

VBS 2023 MISSIONS ROTATION CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute outline is designed to help conference leaders equip VBS missions rotation leaders to teach the missions rotation at VBS.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2023 Missions Rotation Leader Guide with DVD-ROM*
- *VBS 2023 Music for Kids CD*
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* (1 per conferee)
- *VBS 2023 Theme Stickers*
- *VBS 2023 Sticky Foam Stickers*
- *VBS 2023 Tablecloths*
- *VBS 2023 Giant Inflatable Game Cube*
- *VBS 2023 Suction Cup Spinner*
- Missions Insert item 1: "Colombia Missions Poster"
- Missions Insert item 2: "St. Louis Missions Poster"
- Missions Insert item 3: "Mission Project Letter" — Photocopy 1 per conferee.
- Missions Insert item 4: "Game Pieces" — Photocopy five sheets onto brightly colored cardstock (1 for each day's study). Cut out the game pieces and write one of the following words on each game piece:
 - Day 1: *Colombia, Embera, native, farmers, read*
 - Day 2: *river, Spanish, bead, training, trustworthy*
 - Day 3: *forgives, gospel, ministry, education, follow*
 - Day 4: *disciples, story, Mirian, light, following*
 - Day 5: *love, jewelry, provide, nations, dog*
- Missions Insert item 5: "Recipe Card" — Print 1 per conferee
- Missions Insert item 6: "Day 1: Game Sheet" — Print 1 per conferee and place inside the Day 1 file folder.
- Missions Insert item 7: "Day 2: Game Sheet" — Print 1 per conferee and place inside the Day 2 file folder.
- Missions Insert item 8: "Day 3: Game Sheet" — Print 1 per conferee and place inside the Day 3 file folder.
- Missions Insert item 9: "Day 4 Game Sheet" — Print 1 per conferee and place inside the Day 4 file folder.
- Missions Insert item 10: "Day 5 Game Sheet" — Print 1 per conferee and place inside the Day 5 file folder.
- *VBS 2023 Visual Pack* — Display the Theme Verse poster and the motto poster from this pack. If you do not have the Visual Pack, write out the theme verse and motto on separate sheets of poster board and hang in the focal area.
- 5 wrapped boxes (use shoeboxes or a game board boxes) — Cover each box to look like a board game box. Decorate with *VBS 2023 Foam Stickers* or *VBS 2023 Theme Stickers*. Label each box separately: *Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, Day 5*. Place each day's Game Pieces (Mission Insert item 4) in each day's box.
- Video Story Summaries (leader guide, pp. 22–25) — Cut apart and separate the story summaries about the Burkhalters and the Byrds. Place the summaries for the Burkhalters in the game boxes that corresponds to each day. Place the video summaries for the Byrds in the five game folders.

- 5 file folders — Decorate each folder with *VBS 2023 Sticky Foam Stickers* and label each folder separately: *Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, and Day 5*. Place each day's video summary about the Byrds in the corresponding day's folder along with each day's Game Sheet (Missions Insert items 6–10).
- 8½ x 11" cardstock — Print each of the following phrases on a separate piece of cardstock and place them each in a pocket of the *VBS 2023 Giant Inflatable Game Cube*:
 1. Prepare Your Heart to Teach
 2. Plan & Gather Supplies
 3. Connect with Kids
 4. Share the Gospel
 5. Decorate the Multi-Player Missions area
 6. Continue the Connection
- Colored construction paper or cardstock — Create a gameboard path using colored paper for each square. Write one of the following letters on a separate piece of paper: *Play to Win*. Tape (in order) to the focal wall.
- Dice (1)
- *VBS 2023 Suction Cup Spinner*
- Large paper — Draw and cut out a large circle. Divide into five sections and label them: *Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, and Day 5*. Place the *VBS 2023 Suction Cup Spinner* in the middle of the circle to create a spinning wheel spinner.
- Mission Project supplies — Display the ingredients that will be used for the Friendship Soup alongside a completed jar of Friendship Soup mix.
- Bible
- Puzzle pieces from any puzzle — 1 puzzle piece for each conferee
- Tape
- CD player
- TV/DVD player

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semicircle. Decorate the room to look like a multi-player game room using the suggestions on page 4 of the *VBS 2023 Missions Rotation Leader Guide*. Place the "Columbia Missions Poster" (insert item 1) and the "St. Louis Poster" (insert item 2) on the focal wall. Hang the Theme Verse poster and VBS Motto poster from the Visual Pack on the focal wall. Cover a display table with the *VBS 2023 Tablecloth* and place the teaching resources along with the five game boxes and *Giant Inflatable Game Cube* on top of the table.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play music from the *VBS 2023 Music for Kids CD* as conferees enter.
- Welcome conferees. Thank them for coming and for their interest in both VBS and teaching kids about missions.
- Ask conferees what it means to be on mission. Allow a couple of volunteers to share where they have been on mission: local missions, state missions, North American missions, or international missions. Ask: Did it take more than one person to help make the trip successful? The answer is "yes." When it comes to board games, it's always more fun to play the game with others. That's why missions is a multi-person, group effort ministry.
- Share with the conferees that during VBS kids are going to learn about two families who, just like Peter, left everything to follow Jesus. These families are now telling people how they can follow Jesus, too.

- In this conference we will learn about these two missionary families and learn how we going to teach missions to the kids during VBS.

2. Play the Game: Learn the VBS Motto and Scripture (5 minutes)

- Point to the poster with the motto and read it to the group.
- Encourage the group to learn the motto by forming two teams and leading each team to take turns shouting the motto as a call and response. (Group 1 says: "Following Jesus;" Group 2 says: "Changes the game.")
- Point to the poster with the Bible verse (Psalm 25:4) on it. Lead the group to read the verse out loud.
- Encourage conferees to think about how this verse is speaking to them and how this verse can help us learn about following God on mission.

3. Gather the Game Pieces (5 minutes)

- Briefly overview the materials needed to teach missions rotation.
- Explain how to use the download code, the DVD-ROM, and the inserts in the leader guide.
- Show the conferees how the leader book is designed and where to locate items referenced in the guide.
- Introduce the two missionary families that kids will learn about during VBS. The Burkhalters are missionaries through the International Missions Board (IMB). The Byrds are missionaries through the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

4. Play to Win (15 minutes)

- Hold the Giant Inflatable Game Cube. Tell conferees that they will now learn the strategies that will help them play to win while teaching VBS Missions.
- Invite a volunteer to roll a die (numbered cube). The number it lands on is how many times the conferees will toss the inflatable cube around the room. Whoever catches the cube on the last number, must read a rule on how to teach missions from the cube. Start with Rule #1 and continue in order each new turn.
- Lead the group to play—rolling the die and tossing the number cube and reading Rules 1-6 in order. Talk about each rule in greater detail. (Talking points and explanations are found on pages 1, 3, and 4 in the Missions Leader Guide.)
 1. Prepare Your Heart to Teach
 2. Plan & Gather Supplies
 3. Connect with Kids
 4. Share the Gospel — Use *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* to explain.
 5. Decorate the Multi-Player Missions area
 6. Continue the Connection

5. Connect the Dots (15 Minutes)

- Review each day's Bible Study Session Title, Bible Story, and The Point.
- Remind conferees that they need to be familiar with the Bible study each day. This information can be found on page 3 of the leader guide. Encourage them to read the Scripture for each day and pray that God will speak to them through His Word. Remind them that we teach from the overflow of what God is doing in our own lives.
- Connect the main point and Bible story to the mission story:
 - Day 1 Connection: The two missionary families left everything to follow Jesus, just like Peter did.

- Day 2 Connection: The missionaries had to learn that Jesus is trustworthy and how God helps, then share God's love with people. Peter had to trust Jesus during a storm and when he was walking on the water to Jesus.
- Day 3 Connection: Peter found forgiveness and a second chance with Jesus. The missionaries went to the places they are serving to help people know that God will forgive them.
- Day 4 Connection: John and Peter were excited to tell the Good News about Jesus. The missionaries are sharing the gospel and teaching people who have never heard about Jesus.
- Day 5 Connection: God changed the lives of the missionaries. God can change the lives of the people where they are serving, too.

6. Spin the Spinner: IMB Missionary (15 minutes)

- Form 5 teams. Ask each team to send someone to spin the spinner to see which VBS Day their team will be assigned. Give each team the game box that corresponds to that day.
- Ask each team to open their box and look at the game pieces inside. The game pieces list important details about the Burkhalter family who are missionaries in Columbia.
- Inside each box is also a summary of the mission story about the Burkhalters serving in Colombia for each day. (This could be used in place of watching the video each day.)
- Instruct the teams to have one person read that day's mission story summary aloud. Listen for key words on the game pieces and be ready to explain why that word was important in the story. Be ready to report to the whole group.
- Allow time for teams to complete their assignment.
- Lead conferees through each day's missionary story. Play the Day 1 IMB video about the Burkhalter family serving in Colombia. Ask the Day 1 team to explain the significance of their game pieces, then add the game pieces to the game board on the focal wall.
- Continue in like fashion with Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, and Day 5. However, do not play the videos for these days. Instead, let the groups summarize the mission story by explaining what their game pieces stand for.

7. Round Two: NAMB Missionary (15 minutes)

- Talk about the second missionary family that kids will learn about during VBS. The Byrd family serves in the United States in St. Louis, Missouri. Point to St. Louis on the poster (insert item 2).
- Ask conferees to remain in their teams. Give each team the file folder that matches their assigned day (1-5). Explain that these folders contain the Daily Game Sheet (insert item 6-10) and a Video Summary Sheet for each day's mission story.
- Show the Day 1 Video of the Byrd Family.
- Ask teams to read their assigned video summary and to complete the Game Sheet for their day. Be prepared to share a summary of how to use the Game Sheet assigned to that day.
- Review each day and lead each team to summarize their missions story and game sheet.

8. Twist & Turns Mission Project (10 minutes)

- Explain that the suggested mission project helps kids learn about how missionaries meet people's basic needs while also sharing about Jesus with them. The mission project helps meet basic needs by giving people food. Kids will be making Friendship Soup Jars. They will be asked to donate ingredients and then put the items together on Day 4. Kids will write Bible verses to share on the jars and pray over the jars before they are given to a food pantry.

- Show the ingredients and the completed jar to the conferees.

9. Level Up: Closing and Prayer (5 minutes)

- Answer any questions about mission's rotation and the teaching resources.
- Explain that "Level Up" is a gaming term that means "to progress to the next level."
Comment: "For us to lead the missions rotation, we need to 'Level Up' by praying for guidance while leading missions rotation and that the kids who attend will get a desire to be on mission for Christ.
- Give each conferee a piece of a puzzle. Ask them to keep this puzzle piece to remind them to encourage churches to find ways to offer missions rotation during VBS, even with an abbreviated schedule. This may be accomplished by incorporating missions into Worship Rally, by combining missions with snacks, or by offering an abbreviated missions rotation.
- Comment: "Missions is too important to leave out!" It's an important piece of the puzzle in developing a child's view of being on mission with God."
- Thank conferees for attending and close in prayer.