

## RESOURCE SHEET



KIDS MINISTRY  
NEW ENGLAND

### **We are in Crisis**

#### Crisis of Evangelism

- ◆ Churches are not doing a good job of reaching their communities.
- ◆ 48% of us are not inviting our unchurched friends to an event or a service at church.
- ◆ 61% of us are not sharing our faith.

#### Crisis of Loneliness

Gen-Zers, also known as the i-Gen, are digital natives, never knowing the world without the internet or smartphones. This is creating a crisis of loneliness. God did not create us to be lonely—He made us to live in community.

### **VBS is a Timeless Solution**

VBS began in 1898 by Virginia Hawes who saw that children in New York had nowhere to go and nothing constructive to do during the summer. She created a school where the only textbook was the Bible. VBS continues to be a growing, vibrant way to create community.

Year after year, the tide of numbers reflects individual lives changed for eternity. And yet, some churches are resistant to continuing this ministry, even with its proven track record. The reasons are common, so let's look at some of the most frequently used negative responses and debunk some misconceptions. Let's bust the myths!

### **Myth #1: People are just using us for FREE childcare...and that's a bad thing.**

First, according to LifeWay Research, only 12 percent said they were interested in VBS as a form of free child care. So, if 60 families had kids who attended your VBS, only 7 of those families chose your VBS for free child care. However, the good news is—THEY CAME! This makes it imperative to select a curriculum that is intentionally designed to provide opportunities for evangelism.

### **Myth #2: We don't have enough workers. No one volunteers.**

Rethink how you think about volunteers. Design your VBS with the leaders you have and add more as you have more volunteers. Incorporate less experienced leaders and teenagers as "leaders in training." Make sure that your enlistment is effective and clear. Also, provide multiple ways to serve based on individual talents, interests, and abilities.

### **Myth #3: Everyone in our town is doing the same VBS. No one will come to ours.**

According to research, 79% of leaders say parents don't complain when their VBS is the same as other churches in the area. In fact, leaders say that most kids never complain about a duplicate theme. Maybe the solution involves just a bit of rethinking. Kids learn best through repetition. Kids never tire of singing songs they love.

### **Myth #4: VBS is too expensive. We have to buy too much stuff.**

Most curriculums have starter kits. Start with the basics and add other pieces as your budget allows. Choose what's most important: quality curriculum (teaching guides and student pieces).

### **Myth #5: The only kids who come to our VBS are church kids.**

What if no one comes but "our church kids"? Aren't they worth it? The fact, however, is that about half of the participants attending VBS at a given church are either unchurched or attend another church. What better way to teach your kids and kids in the community the gospel, knowing that the gospel you teach is true? VBS is one of the few events most churches do that focuses on the kids and invests in their discipleship through a time of intentional, concentrated Bible learning.

### **Myth #6: All our kids are already Christians. VBS is not about discipleship.**

Kids who are already Christians affirm their faith through Bible study at VBS. Each time believers review the plan of salvation, their foundation of faith is strengthened and they are better equipped to share that message with others. 78% of churches use VBS as their largest outreach to unchurched kids in a given year. 64% rely on VBS to create excitement about their children's ministries. An equal number—64%—use VBS to disciple kids within the church.

**YES, VBS IS WORTH IT!!!**

**Is It Worth It? Resource Sheet — Sandy Coelho, scoelho@bcne.net**