

BIBLE CONTENT AND OVERVIEW TRAINING

PREPARE TO LEAD

GATHER YOUR SUPPLIES

- ❑ Teaching resources for all leaders—including *Starter Kits* or leader guides, leader packs, rotation packs, and other items sold separately
- ❑ *VBS 2021 Music for Kids CD* (included in the *Directors Kit*)
- ❑ *VBS 2021 Tablecloths* (005826469)
- ❑ *VBS 2021 Visual Pack* (005826470)
- ❑ *VBS 2021 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards* (005826459)
- ❑ *VBS 2021 Bookmarks* (005826521)—1 per participant
- ❑ Foil star stickers in 5 different colors—1 per participant
- ❑ White and sand colored copy paper
- ❑ Bible
- ❑ Small wading pool
- ❑ 5 colored sheets of cardstock (*Note* the colors should coordinate with the colors of the foil star stickers.)
- ❑ Roll of 1-inch wide painter's tape
- ❑ Ingredients for chosen snack
- ❑ "Training Handout" 
- ❑ "Pottery Jar" 
- ❑ "Grid Cards" 
- ❑ "Children's Content PowerPoint"  , optional

ADVANCE PREPARATION

- ❑ Set up a focal wall by displaying the Theme Verse Poster from the *Visual Pack*.
- ❑ Cover tables with tablecloths, and display the curriculum and other resources you plan to make available to your leaders on the tables.
- ❑ Arrange chairs in a semi-circle.
- ❑ Make a copy of the "Training Handout" for each participant.
- ❑ Place one of the foil stars on each bookmark, creating five sets of like color.
- ❑ Use the cardstock to copy the "Pottery Jars." Cut out each jar along the "crack lines" and place each set in the bottom of the wading pool
- ❑ Wad up pieces of the sand-colored copy paper to represent dirt or stones and place on top of the pieces from the pottery jars. Set the pool or "dig site" at the front of the room.
- ❑ Use the painter's tape to make 5x5 grid on the floor.
- ❑ Copy and cut out the "Grid Cards." Place each card facedown into the tape grid as shown on the printout.
- ❑ Choose a snack from the recipe cards. Prepare prior to the session.



LEAD THE CONFERENCE

WELCOME (5 MINUTES)

1. Play the *VBS 2021 Music for Kids CD* as you welcome participants. Distribute leader guides to leaders if you have not already done so.
2. Give each participant a "Training Handout" and a bookmark. Make sure to evenly distribute the bookmarks according to the colored stickers to ensure five equal teams.
3. Welcome participants and explain that this year Lifeway's VBS will be heading to present-day Israel where an epic adventure of discovery awaits. In VBS 2021 kids will discover long-hidden treasures, amazing finds, and exciting evidence that proves biblical events were not just stories. They really happened!
4. Lead the group in an opening prayer.

DIG INTO THE THEME VERSE (5 MINUTES)

1. Share that getting to the appropriate dig site is very important. Archaeologists often use maps to make sure they're where they're supposed to be. Explain that we have a map, (hold up your Bible), that gives directions to making the ultimate discovery, Jesus.
2. Say: "This year at Destination Dig®, leaders will use Jeremiah 29:13 to lead kids on their own journey of discovery." Explain the importance of having kids use their Bibles and knowing the destination of the theme verse. Start by identifying the two testaments, then the Book (Jeremiah), then the chapter (29), and finally, the verse (13). Lead participants to use their Bibles to locate Jeremiah 29:13.
3. Call attention to the theme verse poster on the focal wall. Lead the group to read the verse aloud together.

DIG INTO THE MOTTO (10 MINUTES)

1. Ask participants to group up according to the star on their bookmarks. Explain that each group will represent a dig team.
2. Direct the groups' attention to the prepared "dig site" (wading pool). Explain that each team will be responsible for finding four pieces of an artifact that coordinate with the color of their team's star.
3. Direct each team to select four members who will go to the dig site and dig for the pieces of their artifact. On your signal the first teammate will go, find one piece for his team, then return to his team before the next person can go. Once all four pieces have been gathered, teams are to put the artifacts together to form this year's VBS motto. The first team to complete the task wins.
4. Following the relay, lead the group to enthusiastically say the Motto, "Seek Truth! Find Jesus!"

DIG INTO THE BIBLE CONTENT (35 MINUTES)

1. Direct participants to the prepared "dig grid." Explain that on the grid they will find each day's: Daily Truth, Bible Story Title with Scripture Reference, Today's Point, Bonus Verse, and Artifact.
2. Assign each team a day. Refer to the "Training Handout."
3. Explain that teams will send one member to the grid using the dig coordinates found on the "grid key" (parenthesized) for the day their team has been assigned. The person will pick up the "Grid Card" and bring it back to the team. Continue play until all five cards have been gathered and the team's daily information has been discovered and completed on the handout. The first team to finish wins.
4. Lead teams to share their findings. Supplement information shared by teams with content found on pages 7–9 of the Administrative Guide or the "Children's Content PowerPoint®". Be familiar with each Bible story in order to briefly tell each Bible story to the group. Note that the Day 3 Bible story is different for preschoolers. Encourage all participants to complete each day's information on the handout as it's shared.

DIG INTO PRAYER (5 MINUTES)

1. Say: "God desires for you to successfully share biblical truths, Bible stories, and Bible verses with the boys and girls He places in your class. He wants kids to know Him, believe in Him, and make Him Lord of their lives."
2. Continue, "Our best hope for success is prayer. We must commit now to pray for our preparation, pray for our leaders, pray for those with whom we'll serve, pray for kids and their families that they will make VBS a priority this year, and pray that God would work in VBS so that kids and their families would hear the gospel and respond to His love."
3. Ask leaders if they have specific prayer requests related to VBS 2021.
4. Encourage participants to use their bookmarks as a prayer reminder. Close this portion of the training session in prayer, remembering the requests shared and asking God to lead, guide, protect, and work through VBS 2021.

BREAK (10 MINUTES)

Serve a snack from one of the suggestions in the *VBS 2021 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards*.

TEAM PLANNING SESSIONS (30 MINUTES)

1. Ask each age group and rotation leader to meet in their designated areas. Verify each group has its resources and a place (designated table or room) to meet and plan each day of VBS.
2. Instruct groups to become familiar with the details of their age group or rotation assignment answering who, what, when, where, and how. Who are they teaching (specific age groups)? What will they be teaching (options available in the curriculum)? When will they teach (time and length of their portion of VBS)? Where will they teach (location from where the team will teach)? How will they teach (sharing specific assignments of the age group or rotation)?
3. Give groups the option to continue through each of the 5 days or set a time to meet again to complete the planning process.
4. Encourage groups to pray for each other and for the impact Destination Dig will have on children and their families as they seek truth and find Jesus.