

## Recreation and Snack Rotations Base Conference Plan

# VBS 2024 RECREATION AND SNACK ROTATIONS BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

### Purpose Statement

This 90-minute conference is designed to train and equip VBS leaders to effectively lead the recreation and snack rotations for Breaker Rock Beach™.

### Needed Resources

- VBS 2024 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards (005846913)
- VBS 2024 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards (005846914)
- VBS 2024 Visual Pack (005845725)
- VBS 2024 Window Signs (005846974)
- 2 packages of VBS 2024 Whirleys (005846821) OR VBS 2024 String Flags (005846824)
- VBS 2024 Inflatable Sea Lion (005847243)
- VBS 2024 Rotation Signs (005846920)
- VBS 2024 Floor Prints (005846827)
- VBS 2024 Cups (005846481)
- VBS 2024 Tablecloths (005846832)
- VBS 2024 Music for Kids CD (005846976)
- CD player
- 3 beach balls
- 2 foam noodles — Cut both in half.
- 20 ball pit balls
- 2 buckets
- 6 clothespins
- 2 small buckets (narrow top, but wider than a bottle neck)
- Masking tape
- 10 straws — Cut into 1-inch pieces.
- Pens or pencils

### Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle with an open center for playing games. Gather room decoration ideas from the *VBS 2024 Decorating Made Easy*. Hang the *VBS 2024 String Flags* or *Whirleys* across the ceiling around or over the chairs. Place the *VBS 2024 Tablecloths* over two tables to display game pieces, snack ingredients, and one *VBS 2024 Inflatable Sea Lion*. Place the *VBS 2024 Floor Prints* around the floor in the room. If wall space allows, hang the *VBS 2024 Visual Pack* on a focal wall to reference throughout the session.

### Teaching Steps

#### 1. Welcome (5 Minutes)

- Welcome fellow “beach-goers” (conferees) to Ship Rec and Sea Lion Snacks. Say: “Today we will dive deep into all things Recreation and Snacks to make VBS 2024 a sure ‘tidal wave’ of fun for the kids and for the leaders serving with you!”
- Remind conferees that rec and snack time are so fun and so vital to the VBS experience! It is never “just rec and snack time.” This is another opportunity to share the good news of Jesus in a super fun way!
- Ask conferees which rotation they will be leading. Guide them to make large wave motions with their arms if they will lead Ship Rec. If they will lead Sea Lion Snacks,

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guide them to bark like sea lions. If they are doing both, encourage them to do both. Start this task by giving them a countdown “3-2-1, go!”

### 2. “Ship Rec” (25 Minutes)

- Introduce yourself and explain your favorite things about the beach or ocean or share a favorite memory from an ocean-bound vacation.
- Explain that today they will play some of the games found on the *VBS 2024 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards* and that you will share the names of the games as they are played.
- Explain that there are three different types of games: Bible Story, Water, and Table-top. For each game, the rec cards contain a list of supplies, prep/set-up guide, instructions for play, and tips that can help each game flow well. Helpful variations are also given to add challenges for older kids or eliminate issues that could arise.
- Comment: “Let’s review each game type.”
  - Bible Story Games: Three Bible story games are provided for each day of VBS.
    - Show a sample of a Rec Card. Highlight the left column as it notes the Bible Story, Theme Verse, Some People Say, God Says, Today’s Point, and Bonus Verse.
    - Draw special attention to the “Some People Say” and “God Says” statements. Explain that this is intended to help kids see the difference of what the world says versus the TRUTH of God’s Word.
    - Stress the value of repetition in teaching and applying the biblical truths being learned each day during rec. Remind conferees that the time will be well worth it and kids can come to Christ during rec and snack rotations too.
    - Say: “Now that we have learned about these Bible Story Games, let’s play a couple!”
    - Play “Clap, Clap, Catch” (Rec Card 8).
      - Choose three volunteers and give each an inflated beach ball. Read the instructions aloud from the card, then play the game.
      - Select three new volunteers and play again. Challenge them to see if they can beat the high score from the previous round.
      - Once finished, read the left column on the card and ask the conferees what the connection is to the biblical truth of that day.
      - Remind conferees that we can do works for God’s kingdom, but that is not enough to save us. Jesus is our Savior and He is the only way.
    - Play “Pool Noodle Pickup” (Rec Card 15).
      - Select two volunteers who are comfortable bending and moving quickly.
      - Give each person two pool noodle halves. Give the instructions and lead them to play the game.
      - If time allows, play the game again with new volunteers.
      - Once you finish playing the game, remind conferees that loving each other can be hard sometimes, but we know it’s worth it because God loves us and is always with us.
  - Water Games: There are four different water games provided. These are designed to be played outside and can be played on any day of the week.

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- Note: Since these conferences are held indoors, it will be difficult to play a water game. However, encourage the conferees to review the water game choices and encourage them to include one in their VBS.
    - Explain that you will cover tips for water games later on.
  - Table-top Games: There are six table-top games included in the Rec Cards. These games and activities are low prep and require few materials to play. These are great for smaller recreation spaces and they can also be used in the classrooms as time fillers.
    - Play “High-Five High Dive” (Rec Card 21).
      - Form two teams of three. Give each team an empty bucket and three clothespins.
      - Play the game according to the instructions on the card. The first team to get all three clothespins in its bucket wins.
    - Play “Crabby Claws” (Rec Card 22).
      - Place a pile of straw pieces on a table.
      - Invite two volunteers to compete against each other. Encourage them to use their “crabby claws” to pick up straws and drop them into a cup. The one with the most straws in their cup wins.
- Briefly go over any of the recreation games that have not yet been mentioned.
- Ask conferees if they have any questions about anything they have learned so far.

### 3. “Rec Time = Teaching Time” (10 Minutes)

- Mention that every moment of recreation can be a moment to point back to the Bible story or daily truth. Just like a compass always points north, use these games to always point kids to the truth learned that day. This means that leaders must know the Bible story for each day and be familiar with the Bible verses.
- Remind conferees to refer often to the left column on the Bible Story Game Cards so they are familiar with the connection, and to mention it often during recreation.
- Lead the group to practice this together using the game “Flip-flop Frenzy” (Rec Card 7). Read aloud how the game is played as well as the Theme Verse on the left column. Ask the conferees if they can see the connection of the game to the verse.
- Allow responses. After a few answers, use the “Bible/Life Application Debrief” on the back of the card to make the connection.
- Comment: “Just as it is important to tie in the Bible story to each game we play, we must also be quick and willing to share the gospel at any point.”
- Point out the “Sharing the Gospel with Kids” and “The ABCs of Becoming a Christian” cards. Suggest they keep these cards in their pocket or a binder for quick and easy reference during VBS.
- Call attention to the “Rec Time Can Be a Teaching Time” card and briefly highlight other helpful hints.
- Remind everyone to cover each day in prayer and lean into the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction. Listen to the kids and be ready to use every moment to talk about a relationship with Jesus. Remind leaders that it is okay to stop a game at any time if the Holy Spirit is prompting you to speak of Christ.

### 4. Set the Course with Some Helpful Tips (10 Minutes)

- Remind the conferees that recreation rotation, by design, is to be fun, exciting, and high energy. Say: “We want our kids to play and play hard, but for this to be a success, we need to plan well and be prepared.”
- Comment: “Let’s review some helpful tips to make recreation rotation a success.”

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- Pray.
  - Keep the main thing, the main thing. If we want God to be first, then we must seek Him first.
  - Pray for vision and opportunities to teach and share the gospel. We don't change people, God does.
  - Pray over leaders.
  - Pray for safety and security for the kids.
  - Pray over the details.
- Be prepared.
  - Gather all supplies beforehand and be ready to play each game before kids arrive.
  - Schedule time to set-up and practice the game play. Some games may take longer than you think to setup and play. This will also eliminate downtime.
  - How many kids will be playing? Do I need different items for different age groups?
  - Recruit plenty of help.
- Keep rules simple and short.
  - Rec time is play time, so be ready to start the game as soon as possible.
  - Enforce the rules of the game. Kids want to play fair.
  - If discipline is needed, quietly pull the child aside and be discreet. Never be alone with a child.
- Interact with the kids.
  - Kids love when adults play WITH them.
  - Stay involved with the kids. Don't huddle with other adults.
  - Cheer and root for the kids. Encourage and affirm them whether they win or lose.
  - Demonstrate good sportsmanship and encourage the kids to do the same.
  - Remove sunglasses and kneel to get on their level during teaching time.
- Designate a "Cool Down" area.
  - This is a place away from the playing field for when kids become too competitive or easily angered.
  - Use this as a place to rest and take water breaks.
  - This is also a great place to have spiritual or gospel conversations.
- Consider the weather, if outside.
  - If outside, take consideration of the temperature. Blacktop can heat up to 35° hotter if in direct heat.
  - Provide water breaks and create shade if possible.
  - Remember, wet pavement or grass can be slick. Keep a first aid kit handy for injuries.

### 5. Sea Lion Snacks (5 minutes)

- Ask a few conferees to weigh in on a few "This or That" questions such as:
  - Do you prefer savory or sweet?
  - Fruity or chocolate?
  - Animal crackers or goldfish?
  - Cookies or ice cream? (or BOTH!)
- Explain that next you will review "all things" to make snacks at VBS an incredible and memory making experience for each child—while getting to make and eat delicious snacks.
- Mention that hands-on snacks are highly encouraged at Breaker Rock Beach!

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- Inform the conferees that the Snack Cards contain snacks for both preschoolers and elementary age kids. A small yellow kite denotes if the snack is preschool friendly.

### 6. **Snack Types** (10 Minutes)

- Remind conferees of the Day 1 point (Truth Comes from God) and Bible Story (Satan Tricked Adam and Eve). Ask them what they think the snack could be. Allow guesses. Once a few answers are in, read and show the Day 1 Snack.
- Do the same with each day to see if conferees can guess the snack and see the connection to the Bible Story and daily point.
- Explain that along with the five Bible-related Snacks, there are 20 additional themed recipes so there are many creative snacks to choose from.

### 7. **Snack Safety** (5 Minutes)

- Say: "One of the most important duties of being a snack team member is to know which children have allergies and what they are allergic to. Here are some suggestions for helping find out that information:
  - Include a place to collect allergies on the registration form.
  - Provide a menu to parents in advance so other arrangements can be made.
  - Provide an alternative snack option or ask parents to provide an allergy-friendly snack for their child.
  - Ask kids if they have allergies. Those who do will likely be taught what they can and cannot have.
  - Throughout the recipe cards, some snacks are labeled as "Gluten Free." These are marked with a purple kite. Remember, all the ingredients used to make the snack MUST be gluten free. Always double check the label to be certain before serving.
- Say: "Child safety must always be a top priority, so remember to take your time and don't take shortcuts in order to make sure each child is taken care of. We want their parents to know we are taking proper steps to care for their children in our care so we will see them on the Sunday following VBS at our church."

### 8. **Lunch & Dinner Options** (5 Minutes)

- Inform conferees that many churches have VBS during lunch or dinner hours and provide meals for families.
- Call attention to the "Dinner Options" card.
- Go through each option and ask for suggestions and ideas for any pairings of meal options.
- Let them know that you may not be able to do them all, but you have a terrific resource to create a great meal option for VBS!

### 9. **Seeing Christ at Snack Time** (5 Minutes)

- Say: "Snack and recreation rotations can easily be scheduled close together or as part of the same rotation. This is a great opportunity to reinforce the Bible truths the children will learn each day."
- Remind conferees to be familiar with each day's Bible story, Today's Point, and the theme verse. Encourage them to write out each day's Bible story and point on their tablecloths so the kids can see it when they sit down.
- Suggest they ask questions of the children as they eat to see if they can recall what has been taught.

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- Highlight the “Sharing the Gospel” and “ABCs of Becoming a Christian” cards. Ask the conferees if they can remember each point and what the ABCs are. Remind them that plans are always worth interrupting in order to speak to child about Jesus or answering a question about becoming a Christian.

### 10. Helpful Tips for Snacks (5 Minutes)

- Say: “Here are some helpful tips to make Sea Lion Snacks one of the most successful rotations for kids and your leaders.”
  - Pray over each child and the families that are attending.
  - Be prepared.
    - Scout out prices at stores and ask for donations from your church members.
    - Plan out recipes in advance and prep anything that can be done the day before.
    - Know the number of kids you are serving each day. Don’t forget the leaders too.
    - Be clear in the instructions you give each child. Be patient and kind with your words.
  - Decorate your snack area.
    - Refer to *VBS 2024 Decorating Made Easy* for quick tips and ways to help bring some additional excitement to your snack area. Also, see the “Decorating Ideas” card in the *Snack Rotation Recipe Cards*.
  - Clean the snack area each day and store equipment and supplies at the end of the VBS Week.

### 11. Closing (5 Minutes)

- Thank conferees for coming.
- Ask the conferees to join in a silent prayer over their VBS and their rotations. Encourage them to pray for people by name who are helping and to pray over their concerns and worries for their VBS.
- Close by praying aloud for each attendee and their VBS.