

VBS 2025 VBX PRETEEN CONFERENCE PLAN (1½ HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This 90-minute conference plan is designed to encourage and equip church leaders to minister to preteens using Lifeway's Magnified!™ VBX Curriculum.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide* (005850083)
- *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack* (005850084)
 - Pack items 1–5: “Days 1–5 Overview Posters” — Hang on the focal wall as the conference progresses.
 - Pack item 6: “Theme Verse Poster” — Hang somewhere easily referenced during the session.
 - Pack items 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11: “Days 1–5 Bonus Verse Posters” — Hang on the focal wall as the conference progresses.
 - Pack item 13: “Gospel Poster” — Hang somewhere easily referenced during the session.
 - Pack item 14: “Motto Poster” — Hang somewhere easily referenced during the session.
 - Pack item 16: “Theme Verse Puzzle” — Cut along the lines and insert in a ziplock bag.
 - Pack item 17: “Twig-onometry Cards” — Cut as directed and secure with rubber band or paper clip.
 - Pack item 20: “Worm Race Definitions” — Cut and assemble as directed and secure with a rubber band or paper clip.
 - Pack item 23: “Zoom In Cards” — Cut apart cards. Place cards without words in a lunch sack. Secure remaining cards with rubber band or paper clip.
 - Pack item 25: “Crickets, Fireflies, and Skeeters” — Cut apart cards and insert in ziplock bag.
 - Pack item 28: “Firefly Cube” — Cut and assemble as directed.
 - Pack item 30: “Blurry Scenarios” — Cut as directed and secure with rubber band or paper clip.
 - Pack item 31: “Feather Brains”
- *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Activity Book* (005850070)
- *VBS 2025 Administrative Guide* (005850180)
- (1) *VBS 2025 Music for Kids CD* (005850227)
- (1) *VBS 2025 Memory Maker* (005850056)
- (1) *VBS 2025 Gospel Guide* (005850225)
- (1) *VBS 2025 Parent Guide* (005850226)
- *Magnified Devotional: Exploring God's Greatness in the Smallest of Things* (005851223)
- (1) *VBS 2025 Tablecloths* (005850169) — Use to cover table for displaying resources.
- *VBS 2025 Wall Art* (005850173)
- *VBS 2025 String Flags* (005850175)
- *Wholly Kids: Guiding Kids to a Life in Christ* (9781415873199)
- *Ages and Stages: A Discipleship Framework for Church and Home* (9781087722122)
- *Every Age, Every Stage: Teaching God's Truth at Home and Church* (9781535988193)
- *CSB Explorer Bible* (005836549)
- *CSB Outreach Bible* (005841718)
- *Life as a Christian: A Primer for New Believers* (9781087754574)

- *Giant Inflatable Game Cube* (005841133) — Follow instructions for item 4 below.
- Item 1. “Handout” (at end of document) — Photocopy double-sided, one per conferee.
- Item 2. “Daily Content Overview” (at end of document) — Photocopy one set double-sided, flipping on the short edge. Copy on cardstock or laminate and then cut around the image.
- Item 3. “Daily Activity Content” (at end of document) — Photocopy one set.
- Item 4. “Game Cube Inserts” (at end of document) — Photocopy one set and insert each page into a separate window of the *Giant Inflatable Game Cube*.
- 5 magnifying glasses
- 5 small picnic baskets — Insert one magnifying glass and corresponding copies of item 2 and 3 in each basket, making one basket per day. Add the following to the appropriate baskets:
 - Day 1 basket — Follow earlier instructions for pack item 16 and include in basket.
 - Day 3 basket — Follow earlier instructions for pack item 23 and include in basket.
 - Day 4 basket — Follow earlier instructions for pack item 25 and include in basket.
 - Day 5 basket — Include pack item 31.
- Ziplock bags
- Lunch sack
- Painter’s tape
- CD player or Bluetooth speaker

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the front of the room. Cover a table with a *VBS 2025 Tablecloth* and display all needed resources to be referenced throughout the session. Save space on the focal wall for the Days 1–5 Overview Posters (pack items 1–5) and the Days 1–5 Bonus Verse Posters (pack items 7–11) to be added as the session progresses. Decorate around this space with the *VBS 2025 Wall Art* and *VBS 2025 String Flags*.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play “God Sees Me” from the *VBS 2025 Music for Kids CD*.
- Greet conferees at the door and provide a copy of the handout (item 1) as they enter.
- Instruct conferees to think of people and things they care about, writing them in the space provided on item 1.
- Introduce yourself when it’s time to start and say: “We’re going to play a game that you have had a little head start with. I am going to give you 30 more seconds to continue adding to the list of people and things you care about on your handout. For people, consider writing not just their name but their relationship to you.”
- Instruct conferees to finish writing and stand up. They must go around the room and speak with other conferees to try and find a match with one of the items on their list. After finding one match, they must move on to another conferee to try and find a new match. Share that whoever has the most matches after one minute will be the winner! Consider offering an incentive such as the *VBS 2025 Caterpillar Key Chain*.
- Play “Magnified!” from the *VBS 2025 Music for Kids CD* for one minute, giving warnings for 30-seconds and 10-seconds.
- Ask for a show of hands to see who scored 2 matches, 4 matches, 6 matches, and so on until a winner is found.
- Share that this activity was adapted from “A Lot of Caring” (p. 18 in the *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*.) Explain that adaptations allowed for more time for

players to prepare for the game and to give more players the opportunity to talk with one another while also adding a competitive aspect.

- Say: “There were some things that were on many of our lists, and others that were unique to us. The same will be true for preteens. The aim of this activity is to transition preteens to thinking about what God cares about. The Bible reveals God’s care to us, and a key thing our preteens need to know is that they would be on God’s list—He cares about them!”
- Read the following (from p.10 in the *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*) verbatim:
 - *One of the greatest needs children have is to be seen. The children in your care this week need to be seen by you—use their names, get to know their interests, and look for ways to connect with them. They also need to learn and experience the truth that God sees and knows them!*
- Say “That is why I chose to play ‘God Sees Me’ from the *VBS 2025 Music for Kids CD* as you came into the room. Preteens need to hear that God sees them and at *Magnified! VBS* that is what the Lord is using us to do.”
- Say: “Let’s open up our session in prayer that the Lord would do just that.”
- Pray using the “Praying for Your Preteens” prompts (p.4 in the *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*).

2. Preparation for Leading VBS—Resource Overview (20 minutes)

- Ask conferees to share with someone next to them the most strikingly beautiful thing they have seen in God’s creation.
- Explain that there are some things that most of us would probably have on our lists, such as starry skies or sunrises. Comment: “While many of us may tend towards the larger aspects of creation, *Magnified! VBS* will help us zoom in on the smaller, yet far from insignificant, intricate details of creation. We’re going to look at some of those smaller details of VBS that can set you up to lead preteens in magnifying the Lord. Some of you may be new to this, others may have led VBX for many years. We’re going to look over the different tools Lifeway provides so that you will know what is available and where to find it.”
- Hold up the *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*. Work through the leader guide, directing attention to sections as follows:
 - “So You’re a VBS Leader! ... Now What?” provides a great starting point. This page helps walk through the before, during, and after of VBX, and where to find more information in the guide on what to do and how to do it during each stage.
 - Step 1 – Ask God to Make Your Heart Ready and Step 2 – Make a Plan
 - These steps are the *before* stages. Content in the leader guide equips you to learn about the characteristics of preteens, the Bible study content, and pray that the Lord would move as He desires!
 - Step 3 – Teach!
 - This step is the *during* stage. This encompasses executing the Bible content and all activities while utilizing provided teaching tips (p.6 and in the margins throughout).
 - Step 4 – Continue the Connection
 - This step is the *after* stage. VBX isn’t over after day 5! There are suggestions for keeping the connection going such as writing personal notes (p.9).

- “Magnified!” (p.3) gives a one-page overview of the content for *Magnified!* VBS. This is a brief introduction that will give VBX leaders a flavor of what is to come throughout the week.
- Page 4 provides introductory information on how to connect with preteens, looking at developmental characteristics.
 - For more information about preteens and their development consider looking at Lifeway resources such as *Wholly Kids*, *Ages and Stages: A Discipleship Framework for Church and Home*, or *Every Age, Every Stage: Teaching God’s Truth at Home and Church*.
 - One tip for this age group—recruit from your student ministry! Say: “Preteens have a desire to talk about their faith as they are applying it to their lives and generally feel more comfortable doing that with students. Come alongside those students and help answer preteens’ questions. Consider assigning the same adults and students to consistent groups of preteens throughout the week to foster relationships.”
 - Reference the note in this section referring to the gospel icon. It explains that a cross icon will be displayed on pages throughout the leader guide where an opportunity to talk about the gospel is provided, as the Holy Spirit leads. Mention that at the bottom of this page are the prayer points you used to open the session.
- “Make VBS Great For All Kids” (p.5) was added last year to provide tips on engaging kids unfamiliar with church and kids with special needs. Additionally, there will be distinct special needs adaptations suggested within sessions for some of the activities. Say: “We have already talked about how preteens need to feel seen, by us and by God, and a helpful suggestion is made on this page to play name games to help new kids feel known by kids and adults at VBX.”
- “How to Plan a VBX Session” (p.6) provides a simplified overview of how to prepare for success. One thing to note is the schedule options.
 - Review the sample schedule and explain the purpose of Excite, Explore, and Excel. Explain that there are likely a lot of different churches represented who run VBS in different ways. Say, “If you are just going to be leading the Bible Study content, you will want to utilize the Explore sections each day—but pull in ideas from Excite and Excel where possible too!”
 - Mention that the *VBS 2025 Administrative Guide* contains even more ideas for scheduling. Say: “VBX content can be customized to fit whatever schedule your church chooses. Preteens could have a completely unique experience or rotate through classes like 1st–4th graders—or something in between!”
- Direct attention to the supplies list (pp.7–8). Previously this was found at the back of the leader guide so inform conferees it is in a new place and remains a great location to view everything they will, need broken down into categories and activities. This is especially helpful if you are organizing supplies into buckets or bins to ease preparation on each day of VBX.
- Highlight the last page prior to the daily content: “Continue VBS at Home” (p.9). Encourage conferees to not wait until after VBS to think about follow-up.
- Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8 from a Bible. Remind leaders that preteens want to connect with adults who are authentic followers of Jesus. Share that the relationships and teaching we share with them will be more meaningful if our hearts are prepared, having meditated on the biblical content too! Encourage

leaders to not skip past the “Leader Devotion” at the beginning of each day’s content.

- Cite page 13 as an example of the various leader tips provided throughout each day’s content, including sharing the gospel, special needs adaptations, leader tips, and preparation for activities.
- Remind conferees that the VBX leader guide can also be purchased digitally and that every leader will need his/her own leader guide.
- Hold up the *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack*. Display items as you talk about them, either pulling them from the pack or pointing to them on the wall.
 - Say: “In this pack you’ll find full-size posters showing the theme verse, bonus verses, and daily overview posters that we will use in today’s session, as well as items to be cut and utilized in various activities throughout VBX. You’ll also find a copy of the *VBS 2025 Music for Kids CD*.”
 - Explain that each class will need one leader pack. If an item is allowed to be photocopied it will state that in the notes at the bottom.
- Hold up the *VBS 2025 VBX Activity Book*.
 - Say: “These books may be one of the smallest items you will use, but they are one of the most important items. These books are intended to be used one per child, at various points throughout each day of VBX and at home!”
 - Share that one of the most significant uses for the booklet is to encourage preteens to engage their Bibles during (pp.14-15) and after VBX (p.16).
 - Encourage VBX leaders to utilize activities and tips in their leader guide, as well as their own experience, to help encourage preteens as they engage with Scripture.
- Briefly reference other items displayed on the resource table and encourage conferees to interact with them before they leave, including the:
 - *VBS 2025 Administrative Guide* — Say: “Your director should have one of these and there is some additional information relating to scheduling and development that will be of use to you as you plan for VBX.”
 - *VBS 2025 Memory Maker* — Say: “You could provide one tag each day to help preteens remember what they have learned or use these as prizes throughout the week.”
 - *VBS 2025 Gospel Guide* — Say: “This is a great tool for walking through the gospel with preteens or even their parents utilizing ‘The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me.’”
 - *VBS 2025 Parent Guide* — Say: “This tool will help parents know what their kids are learning and provide them ideas to engage with their children at home.”
 - *Magnified Devotional: Exploring God’s Greatness in the Smallest of Things* — Say: “As we encourage preteens to study God’s Word, this resource provides them a framework to continue that after VBX is over.”
 - Comment: “Given the focus on helping preteens engage with the Bible, two great options for Bibles for this age are the *CSB Explorer Bible for Kids* or the *CSB Outreach Bible for Kids* which can be purchased at bulk price to ensure every child has access to God’s Word”.
- Point conferees to lifeway.com/vbs and ministrygrid.com for more resources and helps.

3. Presentation—Excite, Explore, Excel (45 minutes)

- Form five groups. Give each group a picnic basket that contains a copy of the selected curriculum content from one of the days (items 2 and 3). Additionally, some groups will need a few extra items in their baskets as outlined above in *Needed Resources*.

- Explain that groups should first look for the paper/cardstock containing the large image (item 2). Direct them to turn it over and use the magnifying glass to reveal the daily Bible content. After this, groups should turn their attention to the paper outlining an activity, taken from the VBX curriculum, with some corresponding questions to discuss (item 3). Some groups will have additional items relevant to their activity.
- Inform groups that if time permits, a group member will share some of their group's discussion with all conferees. For this reason, group members are welcome to take notes on the handout if they desire. Additionally, it would be helpful if one member of the group could find the bonus verse and be prepared to read it later in the seminar.
- Set a timer for five minutes, giving appropriate warnings half-way through and with one minute remaining. At the end of 5 minutes, ask conferees to return to their seats and inform groups that they will be called on to share later while you review the daily content.
- **Day 1:**
 - Mention a few of the song lyrics from the Day 1 song, "God Sees Me": "God sees me and He knows what I'm thinking. God sees me and He cares how I'm doing."
 - Hang the "Day 1 Overview Poster" (pack item 1) on the focal wall. Explain that Magnified! VBS begins with looking at "Jesus and the Children" (John 1:1-3,12; Mark 10:13-16) to help preteens learn how God feels about kids!
 - Read the following Bible story summary taken from the *VBS 2025 Administrative Guide* (p.7). Emphasize that this is an introductory Bible story summary for VBS directors and is not the full story found within the daily content of the *VBS 2025 VBX Leader Guide*. Model good storytelling techniques by making eye contact with attendees, varying speed, pitch, and volume where necessary. Consider moving around the room to engage the conferees. (Note: The summaries found on page 3 of the *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Leader Guide* are shorter and could be used instead to save time.)
 - Jesus was with God in the beginning when everything was created. Nothing was created without Jesus. God sent Jesus to earth to fix the relationship between God and people. One day, people brought their children to Jesus to ask Him to bless them. But Jesus' helpers tried to stop the parents. Jesus got very angry with His disciples and told them to let the children come. Then Jesus took the children in His arms and blessed them. Every person is important to Jesus. The Bible says that every person who receives the gift of salvation Jesus came to bring and believes in His name will be called God's child.
 - Read The Big Truth for Day 1: "God created everything there is, and yet He still wants to spend time with me."
 - Lead a conferee to read John 1:12 aloud. Display the "Day 1 Bonus Verse Poster" (pack item 7) underneath the "Day 1 Overview Poster" as the volunteer reads.
 - Highlight that each day there will be a "Zoom In" and "Today's Point." On Day 1 preteens will hear "I am important to God" and should leave knowing "God sees me." God demonstrated that importance through sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and then, as our Bonus Verse tells us, inviting us into His family!
 - Invite Group 1 to briefly explain their assigned activity and share the answers to their questions.

- Highlight the Excite activity, “Made to Magnify God” (p.11), which provides an opportunity to explain what it means to magnify God, to help preteens have a better understanding of what the theme, theme verse, and theme song means. It is important to remember the unchurched kids in your class as you explain concepts such as this. Reference pack item 14, the “Motto Poster,” as it is used during this activity.
- Direct attention to the Excel activity, “My Time With God” (p.14), as a time for preteens to practice reading, studying, and meditating on God’s Word. While this begins with support in the classroom, the hope is that it continues at home on kids’ own (or with parents)! Reference the *VBS 2025 VBX Activity Book* as it is used during this activity.
- **Day 2:**
 - Mention a few of the song lyrics from the Day 2 song, “Spinnin’”: “I don’t have to be afraid of anything that comes my way, don’t need to worry or be dismayed. I know the One who holds it all in place.”
 - Hang the “Day 2 Overview Poster” (pack item 2) on the focal wall. Explain that *Magnified!* VBS continues on Day 2 by looking at how “Jesus Calmed the Storm” (Mark 4:1,35-41). Say: “This story provides a great opportunity for a memorable experience, utilizing various senses of the audience as the story unfolds. Consider using a leaf blower (leader use only, or hairdryer on cold) and some spray bottles with water as you simulate the storm environment. Don’t miss the opportunity to draw the kids in! At the same time, be sure to help them zoom in and focus as you explain the story.”
 - Read the following Bible story summary taken from the *VBS 2025 Administrative Guide* (p.7).
 - After teaching one day, Jesus used a boat to cross a lake with His disciples. A huge windstorm started. The boat started to fill up with water. Jesus was in the back of the boat asleep. The disciples woke Him up and said, “Teacher! Don’t you care that we’re going to die?” Jesus got up and commanded, “Silence! Be still!” The wind stopped blowing, and the water became calm! Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Why are you afraid? Do you still not have faith?” The disciples were terrified and asked each other, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey Him!”
 - Read The Big Truth for Day 2: “God keeps the whole universe going, and yet He still cares about what’s happening to me.”
 - Lead a conferee to read Deuteronomy 31:8b aloud. Display the “Day 2 Bonus Verse Poster” (pack item 8) underneath the “Day 2 Overview Poster” as the volunteer reads.
 - Comment: “On Day 2 preteens will hear ‘I can trust God to take care of me.’ During preteen years kids may feel forgotten about as relationships change. Day 2 gives us the opportunity to help them see that ‘God cares about me.’ As the bonus verse will show them—God will not forget them!”
 - Invite Group 2 to briefly explain their assigned activity and share the answers to their questions.
 - Highlight the Excite activity which was played earlier in the session, “A Lot of Caring” (p.18). This activity provides a transition into the story as preteens will see just how much God cares about them. Refer conferees to the special needs adaptation in the margin where it says “Timed activities can cause anxiety in children.” Say: “These adaptations include important information to help all

children engage at VBS!" Reference the *VBS 2025 VBX Activity Book* as it is used during this activity.

- Direct attention to the Excel activity, "Twig-onometry", which was written to help kids read and interpret Scripture, whilst providing adaptations (see Leader Tip) for those unfamiliar with the Bible. Say: "Activities geared towards helping preteens with Bible skills are seen throughout *Magnified! VBS*." Reference pack item 17, "Twig-onometry Cards," as it is used during this activity.
- **Day 3:**
 - Mention a few of the song lyrics from the Day 3 song, "Zoom In": "Zoom in, see the way God's love can change you. Zoom in, see the way His love can save you."
 - Hang the "Day 3 Overview Poster" (pack item 3) on the focal wall. Explain that on Day 3 preteens will hear about "The Woman at the Well" (John 4:1-42).
 - Read the following Bible story summary taken from the *VBS 2025 Administrative Guide* (p.7).
 - A Samaritan woman came to get water from a well where Jesus was resting. Jesus asked the woman to give Him a drink of water. Jesus talked to the woman. Then Jesus told the woman about ways she had disobeyed God. These were things that a stranger would not know about her. She recognized that Jesus was different. Jesus told her that He is God's promised Savior. The woman left her water jar at the well and went to tell other people in the town about Jesus, the Savior. Many Samaritans from that town at first believed in Jesus because of what the woman said. Later they believed because they heard Jesus for themselves.
 - Read The Big Truth for Day 3: "God is not OK with sin, and yet He still loves sinners like me."
 - Lead a conferee to read Romans 5:8 aloud. Display the "Day 3 Bonus Verse Poster" (pack item 9) underneath the "Day 3 Overview Poster" as the volunteer reads.
 - Explain that on Day 3 preteens will hear "I can be confident God loves me." As highlighted earlier, much is changing for our kids during preteen years. Day 3 allows us to remind preteens of a key truth that will never change: "God loves me."
 - Say: "God doesn't wait for us to clean up our act before showing that He loves us. Today's bonus verse tells us that He sent Jesus to die for us while we were still sinners!"
 - Exhort conferees to encourage their preteens that Jesus loves them and died for them, whatever is going on in their lives!
 - Invite Group 3 to briefly explain their assigned activity and share the answers to their questions.
 - Highlight the Excite activity, "Worm Races" (p.25), which engages the competitive spirit of preteens while providing an opportunity for key terms to be defined in a manner that helps regular attenders and church newcomers alike. Reference pack item 20, "Worm Race Definitions," as it is used during this activity.
- **Day 4:**
 - Mention a few of the song lyrics from the Day 4 song, "I Believe Jesus Saves": "For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."

- Hang the “Day 4 Overview Poster” (pack item 4) on the focal wall. Explain that the song on Day 4 presents the truth from John 3:16 and then provides words that kids could use to respond for themselves. Day 4 brings context to that verse by looking at the story of “Jesus and Nicodemus” (John 3:1-21; 18–20, 1 Corinthians 15:6).
- Read the following Bible story summary taken from the *VBS 2025 Administrative Guide* (p.7).
 - Nicodemus came to visit Jesus at night. Jesus taught Nicodemus that God loved the world by sending His only Son (Jesus). Jesus came to die to take the punishment for our sins so that we could have eternal life. Some time later, Jesus was arrested. Jesus never did anything wrong. And yet He was arrested unfairly. Jesus was crucified and died on a cross. Nicodemus helped prepare Jesus’ body to be buried. After three days, some women went back to the tomb where Jesus had been buried. It was empty! Jesus had risen from the dead. Jesus rose from the dead so that those who receive His gift of forgiveness can be part of God’s family forever.
- Read The Big Truth for Day 4: “Jesus came to save the world, and that includes me.”
- Lead a conferee to read John 3:16 aloud. Display the “Day 4 Bonus Verse Poster” (pack item 10) underneath the “Day 4 Overview Poster” as the volunteer reads.
- Explain that on Day 4 preteens will hear “I can trust Jesus as my Savior” as they are led to see “God forgives me.” It is not just the Bible story that points kids towards the gospel in day 4’s content: preteens will engage with activities and crafts today centered around it. To help them understand what this means for them, and to encourage sharing, try to be consistent in group assignments for both kids and volunteers. Preteens should not be pushed to talk but may choose to share with those they feel comfortable with.
- Invite Group 4 to briefly explain their assigned activity and share the answers to their questions.
- Highlight the Excite activity, “Puddle Puzzle” (p.32), which ends with a great activity of preteens writing down questions they would like to ask Jesus. Challenge conferees to try and create an environment, based on relationships, where kids feel comfortable sharing those questions and seeking answers, together. Reference the *VBS 2025 VBX Activity Book* as it is used during this activity.
- Direct attention to the Excel activity, “Firefly!” (p.35), which offers another fun way to help kids engage with Scripture and reflect on how God is speaking to them. This game could be adapted using the *Giant Inflatable Game Cube*— show conferees the cube filled with question posters (item 3). Highlight additional ways the game cube could be used during VBX. Reference pack item 28, “Firefly Cube,” as it is used during this activity.
- **Day 5:**
 - Mention a few of the song lyrics from the Day 5 song, “Faithful with it All”: “God is faithful with the big things and the small things, faithful in every little part of my life.”
 - Hang the “Day 5 Overview Poster” (pack item 5) on the focal wall. Explain that Day 5 helps answer the question, “What next?” After hearing the gospel and considering the implications for their lives, preteens are likely wondering what following Jesus looks like after VBX. The “Leader Devotion” tells us that anxiety

is a childhood epidemic, and a concern for parents nationwide, and with all the changes during preteen years those struggles can be amplified even further. This content will speak to all ages, but it is especially important for preteens to hear about when “Jesus Taught about Worry” (Matthew 6:25-34).

- Read the following Bible story summary taken from the *VBS 2025 Administrative Guide* (p.7).
 - One day, Jesus sat down on the side of a mountain and taught about what people should do when they worry. Jesus knew that people worry about many things, like having the clothes and food they need. He encouraged them to trust that God would provide for their needs. Jesus talked about everyday things like birds and flowers to help the people understand what He meant. He said, “If God cares about things as small as flowers and birds, you can trust that He cares about you, too. You are worth more than birds and flowers.” The Bible is full of God’s promises to provide what we need. God always has and always will keep His promises.
- Read The Big Truth for Day 5: God is faithful with the big things in my life, and He will be faithful with the small things too.
- Lead a conferee to read Psalm 100:5 aloud. Display the “Day 5 Bonus Verse Poster” (pack item 11) underneath the “Day 5 Overview Poster” as the volunteer reads.
- Explain that on Day 5 preteens will hear “I don’t have to worry because God keeps His promises.” The solution to many of the anxieties our preteens face is found in trusting God through relationship with Jesus. Remind conferees that we don’t want to lead kids to think that life will always be easy as a Christian, but that we can face challenges knowing “God keeps His promises.” Encourage conferees to share with their preteens, in age-appropriate ways, times in their lives when they have trusted God in the face of worry.
- Invite Group 5 to briefly explain their assigned activity and share the answers to their questions.
- Highlight the Excite activity, “Scare Score” (p.39), which helps preteens identify what scares them and understand that God will always be with them in each situation. Reference pack item 30, “Blurry Scenarios,” as it is used during this activity.
- Direct attention to the Excel activity, “Wrap It Up” (p.42). This transition section, “Wrap It Up,” is featured every day. Encourage conferees to prepare for transitions during VBX and avoid moving too quickly into the next activity or rotation. The closing moments of Bible Study on day 5 are significant, as kids are dismissed back to their environments and spheres of influence to help others magnify the Lord. Pray for them. Pray with them!
- Summarize the weekly content by pointing out that preteens should leave VBX having learned and understood five big truths that help them magnify the Lord.
- Read all five daily points from the “Days 1–5 Overview Posters.”

4. Post-Event Continued Connections (Follow Up) (15 minutes)

- Mention that preteens want people to walk with them and disciple them as they grow in their love and knowledge of the Lord.
- Ask: “What do you think preteens are looking for in that person?” (Encourage responses.)

- Say: “Preteens desire someone that they feel seen by, and who is an authentic follower of Jesus. They aren’t looking for someone who knows all the answers, but someone who loves them and loves God and will help try to find answers with them!”
- Mention that this is true for prospects too! During VBS the hope is that a connection has been made between visiting kids, regular attending kids, and volunteers.
- Share that while church staff (such as Pastors or Children’s Ministers) or VBS Directors ought to take charge in follow-up strategies, every VBS volunteer has a role to play—especially those who have spent a considerable amount of time with kids and developed relationships with kids, such as VBX leaders!
- Direct attention to “Continue VBS at Home” (p.9). Say: “We pour so much effort into VBS week that we are often exhausted when the week is over—but the work is not done! Having spent a week investing in a group of kids we need to shift gears and look for ways to continue connecting with them. Highlight strategies shared to continue the connection:
 - Greet kids (and families) wherever you see them—at church or grocery store!
 - Serve in an ongoing capacity with your church’s kids ministry.
 - Take part in whatever organized follow-up processes, or events, your church has.
 - Write a personal note to kids after VBS. Encourage delegation—it would be hard for a Children’s Minister or VBS Director to write a personal message to every child. The best positioned person to encourage and connect with that child is someone who spent a lot of time with them during VBS!
- Encourage conferees that follow up does not have to wait until after VBX—don’t miss opportunities during the week to connect with kids and families. This could be:
 - A text to a parent during the week to share encouragement about their child. If church policy permits, you might share a picture or video of that child having fun.
 - Liaising with your VBS Director to do a porch drop-off including a gift (such as a VBS related item, fast food drink gift card, or popcorn pouch). Don’t forget to include church information and an invite to a follow-up event (this might be a traditional VBS family night, or a future Kids Ministry event planned). Another great resource to provide prospects with is *Life as a Christian: A Primer for New Believers*. This affordable book offers an incredible overview of the basics of the Christian faith that would be helpful to unchurched kids and parents alike.
- Say: “God can work through a volunteer assigned to hand out snacks, greet at the door, or be on the safety team. We all need to be prepared and ready to serve Him. One of the most important things anyone serving at VBS can be prepared for is sharing the gospel with a child.”
- Reference the “*Teaching Others to Share the Gospel*” printable from the *VBS 2025 Administrative Guide* (found inside the “powerpoints_training” folder). This provides a great training framework for teams to review together. The final page of this printable also highlights Levels of Biblical Learning for Salvation, providing helpful information on how a preteen could be expected to comprehend the gospel.
- Direct attention to the “Gospel Poster” (pack item 13). Say: “Lifeway VBS utilizes *The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me* as a framework to share the gospel with kids. Place this poster somewhere prominent in your classroom so you can refer to it throughout sessions as you lead.”
- Suggest different ways that this framework could be utilized in sharing the gospel such as matching the symbols and words up on paper plates, creating the symbols with chenille stems, making the symbols out of modelling clay, or creating inserts for the *Giant Inflatable Game Cube*.

- Review *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* using content from the inside cover of the *VBS 2025 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide* or the notes below for a shorter overview:
 - God Rules—The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything.
 - We Sinned—Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death.
 - God Provided—God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us.
 - Jesus Gives—Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever!
 - We Respond—We can respond to Jesus. The ABCs of Becoming a Christian is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to receive the gift Jesus offers.
 - ABCs—A: Admit to God that you're a sinner and repent; B: Believe that Jesus is the Son of God and receive God's gift of forgiveness from sin; C: Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

5. Closing (5 minutes)

- Say: "We all work hard at VBS, and even months before VBS through events like this, but there are two potential pitfalls for us that we can fall into. First, we don't pray enough. We can assemble our lists of supplies, our schedule, or teaching points, and be so immersed into planning that we forget this is a spiritual endeavor. Which leads to our second potential pitfall—sometimes we act as if the work is on us, rather than God."
- Read the following (from p.31 in the leader guide) verbatim:
 - Some of the children in your classroom will take clearly recognizable steps of faith (like the Samaritan woman) and some will take more gradual steps toward faith (like Nicodemus). Our responsibility is to share the gospel and trust the Holy Spirit to do His work. Take a moment to pray for the children in your care this week. Pray that the gospel would be made known to each child.
- Lead conferees to view the "Motto Poster" (pack item 14) and shout the Magnified! Motto: "Made to Magnify God!"
- Direct attention to the "Theme Verse Poster" (pack item 6). Ask for a volunteer to read the theme verse aloud.
- Ask: "How does that verse call us to magnify the Lord?" Answer: "Together. The call is to proclaim *with me*, to exalt *together*. Our preteens need to hear that they have a place to belong and people who will walk with them as they follow Jesus. But it's not just them—we need it too! Let us close our session today with an act of magnifying the Lord together. Would you find a partner and each take 30 seconds praying for each other as we look ahead to *Magnified! VBS?*"
- Inform participants when 30 seconds has passed so that the other partner can pray. Conclude the time by praying aloud for the group.
- Ask God to bless each VBS represented in the room. Ask God to help each conferee depend on Him before, during, and after VBS. Ask for the Lord to change the lives of preteens forever through VBS this summer.

VBX OVERVIEW

WHAT I CARE ABOUT
PEOPLE

THINGS

RESOURCE OVERVIEW

DAILY CONTENT

DAY 1 – TODAY’S POINT: SESSION TITLE:



BIBLE STORY:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S):

THE BIG TRUTH:

ZOOM IN:

BONUS VERSE:

DAY 2 – TODAY’S POINT: SESSION TITLE:



BIBLE STORY:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S):

THE BIG TRUTH:

ZOOM IN:

BONUS VERSE:

DAY 3 – TODAY'S POINT: SESSION TITLE:



BIBLE STORY:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S):

THE BIG TRUTH:

ZOOM IN:

BONUS VERSE:

DAY 4 – TODAY'S POINT: SESSION TITLE:



BIBLE STORY:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S):

THE BIG TRUTH:

ZOOM IN:

BONUS VERSE:

DAY 5 – TODAY'S POINT: SESSION TITLE:



BIBLE STORY:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S):

THE BIG TRUTH:

ZOOM IN:

BONUS VERSE:

FOLLOW UP



Item 2. Daily Content Overview

BIBLE STORY: Jesus and the Children

TODAY'S POINT: God sees me.

ZOOM IN: I am important to God.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S): John 1:4-9, 12; Mark 10:13-16

THE BIG TRUTH: God created everything there is, and yet He still wants to spend time with me.

BONUS VERSE: John 1:12



Item 2. Daily Content Overview

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S): Mark 4:1,35-41

TODAY'S POINT: God cares about me.

THE BIG TRUTH: God keeps the whole universe going, and yet He still cares about what's happening to me.

BONUS VERSE: Deuteronomy 31:8b

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Calmed the Storm

ZOOM IN: I can trust God to take care of me.



TODAY'S POINT: God loves me.

BONUS VERSE: Romans 5:8

BIBLE STORY: The Woman at the Well

THE BIG TRUTH: God is not OK with sin, and yet He still loves sinners like me.

ZOOM IN: I can be confident God loves me.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S): John 4:1-42



Item 2. Daily Content Overview

BIBLE STORY: Jesus and Nicodemus

ZOOZ : I can trust Jesus as my Savior.

TODAY'S POINT: God forgives me.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S): John 3:1-21; 18-20; 1 Corinthians 15:6

THE BIG TRUTH: Jesus came to save the world, and that includes me.

BONUS VERSE: John 3:16



Item 2. Daily Content Overview

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Taught about Worry

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE(S): Matthew 6:25-34

WOOZ NI ! : I sup t enel t uoK t beedise God keeps His promises.

TODAY'S POINT: God keeps His promises.

THE BIG TRUTH: God is faithful with the big things in my life, and He will be faithful with the small things too.

BONUS VERSE: Psalm 100:5

DAY ONE — MAGNIFY GOD

STORY RECAP

One day, people brought their children to Jesus to ask Him to bless them. Jesus' helpers tried to stop the parents. Jesus got very angry with His disciples and told them to let the children come. Jesus took the children in His arms and blessed them.

(VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide, p.3)

ACTIVITY FROM LEADER GUIDE — “IT’S PUZZLING” (p.14)

- Form even teams of 3–4 preteens. Explain that the VBS theme verse is Psalm 34:3. Ask a volunteer to read the verse aloud from the “Theme Verse Poster” (item 6).
- Say: “At VBS this week, we are taking this verse seriously. We are here to magnify, or proclaim, how great God is and exalt His name, or tell everyone about His greatness!”
- Distribute a bag with a puzzle to each group. Say: “When I say, ‘Go,’ see who can finish putting the theme verse together first.”
- If preteens finish quickly, cover the “Theme Verse Poster” and guide them to try again.
- Play a third round where the “leaf blower” (leader use only, or hair dryer) in your backyard setting gets “out of control” and starts blowing puzzle pieces away before preteens can finish.
- Congratulate preteens for starting to learn a verse from God’s Word and explain that your goal is for them to know Psalm 34:3 from memory by the end of the week.

GROUP TASKS

Why do preteens need to hear this message?

How does this activity relate to the day’s Bible story and today’s point?

How could you transition from this activity to a gospel conversation?

How might you modify this activity if you had a child for whom English was a second language?

DAY TWO — MAGNIFY GOD’S CARE

STORY RECAP

Jesus used a boat to cross a lake with His disciples. A huge windstorm started. The boat started to fill up with water. Jesus was in the back of the boat asleep. The disciples woke Him up asking for help, and Jesus stopped the storm. The disciples were amazed that the wind and sea obeyed Jesus.

(VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide, p.3)

ACTIVITY FROM LEADER GUIDE — “SCURRY FASTER!” (p.18)

- Form two groups. Direct each group to stand single file on an imaginary “tree limb” (tape lines). The groups should face one another.
- Tell kids that the collective noun for a group of squirrels is a scurry. Set up this silly scenario: “You are two scurries of squirrels on a limb 40 feet high. Each scurry wants to travel to the opposite tree limb. Your job is to help your fellow squirrels cross to the new limb without crashing to the ground!”
- Cue the “squirrels” to assist one another as they maneuver in the correct direction despite the crowded situation on their branches. To avoid “falling,” each player must keep at least one foot on a limb (on a tape line) at all times. If you want to add to the challenge, tell kids their other feet cannot touch something that isn’t tape. If kids succeed, each group will reassemble in a single file line facing away from the other group.
- Set a timer for 60 seconds and challenge kids to beat the clock. If they do, repeat the activity once or twice, reducing the time by 15 seconds each time.

GROUP TASKS

Why do preteens need to hear this message?

How does this activity relate to the day’s Bible story and today’s point?

How could you transition from this activity to a gospel conversation?

How might you modify this activity if you have a child on crutches or in a wheelchair?

DAY THREE — MAGNIFY GOD’S LOVE

STORY RECAP

Jesus talked to a Samaritan woman at a well. She recognized that Jesus was different. Jesus told her that He is God’s promised Savior. The woman told other people in the town about Jesus, the Savior. Many Samaritans from that town believed in Jesus.

(*VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*, p.3)

ACTIVITY FROM LEADER GUIDE — “ZOOM IN!” (p.28)

- Use the “Theme Verse Poster” (item 6) to review Psalm 34:3. Ask: “How did the Samaritan woman magnify/proclaim and exalt Jesus?” (She told people about Jesus and invited them to come see Him for themselves.)
- Remind kids that at *Magnified!* VBS you are zooming in on the tiny details of God’s creation to celebrate and proclaim God’s greatness. Show one of the cards from the gift bag. Explain that around the teaching area there are zoomed-in versions of each card in your bag.
- Invite a volunteer to choose a card from the bag. When you say, “Ready, set, search!” kids should race to find the correct zoomed-in card. Set the rule that any other cards should be left in place until their matches are drawn.
- The first person to bring you the correct card should say Psalm 34:3 with as little prompting as possible. When she finishes, ask, “Why do you choose to magnify and exalt God today?”
- Repeat until all the cards have been found, then guide kids to put them in verse order.

GROUP TASKS

Why do preteens need to hear this message?

How does this activity relate to the day’s Bible story and today’s point?

How could you transition from this activity to a gospel conversation?

How might you modify this activity if you had a small classroom where there is not much space to hide the cards?

DAY FOUR — MAGNIFY GOD’S FORGIVENESS

STORY RECAP

Nicodemus visited Jesus at night. Jesus taught Nicodemus about God’s kingdom. Some time later, Jesus died on a cross. Nicodemus helped prepare Jesus’ body to be buried. After three days, some women went to Jesus’ tomb. It was empty! Jesus rose from the dead so that those who receive His gift of forgiveness can be part of God’s family forever. (*VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*, p.3)

ACTIVITY FROM LEADER GUIDE — “CRICKETS, FIREFLIES, AND SKEETERS” (p.32)

- Welcome preteens back to Tremendous Bible study. Display one of each “Crickets, Fireflies, and Skeeters” card (item 25). Guide preteens to find partners and practice the designated motion for each insect:
 - Crickets—jump and high five your partner
 - Fireflies—open and close fingers quickly like blinking lights
 - Skeeters (mosquitoes)—touch your partner’s forehead with your index finger and say, “Zzzzt!”
- When kids have the hang of the commands, scramble the cards and distribute them evenly among players.
- Explain that when the game begins, players should hold up a card, shout the name of the insect, and find someone holding the same card. After both players make the designated motion, they may discard their matching cards into the “bug net” (colander) and attempt to find another player who can match the next card.
- The first player to discard all her cards wins the game.

GROUP TASKS

Why do preteens need to hear this message?

How does this activity relate to the day’s Bible story and today’s point?

How could you transition from this activity to a gospel conversation?

How might you modify this activity if you had 5 children in your group?

DAY FIVE — MAGNIFY GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

STORY RECAP

Jesus taught about what people should do when they worry. Jesus encouraged them to trust God. Jesus talked about the way God cares for everyday things like birds and flowers to help the people understand. The Bible is full of God’s promises to provide what we need. God keeps His promises.

(VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide, p.3)

ACTIVITY FROM LEADER GUIDE — “FEATHER BRAINS” (p.41)

- State that you will play a game to help kids remember what they have learned throughout VBS.
- Give everyone a feather and a plate. Direct kids to place their feathers on the starting line. On your cue (feather, set, go!) kids will use the plates to fan the feathers from one tape line to the other. Kids may not pick the feathers up or carry them on the plates—air power only!
- The first person whose feather crosses the line should shout, “Magnified!” Pause the game. Guide kids to answer a review question from “Feather Brains” (item 31). Continue, pausing and asking a review question each time someone crosses the “Finish” line.
- Reset and run additional races as time allows.

GROUP TASKS

Why do preteens need to hear this message?

How does this activity relate to the day’s Bible story and today’s point?

How could you transition from this activity to a gospel conversation?

How might you modify this activity if you had a lot of kids in your group who missed various stories from earlier in the week?

BODY

WHO SINS?

TAIL

WHY IS SIN A

BIG DEAL?

HEAD

**HOW DID JESUS'
DEATH MAKE A
DIFFERENCE?**

ANTENNAE
WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO HAVE A
RELATIONSHIP
WITH JESUS?

EYES

**HOW CAN YOU
RESPOND TO THE
GOOD NEWS ABOUT
JESUS?**

WINGS

**WHAT STUCK? WHAT
TRUTH FROM TODAY'S
STORY IS MOST
IMPORTANT TO YOU?**