

VBS 2024 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 2024 Missions Rotation Leader Guide with DVD-ROM (005846911)
- VBS 2024 Music for Kids CD (005846976)
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* (1 per conferee) (005567177)
- VBS 2024 Parent Guide (005846983)
- VBS 2024 Gospel Guide (005846982)
- VBS 2024 Gospel Wristbands (005846817)
- VBS 2024 Tablecloths (005846832)
- VBS 2024 Door Hangers (005846995)
- VBS 2024 Visual Pack (005845725)
- VBS 2024 Supersized Postcards (1 per conferee) (005846972)
- Missions Insert item 1: "Japan Map"
- Missions Insert Item 2: "Portland Map"
- Missions Insert Item 4: "Marshmallows" — Print one copy on cardstock and cut out 5 individual marshmallows. Label the marshmallows "Day 1" through "Day 5"
- Missions Insert Item 7: "Door Hangers" — Print two copies on white cardstock. Cut out the hangers from one page. Leave the second page intact.
- Video Story Summaries (leader guide, pp. 22–24) — Photocopy, cut apart, and separate the story summaries about the Flemings and the Browns.
- Poster board – Cut into a large circle.
- 5 pieces of firewood (real or made from cardboard tubes) — Write the phrases: *Prepare Your Heart, Plan, Teach, Gather & Prepare, and Continue the Connection*. Cut them apart and attach one phrase to each piece of firewood.
- Item 1: "Marshmallows" — Print and cut out each marshmallow. Place the 5 labeled marshmallows under 5 different chairs.
- 5 skewers
- Sticky tack — Stick on the end of each skewer.
- 12 bean bags
- White paper bag with handles
- Water bottle
- Pack of facial tissues
- Small container of mints
- Bottle of bubbles
- Small box of crayons
- Coloring book
- Individually wrapped candies
- 2 ink pens
- TV/DVD Player
- CD player
- 2 camp chairs — Arrange chairs on either side of the bonfire display.
- Guitar — Place the guitar next to one of the chairs.

Room Setup

Decorate the room to look like a beach bonfire setting using the suggestions on page 4 of the *VBS 2024 Missions Rotation Leader Guide*. Set up poster board circle (bonfire ring) in between two camp chairs. Lean a guitar against one of the chairs. Arrange chairs for conferees in a semicircle surrounding the bonfire ring. Hang the “Japan Map” (insert item 1) and the “Portland Map” (insert item 2) on the focal wall along with the Theme Verse poster and VBS Motto poster from the Visual Pack. Cover a display table with the *VBS 2024 Tablecloth* and place the teaching resources on top. Scatter the labeled logs around the room. Hide the five labelled marshmallows under five different seats. Put sticky tack on five skewers and set them on the display table for use during the “Rock-solid Truth” segment. Assemble a “Welcome Bag” as an example for the Mission Project segment using the white paper bag with handles, water bottle, pack of tissues, mints, bubbles, crayons, coloring book, candies and ink pens.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play music from the *VBS 2024 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 if they have ever been on a mission trip. For larger groups, lead them to raise their hands to indicate if they have been on a mission trip and then call on a few conferees to tell where they went. Smaller groups might want to allow everyone to answer as time permits.
- Ask: “What kind of preparation did you need to do before going on your mission trip?” Explain that just like there are steps that need to be taken before you can go on a mission trip, we have some steps we need to take to prepare to do and teach missions at VBS.

2. Head for the Beach: Motto and Scripture (5 minutes)

- Point to the poster with the motto and read it to the group.
- Help the group memorize the motto by forming two groups and leading each group to shout its half of the motto. Group 1 says: “God’s truth.” Group 2 says: “Never changes.”
- Reverse it and lead Group 2 to say: “God’s truth” and Group 1 respond with: “Never changes.”
- Point to the poster with the Bible verse (Romans 12:2) on it. Lead the group to read the verse out loud.
- Encourage conferees to think about this verse as they plan and prepare to lead missions.

3. Build Your Bonfire: Gather the Logs (15 minutes)

- Lead conferees to look around the room for the five pieces of firewood to build your bonfire and bring them to the front of the room.
- Arrange each log in the poster board ring as you read the labels and offer commentary. Descriptions for each item can be found on page 1 of the Missions Rotation Leader Guide.
 1. Prepare your Heart
 2. Plan

3. Teach
 4. Gather and Prepare
 5. Continue the Connection
- Comment: “Building the perfect bonfire doesn’t just happen. Leading a great Mission rotation at VBS doesn’t just happen either. Both require planning and work before we ever get to enjoy them.”
4. **S’mores Supplies: Curriculum Components** (10 minutes)
 - Briefly explain 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 conferees how the leader guide is designed and where to locate items referenced in the guide.
 - Introduce the two missionary families that kids will learn about during VBS. The Fleming family are missionaries through the International Mission Board (IMB). The Brown family are missionaries through the North American Mission Board (NAMB).
 5. **Rock-solid Truth: Explore the Bible Content** (15 minutes)
 - Invite conferees to look under their seats for the five marshmallows labeled “Day 1” through “Day 5.” Ask the person who found the Day 1 marshmallow to bring it to the front and stick it to a skewer using sticky tack. Ask them pretend to roast their marshmallow over the bonfire while you discuss that day’s Bible Story Session Title, Bible Story, and Today’s Point. Alternately, you can pretend to roast the marshmallow while you present to allow participants to return to their seats.
 - Repeat this process for the remaining four days.
 - Review each day’s “Some People Say” and “God Says” statements.
 - 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 the Bible story to the mission story:
 - Day 1 Connection: Our two missionaries are sharing the same truth because truth comes from God.
 - Day 2 Connection: Both missionary families are living proof that God’s plan is best, just like Daniel was.
 - Day 3 Connection: The rich young ruler shows us that everyone needs Jesus. Our missionaries are working to share that news.
 - Day 4 Connection: Jesus is the only way. Today we see our missionaries do different things to share the same truth.
 - Day 5 Connection: The missionaries are following God, even when it is strange, and He is using them to change the lives of the people they meet.
 6. **“Cherry Blossoms”: IMB Missionary** (10 minutes)
 - Explain that *otedama* is a traditional Japanese game and invite conferees to play the similar beanbag game from page 7 of the Missions Leader Guide. Explain that this game is from Day 1.

- Play the game either with one team as a demonstration or with multiple teams to make it a race.
- Talk about the first missionary family kids will learn about during VBS—the Fleming family who serve in Osaka, Japan.
- Play the Day 1 IMB video about the Fleming family serving in Japan.
- Show conferees the story summaries in the Missions Leader Guide as supplements or alternatives to the videos.
- Call on volunteers to read the story summaries for Days 2–5 instead of playing the videos.

7. "Keep Portland Weird": NAMB Missionary (10 minutes)

- Lead the group to play the "Name Game" from page 10 of the Missions Leader Guide. Explain that this game is from Day 2.
- Play the game according to the instructions on page 10. If you have a large group, you may want to form two teams to help speed this up. If you have a really small group, you may want to go around the circle more than once by having a person list an item that starts with the same letter as their last name for the second round.
- Talk about the second missionary family kids will learn about during VBS—the Brown family serving in the United States in Portland, Oregon.
- Call on volunteers to read the story summaries for Days 2–5 instead of playing the videos.

8. Breaker Rock Beach Mission Project (5 minutes)

- Explain that in missions rotation kids learn that part of a missionary's work is to make people feel welcome. Missionaries intentionally plan ways to invite people into their ministry and have conversations with them. This year's mission project is doing the same thing by giving kids the opportunity to be involved with welcoming people to your church.
- Continue explaining that kids will be asked to bring in items to fill "Welcome Bags" to give out to church guests. Not only will they bring in the items for the bag, they'll also create "Welcome Pictures" to share in the bags and praying over them. Children will also be encouraged to serve alongside an adult to distribute bags within their church or community. Kids will be given the opportunity to create a door hanger invitation to invite a friend to join them at VBS.
- Show an example of a completed bag with suggested items in it. Ask conferees to consider what kinds of items would help people visiting their church feel welcome.
- Show the door hangers found on Insert Item 7 in the Missions Leader Guide. Display *VBS 2024 Door Hangers* as an alternative if their church would like them already complete.

9. Evangelism/Continued Connections (10 minutes)

- Remind conferees that their VBS will have children in many different stages of faith. They will encounter children who are totally lost and kids who are strong believers. Missions is a great time to bridge that gap and give next steps to everyone.
- Explain that leaders need to be trained and equipped to share the gospel with lost children and families.

- Distribute “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” tract. Explain that this information is also on the inside front cover of the Missions Rotation Leader Guide. Reference the *VBS 2024 Parent Guide*, *VBS 2024 Gospel Guide*, and the *VBS 2024 Gospel Wristbands* as great tools to help leaders and volunteers share the gospel.
- Explain that for children who are already believers, they can use these tools to share their faith with others. Encourage these children to listen to the gospel presentation with the purpose of learning how to share it themselves. The *VBS 2024 Gospel Guide* is a great resource for kids to use to share their faith.
- Remind conferees that they will need to participate in their church’s VBS Celebration and follow-up events. Missions is a great tie-in to these events and can be used to encourage children to participate and invite their friends.

10. Fired Up, Now What? (5 minutes)

- Answer any questions about the missions rotations and the teaching resources.
- Encourage churches to find ways to offer the missions rotation during VBS, even with an abbreviated schedule. This can be accomplished by incorporating missions into the Worship Rally, by combining missions with snacks, or by offering an abbreviated missions rotation.
- Comment: “Don’t let missions be the thing you forget that messes up your day at the beach!”
- Distribute one Supersized Postcard to each conferee. Ask conferees to use it as a reminder to pray and ask God to reveal someone they should invite to VBS. They can then use the postcard to invite that person.
- Thank conferees for attending and close in prayer.

DAY 1

Session Title: Truth Comes from God

Bible Story Title: Satan Tricked Adam and Eve (*Genesis 2–3*)

Some People Say: Truth can be different for different people.

God Says: Truth comes from Me.

Today's Point: Truth comes from God.

DAY 2

Session Title: God's Plan Is Best

Bible Story Title: Daniel Chose God's Way (*Daniel 1*)

Some People Say: Do what makes you happy.

God Says: My plan for you is even better.

Today's Point: God's plan is best.

DAY 3

Session Title: Everyone Needs Jesus

Bible Story Title: The Rich Young Ruler (*Mark 10:17-27*)

Some People Say: Being a good person gets you into heaven.

God Says: Everyone sins and needs a Savior.

Today's Point: Everyone needs Jesus.

DAY 4

Session Title: Jesus Is the Only Way

Bible Story Title: John Wrote about Jesus (*John 14:1-6; 18–20; Acts 1:9-12*)

Some People Say: There are many ways to get to heaven.

God Says: Jesus is the only way to get to heaven.

Today's Point: Jesus is the only way.

DAY 5

Session Title: Speak the Truth in Love

Bible Story Title: Paul Encouraged the Ephesians (*Acts 9:1-6; 19:1-10,21-31; 20:1; Ephesians 3:14-4:16*)

Some People Say: If you don't agree with me, you don't love me.

God Says: Speak the truth in love.

Today's Point: Speak the truth in love.