each day's lesson plans for the information to share and demonstrate. Refer to any leader pack items called for in the Explore section each day.
- Talk with conferees about how to use the Preteen Activity Book with 5th and 6th graders.

6. A Tapestry of Learning (25 Minutes)

- Inform the conferees that a tapestry is made up of many colors and designs. Preteens grow in knowledge through a variety of learning styles. The Excite and Excel sections of each day's lesson provide activities to reinforce and apply the biblical truth being taught each day.
- Form 10 groups. Groups may consist of one, two, or more people depending on how many are in attendance. Let each group select one of the paintbrushes from the paint can. Explain that each group will look through the VBX Leader Guide to find the Excite or Excel section written on their paintbrush.
- Lead each group will read that section and be prepared to demonstrate how to do one activity from that section. Give groups any VBX Leader Pack materials needed for their activity.
- Allow 5 minutes for groups to read and prepare. Then, beginning with Day 1's group, give each group 1–2 minutes max to demonstrate their activities.

7. Mark The Way to Christ (10 Minutes)

- Open the leader guide to page 5 and remind conferees about the spiritual characteristics of preteens found there. Point out the cross icon and explain that the icon will appear somewhere in each session to indicate a prime opportunity for sharing the gospel with preteens.
- Call attention to the inside cover of the leader guide and the "Gospel Plan Poster" (pack item 3) displayed on the wall.
- Ask five volunteers to each find one of the five crayon boxes sitting around the room and take it to their seats. Starting with crayon box #1, ask each conferee to read the card found inside their crayon box. Use the information on the inside front cover of the leader guide and the "Gospel Plan Poster" displayed on the wall as a teaching aid to explain how to share the gospel with preteens.
 - #1: God Rules.
 - #2: We Sinned.
 - #3: God Provides.
 - #4: Jesus Gives.
 - #5: We Respond—Admit. Believe. Confess.
- Point out that during the small group time on Day 4, preteens will have the opportunity to communicate what they know or to ask questions about becoming a Christian.
- Encourage them to use "The Gospel: God's Plan for Me" presentation to share the gospel with preteens on Day 4. (Note to conferees; there is NOT a response card in the leader pack.)
- Remind conferees to speak individually to preteens about any questions they have or decisions they want to make at VBS. Follow up with preteens after VBX to help them understand and to begin discipleship.

8. Mixed Media Closing (10 Minutes)

- Form groups of three or four. Give each group a pencil box filled with art media such as crayons, erasers, pencils, paintbrushes, cotton balls, and so forth. Direct each group to spell out the word “power” with their mixed media. (This is an activity that is suggested in the Day 5 Excel section.)
- Remind conferees that on Day 5, preteens are taught that God sent the Holy Spirit. Comment: “We need the power of the Holy Spirit to help us lead VBX.”
- Ask conferees to take out the craft stick given to them when they entered the room with their name, church name, and VBS date. Lead them to swap craft sticks with someone they do not know in the room. Encourage conferees to keep the craft sticks and to pray for the person and church written on them—that God will give them the power to be creative, to be prepared, and to be empowered as they create a great VBS for their community.
- Thank conferees for attending. Remind them that they are created in Christ and designed for a purpose.
- Close in prayer.



VBX PRETEEN BIBLE STUDY

VBS 2022 Scripture Verse:

VBS 2022 Motto: C _____! D _____! E _____!

Creative Creatures: Characteristics of preteens located in VBX Leader Guide page _____.

Resources to Empower:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Getting Started for VBX:

- Step 1: P _____ your H _____.
- Step 2: P _____.
- Step 3: G _____ & P _____.
- Step 4: T _____.
- Step 5: Continue the C _____.

Design a Schedule: E _____, E _____, E _____

Glue It All Together

Day

1 _____

Day

2 _____

Day

3 _____

Day

4 _____

Day

5 _____

Mark the Way to Christ — The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

- God R _____
- We S _____
- God P _____
- Jesus G _____
- We R _____ (A _____, B _____, C _____)