

VBS 2023 PRESCHOOL ROTATIONS CONFERENCE PLAN (45 MIN.)

Purpose Statement

This 45-minute plan is designed to train and equip teachers to lead preschool rotation activities using Lifeway's *Twists & Turns 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack*.

Needed Resources and Resource Preparation

- VBS 2023 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack (005839257)
- VBS 2023 Rotation Signs (005840709)
- (4) VBS 2023 Tablecloths (005840698)
- VBS 2023 Floor Prints (005840701)
- VBS 2023 Sticky Foam Shapes (005840675)
- VBS 2023 Theme Stickers (005840677)
- VBS 2023 Catching Fish Craft Pack (005841536)
- VBS 2023 Meeple Picture Frame Craft Pack (005841539)
- VBS 2023 Game Mask Craft Pack (005841540)
- VBS 2023 String Flags (005840702)
- VBS 2023 Giant Inflatable Game Cube (005841133)
- Item 1: “Game Cube” — Photocopy two copies on white cardstock. Cut out and write one of the following “Tools for Success” on the back of each game piece: *Prepare well in advance; keep decorations to a minimum; set up safe boundaries; explain an activity before handing out resources; plan for extra time; keep the focus on the Bible truth, Bible verse, and Today’s Point.*
- Item 2: “Video Game Piece” — Photocopy two copies onto white cardstock. Cut out and write one leader responsibility from the *3s–K Recreation Rotation Leader Cards* on the back of each game piece.
- Item 3: “Game Piece” — Photocopy two copies on white cardstock. Cut out and write one “Start Play!” tip (p. 1 of *3s–K Craft Rotation Leader Guide*) on the back of each game piece.
- Music: Print the Preschool Worship Rally outlines from the 3s–Kindergarten Music Rotation DVD-ROM (or digital downloads).
- Crafts: Prepare the Free Art for each day.
- Crafts: Prepare at least one craft for each day (in addition to craft packs).
- Crafts: Prepare each Craft Pack craft.
- Missions: Print the “Mission Project Letter” from the 3s–Kindergarten Missions Leader Guide.
- Missions: Prepare a sample of the Friendship Soup jar to display.
- Pool noodles in 3 different colors (1 per conferee) — Noodles can be cut in half, so each conferee has a noodle.
- CD player or Bluetooth speaker
- TV/DVD player or screen, projector, and speakers

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Cover a table with a *VBS 2023 Tablecloth* and display the *VBS 2023 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* alongside other conference resources. Drape *VBS 2023 String Flags* across the doorway.

Set up rotations around the room by spreading a *VBS 2023 Tablecloth* on the floor or covering a table and posting the appropriate rotation sign nearby. For **Level Up Music**: Display the Music Rotation Leader Guide, Music for Preschoolers CD, Music Rotation DVD-ROM, and a

copy of Teacher Helps from the DVD-ROM. For **Wild Card Crafts**: Display the Crafts Rotation Leader Guide, prepared crafts, *VBS 2023 Sticky Foam Shapes*, *VBS 2023 Theme Stickers*, and prepared crafts. For **Ready, Set, Rec**: Arrange the recreation rotation cards alongside game supplies. For **Multi-Player Missions**: Display the Missions Rotation Leader Guide, Missions Rotation DVD-ROM, Letter to Parents, and sample Friendship Soup jar.

Teaching Steps

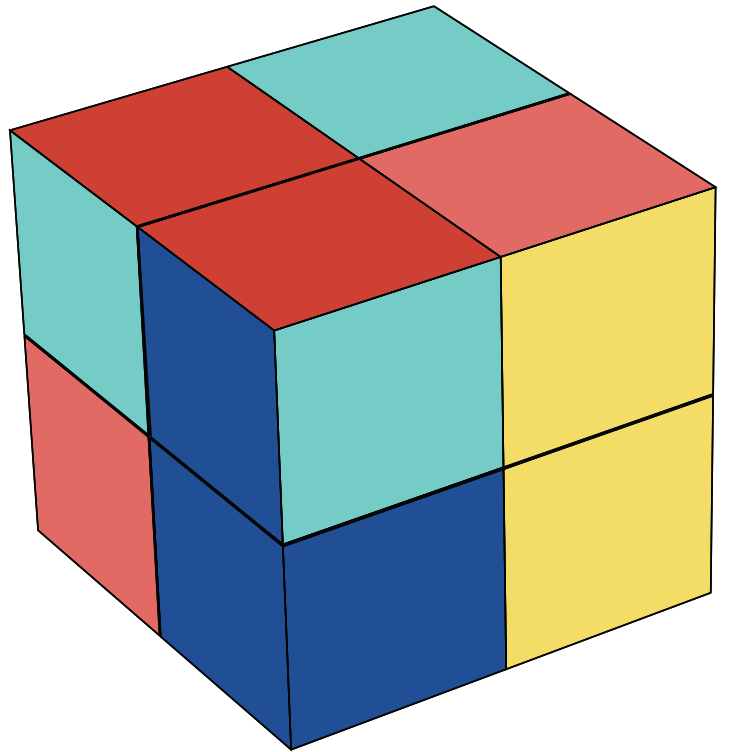
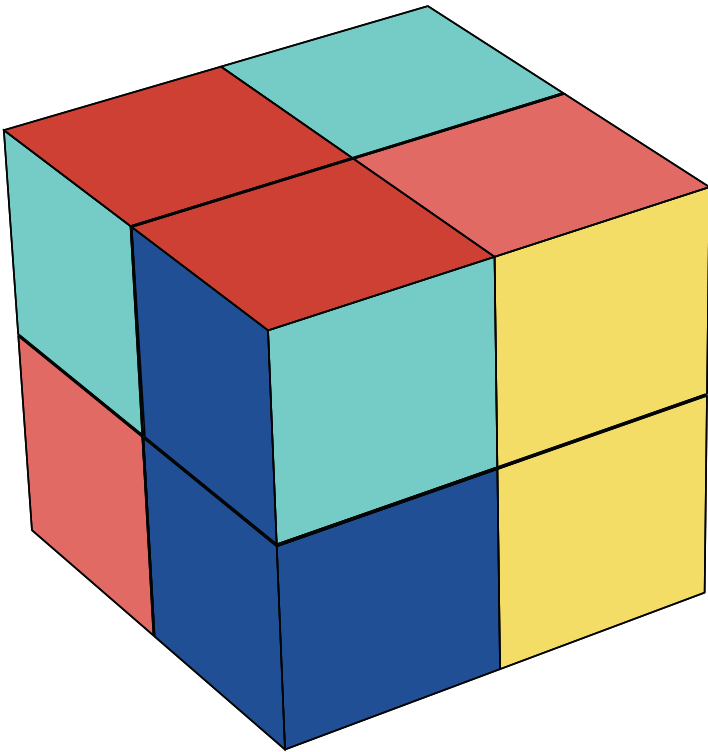
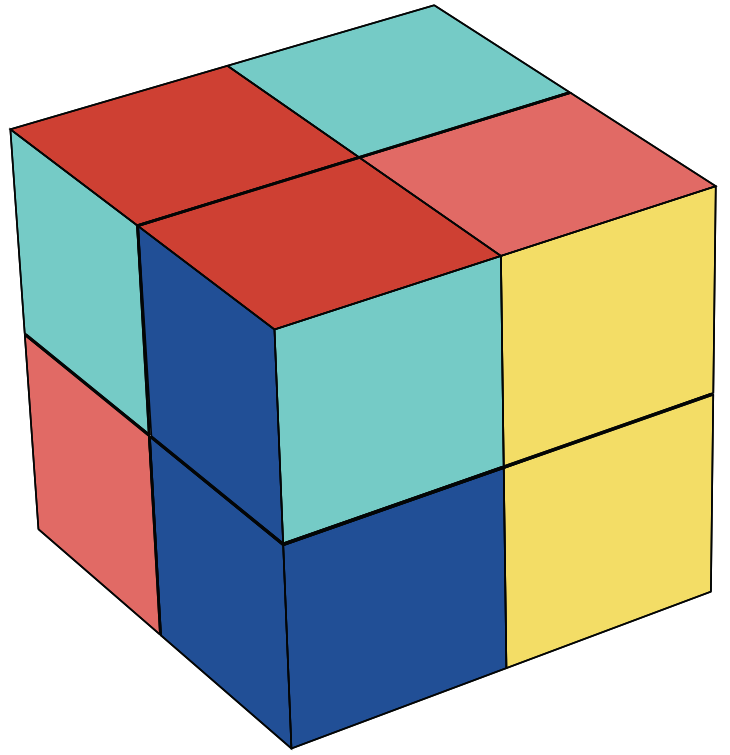
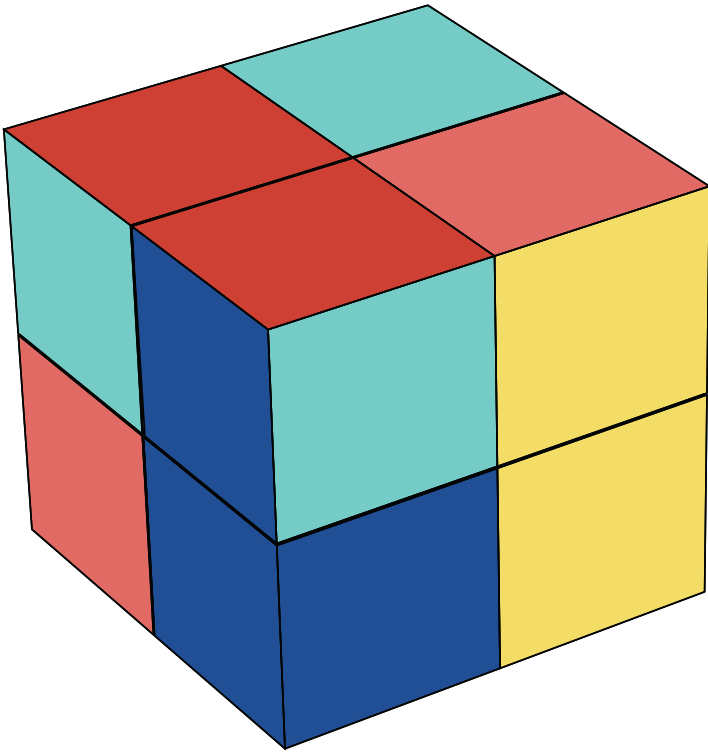
1. **Welcome** (2 minutes)
 - Play “Twists & Turns” (track 1) from the music CD.
 - Welcome conferees. Comment: “Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win!” This year “kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They’ll find that even when they mess up it’s never ‘game over.’”

2. **Why Rotations:** (10 minutes)
 - Show conferees the *3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack*.
 - Explain that the Rotation Pack includes a teaching plan for:
 - Level Up Music
 - Wild Card Crafts
 - Ready, Set, Rec
 - Explain that Skip Ahead Snack Rotation Recipe Cards are meant for use with 3s–Grade 6 and can be purchased separately. They are included in the Multi-age Starter Kit since that includes all ages 3s–Grade 6 but are not included in the Preschool Starter Kit. Snacks that are appropriate for preschoolers are marked on the cards with the letters *PF* for “preschool friendly.”
 - Share three options for using the Rotation Pack:
 - **Preschoolers Move:** Teachers move kids to each rotation site, stay with them during the activities, and lead them back to the main classroom for closing group time.
 - **Teachers Move:** Teachers are enlisted to come to the room to teach the rotation activities.
 - **Self-contained Classroom:** Children and teachers remain in the room for all activities. Note that ideas for rotation activities are included in the *3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack*. If a self-contained option is used, teachers will need the rotation pack in addition to their Bible study leader guides and leader pack.
 - Hold the game cube cards (Item 1) facedown in your hands and offer to help conferees “level up for success” in teaching preschool rotations. Invite volunteers to take turns choosing a game cube card and reading the following tips to the group.
 - **Prepare well in advance.** Say: “Try to teach from memory so you can connect better with your preschoolers.”
 - **Keep decorations to a minimum.** Remind conferees that too many decorations can be overwhelming (and overstimulating) to preschoolers.
 - **Set up safe boundaries.** Say: “Preschoolers thrive when they have clear boundaries and know your expectations. Arrange *VBS 2023 Floor Prints* or tape marks on the floor so each child will have his own defined space and plenty of room to move.”
 - **Explain an activity before handing out resources.** Say: “Because preschoolers focus best on one thing at a time, explain an activity before handing out props or supplies.”

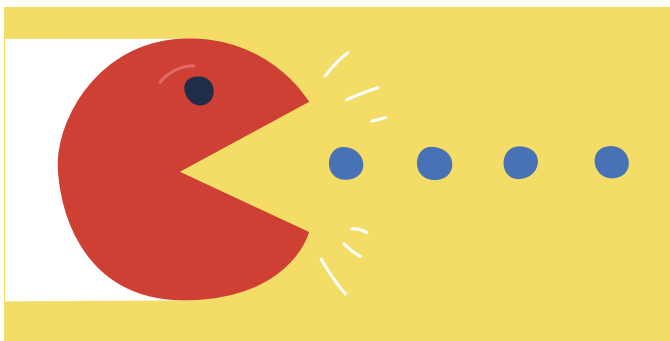
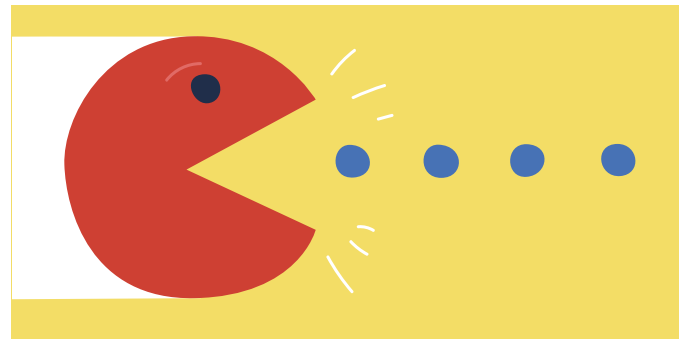
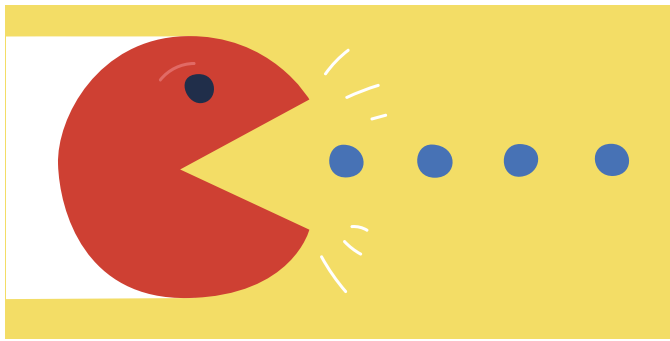
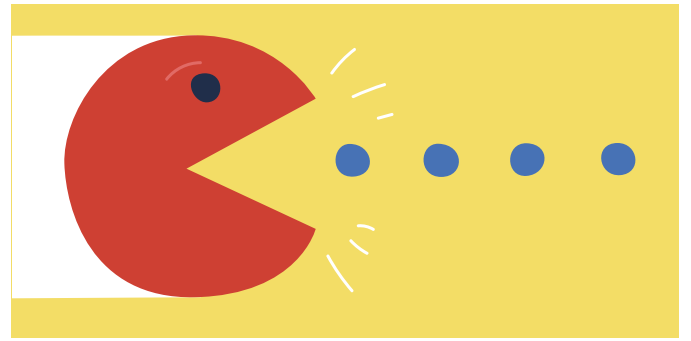
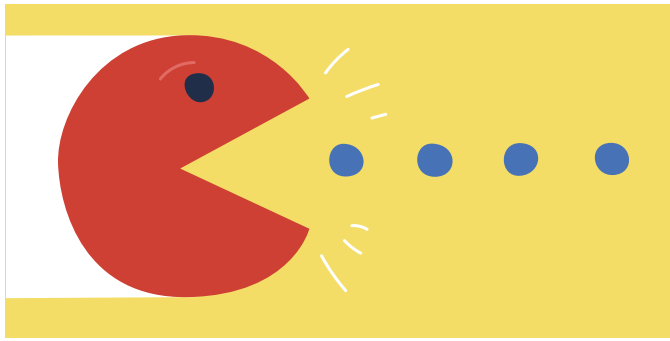
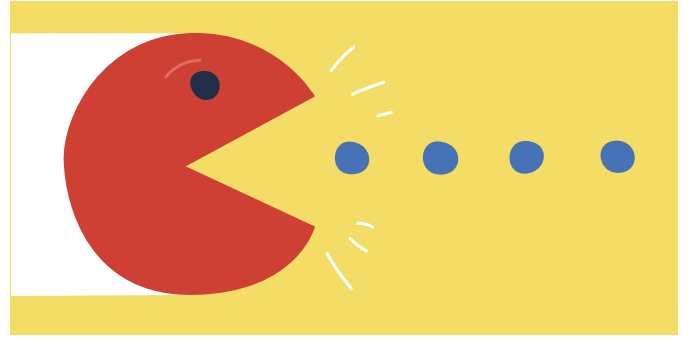
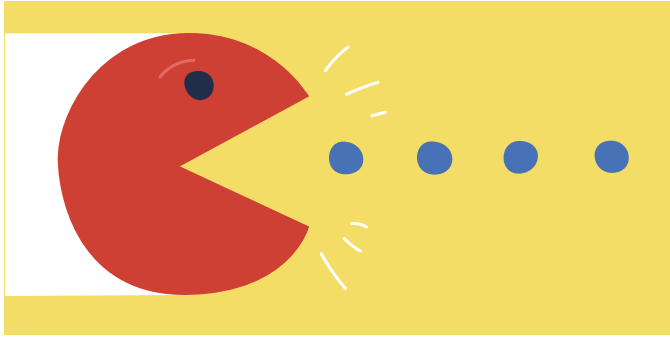
- **Plan for extra time.** Draw attention to the “Take Another Turn” section found on page 16 of the *3s–K Music Rotation Leader Guide* which has some great bonus ideas if you need to extend your session.
 - **Keep the focus on the Bible truth, Bible verse and Today’s Point.** Every activity should help preschoolers learn that Jesus helps us know his ways and teaches us his paths (Psalm 25:4).
3. **Rotation Locations** (30 minutes)
- Mention that this year kids will play their way through VBS in fun locations such as Ready, Set, Rec, Wild Card Crafts, Multi-player Missions, and Level Up Music.
 - Overview each of the rotation leader guides, highlighting key features of the rotations and their curriculum components:
 - **Level Up Music:** Show the *VBS 2023 3s–K Music Rotation Leader Guide*.
 - Explain that included in the Music Rotation Leader Guide is a DVD-ROM with instructional and demonstration videos for each of the preschool songs. Call attention to the unique redemption code on page 2 of the leader guide that allows access of files online without needing a computer disc drives.
 - Explain that “At a Glance” gives an overview of the week that includes the Bible Truth, Today’s Point, Bible Story, and songs suggested for each day.
 - Point out the motions and words for preschool songs at the back of the Music Rotation Leader Guide.
 - Teach the song “Show Me Your Ways.” Point out that “Show me your ways” is the exact wording of the preschool paraphrase of this year’s theme verse, Psalm 25:4.
 - Invite conferees to stand and sing “Show Me Your Ways.” If time allows, sing through song twice using the demonstration video.
 - Mention that the Preschool Music Rotation DVD-ROM includes an outline for a Preschool Worship Rally. The rally time uses the preschool songs from the Music for Preschoolers CD and includes a brief introduction of the day’s Bible story and memory verse.
 - Show the “Preschool Worship Rally” outline. Explain that preschoolers experience the excitement of Worship Rally and understand it so much more when it is geared toward their level, uses their music, and reinforces their Point of the day.
 - If time allows lead conferees to stand and sing the “Twists & Turns” theme song with the motions.
 - **Wild Card Crafts:** Show the *VBS 2023 3s–K Crafts Rotation Leader Guide*.
 - Turn to page 1 of the guide and explain that just like every game comes with instructions on how to play, there craft guide contains a section called “Start Play!” to help you know how to organize this rotation.
 - Overview those “Start Play!” steps on page 1:
 - Read the Instructions First
 - Set Up the Game
 - Plan Your Strategy
 - Have All the Pieces in Place
 - Access Your Files Online
 - Enjoy the Game
 - Keep Your Eyes on the Prize

- Explain that crafts in the *3s–K Crafts Rotation Leader Guide* are designed for ages 3-Kindergarten. Some may be more appropriate for one age than another.
- Mention that there is always at least one craft each day that relates specifically to the Bible story. All crafts provide the teacher with a “connect” paragraph to help tie it to the Bible truth. Remind conferees that no matter which craft they choose, they should be sure to share the Bible story summary and “connect” thoughts to reinforce the Bible truths being taught.
- Mention that a “free art” suggestion is provided each day and is designed to be relatively self-directed with minimal supervision. Use these options for early finishers or an easy additional activity as needed.
- Draw attention to the crafts on display. Encourage conferees to look at crafts before they leave.
- **Ready, Set, Rec:** Show the *VBS 2023 3s–K Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*.
 - Explain that the Recreation Rotation cards include a game that is identified as the Bible Story Game for each day. These cards include a Story Connection. The Bible Story Game is designed to help preschoolers connect and understand the Bible story and Point for that day.
 - Lead the group to play the Day 5 Bible Story Game: “Pool Noodle Puddle.” Follow the instructions on the card to set up and play the game.
 - Draw attention to the Story Connection on the recreation card: “Today, kids played a game with pool noodles. Although they were different colors, they were all fun to play with. Remind preschoolers that today’s Bible story told about a time when Peter told Cornelius, his family, and friends that Jesus loves everyone the same.” Make sure conferees understand how to use games to connect back to the Bible truths being taught that day.
 - Show the Administrative Cards at the end. Explain that these cards include Leader Responsibilities, Kid Characteristics, Teaching Tips, and Decorating Ideas.
 - Read the following statements and ask conferees to decide if the statement is a “Before VBS” or “During VBS” responsibility.
 - Test each game before using in a session. (*before*)
 - Enlist other adults to help. Plan games based on group size and space. (*before*)
 - Plan for inclement weather. (*before*)
 - Cover electrical outlets and remove any hazards in the area you have chosen for games. (*before*)
 - Gather and inspect equipment. (*before*)
 - Choose a method of playing music. (*before*)
 - Know your church’s procedures for emergencies and accidents. Obtain a first aid kit. (*before*)
 - Be familiar with each day’s Bible story and the week’s verse. (*before*)
 - Set up games in a safe area. (*before/during*)
 - Pray daily for leaders, kids, and safe play during games. (*before/during*)
 - Explain and demonstrate each game to the kids. (*during*)

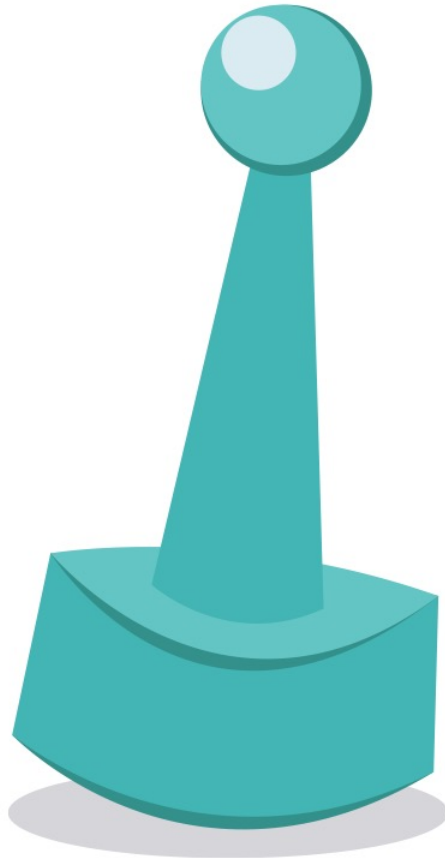
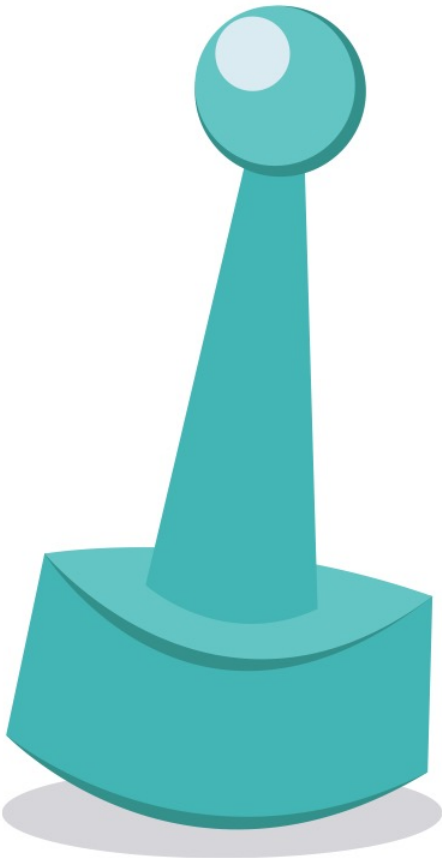
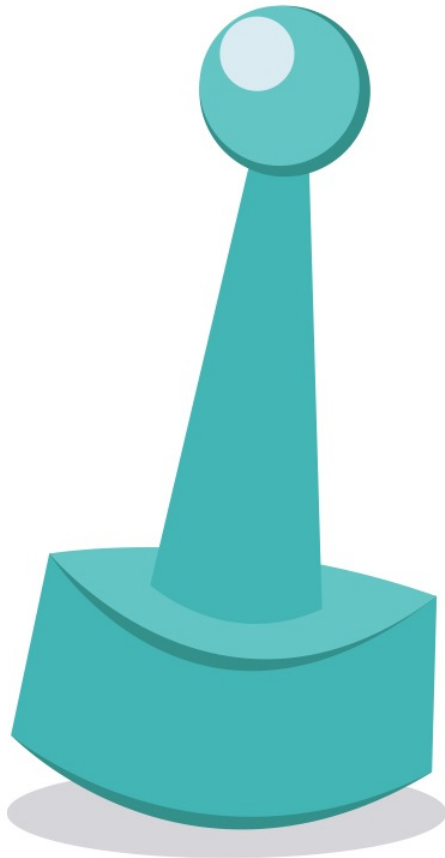
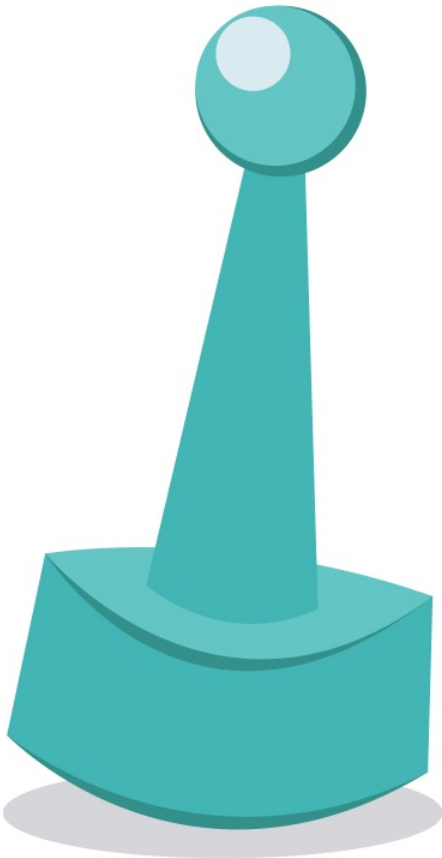
- Use the “Story Connection” on the Bible Story Game cards to reinforce Bible learning. (*during*)
 - Monitor play and redirect as necessary. (*during*)
 - Plan water breaks for kids. (*during*)
 - **Multi-Player Missions:** Show the *VBS 2023 3s–K Missions Rotation Leader Guide*.
 - Point out the DVD-ROM and explain that there is a short video segment featured each day. There are also printables on the ROM portion of the disc. If you choose, you can download all DVD items by going to my.lifeway.com/redeem and entering the unique code provided in your missions guide.
 - Explain that if they choose not to show the videos, a summary of each video is written in the leader guide so that the missionary stories can be told (rather than shown) to preschoolers if needed.
 - Days 1 and 2 feature NAMB missionaries Michael and Traci Byrd who serve in St. Louis, MO.
 - Days 3–5 feature IMB missionaries Travis and Beth Burkhalter and their family, who serve in Columbia, South America.
 - Mention that during missions rotation, kids will learn about how missionaries meet people’s basic needs while also sharing Jesus with them. The mission action project for the week is doing the same by meeting a basic need we all have—food.
 - Show the Mission Project Letter in the guide and a sample of the Friendship Soup Jar. Explain that churches may choose their own mission action project, but the leader guide will have a focus on the Friendship Soup missions project each day.
4. **Closing** (3 minutes)
- Answer any questions and clarify any information as needed.
 - Offer these final words of encouragement:
 - Be flexible. Adjust your plans to make VBS the best experience possible for you and your preschoolers.
 - Be intentional about connecting every activity back to the Bible content to help kids see that following Jesus changes everything.
 - Build relationships with your kids.
 - The process is more important than the finished product!
 - Enjoy the game!
 - Close by praying for these VBS leaders and the preschoolers they will teach this summer.



Item 1. Game Cube



Item 2. Video Game Piece



Item 3. Game Piece