

## VBS 2025 STUDENT & ADULT VBS EXTRAS CONFERENCE PLAN (45 MINUTES)

### Purpose Statement

This 45-minute plan is designed to prepare, train, and equip church leaders to implement and tailor the craft, mission, snack, and recreation rotations in Lifeway's Magnified!™ Student and Adult VBS for middle and high school students as well as adults of all ages and stages of life.

### Needed Resources

- *VBS 2025 Student Starter Kit* (005849629) — Display the following items on the focal wall:
  - Student Kit Item 1: Promotional Poster
  - Student Kit Item 2: VBS Scripture Poster
  - Student Kit Item 3: Session 1 Poster
  - Student Kit Item 6: Session 2 Poster
  - Student Kit Item 9: Session 3 Poster
  - Student Kit Item 13: Session 4 Poster
  - Student Kit Item 14: Sharing the Gospel with Students
  - Student Kit Item 15: Session 5 Poster
- *VBS 2025 Adult Starter Kit* (005849623) — Display the following items on the focal wall:
  - Adult Kit Item 2: VBS Theme Verse Poster
  - Adult Kit Item 3: Motto Poster
  - Adult Kit Item 4: Gospel Poster
  - Adult Kit Item 5: Session 1 Poster
  - Adult Kit Item 6: Session 2 Poster
  - Adult Kit Item 7: Session 3 Poster
  - Adult Kit Item 8: Session 4 Poster
  - Adult Kit Item 9: Session 5 Poster
- Printable items from digital downloads — Follow the instructions in the leader guides to redeem the code and access the digital downloads. Print all items (from both Student and Adult), place in a binder, and display.
- (2) *VBS 2025 Tablecloths* (005850169)
- *VBS 2025 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards* (005850081) (Rec Card 9)
- *VBS 2025 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards* (005850082)
- *VBS 2025 Visual Pack* (005850170)
- *VBS 2025 Music for Kids CD* (005850227)
- *VBS 2025 Gospel Guide* (005850225)
- *VBS 2025 Gospel Wristbands* (005850224)
- *VBS 2025 Inflatable Acorns* (005850883) (Option: Toss an acorn to those who answer questions or wish to speak, like a “talking stick.”)
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2025 Supersized Backdrop* (005850086) OR *VBS 2025 Super Duper Sized Backdrop* (005850087) (depending on room size)
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2025 Whirleys* (005850176)
- OPTIONAL: *VBS 2025 String Flags* (005850175)
- Prepare a sample craft from each day in the Student Leader Guide (Pages 14, 22, 30, 38, and 46) as well as from the printable in the Adult download.
- OPTIONAL: Prepare a couple of snack options for a visual.
- *CSB Explorer Bible for Kids* (005836549)
- 2 display stands — Use these to prop up each Starter Kit for display.
- 1 ream of blue copy paper — Divide evenly between 2 teams.

## VBS 2025 Student & Adult Extras Conference Plan

- 2 medium buckets
- 5 cones or 1 roll of tape — Position the cones to divide the room in half (or use a tape line on the floor). Select whichever is best for your space.
- CD player with speaker

### Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle with enough room between the chairs and tables to play games and move around. Cover one table with a VBS tablecloth and display both Starter Kits, the snack rotation recipe cards, and recreation rotation leader cards. Have them out of their packages for people to flip through them.

### Teaching Steps

1. **Let's Get Started** (5 minutes)
  - Play VBS Music as people arrive.
  - Welcome conferees and introduce yourself. Say: "Let's learn who is serving where. On the count of 3, if you are working with middle and high school students, stand up and yell, 'Made to.' Then if you are working with adults, stand up and yell, 'Magnify God.' Ready? 3-2-1..."
  - Say: "Now let's learn your favorite part of a VBS ... missions, recreation, crafts, or snacks." Countdown from 3 to 1 and lead conferees to yell out their answers at the same time. Say: "Wow! That's my favorite, too!"
  - Explain that VBS can be for all ages and stages. It is welcoming to all and can be a successful experience for non-traditional VBS ages such as teenagers and adults. Remind conferees how important reaching these participants can be.
  - Say: "Today we will walk through the four main 'extras' that you can use as rotations during your student and adult VBS. Let's begin with missions."
2. **Missions** (10 minutes)
  - Lead the conferees to repeat back to you, "Let's go and make disciples!"
  - Explain that missions allows some flexibility for students and adults. Since these ages are older, missions rotation allows an opportunity to leave and serve in the community.
  - Briefly mention that missions rotation plans are located in the printables in the digital download for each age group.
  - Say: "One of the things I love about missions rotation is it serves as a training ground. Our youngest kids will learn about missionaries on the field and learn through their stories. Students and adults will receive mission training so they can 'hit the ground running' in our communities."
  - Mention that while there is not enough time cover all of missions in today's session, we can look at a couple of the highlights.
  - Say: "In both the Student and Adult missions guide is "God's Plan of Salvation." This is in multiple places throughout the lessons. Ask, "Why do you think that is?" (*Wait for responses.*) Because it's why we do what we do! We get the wonderful opportunity to share the gospel with others. This is why we spend so much time planning and preparing VBS for all ages—because the gospel is for all ages!"
  - Briefly review each of the headings in "God's Plan of Salvation" so leaders know what is being taught.
  - Remind the group that there are helpful guides to share the gospel. Show the *VBS 2025 Gospel Guide* and *VBS 2025 Gospel Wristbands*. Explain that both of these helps use The Gospel: God's Plan for Me outline. These can be used as quick references when sharing the gospel with friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers.

## VBS 2025 Student & Adult Extras Conference Plan

- Say: “Sometimes when sharing the gospel, it’s hard to know where to begin. It can be like starting an essay and staring at the blank page. In each day’s missions plan, you will find a “Gospel Starting Points” page that will help your students and adults know where to begin. Each also has conversation points.”
- Briefly review the conversation points. Provide a summary of what could be said. Refer to these starting points:
  - God, Our Creator
  - Humanity
  - Jesus
  - Yourself
  - Examples from the Bible
  - Don’t forget to pray
- Point out that one of the dangers is to assume that all VBS attendees are Christians. As with children, you may have those that brought a friend or maybe someone who thought he was a Christian. Remind conferees not to rush through the gospel. This may be someone’s opportunity to respond. Say: “We are the messengers, so present it clearly, present it well, and let the Holy Spirit do His work.” (Note: If you have a story of how the gospel has impacted someone, share it as a reminder of the importance to not skip it.)
- Let conferees know that if they need help or inspiration to create opportunities to serve their community, there are helpful suggestions at the end of the missions rotation plan.
- Remind conferees that it’s not truly missions if we don’t take the opportunity to serve and share the gospel.
- Remind conferees to have fun with sharing the gospel and that God could use them to bring a life-changing message to someone who needs it.

### 3. Recreation (10 minutes)

- Encourage conferees to yell back to you, “Rec is for everyone!”
- Say: “No matter our age, we all have some ‘play’ left in us! For VBS week, we will bring out our ‘kids at heart’ and play some games together!”
- Ask the conferees why a “rec time” is important for students and adults. Wait for responses. Share the following answers:
  - Breaks up the schedule — We sit a lot during VBS. Rec allows everyone a chance to get up and move around.
  - Clears your mind — Rec can redirect participants’ minds and allow them to ponder on what has been learned so far.
  - Engages all learning styles — Rec will engage people who learn through kinesthetic learning. These individuals learn best through physical activity, so be sure not to waste a moment and insert learning opportunities into any game you play.
- Form two teams and play the game “Rain, Rain Go Away” according to the instructions on Rec Card 9. At the conclusion of the game, explain that this game can be fun for all ages and point it back to Scripture. Ask conferees if they can see a connection (wait for responses).
- After a few answers are heard, mention this game comes from Day 3: Magnify God’s Love. Say: “We know that we can be confident that God loves us because Christ came to us even while we are still sinners—while we were drowning in our sin. We also know that no matter how hard we work to clear our ‘mess,’ it’s never enough. (See Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 11:6.)”
- Walk through each day’s recreation ideas for both age groups. Allow input from the conferees as you describe each game.

## VBS 2025 Student & Adult Extras Conference Plan

- Refer conferees to the *VBS 2025 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards* for more games to play with students and adults. Point out that there are options for tabletop games in the Adult VBS digital downloads. These games will work well for adults who prefer a less active option.
4. **Crafts** (5 minutes)
- Lead the conferees to repeat after you, “Let’s make something!”
  - Use the pre-made craft samples to highlight each craft. Explain how each was made and how it reflects the day’s Bible content it was intended for.
  - Remind conferees to remember their audience and keep it age appropriate. The crafts in these guides have been tested to serve these age groups well without being childish.
  - Reference the *VBS 2025 Crafts Rotation Leader Guide* and the *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide* for more ideas and inspiration for more craft opportunities.
5. **Snacks** (5 minutes)
- Direct the conferees to repeat after you, “Bon Appétit; it’s time to eat!”
  - Say: “There is nothing like bringing people together with food! Everyone—especially those teenagers—needs a snack. What better way to keep the learning opportunities going than to use snack time to present the daily theme!”
  - Show the *VBS 2025 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards* and review a few of snack ideas.
  - Ask conferees for other snack ideas that would be great for students and adults. Allow a few brief responses.
  - Share the following tips for a successful snack time:
    - Remember the time of day — You may need to provide a larger meal if your VBS is late in the day or over lunch time. There is a “Dinner Options” card in the Snack Cards to help you pair snacks with a more filling option.
    - Be creative — Don’t be scared to get creative with snacks. This can serve as a type of craft and be another opportunity for your student or adult to learn a biblical truth.
6. **Be Faithful and Flexible** (5 minutes)
- Guide conferees to repeat after you, “Semper Fi and Semper Gumby!” Explain that this comes from the U.S. Marines and means “Always faithful and always flexible.”
  - Emphasize the importance of being faithful in your planning of these rotations. Encourage them never to say, “It’s just ... (fill in the blank with any part of VBS).” All of these rotations can be used to proclaim the gospel. Each one we discussed today can be used to help you have a fantastic VBS!”
  - Remind conferees that they have options when it comes to their schedule. In the student and adult leader guides, there are options for a 2-hour or 3-hour schedule based on what the day will look like. This includes an amount of time for each rotation.
  - Ask the conferees to share how they can adapt the VBS schedule for their church. Allow time for brief responses.
7. **Closing** (5 minutes)
- Thank everyone for attending and show appreciation for their time and attention.
  - End by inviting everyone to pray silently for one minute over their VBS. This could be over names of people they want to come, their volunteers, and their worries or concerns.
  - Close by praying aloud for conferees and their Vacation Bible Schools.