

## VBS 2026 CRAFTS ROTATION BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (1 ½ HOURS)

### Purpose Statement

This 90-minute plan is designed to train and equip crafts rotation leaders to lead 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders in the crafts rotation of the Lifeway's Illumination Station VBS.

### Needed Resources

- *VBS 2026 Crafts Rotation Leader Guide* (005853423)
- *VBS 2026 Wall Art* (005853616)
- *VBS 2026 Floor Prints* (005853578)
- *VBS 2026 Visual Pack* (005853615)
- *VBS 2026 Cups* (005853562)
- *VBS 2026 Whirleys* (005853580)
- *VBS 2026 Tablecloths* (005853575)
- *VBS 2026 Music for Kids CD* (005853488)
- "Flashlight Template" — Copy from page 28 of the *Crafts Rotation Leader Guide* or download a printable version from the digital downloads (instructions on p.2). Follow the instructions on page 7, but instead of using the names of God, use the "Today's Point" statements listed at the beginning of each session. Write each statement on a clear page protector or gallon-size ziplock bag. Make sure each word will fit within the beam on the "Flashlight Template" so you can reveal the point one word at a time.
- Item 1: "Kaleidoscope Cards" — Copy onto cardstock. Place each card facedown (in order) at the front of your teaching area.
- (5) Page protectors or gallon-size ziplock bags
- (5) Pieces of black cardstock
- Tablecloths for craft tables
- Sharp knife/box cutter
- White table tennis balls (1 per conferee) — Cut an "x" in each ball with the knife.
- Battery-operated tea light (1 per conferee)
- Permanent markers (multiple colors for each table)
- Alcohol swabs (1–2 per conferee)
- Cleansing wipes
- Sample of each VBS 2026 craft — Make the crafts ahead of time for display.
- CD player or Bluetooth speaker and device for playing VBS music

### Room Setup

Set up the appropriate number of tables and chairs for conferees. Place white table tennis balls, battery-operated tea lights, permanent markers, alcohol swabs, and cleansing swabs on each table. Cover the focal wall with a *VBS 2026 Visual Pack* (005853615). Cover a table with a *VBS 2026 Tablecloth* (005853575) and display the *VBS 2026 Craft Rotation Leader Guide* alongside each of the crafts.

### Teaching Steps

1. **Welcome** (5 minutes)
  - Play "Illumination Station" as conferees arrive.
  - Greet each guest as they arrive, welcoming them to Kaleidoscope Crafts.

## 2. Kaleidoscope Teaching Points (45 minutes)

- Turn over the first “Kaleidoscope Card” (Prepare Your Heart) and discuss the following:
  - Read the daily Bible stories and Scripture passages. Pray that God will speak to you through His Word.
  - Pray for the children that you will teach.
  - Pray for yourself and other leaders at VBS. Ask others to pray too.
- Turn over the second card (Plan) and discuss the following:
  - Meet with your VBS Director to find out the ages and number of children you will need to prepare for, how long you will have for each rotation, and who will choose crafts and purchase supplies.
  - Select the crafts that you would like to make during VBS. Keep in mind that you want your craft to relate to the daily Bible story, verse or theme, how much time you will have, and the abilities of the children you are leading.
  - Recruit and train a team. Divvy up responsibilities (for prep and teaching).
  - Remember the ages and stages of each class and individual children.
  - Gather supplies. Use the supply lists on pages 4–5 of the leader guide as you plan. Only gather supplies for the crafts you choose to make. Discuss supplies that church members may need to help collect or purchase, and what may already be at the church.
  - Templates are available in the back of the crafts leader guide as well as to download and print using the instructions on page 2.
  - Prepare a sample of each craft chosen.
  - Organize crafts and craft supplies for each day by labeling a box or crate with the collected supplies in the appropriate box.
  - Plan how crafts will be distributed. Will crafts be distributed each day or at the end of the week?
- Turn over the third card (Teach) and discuss the following:
  - Discuss the Day 1 Bible story title, Bible story summary, and spotlight questions on page 6 of the crafts leader guide.
  - Invite a volunteer to “shine the light” by reading the daily point for the day (using the “Flashlight Template” and page protectors or ziplock bags you made). Remind craft leaders that they need to be able to answer the spotlight question each day.
  - Show the displayed crafts for Day 1 to the conferees and point out how they support the Bible truths for the day. Also, offer suggestions or adaptations that may be helpful.
  - Continue to discuss Days 2–5, just as you did Day 1.
  - Reinforce the Bible truths using the Craft Connection suggestions for the crafts as you describe them.
  - Remind conferees of the importance of knowing the Bible study content and helping kids make the connection to the Bible story.
  - Remind conferees that children will often talk during the craft time and feel more open to ask questions while they are busy with their hands.
- Turn over the fourth card (Crafts) and discuss the following:
  - Crafts are designed to reinforce the Bible story, biblical truths, and enhance the overall VBS experience.
  - Be flexible and adjust your plans to make this the best experience possible for you and the kids that you teach.
  - Relax and enjoy the chance to build relationships with the children who will rotate through crafts.

- Value the process and the fun kids are having more than the end result of the craft. Process is always more important than product!
- Crafts in this book are designed for children who have completed Grades 1–6.
- Additional ideas can be found for preschoolers in the *VBS 3s–Kindergarten Rotation Pack* and for preteens in the *VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*.
- Point out which crafts are available in a craft pack.

**3. Make a Craft** (15 minutes)

- Allow conferees to make the “Light of the World Tea Light” craft from supplies available on each table.
- Guide them using the instructions on page 12 of the crafts leader guide.
- Offer suggestions and adaptations as conferees complete their crafts.

**4. Finish Strong** (5 minutes)

- Turn over the fifth “Kaleidoscope Card” (Connect) and discuss the following:
  - Plan to participate in your church’s VBS Celebration and other follow-up events.
  - Look for ways to stay connected and engaged with the kids that you taught.

**5. Sharing the Gospel with Kids** (15 minutes)

- Review the gospel presentation on the inside front cover of the crafts leader guide.
- Encourage the conferees to familiarize themselves with the words and the simplicity of the presentation.
- Make sure that they can explain: gospel, sin, God rules, we sinned, God provided, Jesus gives, we respond—admit, believe, confess.
- Remind conferees that every single volunteer at VBS should be ready and equipped to share the gospel with kids.

**6. Conclusion** (5 minutes)

- Remind conferees of the theme verse, John 8:12. Invite conferees to read it aloud with you from the Visual Pack poster on the wall.
- Point to the Visual Pack poster of the motto. Invite the conferees to say the motto together: “Jesus is the Light of the World.”
- Close with prayer.



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