

1st-5th VBS 2023

Swift Creek Baptist Church
June 19-22



IT'S TIME TO LEVEL UP VBS!

Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."

VBS Scripture

Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths.

Psalms 25:4 (CSB)

VBS Motto



(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns literature)

Day 1

Jesus Is Holy **Matthew 4:18-20; Luke 5:1-11**



Today's Point: Jesus is holy and that changes everything!

Bible Story Summary: Peter Followed Jesus

Jesus sat in the boat of a fisherman named Peter to teach the crowds God's Word. Then, Jesus told Peter to take the boat into the deep water to catch fish. Peter said they had tried all night to catch fish, but he and the other fishermen obeyed Jesus. They caught so many fish their nets began to tear and break and their boats began to sink. When Peter saw this miracle he fell down at Jesus' feet. "Go away from me," Peter told Jesus, "because I am a sinful man, Lord!" Peter knew how sinful he was next to Jesus' holiness. "Don't be afraid," Jesus told Peter. "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Peter and the other fishermen left everything and followed Jesus.

Day 2

Jesus is Trustworthy **Matthew 14:22-33**



Today's Point: Jesus is trustworthy even when I doubt.

Bible Story Summary: Peter walked to Jesus on the water.

Jesus told His disciples to go ahead of Him in a boat. The disciples' boat was far from shore. The wind and water grew rough. The disciples saw Jesus walking on top of the water toward them. Peter asked to walk to Jesus on the water, and Jesus said, "Come." Peter noticed how strong the wind was and got scared. He began to sink and cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus saved him. Jesus asked Peter, "Why did you doubt Me? Is your faith really so small?" As soon as Jesus and Peter got back into the boat, the wind stopped! The disciples worshiped Jesus and said, "It's true. You really are the Son of God!"

(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns literature)

Day 3



Jesus is Forgiving

Luke 22:31-34, 54-62; John 18:15-18, 21:1-1

Today's Point: Jesus is forgiving even when I sin.

Bible Story Summary: Peter denied Jesus and was restored

Jesus told Peter that before the day was over Peter would deny he knew Jesus three different times. That night, soldiers arrested Jesus. During Jesus' trial, Peter sat nearby. Three different times, Peter denied knowing Jesus. The next day, Jesus was crucified. His body was buried. On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead! Some time later Peter and a few disciples decided to go fishing. They caught nothing. A man on the shore suggested they put the net on the right side of the boat. They did and caught 153 fish! They realized the man was Jesus! Jesus shared bread and fish with them on the shore. Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love Me?" three different times. Peter replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love You." Jesus told Peter to take care of the other followers of Jesus.

Day 4



Jesus is Worth Following

Acts 3:1-4; 24

Today's Point: Jesus is worth following even when it gets tough

Bible Story Summary: Peter spoke boldly about Jesus.

As Peter and John were going to the temple, they saw a man who couldn't walk. Peter healed the man through Jesus' power. People who knew the man were amazed, and Peter taught them the good news about how Jesus died and rose again to save people from their sins. The religious leaders were annoyed that Peter and John were preaching about Jesus. They arrested the two disciples. The next day, Peter and John stood before the religious leaders and spoke boldly about Jesus. The leaders knew these uneducated men could speak this way because they had been with Jesus. The leaders commanded the disciples not to teach about Jesus anymore. Peter and John said, "We can't stop." They knew they had to tell people about Jesus no matter what happened.

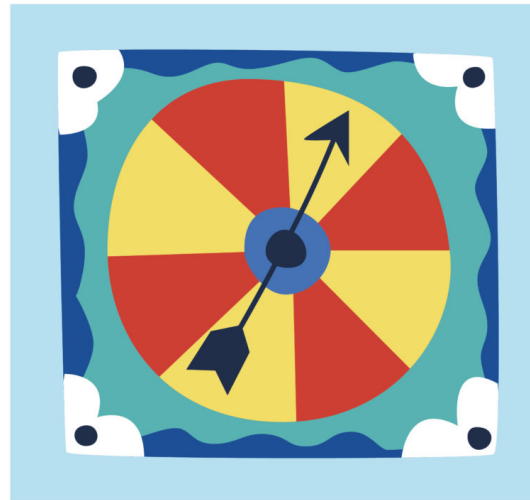
(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns literature)

Daily Leader Devotions

Leader Devotion – Day 1

Today's Point – Jesus is holy and that changes everything!

Bible Story – Peter followed Jesus (Matthew 4:18-20; Luke 5: 1-11)



Have you ever followed a map or road sign, confident of the directions, only to be turned onto a road where you never intended to go? If so, you likely felt frustrated. There are times in all our lives that we can look back and remember with certainty a path or direction in life that we were following with confidence, only to be derailed by an unexpected encounter.

In today's Bible story we meet Peter, a fisherman by trade who probably had very clear expectations of his path and direction in life. One day, Peter had been fishing all night and was washing his nets near the shore where Jesus was teaching crowds of people. Perhaps Peter was listening to Jesus with curiosity at a distance as he cleaned his nets, unaware of the twist he was about to encounter.

After teaching the crowds from a boat that belonged to Peter, Jesus turned to Peter and asked him to go out to catch fish. Peter responded that they had fished all night and caught nothing. Yet, at Jesus' request, Peter obeyed, and he caught more fish than he could have ever imagined.

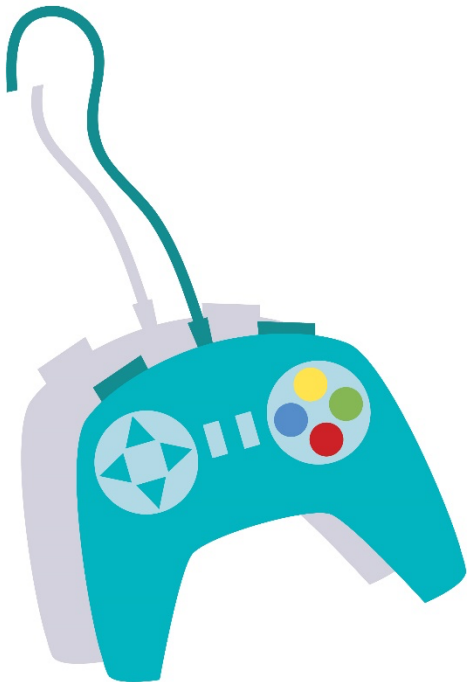
"When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, because I am a sinful man, Lord!'" (Luke 5:8)

Peter sank to his knees in repentance and worship, recognizing that this miracle of fish was something only someone with God's power could do. Encountering Jesus changes everything.

(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns Literature)

This week, you will introduce children to Jesus, perhaps for the very first time. Some of the children you encounter will be new and curious about who this Jesus is, like the crowds on the shoreline. Some may be listening more intently, questioning if this Jesus is worth following. You will meet children who are beginning to understand foundational truths about Jesus. Others will have already believed and trusted in Jesus and are taking their first steps toward growing in their faith. No matter where the children you teach are in their spiritual journeys, Jesus has something to teach them this week about who He is – and He is going to use you to help children encounter Him.

As you prepare to lead, ask God to speak His truth through you, so children may encounter Jesus as Peter did, recognizing that He is truly the Son of God. As we will learn this week, Peter's life did not come without twists and turns along the way. Nevertheless, Peter followed because he met Jesus, and that changed everything



Reflect

- What twists and turns in your life have brought you to where you are today?
- Think about circumstances that have helped you know who Jesus truly is. What have you learned?
- How can you help the children you teach know that Jesus is real and that He loves them?

(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns Literature)

Leader Devotion – Day 2

Today's Point -Jesus is trustworthy even when I doubt.

Bible Story —Peter walked to Jesus on the water (Matthew 14:22-33)

Immediately. A word I've passed over time and time again in this passage, yet one that stuck out to me as I read it this time. And then, I couldn't stop seeing it!

In fact, the Day 2 passage begins with it. "Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds." Intrigued, I decided to find out what Jesus had been doing prior to this. It seems like this was a busy day for Jesus and the disciples. They had just fed five thousand men plus their families with only five loaves and two fish! So, when Jesus told them to get in the boat while He dismissed the crowds, I'm thinking they were exhausted and happy to oblige.

What I'm pondering, though, is why immediately? I know God's timing is perfect – but why in such a hurry? Was it because Jesus wanted to be alone to talk with the Father? Maybe. Or could it be that He knew just when that storm was going to hit and exactly when the disciples needed to leave so they could see and experience this miracle? Maybe both!

The next time we see our word for the day it is more dramatic. The wind was blowing furiously, and the waves were crashing against the boat. A boat – not a ship! The disciples were terrified because in addition to the wind and the waves, they thought they saw a ghost! But here it is again: "Immediately Jesus spoke to them. "Have courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'" (Matthew 14:27) Jesus was quick to comfort. I love that. He knew exactly what they needed to hear to alleviate at least part of their fear. I picture a child crying out in fear of a monster under her bed. Dad hears her cry, steps into the darkened room, and the fear subsides. Sometimes just knowing someone bigger and stronger is with you makes you feel better – even though the "supposed danger" is still there.

(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns Literature)



Peter, being “blown away” by what he was seeing, asked to join in! Jesus said, “Come,” so Peter climbed out of the boat. (By the way, it looks as if this happened immediately as well. We don’t read that Peter asked again. I think we need to credit Peter, who didn’t hesitate when he was called.) Peter began walking toward Jesus. Unfortunately, that’s when Peter took his focus off Jesus and focused on the storm surrounding him instead. Just as we often do, Peter began to sink, but Jesus immediately reached out His hand and rescued Peter.

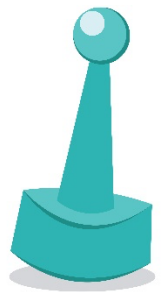
Jesus could have calmed the storm while He was walking on the sea or when Peter got out of the boat. He could have calmed the storm as His hand caught Peter’s. But He didn’t. Instead, He walked through the storm with Peter. You might think that was enough. But still, there was more the disciples had to learn.

When Jesus and Peter got into the boat, the wind ceased. This is when the disciples finally said, “Truly you are the Son of God.” It was neither when He walked on the water nor when He rescued Peter, but it was when He quieted the storm they were going through. The disciples seemed to miss everything else that had just happened right in front of their eyes before they declared it!

I don’t know about you, but when I’m waiting for the miracle I want to see, I often fail to notice all the miracles in the background. My prayer for you and for me is that we’ll take notice of all that God is doing around us and know that truly, Jesus is the Son of God and that He changes everything!

Reflect

- Peter did not wait for the storm to stop before getting out of the boat. What are you hesitant about doing that God has called you to do?
- When Peter focused on the storm instead of Jesus, he was scared. Who or what are you focusing on?
- Jesus didn’t stop the storm immediately. He walked through it with Peter. What are storms you see children facing now? How can you help them know that they are not alone, that Jesus is walking with them?



(taken directly from Lifeway’s VBS 2023 Twists & Turns Literature)

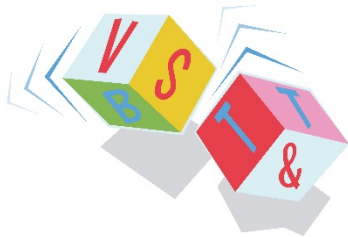
Leader Devotion – Day 3

Today's Point - Jesus is forgiving even when I sin.

Bible Story – Peter denied Jesus and was restored (Luke 22:31-34; 54-62; John 18:15-18; 21:1-19)

God knows everything that is happening all the time. We know that. However, during the excruciating hours between Jesus' arrest and final breath on the cross, my mind wants to think everything else stopped. However, even as Jesus was stepping in to be our Redeemer, He was fully aware of the falling away of Peter. Even then, Jesus had plans to redeem and restore this soon-to-be church leader.

Jesus prayed for Peter and told Peter so. Peter declared that he would follow Jesus to prison or even to death. Jesus said Peter would deny he knew Jesus that very night before the rooster crowed.



As Jesus stood before the high priest, Peter tentatively followed and stood near a fire in the high priest's courtyard. Three times Peter was asked if he was one of the men who traveled with Jesus. Each time Peter's "no" was issued with increasing vehemence. The rooster crowed. Peter looked up and met Jesus' eyes. Peter left, weeping bitterly.

Based on Scripture, it appears Peter was not around as Jesus was led away to be crucified or when Jesus breathed His last breath. He didn't follow to see where Joseph and Nicodemus placed Jesus' body, though he raced to the tomb when Mary told the disciples that Jesus' body was missing.

Peter was one of the people to whom Jesus appeared the day of His resurrection. Twice more, Peter was in a locked room with the disciples when Jesus appeared. Still the memory of his emphatic, "No, I don't know Him!" must have rung in his ears.

Sometime later, Peter and six of the other disciples decided to go fishing. They fished all night but caught nothing. Early the next morning, a man on the shore called out the question most fishermen who have caught nothing hate to hear, "Got any fish?" Then the man said, "Toss your net on the right side of the boat." Suddenly the net was so full that seven grown men, many of whom had experience with this type of fishing, could not pull the net in. That's when John recognized the man. It was Jesus!

(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns Literature)

All the disciples in the boat shared this experience, but let's focus on things that may have been impactful for Peter. First, the miraculous catch of fish had to create immediate flashbacks to the first catch when Jesus called Peter to be His disciple. Peter may have remembered his overwhelming sense of unworthiness and Jesus' promise that Peter would become a fisher of men.

Then, this same Peter who boldly stepped out on stormy seas to walk to Jesus but sank due to fear now plunged into the water in his rush to get to Jesus on the shore.

John's gospel explains that when the disciples got to the shore, they saw a charcoal fire there with bread and fish. Interestingly, when John described the fire in the high priest's courtyard the night Jesus was arrested, he called it a "charcoal fire." (John 18:18) Sights and smells are often memory triggers. Could the sight of the charcoal fire and the smell of the smoke have triggered guilt in Peter as he remembered the moments when he denied knowing Jesus?

Possibly the most significant parallel happened at breakfast when Jesus spoke directly to Peter. Peter had denied Jesus three times. Now Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Peter affirmed his love for Jesus all three times. The grief Peter felt may have been evidence of Peter's repentant heart. After each affirmation, Jesus gave Peter the command to take care of "My " sheep. Jesus recommissioned Peter as group leader and under shepherd.

Jesus is just as interested in the details of the lives of the children you teach. What a privilege to have this opportunity to help students know Jesus wants a personal relationship with each of them, and He has unique plans for each of their lives.

Reflect

- Even when you're failing, Jesus has already written the story of your restoration. What things hover in your thoughts that make you feel unworthy of Jesus?
- What moments cause you to rush to Jesus?
- If Jesus looked you in the eye and said, "Do you love Me?" what would be your honest answer?

(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns Literature)

Leader Devotion – Day 4

Today's Point - Jesus is worth following even when it gets tough.

Bible Story – Peter spoke boldly about Jesus (Acts 3:1 – 4:24)

What's your usual response when God doesn't seem to make sense? Maybe, like the man in today's story, your child was born with a disability you know will affect her for life. Maybe you are living with a health concern that has altered your life. Maybe your family has fallen on tough financial times. Maybe you're dealing with depression or anxiety or a broken relationship. Maybe, like Peter and John, you're facing persecution for your faith.

In this broken world, there's something you've asked God to change, and He hasn't seemed to act.

My theory is everyone has a go-to reaction in these situations. Some people jump straight to anger. Some resort to a curled-in-a-ball-can't-get-up-in-the-morning grief and sadness. Some people topple in anxiety: "Is God still in control?" Some people try to take over. "God won't do this for me? OK, I'll jump in and do it myself." Some people (ask me how I know) do all four and more.

(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns Literature)

We don't always leave room for this kind of talk. We're afraid we'll sound like "bad Christians," like we don't have enough faith. We hear that the early church members in Acts prayed for boldness and rejoiced to be persecuted. We think that means they didn't feel afraid or sad or angry. I think the fact that they had to pray for boldness means they didn't have anything close to boldness going into these situations. Just look at all the twists and turns Peter's faith journey has taken already this week in VBS. I think these early Christians were probably more like David.

"How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long will I store up anxious concerns within me, agony in my mind every day? How long will my enemy dominate me?" Psalm 13:1-2

God can handle these kinds of questions. The Bible shows us that. He doesn't turn away from hard moments. And, He proves again and again that He's worth following, even when it gets tough. That's why the man in our Acts 3 passage could immediately praise God when he was



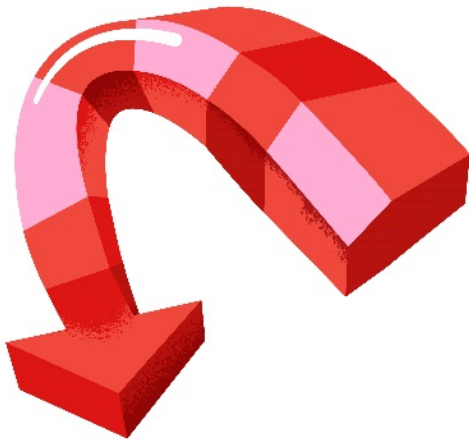
healed instead of crediting Peter and John with the miracle. That's why Peter and John could stand boldly before the Jewish leaders and speak the words God gave them.

Jesus is worth following because He has the power to heal.

Jesus is worth following because He gives us the words we need when we need them.

Jesus is worth following because He died to save us.

Even if Jesus had never done anything for us, He is still worth following because of who He is. A relationship with Him is a treasure greater than any silver or gold. Even when He doesn't seem to act, we can rest safely in that relationship like David did, knowing the truth of His character means that we can know that He is always working to make all things new.



"But I have trusted in your faithful love; my heart will rejoice in your deliverance. I will sing to the Lord because He has treated me generously." Psalm 13:5-6

Reflect

- How has Jesus proven Himself worthy through His work in your life?
- Do you have any questions about tough situations in your life you've been avoiding asking Jesus? Make a list and take some time to walk through those with Jesus.
- Spend some time thanking Jesus for who He is and for the relationship you have with Him.

(taken directly from Lifeway's VBS 2023 Twists & Turns Literature)

VBS 2023 Dates

NOW – Pray

Sunday – May 7 – **Last day** to turn in supply needs and room set up requests!

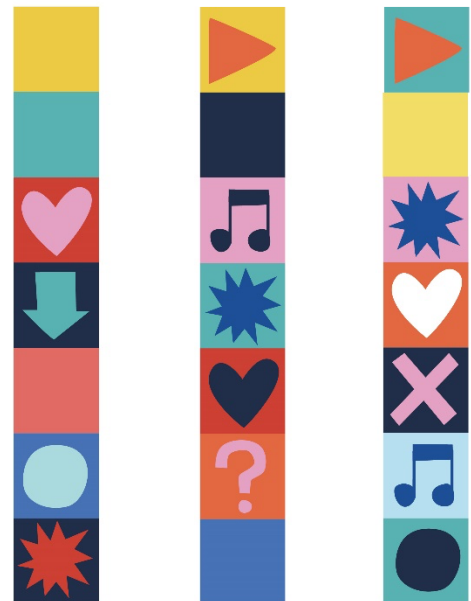
Monday – June 12 – Start using Prayer Guide (pages 21-24)

Sunday June 18 – Decorating in rotation classrooms/Refuge

Training opportunity for those helping in the crafts rotation
and
recreation rotation

Daily Schedule

8:30-8:45	Drop off for Leaders
8:45	Leaders in place in Preschool classes and Worship Center for General Drop Off*
9:00-9:20	Worship Rally
9:25-9:50	Rotation #1
9:55-10:20	Rotation #2
10:20-10:30	Snack
10:35-11:00	Rotation #3
11:05-11:30	Rotation #4
11:35-12:00	Rotation #5
12:00	Dismissal from Last Rotation Location **



Sunday June 25 – VBS Celebration

*Rotation Leaders are encouraged to attend Worship Rally and should exit first to be in place at 9:25

** We will take down rotation classroom decorations right after dismissal on Thursday.

VBS 2023 Rotation Schedule 1st through 6th

	9:00-9:20	9:25-9:50	9:55-10:20	10:20 10:30	10:35- 11:00	11:05-11:30	11:35-12:00
1 st Grade	Worship	Bible Study	Crafts	SNACK	Missions	Music	Rec
2 nd Grade	Worship	Crafts	Bible Study	SNACK	Music	Rec	Missions
3 rd Grade	Worship	Music	Rec	SNACK	Bible Study	Missions	Crafts
4 th Grade	Worship	Rec	Missions	SNACK	Crafts	Bible Study	Music
5 th / 6 th Grade	Worship	In Refuge	In Refuge	In Refuge	In Refuge	In Refuge	Music

Worship Rally – Worship Center

5th / 6th Grades VBX – Refuge

Level Up Music – Music Suite

Bible Study Game Room

A Connie Gunther – Room 201 **B** – Room 202 **C** Donna Harrison – Room 203

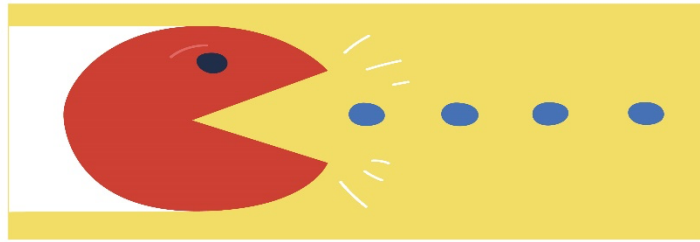
Wild Cards Center

A Jessica Clark- Room 206 **B** Mandy Brown – Room 205 **C** Jennifer Kroon – Room 204

Multi-Player Missions

A Gesilers – Room 207A **B** Moores – Room 207C **C** Renee Young – Room 207E

Ready Set Rec - Fellowship Hall



Gameplay Instructions

- 1) Be in place in the Worship Center each morning by 8:30. If there is an emergency and you will not be able to make it text or call Tracey at 804-517-3674.
- 2) **Lead Guides** make sure your attendance sheet is filled out and left on your row at the end of Worship Rally. Please do not take it with you!
- 3) Class Guides company children from rotation to rotation and assist the Rotation Leaders as needed.
- 4) Please refrain from using phones around the students. We want to give our students our undivided attention during the week. If there is an emergency you need to attend to please step out of the room and you can make your way to the snack area and rejoin your group when you are done.
- 5) We will have a snack area set up in the back of the Worship Center. Please try not to take breaks during Crafts or the Bible Study rotations or Thursday's Missions Rotation. And only one at time please!
- 6) **Lead Guides** will take over at the end of the last rotation to take charge of dismissal. You will have a list of persons approved for pick up for each student and the person picking up will need to show their ID the first time they pick up. If the same person is coming each day you do not need to check their ID again.
- 7) Adult helpers and teen helpers will assist at dismissal by helping students remain seated, listen for their names to be called and helping make sure they leave with any take home items.
- 8) If you have children left in your care at **12:15** please bring them to the Worship Center to meet Tracey and she will watch them until their parent arrives.
- 9) The Gospel will be presented during the Missions rotation on Thursday. **Lead Guides** will be responsible for counseling any children in their class that has questions.
- 10) We will do a Mission project to be determined by Pastor Luke.
- 11) If any parent or other VBS leader approaches you about switching a child to a different class **DO NOT** do it. They need to go through Tracey. And if a switch is made Tracey will talk with you!

Discipline

We want all the children in our ministry to feel welcomed and loved!

We have to maintain order though for learning to occur and to provide a safe environment.

Physical or abusive punishments (spanking, grabbing, slapping, hitting, yelling) is NEVER allowed. Try to redirect the child, place them in a safe spot till they calm down or ask for assistance from Tracey. If you have a child who is being disruptive in class on a regular basis or who intentionally harms another child, contact Tracey.

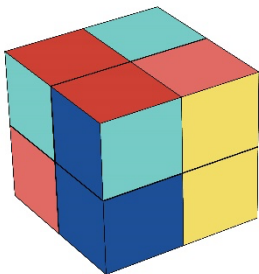


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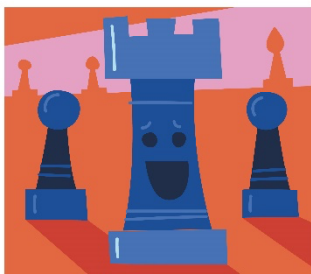
2 Person Rule – A child should **never** be alone with an adult. There must be 2 adults in a room, or anywhere, with a child at all times. Teen helpers cannot count as one of the two adults!

Bathroom - Never go into a bathroom alone with a child. If you must check on a child, prop the door open and stay where a second adult can still see you. An adult needs to escort a child to the bathroom not a teen helper. Adults should use the bathroom in the Worship Center foyer and we will leave the bathrooms on the main hall and the children's hall for children only.

Pick Up –Lead Guides will be given a roll that lists each student and the person(s) approved for pick up which is designated on their registration form. When a person comes to pick up they will need to show you their ID and you will confirm they are a person approved for pick up. Normally this will be the same person every day so after the first day the pick up process should go quicker. If someone other than an authorized person comes to pick up you will have to make an on the spot decision. Be sure that you write down the name of who picks up in this case on your roll. You can call Tracey if you are uncomfortable with the situation. If any parent tells you special pick up instructions for the day when they drop off be sure and make note on your roll!



Leaving the Classroom –Other than when moving from one rotation to another as a class, children should not leave the classroom unless they are 1) picked up by an authorized person, 2) going to use the bathroom, or 3) there is a discipline issue Tracey needs to be involved in.



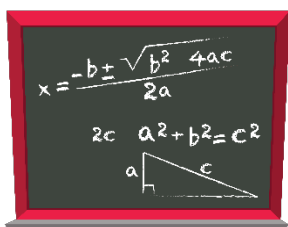
Emergency Evacuation – In the event there is an emergency direct the children to the nearest exit. If you are in the Worship Center, Fellowship Hall or down the Music Hall you should use either the door off the Music Suite hall or the main doors out to the front parking lot. Direct the children up to the grassy area across the driveway and keep your group together. If you are on the Children's Hall take the doors straight off that hall to the grassy area across the parking lot and keep your class together.

5th and 6th grades should proceed to the playground area from the Refuge. Do a count and check attendance to know right away whether you have everyone or not. Rotation Leaders will be responsible for making sure their rooms are clear before they leave. Tracey and Pastor Luke will be responsible for checking bathrooms and other common areas.

Allergies – You will have a list with your attendance sheet of any children assigned to you who have allergies and what arrangements have been made for their snack.

Gospel Conversations

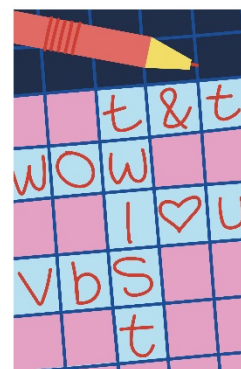
Our curriculum uses a specific 5 step presentation of the Gospel. It is included here with a copy of the decision card we will use. On Thursday during the Missions Rotation a specific gospel presentation will be made with the opportunity for a response by students.



If you have the opportunity during the days before that to have a gospel conversation please do so though! The Lead Guide will have

a copy of this plan and decision cards with her all week. When taking a child

aside to have these conversations please just move to a hall where there are others around so you still will be in adherence to our two person rule!



THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



GOD RULES.

Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything.

Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED.

Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read

Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED.

Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve.

Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES.

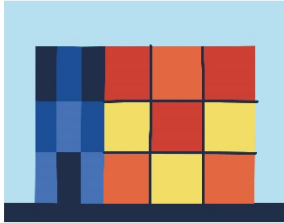
Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND.

Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

BECOMING A NEW CREATION...



Student's Name: _____

VBS Class: Grade _____ Section _____

Today's Decision:

- I am NOT ready to talk about becoming a Christian.
- I have already trusted Jesus as my Savior.
- I am ready now! I want Jesus to be my Savior.
- I have questions: (please list any below)

Counselors' Name: _____

Counselor's Comments:

YOUTH VOLUNTEER TIPS



Here is how you can make a difference in VBS:

Report to your Lead Guide/Teacher at 8:30 each morning!

And then do whatever they ask of you!

Help with security - Leaders are never alone with a child. Help adults follow the 2 person rule! Youth do not count as one of the 2 adults required. But youth should never be left alone with students either! Help make sure no one wanders off from your group during transitions.

Follow the schedule

Everyone needs to stick to the schedule and be in their assigned location at the right time.

Bathroom

Adults need to accompany children to the bathroom.

Emergencies/Evacuation

Help the Lead Guide/Rotation Leader get everyone out safely to the designated area and then help them to make sure everyone is accounted for.

No horseplay or carrying/Set Boundaries

No horseplay, no piggyback rides, no carrying younger children. If children become physically aggressive – climbing on teen helpers, for example – give the child clear instructions to stop or get an adult to help redirect.

Give positive directions

Directions to children should be given in the affirmative, not the negative. “Keep your feet on the sidewalk” is better than “Don’t go in the street.” In other words, helpers must make it clear what they want the child to do.

Use the phrase "I need you to..."

If a child needs to be told to stop doing something or to modify their behavior, “I need you to...” is a good way to give the direction.

How to call a child

To effectively communicate with a child, the helper needs to go to the child rather than yell from a distance.

Allergy issues

Your Lead Guide will make you aware of any allergy issues in your assigned group.

Respect the space, and clean up

Everyone is expected to show respect for each other and for the materials – i.e., to clean up after themselves at snack, to assist in organizing craft materials, etc. Help direct children to pick up after themselves.

Serve *all* the children

You are to serve all children equally in a way that is inclusive, inviting, and welcoming to all of the children. Move from child to child and engage them in conversation! Make positive and encouraging comments as they work on activities....help them complete tasks as needed! Have GOSPEL conversations!

Role models = Rock Stars

You are role models, better yet, ROCK STARS in the eyes of younger kids. As such, you are expected to be intentional in how you interact with children. Sarcasm, teasing and certain kinds of language are not to be used.

Focus on the students, not your friends

If you are working with other teens remember your focus needs to be on the students rather than interacting with one another

Put cell phones away

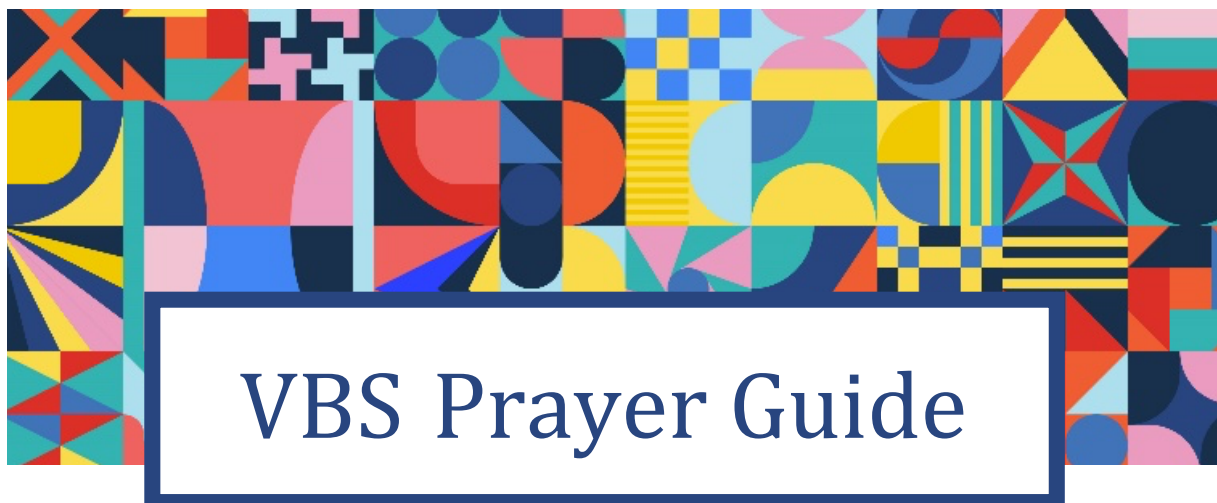
Helpers need to keep their cell phones out of sight.

No drinks or snacks in front of students.

Enjoy snacks in the designated area

Rules for posting pictures

Helpers do not have permission to post images of students on personal social media.



VBS Prayer Guide

Monday June 12th

Lord, help us to dedicate our hearts to a time of personal relationship with you, and to hear what you desire of us as we prepare for VBS. Thank You for the gifts you have given us and called us to use for Your Glory through VBS.

We pray for each child and family that will be represented at our VBS. May hearts be open to Your Holy Spirit and help us to see where we can come alongside each child and encourage.

Tuesday June 13th

Today we pray for our Bible Study and Missions Rotation Leaders, as they spend time in personal conversation with You, Lord. Give them Your plan for their rotation and Your words for the children. Help them prepare lessons that are engaging and that You can use to touch the hearts of the children.

Wednesday June 14th

Today we pray for our Craft and Recreation Rotation Leaders, as they spend time in personal conversation with You, Lord. Give them Your plan for their rotation and Your words for the children. We pray that the games planned will be fun for the children and build friendships among classmates. We pray the crafts planned will be fun and will also continue discussions at home as to what the children learn each day.

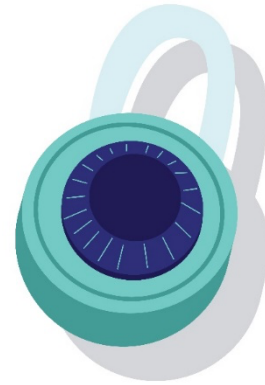
Thursday June 15th

Today we pray for our Worship Rally and Music Leaders, as they spend time in personal conversation with You, Lord. Give them Your plan for the Rally and Your words for the children. May the Worship Rally set the tone for our day, one of praise and adoration of You. May the songs and the truths they learn linger in their hearts in the days after.

Friday June 16th

Today we pray for the adults and teens who will be leading our classes through the rotations. Lord give them opportunities to get to know each child and recognize their needs.

We pray for our 5th / 6th grade leaders as they guide their students through each day and their lessons. May this be a time of encouragement and spiritual growth for our 5th graders as they leave their elementary years and move into new adventures. May they form friendships with the 6th graders that will help with their transition into Student ministry.



Saturday June 17th

Lord, today as we think of how we were chosen for this VBS Ministry, please be with all the others You have called to do each and every position of our VBS Ministry. No matter what the position, all are equally important and could not function without the others. For those who are preparing our snacks, helped with prep work ahead of time, are on call as substitutes when needed, those who have handled registration, or those who have helped with decorations, we are so thankful for the way you have used all these efforts and pray they will bring glory to You!

Help us to work together as a team as we minister to these children and ultimately their families.

Sunday June 18th

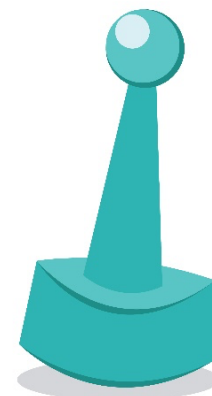
Lord, thank You for the Parents who trust us with their children for these days. Please help them to feel the touch of Your love through our VBS and our Church. Guide us to recognize needs and to reach out.

Lord, today as we think of all the plans and details swimming around in our heads, may we remember that You are the God of All Things Impossible. Give us the strength as we trust You with the details.

Monday June 19th

Lord, we pray that Your Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us through this day. Help us to be welcoming today. We pray that You will help us as we show Your love to Your children during VBS.

Help us to work through all the little details we forgot knowing You did not and You have already provided!



Tuesday June 20th

Lord, remind us to give hugs of Christian love to those around us through our actions. Help us to be Your hands today, as we spread Your Love to the children you have brought to us. Give us all patience and good health to be in attendance!

Wednesday June 21st

Lord, thank you for our VBS days so far and for meeting us where we needed You! Lord we pray that as you open hearts and minds, in students as well as leaders, that all will be receptive to the Holy Spirit.

Continue to grant good health and perseverance!

Thursday June 22nd

Lord, we pray for the presentation of the Gospel today. We pray that it will be clear and that children will have the courage to step forward and follow You as their Lord.

We pray for the follow up that we will have with children who have made important spiritual decisions and/or have questions about their faith.

Friday June 23rd

Lord, thank you for a great week of VBS! We pray for the children that we were privileged to work with this week as well as their families. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to “grow” the seeds that were planted this week. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of the “planting”.

Lord, we pray for visiting families that will attend our 5th Day on Sunday. May they feel welcome in our church and have a desire to return

Thank you for the many workers and volunteers that made this week work! Give them much needed rest after a busy few days!

