

UNFORGETTABLE



1. Make PRAYER a priority – it is easy to put prayer on the back burner when things get busy and you are being pulled in many different directions. Today, recruit a prayer partner – someone who will agree to pray with you regularly and even give you some level of personal accountability. It might even be a good idea to schedule a regular time each week to pray and get together. This will be the best investment of your time.
2. Look back and EVALUATE last year's event and spend some time with a few other key VBS leaders celebrating the ways that your VBS worked well and then making the hard decisions about adjustments and then dreaming about some new initiatives that might need to be part of this year's mix.
3. Make sure that you and your VBS team know and understand the PURPOSE AND MISSION of Vacation Bible School so that as you move forward all of your decisions are made with that purpose and mission in mind. Making sure this component is in place will help you to avoid including stuff that does not need to be part of your Vacation Bible School.
4. Know what your VBS BUDGET is and work with your church's finance committee to know and understand the needs that you do have and that you are partnering to be a good steward of those funds.
5. PLANNING is key. Schedule a good chunk of time to spend with the overall plan of your Vacation Bible School. This should include schedules, training, building layout, volunteer needs, promotion/publicity, ordering needs, family night, follow up plan, etc....
6. Choose and order your CURRICULUM. It is very important that you choose curriculum that is Biblically based, sound teaching-learning process, evangelistic, be a good fit for your community setting, budget friendly, ease of use of materials, and will the materials facilitate follow up.
7. COMMUNICATE...COMMUNICATE...COMMUNICATE! You cannot overcommunicate. Start early and make sure that you are communicating regularly, clearly and that you continually people to participate and get involved. People need to know that everyone can plug in and make a difference. Share testimonies and then be sure to have a way for people to make a commitment.
8. ENLISTMENT is a must so that you can have enough leaders and workers to completely staff for your event. Enlistment should be done in person and with a job description. People need to know what you are asking them to do and what are the expectations. Allow the person you are enlisting time to ask questions, process the opportunity and time to pray.
9. TRAINING is vital for any Vacation Bible School. The Pastor and/or VBS Director need to take the lead in this. If you make training a priority and are consistent, so will your team. For those that cannot come on during the scheduled events, make a point that you or another member of your team go and catch up those individuals who could not make it. When we are consistent and thorough it will make a difference!
10. PROMOTION AND PUBLICITY is the way that you get the word out about your Vacation Bible School. Don't miss out on using all modes of promotion. Newspapers, Posters, Postcards, Social Media, Word of Mouth, etc. Those that are not easy for you Engage someone else who uses that medium and let them have at it. You will be surprised... that person may come to you next year with new ideas to help in promotion and publicity.
11. REGISTRATION is crucial. It is vitally important that someone is heading up this area and knows the importance in getting the right information and all the information because in the end this is the primary way that you will be able to continue the connection. Be sure to consider databases and other event registration tools that will help you do this with ease.
12. FAMILY NIGHT is an opportunity to get to know your VBS participants even more and it allows for interaction with parents and other family members. Don't let family night be an afterthought or put together on the fly. Get someone who know how to throw a great party and let them help you to plan a spectacular event.
13. FOLLOW UP or CONTINUING THE CONNECTION is the place where you will have the privilege of inviting your VBS prospects back to your church for Sunday School, Worship or another event. Make sure that you plan this in your follow up. Many churches fail to do this and they lose the opportunity to tell the good news to many.
14. CELEBRATION AND APPRECIATION of your VBS workers and staff is a key if you want your workers to come back year after year. Doing this lets them know how valuable they are and it also begins paving the way for them to be part of next year's event. Do many small things during the VBS season, during VBS week or make sure that you have some right after for appreciation and evaluation.
15. PASSING IT ON is the way that your VBS will be sure to continue. As leaders, we need to be multiplying ourselves and letting others in on our joy. Pray about inviting someone to co-direct with you and begin grooming them to take over and lead so that you can find another way to serve in the VBS ministry.