

VBS 2026 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 Illumination Station® VBX curriculum.

Needed Resources

- VBS 2026 VBX® Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide (005853428)
- VBS 2026 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack (005853475) — Prepare pack items 1–11 and hang them on the focal wall when prompted in the conference plan. Cover the clues on pack item 13. Hang pack item 29 on the wall ahead of time.
- VBS 2026 VBX Preteen Activity Books (005853150)
- VBS 2026 Administrative Guide (005853431)
- VBS 2026 Parent Guide (005853631)
- VBS 2026 Gospel Guide (005853630)
- Illumination Station Devotional (005854728)
- VBS 2026 Theme Stickers (005853572)
- VBS 2026 Music for Kids CD (005853488)
- VBS 2026 Memory Makers (005853571)
- VBS 2026 Supersized Backdrop (005853613)
- VBS 2026 Tablecloths (005853575)
- Giant Inflatable Game Cube (005841133)
- CSB Explorer Bible for Kids (005836549) or CSB Outreach Bible for Kids (005841718)
- Item 1: “Characteristics” — Print onto cardstock and cut out each card. Cut each card in half with the description on one side and the characteristic on the other. Tape the descriptions to the walls around the room and set aside the characteristics.
- Item 2: “Gospel Icons” — Print and insert one icon into each pocket of the Giant Inflatable Game Cube.
- (4) Small items such as marker, paper clip, candle, candy, coin, etc.
- (4) Blindfolds
- Bell or buzzer
- Sticky notes (2-by-1½ inch, 4–5 colors)
- CD player or Bluetooth speaker

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Decorate the focal wall with a *VBS 2026 Supersized Backdrop*. Cover a table with a *VBS 2026 Tablecloth* and display the curriculum and tabletop decorations. Drape *VBS 2026 String Flags* across the doorway.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (10 minutes)

- Play Illumination Station music as conferees arrive.
- Welcome conferees. Introduce yourself and say: “We’re going to play a game to shine some light on this year’s theme: Illumination Station.”
- Blindfold four volunteers then hand each a small object. They will try to describe the object and identify it to the room without being able to see it.
- Offer simple assistance if the volunteer struggles. If the volunteer gets the answer quickly, ask her some questions that she can’t answer. For example, you could ask

“What color is the marker?” or “Is it a highlighter or coloring marker?” This will help lead the group into the debrief for this activity.

- Lead the volunteers to remove their blindfolds, then ask: “What was it like guessing what the object was without being able to see it?” Allow answers. Say: “Ultimately, it was a challenge because you didn’t have all the information.”
- Collect the blindfolds and objects and lead the volunteers to return to their seats.
- Say: “Preteens today are trying to figure out who Jesus is and how He impacts their lives, but they don’t all have all the information. We are going to spend this session laying the groundwork for using Illumination Station curriculum to teach preteens exactly that. In fact, this game we just played came straight out of the Leader Guide in the session for Day 1.”
- Lead in prayer, thanking God for everyone who has sacrificed their time to be here today and for the work they will do with VBX. Thank God for being kind to us and using us to point preteens to His love for them. Ask God to guide the time today and to help everyone to leave feeling encouraged and equipped.

2. Preparation for Leading VBX (10 minutes)

- Explain that the preteen years are exciting, contain high-energy, and are full of change—but can also feel confusing or “dimly lit” at times. Some conferees may work with preteens every week and feel confident with this age group; others may be stepping into VBX for the first time this summer.
- Say: “At Illumination Station, we want to help kids see Jesus clearly. To do that well, we need to understand *who* we’re teaching. Let’s get to know the preteens we’ll serve at VBX!”
- Distribute the developmental characteristics cards (half of item 1). Explain that around the room, conferees will find the matching definitions posted on the walls—much like searching for “light sources” in a dim space.
- Invite participants to move around, read, match, and bring their pairs to the front.
 - Possible Adaptations: Form 8 groups so that everyone can participate. OR do not post the definitions on the wall and simply distribute all 16 cards. Each participant must find the person holding the definition that corresponds to his characteristic.
- Review the matching pairs for the group as described below:
 - **Social/Emotional Characteristics**
 - Need encouragement—Preteens want to *feel* seen, known, and welcomed. Many are anxious about fitting in or being rejected.
 - *Your role:* Help them feel safe and valued. Shine the light of Christ by affirming them.
 - Enjoy collaboration and competition—They like working with peers (often same-gender peers)—and they thrive when there’s a chance to compete in a healthy way.
 - *Your role:* Provide team activities with opportunities to both cooperate and “win.”
 - **Cognitive Characteristics**
 - Creative and curious thinkers—Preteens think quickly, ask big questions, and enjoy solving problems independently.
 - *Your role:* Lean into their curiosity. Let them wrestle with Scripture, ask questions, and discover truth.
 - Beginning to think more critically —They may question authority, feel unsure about themselves, and evaluate everything—including faith—with a more discerning lens.

- *Your role:* Be patient. Invite questions rather than silence them.
- **Physical Characteristics**
 - Movement is essential—Growing bodies + lots of energy = they need to move!
 - *Your role:* Incorporate motion, challenges, and active learning—even in Bible study.
 - Desire autonomy—Preteens prefer having choices in how they learn or participate.
 - *Your role:* Offer options. Let them pick roles, seating arrangements, or how they respond.
- **Spiritual Characteristics**
 - Developing spiritual ownership—They’re beginning to form their own value system and grapple with biblical truth personally, not just because adults believe it.
 - *Your role:* Encourage them to explore God’s Word and own their questions.
 - Watching for real-life role models—Preteens look to older kids and adults to see what a genuine walk with Jesus looks like.
 - *Your role:* Model faithfulness, humility, and joy. Your life “turns the light on” for them.
- Say: “It’s important that we consider our audience when preparing for VBX. Preteens are ready for deeper conversations, active learning, and opportunities to explore who Jesus really is. Your VBX Leader Guide includes strategies for teaching and discipling this age group, and Lifeway provides additional tools—such as *Wholly Kids, Ages and Stages*, and the downloadable development chart in the Administrative Guide—to help us keep shining the light of Jesus.”

3. Preparation for Leading VBX—Resource Overview (14 minutes)

- Ask conferees to meet someone nearby and take turns sharing five things they would bring for a hike in the dark.
- Explain that many of us would choose the same essentials (like a flashlight), but others might think creatively, bringing things others wouldn’t consider (such as reflective tape or a solar-charging lantern).
- Say: “Illumination Station is all about shining light in dark places. Events like this help you discover all the different ‘light sources’—skills, tools, and ideas—you can bring to VBX to make it an incredible week for preteens. Some of you may be brand-new to VBX; others have taught for years. Today, we’ll explore the key resources Lifeway provides so you know what’s available and how to use it effectively.”
- Hold up the *VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*. Talk through the features of the leader guide, directing attention to each section as follows:
 - **“VBX Checklist” (p. 6)** — Explain that this page provides a simple overview of how to prepare well.
 - Note that the schedule options are especially helpful:
 - The VBX 3-hour model uses the full Excite–Explore–Excel structure.
 - The rotation model focuses on Explore but still uses Excite and Excel as optional enhancements.
 - Say: “If your role is primarily Bible Study, you’ll want to rely on the Explore section each day. But don’t miss the great relationship-building and reinforcement opportunities in Excite and Excel!”

- Mention that the *VBS 2026 Administrative Guide* has additional scheduling and rotation helps.
 - **“Connecting with and Praying for Preteens” (p. 4)** — Point out that this page provides crucial insight into how preteens develop physically, socially, cognitively, and spiritually.
 - Say: “A great way to connect with preteens is to consider who is helping you. High school or college volunteers are GOLD at VBX. Preteens naturally look up to them, and seeing teenagers engaged—doing motions, participating, serving—helps preteens relax and join in.”
 - Add: “Preteens need space to talk. Use the ‘Small Group Discussion Questions’ (pack item 12) every day to help them process what they’ve learned and build relationships.”
 - Reference the gospel icon used throughout the guide. Say: “Anytime you see this icon, it highlights a natural, age-appropriate moment to share the gospel as the Holy Spirit leads.”
 - **“Make VBS Great for All Kids” (p. 5)**
 - Say: “This page includes full sections on adapting VBS for kids unfamiliar with church and kids with special needs. Every session also includes one or two built-in special needs adaptations so ALL preteens can participate meaningfully.”
 - **Leader Devotions (beginning of each day)**
 - Say: “Leader devotions are placed strategically at the beginning of each day to ground you spiritually before you teach. Preteens crave authenticity. They want to follow leaders who walk with God. Let this devotion prepare your heart so that you can shine the light of Jesus to them with your life as well as your words.”
 - **Margin Helps Throughout Each Session**—Point out that the Leader Guide’s margins include:
 - Supply lists
 - Gospel conversation cues
 - Special needs adaptations
 - Leader tips
 - Say: “These are your built-in coaching notes—use them.”
 - **Supply List (pp. 7–8 of guide)**—Explain that the guide includes a complete supply list organized by day, section, and activity.
 - Say: “Many leaders organize supplies into daily bins so everything is ready before the week begins.”
 - **Digital Access**—Remind conferees that the Leader Guide is available for purchase digitally.
 - Say: “Every VBX teacher or volunteer needs their own copy of the Leader Guide. Encourage your team to read ahead so they aren’t teaching ‘in the dark.’”
- Hold up the *VBS 2026 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: “Inside the Leader Pack, you’ll find full-size posters for the theme verse and bonus verses, overview posters, activity cards, and other teaching aids designed for the Excite, Explore, and Excel sessions.”
 - Note that a *VBS 2026 Music for Kids CD* is also included but that the music can also be purchased digitally.
 - Say: “Every VBX class needs one Leader Pack—this is where many of your visual and interactive teaching tools live.”

- Hold up the *VBS 2026 VBX Preteen Activity Book*. Say: “These small books pack a punch. Use them during class, send them home to reinforce content, or give them to prospects before VBS to build excitement.”
 - Highlight the following:
 - The daily pages summarizing the Bible story
 - Reflection activities
 - Games and puzzles
 - Say: “At the end (p. 16), there are excellent Bible study tools—great for helping preteens learn how to read Scripture for themselves. The ‘Light the Way’ page can even become a post-VBS reading plan.”
- Briefly reference other items displayed on the resource table and encourage conferees to interact with them before they leave, including the:
 - *VBS 2026 Administrative Guide* — Say: “Your director should have one of these and there are some helps for you in there related to scheduling and development.”
 - *VBS 2026 Memory Maker* — Say: “You can give out one tag each day to help preteens remember what they have learned.”
 - *VBS 2026 Gospel Guide* — Say: “This is a great tool for walking through the gospel with preteens or even their parents.”
 - *VBS 2026 Parent Guide* — Say: “Parents want to know what their kids are learning. Here is something you can use to show them.”
 - *Illumination Station Devotional* — Say: “This can be a good gift to help preteens continue studying the Bible after VBS.”
 - *VBS 2026 Theme Stickers* — Say: “I see so many kids with stickers on their phones, tablets, or water bottles. Use these as incentives during VBX.”
 - *CSB Explorer Bible for Kids* — Say: “This is a great Bible for kids.” Show conferees some of its unique features.
 - *CSB Outreach Bible for Kids* — Say: “This can be purchased at a bulk price to ensure every child has access to God’s Word.”

4. Presentation—Excite, Explore, Excel (40 minutes)

- Say: “We have been sitting for a while. Now is a good time to play a game from the curriculum that will introduce our next section.”
- Form 4–5 teams. Each team will need to sit together and designate a runner to hit a bell/buzzer when their team has the answer. You may want to move around the room with the bell/buzzer between rounds to give each team a chance to reach you (if the room allows for it).
 - Adaptation: You can also give a flashlight to each group to turn on and point at your feet to signify they have the answer, rather than running across the room.
- Display pack item 13 but cover up the clues. You will reveal and read the clues one at a time for the teams. They will discuss the answer and when they agree, their runner will go and press the bell/buzzer. Fill in correct answers on the crossword puzzle with sticky notes as they are given. Use a different color sticky note for each team.
- To start the game, say: “Just like preteens at Illumination Station, you’re about to light up what you know—and maybe don’t know—about the theme of the week. Each answer in this crossword relates to *light*, which is the heartbeat of VBS 2026. Let’s see how quickly your team can shed some light on the puzzle!”
- Play the game until the crossword puzzle is complete.

- Say: “In just a few minutes, you uncovered a whole collection of light sources. Throughout VBS, preteens will discover something much brighter—the truth of who Jesus is. Each day of VBX reveals a new ‘piece of the puzzle.’”
 - Jesus is God’s Promised Son
 - Jesus is God’s Perfect Son
 - Jesus is the Powerful Son of God
 - Jesus is the Proven Son of God
 - Jesus is God’s Plan for Forgiveness”
- Say: “Just like this puzzle came together piece by piece, the week’s Bible stories work together to illuminate the full picture of Jesus.” Walk through the daily Bible content.
- **Day 1:**
 - Display the “Day 1 Overview Poster” (pack item 1). Explain: “This year at Illumination Station, preteens will confront a world full of confusing opinions about Jesus—but Scripture shines a clear light. On Day 1, we begin with people in the Bible who also had mixed opinions about Jesus. But Peter boldly declared the truth: Jesus is the Messiah, the Promised Son of God.” (Matthew 16:13-20)
 - Read the following Bible story summary taken from the *VBS 2026 Administrative Guide*. Emphasize that this is not the full story kids will hear, only a summary. Model good storytelling techniques by making eye contact with attendees, varying speed, pitch, and volume where necessary. (Note: The summaries found in the *VBX Preteen Leader Guide* are shorter and could be used instead to save time.)
 - “Jesus asked His disciples who people said that He is. Many people believed Jesus was a prophet. Many thought He was John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah come back to life. Jesus asked who the disciples said that He is. Simon Peter said Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus said Peter was blessed because God had revealed the truth to him about who Jesus is. Jesus said Peter would share the good news about Jesus and start His church.”
 - Invite a conferee to read Matthew 16:16 while you display the “Day 1 Bonus Verse Poster” (pack item 7) near the “Day 1 Overview Poster” (pack item 1).
 - Developmental Tie-In: “Preteens are searching for identity and truth. On Day 1, they learn that truth isn’t crowdsourced—God reveals it.”
 - Highlight a few activities:
 - Excite Activity: “Guessing in the Dark” is a movement-based object-identification challenge that illustrates how people were “in the dark” about Jesus.
 - Activity Book: “Shed Some Light on It” gives true/false statements that help preteens clarify who Jesus *really* is.
- **Day 2:**
 - Hang the “Day 2 Overview Poster” (pack item 2) beside the “Day 1 Overview Poster.” Say: “Preteens live in a world that says Jesus was ‘just a good man.’ Day 2 shows them something radically different: God the Father declared Jesus to be His perfect Son.”
 - Read the following story summary taken from the *VBS 2026 Administrative Guide*:
 - God sent John the Baptist to get people ready for Jesus. People heard John’s message and started to repent of their sin. They wanted to stop disobeying God, so they asked God for forgiveness. Then John baptized them. He lowered them in the water and brought them back up to show that they had

asked God for forgiveness. John preached that Jesus was coming. Jesus went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River. Jesus told John that He wanted to be baptized because God said it was right, so John baptized Jesus. God's voice came from heaven. "This is My Son," the voice said. "I love Him, and I am very pleased with Him!"

- Invite a volunteer to read Mark 1:11 while you hang the "Day 2 Bonus Verse Poster" (pack item 8) near the "Day 2 Overview Poster" (pack item 2).
- Developmental Tie-In: "Preteens are becoming abstract thinkers; they're ready to wrestle with concepts like holiness, sin, and identity. Day 2 gives them clarity: Jesus is unlike anyone else."
- Highlight a few activities:
 - Excite Activity/Activity Book: "Would You Rather?—Bible Edition" encourages movement and deeper thinking, perfect for exploring who Jesus is.
 - Activity Book: Reflection question helps preteens consider how they can shine God's love.
- **Day 3:**
 - Hang the "Day 3 Overview Poster" (pack item 3) beside the "Day 2 Overview Poster" (pack item 2). Say: "Our culture says Jesus was simply a wise teacher. Day 3 introduces preteens to a Jesus who heals the sick, creates abundance from scarcity, and wields divine authority."
 - Read the following story summary taken from the *VBS 2026 Administrative Guide*:
 - One day Jesus went up a mountain. Large crowds of people came including people who were sick. Jesus healed them. He could do this because He is God's Son. Jesus wanted to provide food for the people but the disciples didn't know where they could get enough. Jesus asked how much food they had with them. They had 7 loaves of bread and a few small fish. Jesus thanked God for the food and began to break it into pieces. There was enough for everyone to eat until they were full and there were 7 large baskets of leftovers! Jesus fed 4,000 men plus women and children that day.
 - Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 28:18 while you hang the "Day 3 Bonus Verse Poster" (pack item 9) near the "Day 3 Overview Poster."
 - Developmental Tie-In: "Preteens are natural problem-solvers. Day 3 teaches them what happens when human solutions run out: Jesus has power beyond what we can imagine."
 - Highlight a few activities
 - Excite Activity/Activity Book: "Where Would You Go?" gets preteens thinking about big ideas and new places.
 - Explore Activity/Activity Book: Loaves & Fish prompts help preteens reflect on ways they can use their resources to bless others.
- **Day 4:**
 - Hang the "Day 4 Overview Poster" (pack item 4) beside the "Day 3 Overview Poster" (pack item 3). Say: "Preteens long for something solid—something trustworthy. On Day 4 they discover the foundation of our faith: Jesus died and rose again. His identity isn't just claimed—it's proven."
 - Read the following story summary taken from the *VBS 2026 Administrative Guide*:
 - The religious leaders did not like Jesus because of the things He was doing and teaching. Jesus taught that He was God's Son, so they wanted to stop Him. Jesus was arrested, put on trial, and nailed to a cross. When Jesus died, a Roman army officer who had been watching Jesus said, "This man

really was God's Son!" After Jesus died, He was buried in a tomb. Some women went to the tomb. When they got there, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. They went in but did not find Jesus' body. Instead, a man dressed in a white robe told them Jesus is alive!

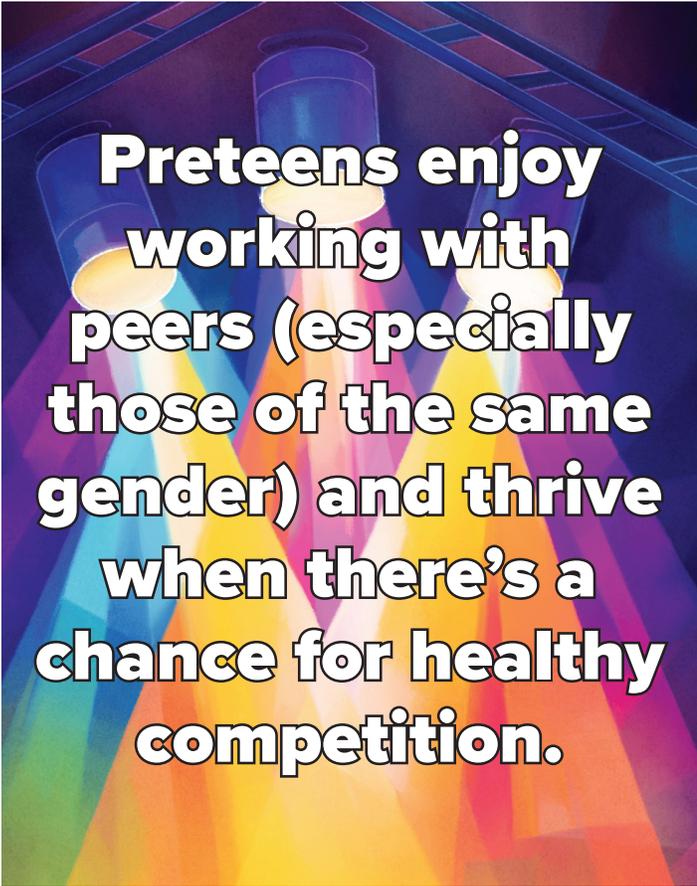
- Invite a volunteer to read Mark 15:39 while you hang the "Day 4 Bonus Verse Poster" (pack item 10) near the "Day 4 Overview Poster."
 - Developmental Tie-In: "Preteens need certainty. In a season of shifting friendships and growing insecurity, Day 4 anchors them to the unchanging truth of the resurrection."
 - Highlight a few activities:
 - Excel Activity/Activity Book: "Can't Be Undone?" invites preteens to consider irreversible actions and contrasts them with the truth that Jesus' death was not permanent—He rose to life! He is more powerful than death.
 - Activity Book: "Who's Who?" encourages personal reflection that helps them understand identity through Christ.
 - **Day 5:**
 - Hang the "Day 5 Overview Poster" (pack item 5) beside the "Day 4 Overview Poster" (pack item 4). Say: "Day 5 brings it all together. Preteens will see how Jesus' followers boldly shared the good news so that others—like them—could be forgiven and saved."
 - Read the following story summary take from the *VBS 2026 Administrative Guide*:
 - Peter and the other disciples stood up in front of a crowd. Peter said God proved who Jesus was by doing miracles, wonders, and signs through Him. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to die and take the punishment for our sins. The people were very sorry for their sins. They asked what they should do. Peter told them to repent—turn from disobeying God to obeying God—and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. That day about 3,000 people responded to Peter's message, repented, and were baptized.
 - Invite a volunteer to read Acts 2:38 while you hang the "Day 5 Bonus Verse Poster" (pack item 11) beneath the "Day 5 Overview Poster" (pack item 5).
 - Developmental Tie-In: "Preteens want to make a difference. Day 5 shows them that followers of Jesus join His mission—sharing the light of His forgiveness."
 - Highlight a few activities:
 - Activity Book: "Language Match" reinforces the Day 5 theme that the gospel is for *every tribe and tongue*.
 - Excel Activity: "Hidden Gospel Messages" reinforces that the gospel is meant to be shared, not kept hidden. It's a perfect capstone for a week where we've talked about shining a light on who Jesus really is.
 - Summarize the weekly content by pointing out that preteens should leave VBX having learned and understood five core truths about Jesus.
 - Read all five daily points from the "Days 1–5 Overview Posters" (pack items 1–5).
- 5. Post-Event Continued Connections (Follow Up) (13 minutes)**
- Ask conferees to turn to a neighbor and discuss the following questions. Allow 30 seconds for discussion and then move on to the next question.
 - Review each question and invite feedback from participants. Incorporate the following into your responses:

- “Who do you think is the best person to follow up with preteens outside of VBS?” (Whoever they connect with! Not necessarily the pastor, children’s minister, VBS director, or even Bible study leader!)
- “When do you think is the best time to follow up with preteens?” (Don’t wait until after VBX—start that week! Consider meeting parents at drop-off, home visits, and sending texts to parents with pictures of their child having fun if this is allowable under church policy.)
- “Does my church use the best methods for follow-up? Why or why not?” (Sometimes we do this well, other times we are so exhausted after a busy VBS that we neglect this. It’s OK to give ourselves some grace.)
- Say: “If the best person to follow up with preteens was whoever they connected with, this also means that this person is best positioned to have a gospel conversation with the child. The child might even seek this person out after hearing the gospel, so everyone needs to be prepared.”
- Reference the “Teaching Others to Share the Gospel” printable from the *VBS 2026 Administrative Guide* (found inside the “powerpoints_training” folder). This provides a great training framework for teams to review together. Before moving into sharing the gospel, share the “Levels of Biblical Learning” for salvation for preteens as listed below (also found on page 4 of the recommended printable). Explain that these statements reflect a developmentally appropriate level of understanding of salvation for a preteen:
 - God had a plan for salvation before the beginning of time.
 - Jesus willingly died to provide salvation. Jesus’ death and resurrection make salvation possible.
 - The punishment for sin is eternal death and hell.
 - People cannot save themselves. Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins, redeeming and rescuing me from sin and death.
 - God’s salvation is eternal. Nothing can separate Christians from God’s love.
 - A growing relationship with Jesus is important and necessary. A Christian experiences joy when he recognizes God is at work in his life and in the lives of others.
- Hold up the “Gospel Poster” (pack item 29) for conferees to see. Suggest this item be placed somewhere prominently in the classroom so teachers can refer to it multiple times each day.
- Use the Giant Inflatable Game Cube with gospel inserts (item 2) to review “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” outline. Show the icons as you discuss each point. Mention that this outline is found on the inside front cover of every leader guide:
 - 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.

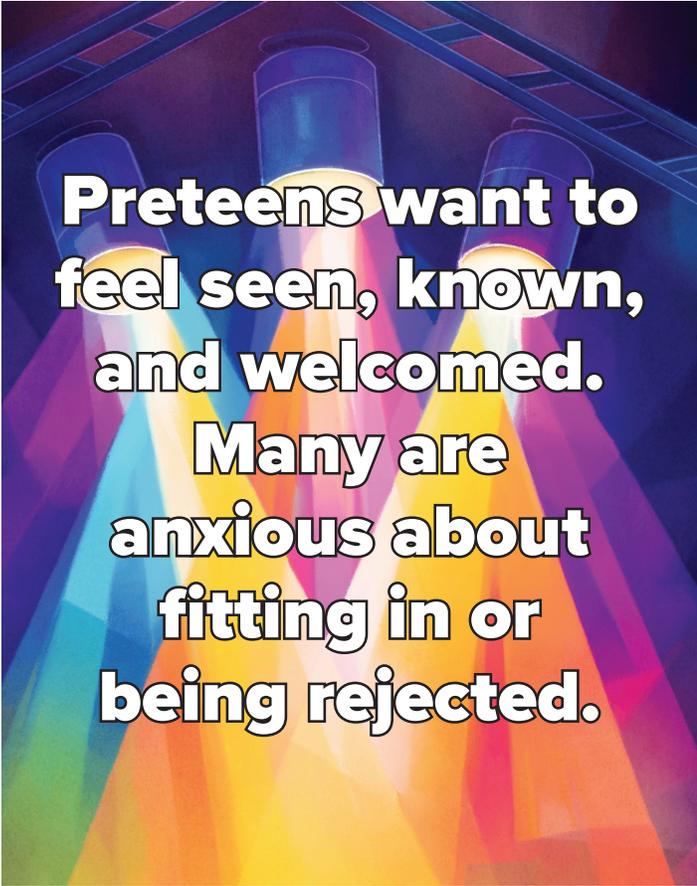
6. Closing (3 minutes)

- Lead conferees to shout the motto: "Jesus is the Light of the World" Remind them that preteens are going through a season of life where many things change—but they can trust that Jesus will never change!
- Point to the "Theme Verse Poster" (pack item 6) and guide the group to read the verse aloud. Explain that the pressures preteens face to walk in darkness are real. Share with joy that God in His kindness has allowed us to be a part of pointing preteens to the "Light of life"—Jesus! Preteens can rely on a relationship with Him and wisdom from His Word to help them navigate life.
- Encourage conferees to remember this joy as they begin to prepare for VBX. Remind them that preteens are looking for role models who demonstrate an authentic faith.
- Close in prayer, asking for God's blessings over each VBS represented in the room. Ask for God's wisdom as conferees prepare and for preteens to experience transformation through Christ this summer.

A photograph of a stage with several spotlights shining down, creating a colorful, multi-colored light effect on the floor. The lights are in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and red.

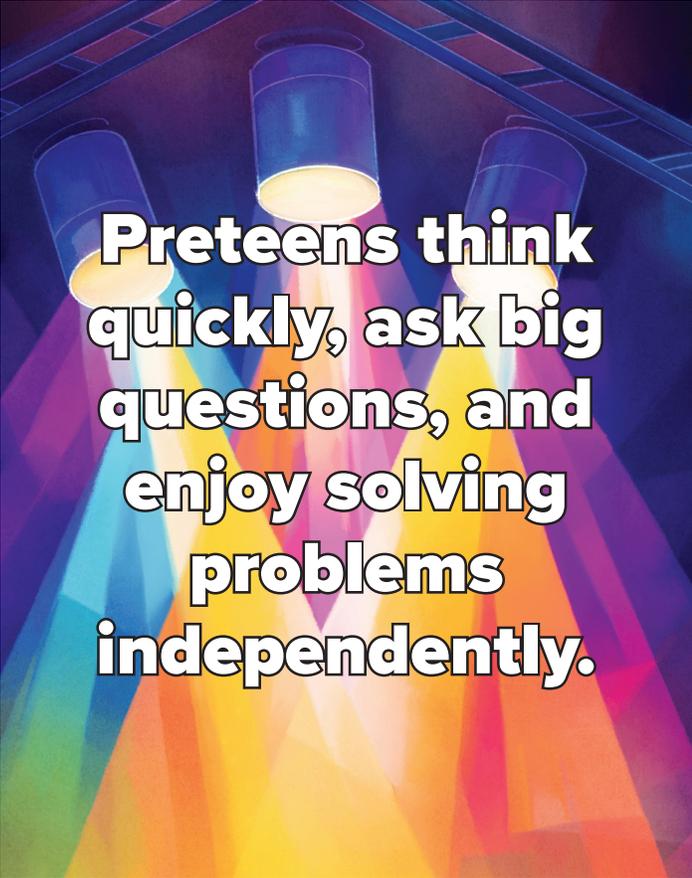
Preteens enjoy working with peers (especially those of the same gender) and thrive when there's a chance for healthy competition.

**ENJOY
COLLABORATION
& COMPETITION**

A photograph of a stage with several spotlights shining down, creating a colorful, multi-colored light effect on the floor. The lights are in shades of blue, yellow, orange, and red.

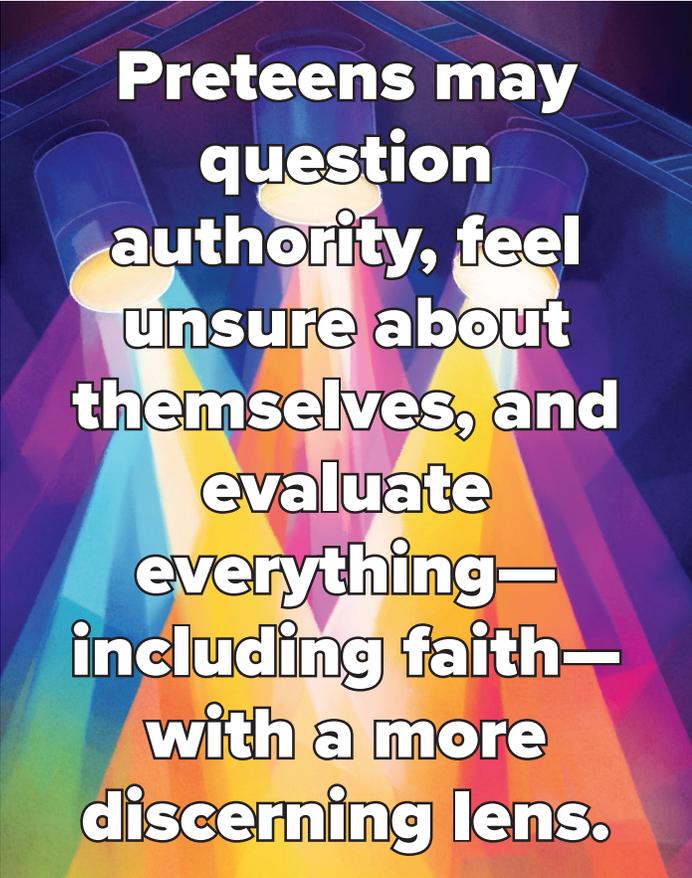
Preteens want to feel seen, known, and welcomed. Many are anxious about fitting in or being rejected.

**NEED
ENCOURAGEMENT**

A photograph of three stage spotlights hanging from a metal truss. The spotlights are illuminated from below, creating a colorful, multi-colored glow on the floor. The colors transition from blue on the left, through yellow and orange in the center, to red and purple on the right.

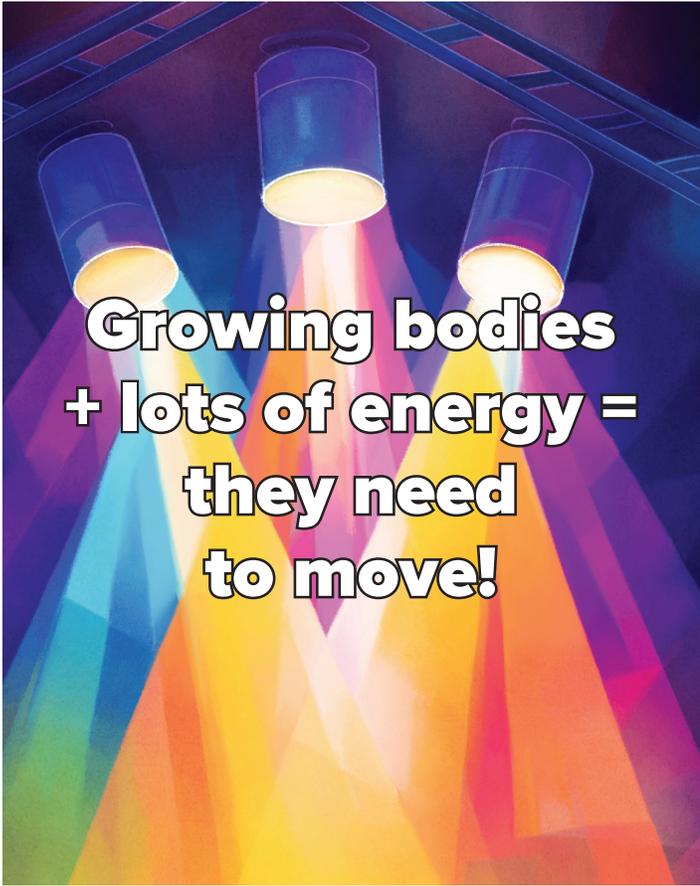
Preteens think quickly, ask big questions, and enjoy solving problems independently.

**CREATIVE &
CURIOUS
THINKERS**

A photograph of three stage spotlights hanging from a metal truss. The spotlights are illuminated from below, creating a colorful, multi-colored glow on the floor. The colors transition from blue on the left, through yellow and orange in the center, to red and purple on the right.

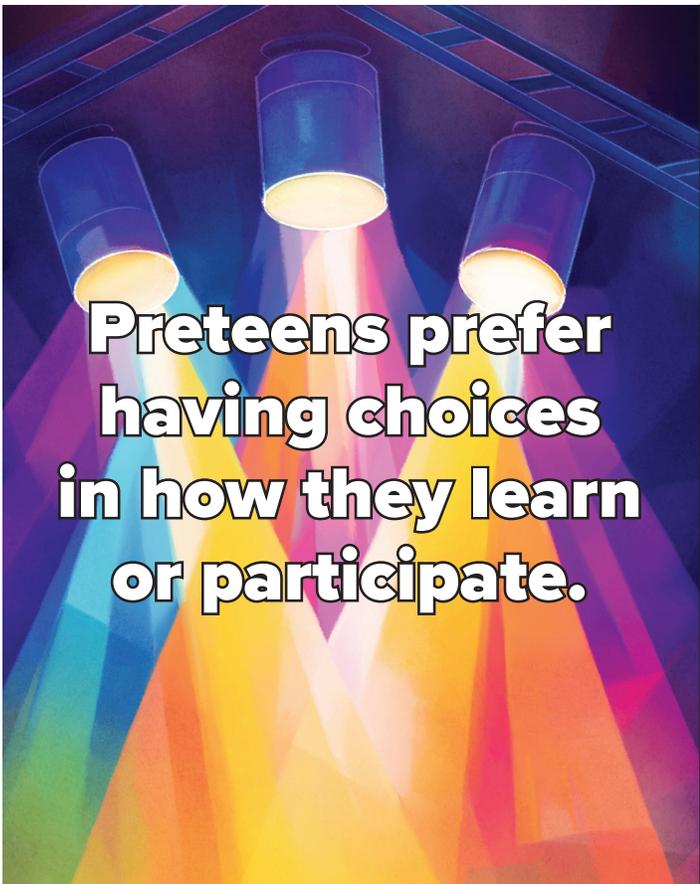
Preteens may question authority, feel unsure about themselves, and evaluate everything—including faith—with a more discerning lens.

**BEGINNING TO
THINK MORE
CRITICALLY**



**Growing bodies
+ lots of energy =
they need
to move!**

**MOVEMENT IS
ESSENTIAL**



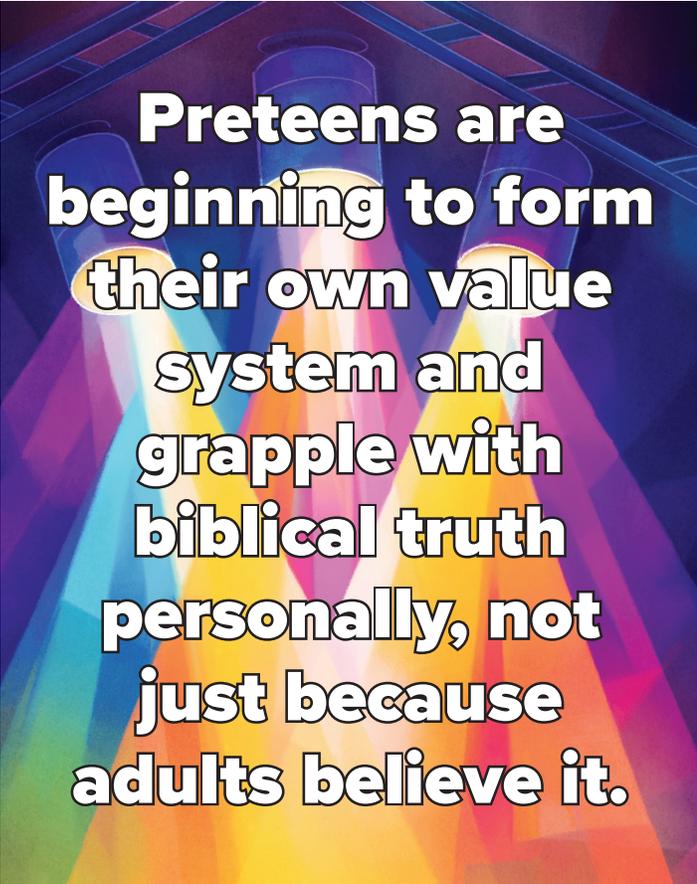
**Preteens prefer
having choices
in how they learn
or participate.**

**DESIRE
AUTONOMY**

A background image of three stage spotlights on a dark stage, casting colorful beams of light (blue, purple, yellow, orange) onto the floor.

Preteens look to older kids and adults to see what a genuine walk with Jesus looks like.

**WATCHING FOR
REAL-LIFE
ROLE MODELS**

A background image of three stage spotlights on a dark stage, casting colorful beams of light (blue, purple, yellow, orange) onto the floor.

Preteens are beginning to form their own value system and grapple with biblical truth personally, not just because adults believe it.

**DEVELOPING
SPIRITUAL
OWNERSHIP**



Item 2. Gospel Icons



Item 2. Gospel Icons



Item 2. Gospel Icons



Item 2. Gospel Icons



Item 2. Gospel Icons

