

VBS 2025 SNACK AND RECREATION ROTATIONS BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute conference is designed to train and equip VBS leaders to effectively lead the snack and Grades 1–6 recreation rotations for Magnified!™ VBS.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2025 Decorating Made Easy* (005850181)
- *VBS 2025 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards* (005850081)
- *VBS 2025 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards* (005850082)
- *VBS 2025 Memory Makers* (005850056)
- *VBS 2025 Bible Study Location Sign* (005850177)
- *VBS 2025 Wall Art* (005850173)
- *VBS 2025 Floor Prints* (005850174)
- *VBS 2025 Visual Pack* (005850170)
- *VBS 2025 String Flags* (005850175)
- *VBS 2025 Whirleys* (005850176)
- *VBS 2025 Inflatable Acorns* (005850883)
- *VBS 2025 Cups* (005849948)
- *VBS 2025 Supersized Backdrop* (005850086)
- *VBS 2025 Giant Inflatable Waterdrop* (005851176)
- *VBS 2025 Tablecloths* (005850169)
- *VBS 2025 Gospel Wristbands* (005850224)
- *VBS 2025 Gospel Guides* (005850225)
- *VBS 2025 Music for Kids CD* (005850227)
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* (005567177)
- Black pen/fine point permanent marker
- CD player
- Blue paper (at least one page per conferee)
- 10 pom-poms
- 20 straws
- Masking tape
- Marshmallows (various sizes)
- Paper plates
- Plastic cups
- 2–3 prepared snack options per conferee

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle with an open center for playing games. Gather room decoration ideas from the *VBS 2025 Decorating Made Easy*. Hang the *VBS 2025 String Flags* or *Whirleys* across the ceiling around or over the chairs. Place the *VBS 2025 Tablecloths* over two tables to display game pieces, snack ingredients, and one *VBS 2025 Inflatable Acorn*. Place the *VBS 2025 Floor Prints* around the floor in the room. If wall space allows, hang the *VBS 2025 Visual Pack* on a focal wall to reference throughout the session.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play Magnified! music as conferees arrive.
- Welcome conferees to Raindrop Rec and Honeycomb Snacks. Say: "Today we will zoom in on all things Recreation and Snacks!"
- Remind conferees that rec and snack are fun and 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 move their hands like rain falling if they are leading Raindrop Rec. If they will lead Honeycomb Snacks, guide them to buzz like a bee. If they are doing both, encourage them to do both. Start this task by giving them a countdown "3-2-1, go!"

2. Raindrop Rec (25 minutes)

- Introduce the *VBS 2025 Recreation Cards*.
- Explain that we will go over many of the cards and will get to play several of them. The name of the game and card will be explained with each game 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.
- Say: "Let's zoom in on each of the three kinds of cards."
 - There is a Bible Story Game provided for each day.
 - Display the "Bible Story Game Day 1" card Disciple Tag.
 - Highlight the left column and emphasize the Big Truth, Zoom In, and Today's Point sections.
 - Briefly discuss learning styles and repetition. Recreation should be an extension of the teaching time, not a break from it.
 - Say: "Now that we have learned about these Bible Story Games, let's play a couple!"
 - Play "Be Still" (Rec Card 4).
 - Lead conferees to stand up and spread out around the perimeter of the room. Make sure they have a path to walk around the room or modify the game to allow them to walk anywhere in the room.
 - Read the instructions from the card aloud.
 - Once finished, read the left column of the card and ask conferees how they think this game might connect to Day 2's Bible story.
 - Tell conferees that following the directions in this game was tricky, but we learned that the wind obeyed Jesus exactly. Jesus is so powerful, that He can command the wind and sea to obey. He takes care of us, and we can trust Him.
 - Play "Rain, Rain, Go Away" (Rec Card 9).
 - Use tape, chairs, or some visual way to divide your playing area in half.
 - Form two teams.
 - Read the instructions from the card aloud. Play one of the Magnified! songs while they play.

- Tell conferees that the raindrops just never seemed to end. No matter how fast you threw them, they kept flying back. Jesus offered the woman at the well living water and said that she would never thirst again. We can be confident that God loves us.
 - Water Games: There are four water game options in the Rec Cards. They are meant to be played outdoors and on any day of the curriculum.
 - 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 additional activities.
 - Play “Dandelions Caught in the Wind” (Back of Rec Card 21).
 - Follow the directions on the card to set up and play the game.
 - Form two equal teams of up to five players each. The team that gets the most or all its pom-poms to the tape first wins.
 - Play “Plant the Seeds” (Back of Rec Card 22)
 - More stations in this game equals more fun and allows more people to play at a time.
 - Follow the directions on the card to set up and play the game. The player that moves the most or all his marshmallows first wins.
3. **Recreation Does Not Stand Alone** (5 minutes)
- Explain that recreation leaders need to be familiar with the daily Bible content for each day as well as the Motto and Verse for the week. These are listed in their cards for them because they are important.
 - Say: “Recreation is not an aside to VBS. It is an integral way of reinforcing the lesson each day. As you tie in the verse and Bible content to the games each day, be prepared to share your testimony and the gospel clearly.”
 - Show conferees the “Sharing the Gospel with Kids” and the “ABCs of Becoming a Christian” cards. These are included in the cards so that they fit in your pocket and can be kept with you in recreation.
 - Review the “Rec Time Can Be Teaching Time” card.
4. **Big Tips for a Big Impact** (15 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.”
 - Give the following tips to make recreation success:
 - Pray.
 - Recreation is not just games. Pray for God to guide you and use you to reach children for Christ. Seek His direction and wisdom as you plan.
 - Ask God to reveal opportunities to share the gospel.
 - Pray for your rec team and leaders.
 - Pray for the children. Pray for safety and for softened hearts.
 - Pray over the plan.
 - Be Prepared.
 - Know your space, schedule, and supplies. Plan your games and know what you need and where to get it. Be your VBS director’s best friend.

- Run through the games with your team before the kids arrive. Make sure the whole team knows the plan. This run through will also expose any potential oversights in planning.
- Know your age groups and be prepared with game modifications if necessary.
- Know what rotation is after you and be a good team player. If the rotation is a calm one, utilize the end of your rotation to calm kids down, debrief, get water, and so forth to allow them to transition well to the next rotation.
- Keep Rules Simple.
 - This is a high energy time, but that does not mean chaos.
 - Have some simple rules for behavior and enforce them.
 - Make sure to enforce the game rules because kids understand “fair.”
- This is for the Kids.
 - Interact with the kids and have adults play with them if possible.
 - Stay focused on the kids and don’t have adults or student helpers just talking to each other. This is not a break time.
 - Be the biggest cheerleader and build the kids up regardless of winning or losing.
 - Build relationships and engage with the kids. This is much easier if you are prepared and ready when the kids arrive.
- Designate a “Cool Down” Space
 - This is for kids who are getting too competitive or just need a break to reset.
 - Use this place for rest and water breaks.
 - Have a leader on standby in this area to have gospel conversations.
- Know the Weather
 - Consider the temperature and weather if you are outside. Asphalt can be 35 degrees hotter than the outside temperature in direct sunlight.
 - Plan water breaks and provide shade if possible.
 - Have first aid kits ready for accidents and know how to get help if needed.

5. **Honeycomb Snacks** (5 minutes)

- Tell conferees that you are going to give them two choices and that they will indicate their choices by moving to one side of the room or the other.
 - Example: “Move to the right side if you prefer savory snacks and move to the left if you prefer sweet snacks.”
- If movement is difficult, substitute moving around the room for standing versus sitting, clapping versus stomping, and so forth to indicate choice.
- Use the following choices (extend with your own ideas):
 - Savory or Sweet
 - O-shaped cereal or Fish-shaped crackers
 - Fruit or Candy
 - Water or Juice
 - Ice Cream or Cake
- Say: “We are going to cover all the details to make snack a hit at your VBS. We are even going to get to sample a few of the snacks!”

- Explain that getting kids involved with hands on snacks is highly recommended. The Snack Cards include Preschool and Kids snacks. Preschool friendly snacks are notated with a yellow dew drop and Gluten Free snacks have a grey dew drop.
6. **Snack Types** (10 minutes)
- Review the front of the Day 1 snack card to remind conferees of the Bible story and Big Truth. Ask them to share ideas of what a snack could be that would tie into this lesson and point.
 - Reveal the snack for Day 1 and explain the connection.
 - Go through each day's snack like this to convey the connection between the snack and the Bible content.
 - Explain that in addition to the 5 snacks for the Bible content, there are 20 themed snacks in the Snack Cards. This gives you a ton of variety and options based on budget, resources, and facilities.
 - Prepare a few of the snacks ahead of time for conferees. Distribute snacks and allow conferees to eat while you continue leading.
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 to what they are allergic. 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 grey dew drop. 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 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. **Meal Options** (5 minutes)
- Mention that many churches choose to provide meals as a part of their VBS.
 - Show conferees the "Dinner Options" card.
 - Read through the meal options on the card and allow conferees to comment their preferences or suggestions for meals. This is a great launching point to creating meal ideas that tie into Magnified! VBS.
9. **Using Snacks for Christ** (5 minutes)
- Explain that both Snack and Recreation are great opportunities to build relationships with kids and to intentionally reinforce the Bible truths each day. Offer the following suggestions:
 - Encourage leaders to sit with the kids and engage them during snack. Be prepared the share the gospel in conversation with them.

- Highlight the “Sharing the Gospel” and “ABCs of Becoming a Christian” cards as tools for having gospel conversations with children.
- Suggest leaders play a review game with the kids while they eat snack to quiz them on the Bible story and memory verse.

10. Snack Tips for Success (5 minutes)

- Say: “Now let’s cover some helpful hints and tricks to maximize Honeycomb Snacks in your VBS.” Offer the following tips:
 - Pray for the children that will attend. If you can get a roster, pray for them by name.
 - Be prepared.
 - Plan well in advance so you can ask for donations or price shop and look for sales.
 - Prep as much as possible in advance.
 - Know your space, schedule, budget, and ages.
 - Consider trash, water, sinks, plates, napkins, warmers, and so forth.
 - Know if you are serving leaders as well as children.
 - Have plenty of help and know how you are resetting between groups.
 - Have clear instructions for kids. Be prepared for mistakes and accidents.
 - Decorate your snack area.
 - Refer to *VBS 2025 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 your area each day and don’t leave food out.

11. Closing (5 minutes)

- Ask conferees to join you in a praying for their VBS, rotations, families, and leaders. Encourage them to pray for people by name and consider what God would have them do now to get started. Close the prayer by praying for the conferees.
- Thank conferees for coming.