

RESOURCE SHEET



PREPARE

Prepare Your Heart

Prayer is your first part of preparation: pray over it, pray on it, pray through it!

◆ **Use my Eyes to SEE**

Be aware and notice each child and their needs, as an individual.

◆ **Use my Ears to HEAR**

Work on being a good listener

◆ **Use my Mouth to SPEAK LIFE, LOVE and TRUTH**

Remember the impact of your words and keep them focused on spreading love in every circumstance

◆ **Have a joyful Heart that is CONTAGIOUS**

Have fun, smile, laugh, be silly, enjoy teaching. Grumpiness is not allowed!

◆ **Use my Head to STUDY**

It's important to study and have knowledge about what you are going to say.

◆ **Use my Hands to DO**

Do the things God has called you to do and do it with enthusiasm and zeal for the spreading the love of Christ in everything that you do.



PRO TIP: Listen to the VBS worship music each day. This will help you focus on the truths of what you will be teaching during this important week.

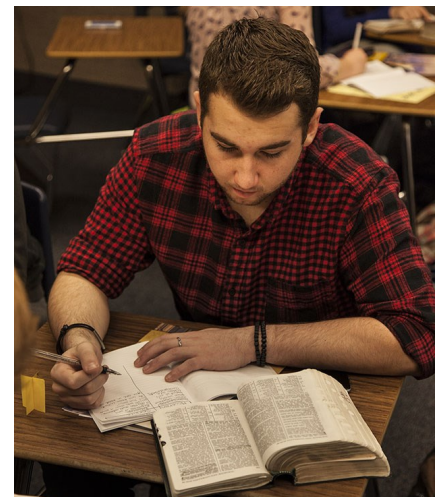
Prepare Your Mind

No matter what VBS Theme/Curriculum you are using, it is important that you take the time and become saturated in the content! This is what you are going to be teaching so don't short change your students! Get Prepared!

◆ Use your leader guide. Your leader guide is your BEST TOOL. Most curriculum includes study tools for the teacher. Don't skip over them, but start there first so that you can enrich your mind and heart about the Bible content!

◆ Take time to read all the study materials you have ... every word. Read it, memorize the MAIN VERSE and the Bible points. This is so important for you to know where the material is going and this will help you as you fully study the Bible content before starting to prepare for the class you are teaching.

◆ Meditate on it, think about it, and MOST OF ALL pray on it!



Prepare for the Kids — Who are You Teaching?

Each age group has it's unique characteristics. Make sure you get familiar with your age group.

Ages 3-5 years	Grades 1-3	Grades 4-6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• extremely active• eye-hand coordination is still developing• most have one or two friends, but those friendships change quickly• play activities contributes to their social, emotional and cognitive development• tend to express their emotions freely and openly with frequent anger bursts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• more selective in their choice of friends• likely to have a best friend• like organized games• sensitive to criticism• begin to understand that there are different ways to know things and that some ways are better than others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• peer groups become powerful and begin to replace adults as the major source of behavior / selective and gender based• organized play continues to contribute to social, emotional and cognitive development• develop a more global, integrated and complex self-image

Many will be teaching multiage groups. Be mindful of what is developmentally appropriate for each age.

- ♦ Attention span of a child is only ONE MINUTE for each year, ie: age 6 child: you have about 6 minutes to engage
- ♦ Younger kids have limited ability to think abstractly “Jesus is in my heart” and “Frog in my throat”
- ♦ All kids are active and energetic
- ♦ Have clear expectations: talk about the day, the routine, the rules, and what comes next.
- ♦ Children thrive with boundaries and knowing what to expect and what is expected of them.
- ♦ Have adaptations for kids that are UNFAMILIAR with CHURCH. What does that mean? Avoid using “churchy” words. Some of these kids have never been to church. Explain the concepts to unchurched kids to help them understand. They may not know who Jesus is, what baptism is, what it means to be born again, or even what sin is.
- ♦ Teach the Bible skills as if no one has ever heard them before
- ♦ Please- Be patient with kids who don’t know church rules- They may not know they need to be quiet during prayer or pay attention to the Bible story- so speak to them compassionately, and talk to them ONE-to-ONE when guidance or redirection is necessary.
- ♦ Greet them and say their name. This will help put them at ease, makes a connection, and makes them feel welcome
- ♦ Have a PLAN for children with special needs.

The VBS director should have a plan in place for any child with special needs. Make sure you have reviewed it. It’s important to know the triggers and aversions, for they are all so different with each child.

ASK- What will help make their day successful? It’s a great idea to introduce yourself to the parent/guardian of the child. If possible, and time allows, have a meet and greet with the child(ren) prior to the week of VBS.

Many VBS Leader guides have a section with tips for kids and adaptations for special needs. If yours does not, talk with your children’s ministry director/VBS director and/or look up developmentally appropriate expectations for the ages you are working with. You can never be too prepared

Prepare Your Space

The best way to prepare yourself in getting your room ready is to BE FLEXIBLE!

VBS space is not always an ideal teaching environment. Start with asking good QUESTIONS:

How many kids should I expect? Where is my teaching space? May I move the furniture? Will I share the space with another class that week? Is there anything I should not take off the walls? What are the safety and security procedures?

How may I play music in the room? Are there supplies in the room I can use? Where else can I find supplies?

How many Bibles will be available for children to use?

There are also questions to ask yourself to help you think through how you like to teach and what you know about how kids learn best. Then BE FLEXIBLE and make adaptations to make the environment the best it can possibly be.

REMEMBER: Keep it simple- **FOCUS SHOULD BE ON THE BIBLE CONTENT**- too many decorations can be distracting!

Prepare for TEACHING

The Bible stories are amazing! Review each day’s lesson. For the next month: Make it a goal to read one Bible story each week. Each week study that story and the related scriptures. By the end of the month, you will know inside and out what Bible stories you will be teaching or if you’re not teaching them, the ones that will be taught.

It is so important for you as leaders to prepare yourself. That part needs to begin early. Make it your commitment.

Learn the songs and the movements! Recruit some teens to lead the kids’ worship and demonstrate the movements.

Teens will help create the excitement

End every day evaluate how everything went and if needed make adjustments to make the next day better!

VBS is a time to have fun and share the love of Christ! If you take the time to make preparation, the rest will fall into place very nicely! Don’t wait! Start getting ready to TEACH NOW!

**VBS Webinar:
Teaching Kids at VBS**

