

VBS 2024 STUDENT & ADULT BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute plan is designed to train and equip leaders, directors, and pastors to conduct Lifeway's Breaker Rock Beach™ VBS for students and adults using Lifeway's Student VBS and Adult VBS curriculum.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2024 Student Starter Kit* (005845730) — Display the following items on the focal wall:
 - Student Kit Item 2: "VBS Scripture Poster"
 - Student Kit Item 3: "Session 1 Poster"
 - Student Kit Item 5: "Pacific Coastal Forest Poster"
 - Student Kit Item 6: "Session 2 Poster"
 - Student Kit Item 10: "Session 3 Poster"
 - Student Kit Item 13: "Session 4 Poster"
 - Student Kit Item 15: "Session 5 Poster"
 - Student Kit Item 17: "Sharing the Gospel with Students Poster"
- *VBS 2024 Adult Starter Kit* (005845718) — Display the following items on the focal wall:
 - Adult Kit Item 2: "VBS Theme Verse Poster"
 - Adult Kit Item 3: "Motto and Overview Poster"
 - Adult Kit Item 4: "Session 1 Poster"
 - Adult Kit Item 5: "God's Plan of Salvation Poster"
 - Adult Kit Item 6: "Waves of Influence"
 - Adult Kit Item 7: "Before Leaving the Beach"
 - Adult Kit Item 8: "Session 2 Poster"
 - Adult Kit Item 9: "Session 3 Poster"
 - Adult Kit Item 10: "An Encounter with Christ"
 - Adult Kit Item 11: "Session 4 Poster"
 - Adult Kit Item 12: "Session 5 Poster"
 - Adult Kit Item 13: "Speaking the Truth in Love Poster"
- Printable items — Printable items are included for download using the redemption code in the Starter Kit. Print all items (from both Student and Adult), place in a binder, and display.
- *VBS 2024 Tablecloths* (005846832)
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2024 Decorating Made Easy* (005846938)
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2024 Supersized Backdrop* (005847616)
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2024 Whirleys* (005846821)
- Item 1: "Game Instructions" — Use these instructions to play the game "Breaker Rock Beach Bash" in teaching step 1.
- 6 sand buckets — Fill 3 buckets with the student leader guide, learner guide, and posters. Fill the other 3 buckets with the adult leader guide, learner guide, and posters.
- Breaker Rock Beach Bash supplies: 4 beach balls, 2 cornhole boards and bean bags, bean bags with Xs and Os marked on them for tic-tac-toe, masking tape, and 10 flying discs
- VBS 2024 Music for Kids CD (005846976)
- CD player or bluetooth speaker

Room Setup

Hang the kit items noted above on the focal wall. Cover a table with a *VBS 2024 Tablecloth* and center it in front of the focal wall. Place the sand buckets containing Student and Adult curriculum, printables binder, and other display items on the table. Optional: Hang the *VBS 2024 Supersized*

Backdrop on a wall as decoration. Hang *VBS 2024 Whirleys* from the ceiling and doorjamb. Arrange chairs in a circle around a “campfire” to promote conversation.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome to the Beach (10 minutes)

- Play songs from the *VBS 2024 Music for Kids CD* as people arrive.
- Welcome conferees to Breaker Rock Beach Student & Adult VBS.
- Say: “Every day is an adventure at Breaker Rock Beach, from the morning waves crashing against the shore to evenings filled with bonfires and s’mores! Catch a glimpse of an orca leaping through the surf or watch happy sea lions playing among the rocks beneath magnificent pines. As the crowds come and go and the tides ebb and flow, Breaker Rock rises majestically as a symbol of strength, standing firm against the force of wind and waves.”
- Say: “The world around us is filled with wonderful, exciting things that are blessings from God. However, the tide of cultural influence often echoes Satan’s distorted truth, ‘Did God really say...?’ Unlike the shifting sands of culture, God’s truth never changes. It stands strong like a towering rock—a beacon calling us to hold tight to it, so we aren’t tossed about by every new crashing wave.”
- Say: “At Breaker Rock Beach, we will learn to recognize the difference between what the world says is true and what God says is true. We’ll encounter five everyday sayings that sound right, but dangerously miss the truth found in God’s Word. Each day we will be challenged to know that God’s truth never changes—even when it’s radically different from what some people say. We’ll discover that God does not want us to be conformed to this age, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds so that we can discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2).”
- Guide the group to form two teams.
- Play the Breaker Rock Beach Bash relay game according to the instructions at the end of this document (Item 1).

2. Preparation (15 minutes)

- Call attention to the “VBS Theme Verse Poster” (Student or Adult kit item 2) and invite conferees to read it with you.
- Point out that every beach trip requires a lot of preparation. Travelers must load the car with absolutely everything imaginable. And they must not forget the beach wagon to lug it all out there.
- Encourage leaders to personally prepare their hearts by memorizing the theme verse and applying it to their lives each day. Suggest that they take time to read the Bible passages for each session and ask God for new insights and application for the Bible content.
- Advise that conferees pray for each person they will impact through VBS as well as for other leaders in VBS. Mention that they can also pray for the other churches in their areas to have a successful VBS.
- Ask conferees: “What are some ideas for prayer support for VBS leaders and helpers?” Share the following suggestions if not mentioned by conferees.
 - Prayer partners.
 - Prayer walks before VBS begins.
 - Senior adult prayer warriors to pray in VBS rooms each day prior to VBS.
 - Keep a list of names in your car so you can pray as you wait on your children at practice or as you wait in a drive-through line.
 - Enlist parents or other church members to pray for students by name.

- Ask conferees: “Why Student or Adult VBS?” Share the following suggestions if not mentioned by conferees.
 - Discipleship of students and adults already attending church.
 - Additional opportunity for students and adults to study the Bible.
 - Evangelism and outreach opportunity for the unsaved in the church and community.
- Ask conferees: “What should Student or Adult VBS look like?” Share the following suggestions if not mentioned by conferees.
 - Traditional week—Host student or adult VBS the same week as the church’s traditional VBS for kids.
 - Student DNOW—Use the curriculum as the theme and small group study for a Discipleship Now weekend.
 - Mid-week Bible study—Teach the lessons during your regular midweek Bible study leading up to your church’s traditional VBS week.
- Mention that there are many more ideas in the leader guides.
- Explain that another key component of preparation is developing a schedule for an Adult or Student VBS. Mention that Adult VBS is designed for five two-hour sessions, as indicated by the schedule on page 5 of the Adult Leader Guide.
- Explain that there is an option to add crafts and recreation to Adult VBS. Those resources are included in the digital download.
- Say: “Your schedule for students is determined by what you will include such as missions, crafts, recreation, snacks, etc. Sample schedules are found on page 4 of your student leader guide.”
- Explain that conferees need to find out approximately how many students or adults to prepare for. They can base this on the numbers from previous years.
- Say: “Make sure you have the help you will need for all of the small groups and rotations.”
- Encourage conferees to study each daily session in depth. Say: “This is where planning is key. If you forget to have the craft assembled until the last minute that’s one thing; but if you don’t KNOW the biblical content each day and how it applies to the lives of your students or adults, then you will not be successful.”

3. Gather The Supplies (20 minutes)

- Remind conferees that every beach trip requires a lot of stuff!
- Ask: “What are some things you need to make sure to carry to the beach with you?” Allow responses.
- Say: “Just like we need a lot of stuff for the beach, we also need a lot of stuff for VBS. The first of which is the Bible.”
- Encourage leaders that while many people use devices instead of traditional Bibles, it can be important for VBS attendees to see the leader using an actual Bible. It drives home the fact that God’s Word is our authority—not a device.
- Guide conferees to form six different groups. Give each group a prepared sand bucket filled with items from either the adult or student kits.
- Allow at least five minutes for the groups to examine the contents of the buckets and get familiar with the kit items.
- Ask each group to share something they noticed about the following items:
 - Leader Guide
 - Learner Guide
 - Posters
 - Digital Resources

- Mention one thing that is new this year is that the Student and Adult curriculum no longer includes physical CDs since many computers are getting rid of CD drives. Instead, everything is accessible via digital download.
- Display the binder of printouts of the digital download items. Say: “Everything you need can be downloaded from www.my.lifeway.com/redeem. There is a unique code at the front of each leader guide. You can use that code to download the content on 3 of your devices. If you like to teach from a tablet, the digital download is extremely helpful since it includes a full copy of the leader guide.”
- Ask: “What are some other things you will need for Student and Adult VBS?” Mention the following if not mentioned by conferees:
 - Miscellaneous supplies for crafts, recreation, missions, snacks, and so forth
 - *VBS 2024 Decorating Made Easy*
 - Promotional posters
 - Tablecloths
 - Name tags
- Say: “The leader who is properly prepared can relax and enjoy the opportunity to build relationships and impact the lives of students and adults.”

4. Biblical Overview (35 minutes)

- Say: “The most important part of any VBS is the biblical content. Let’s look at this year’s biblical content.”
- **Session 1: Truth Comes from God**
 - **Bible Story:** Satan Tempted Adam and Eve (Genesis 2–3)
 - God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the garden of Eden. He told them they could not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan, disguised as a serpent, came and urged Eve to eat from the tree and become like God, knowing good and evil. Eve wanted the knowledge Satan talked about. So, she took the fruit and ate it. Adam ate it too. When they ate the fruit, they understood the difference between good and evil and immediately felt shame. Disobeying God was a choice to sin. That sin immediately broke their relationship with God. God told them about the bad things that would happen because they sinned. But God also promised a plan to defeat Satan. We now know God’s plan was to send Jesus to restore the relationship between people and God.
- **Session 2: God’s Plan is Best**
 - **Bible Story:** Daniel Chose God’s Way (Daniel 1)
 - Daniel and his friends were taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The king ordered that the young men who had been captured should be served the same food and drink as the king and be trained for three years. Then they would attend to the king. Daniel asked if he and his friends could eat only vegetables and water. He wanted to follow God’s plan with the foods he ate. Daniel and his friends were healthier and stronger than all the other men who had been eating the king’s food! The friends chose to follow God’s plan and God gave them knowledge and understanding. The king found the four friends even wiser than the other men who had been working for him.
- **Session 3: Everyone Needs Jesus**
 - **Bible Story:** The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-27)
 - Jesus is the One that God promised would come to fix the relationship between God and people. One day a rich man asked Jesus how to get to

heaven. Jesus reminded the man of God's commandments. The man said he had kept those. Jesus said he needed to sell all his things and follow Jesus. The rich man went away sad. A person does not have to sell everything to get to heaven, but the rich man cared more about his things than following Jesus. Jesus said, "It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." The disciples asked, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus said, "It's impossible for human beings, but all things are possible with God." God sent Jesus to make it possible for all people to be saved.

- **Session 4: Jesus Is The Only Way**
 - **Bible Story:** John Wrote about Jesus (John 14:1-6; 18–20; Acts 1:9-12)
 - John was one of Jesus' disciples and closest friends. John wrote a book about what he had seen and heard. Jesus often told the disciples that He would be killed, but after three days He would be alive again. Jesus explained that He is the only way to have eternal life. Jesus was arrested and put on trial, then sentenced to death. Jesus was taken to a nearby hillside and nailed to a cross. After Jesus died, He was buried and a large stone was rolled across the opening of the tomb. Three days later, some women walked to the tomb. The stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty! Jesus is alive! Over the next forty days, many people saw the risen Jesus, talked with Him, and even ate with Him. Finally, Jesus returned to heaven.
- **Session 5: Speak the Truth in Love**
 - **Bible Story:** Paul Encouraged the Ephesians (Acts 9:1-6; 19:1-10,21-31; 20:1; Ephesians 3:14–4:16)
 - Paul persecuted Christians before he learned that Jesus is God's Son. After that, Paul worked to tell people about Jesus. Paul visited a town named Ephesus. God did amazing things there. Many people became believers and stopped worshiping idols. Those who still worshiped idols became upset, and there was an angry fight in the city. Later Paul wrote a letter to the church at Ephesus. Paul knew what life was like there. Believers in Jesus were persecuted, and people taught wrong things about Jesus. Paul reminded the believers that God loved them. He said believers should show God's love to others whether they agreed with them or not. Paul challenged the people to grow in their relationships with Jesus so that they would know God's truth and not be easily fooled.

5. Follow-up (5 minutes)

- Say: "Perhaps the greatest part of VBS is the relationships we make. It's through those relationships that many will come to faith in Christ."
- Remind conferees of the importance of building on relationships created during VBS. Mention that all leaders and helpers should participate in this process.
- Stress the need for complete registration and contact information to ensure the church can continue to build relationships.
- Encourage conferees to keep the connection alive by looking for ways to stay connected with the students and adults they taught.
- Mentioned that they can encourage students and adults to stay connected with the church through the church's official social media accounts.
- Invite conferees to share other methods they have used to follow up after Student and Adult VBS.

6. Close in Prayer (5 minutes)

- Ask conferees for specific prayer needs related to their VBS.
- Pray for leaders, students and adults, parents, pastors, volunteers, directors, and so forth.
- Pray for the gospel to be the center of VBS.
- Dimiss.

Breaker Rock Beach Bash

for 2 teams with up to 4 players on each team

Objective: To be the first team to have all members complete the relay.

Supplies: Beach balls (2 per team), cornhole boards and beanbags, beanbags with Xs and 's marked on them for tic-tac-toe, masking tape, and 10 flying discs

Preparation: Create a starting line on the floor with masking tape. Place the beach balls at the starting line. Arrange the three games on the floor in the following order: cornhole, tic-tac-toe, flying discs. Place the cornhole boards side-by-side (facing the starting line) at least 10-feet from the starting line. Next create a single tic-tac-toe board using masking tape on the floor. Tape off a throwing line at least 4-feet from the board. Place the flying discs together a few feet away from the tic-tac-toe grid. These should be a good throwing distance from the starting line.

Order of Play: Both teams start at the same time. If two people arrive at the tic-tac-toe game at the same time, they will alternate turns.

Game Play:

1. The first player from each team places a beach ball between his knees. The ball must remain there during the entirety of his turn in the game.
2. On "Go!" the first player from each team will toss beanbags at his cornhole board until he sinks one.
3. The player will then run to tic-tac-toe, holding the beach ball between his knees. He must then throw X or O beanbags on the tic-tac-toe board until he gets three in a row. If he is the only player at the game, he may throw continuously. If two players meet, they must alternate turns.
4. The player must then run to the flying discs (with the beach ball still between his knees) and throw one back to the next player in his group, who must catch it in the air. Once the next player has caught the disc, she will place the second beach ball between her legs and complete the course.
5. Guide players who complete the course to return their beach balls to the starting line. If at any time a player drops the beach ball, he must start that round over.

Winning the Game: Continue the game for four rounds. The first team to complete all rounds and successfully throw a disc to the original first player from its team wins.