

VBS 2019 GRADES 1–2 BIBLE STUDY BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (2 HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This two-hour conference plan is designed to train and equip VBS leaders who will teach LifeWay's VBS 2019 In the Wild™ Bible study materials to 1st and 2nd graders.

Resources to Collect

- 6 *VBS 2019 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Guides*
- *VBS 2019 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Pack* — Pull out pack items 1–7, 13–19, 21, 23–28, and 30.
- *VBS 2019 Field Guide: Grades 1–6*
- *VBS 2019 Devotional Bible for Kids: CSB®* — Bookmark John 20:31.
- *VBS 2019 Devotional Bible for Kids: KJV*
- *Devotions In the Wild: 100 Devotions to Zoom In on Jesus*
- *VBS 2019 Daily Verse Tags*
- *VBS 2019 Parent Guide*
- *VBS 2019 Music for Kids CD* (included in the leader pack)
- *VBS 2019 Bible Study Location Sign* or large piece of paper with *Bible Study at the Watering Hole* printed on it
- Pack Item 1: “Watering Hole Banner” — Hang on the focal wall.
- Pack Item 3: “Animal Pictures” — Choose 5 pairs of animal cards. Place one set of 5 cards aside. Tape the matching set of 5 cards to the fronts of 5 gift bags (1 card per bag).
- Pack Item 15: “Anaconda Chart” — Attach a large sticky note above each column; label one *Team 1* and the other *Team 2*.
- Pack Item 16: “New Testament Cards” — Separate the 8 gospel cards (2 of each book) plus 4–6 cards from other divisions. On the back of each gospel card, print one of the following titles:
 - *VBS 2019 Grades 1–2 Leader Guide*
 - *VBS 2019 Grades 1–2 Leader Pack*
 - *VBS 2019 Music for Kids CD*
 - *VBS 2019 Field Guide: Grades 1–6*
 - *VBS 2019 Devotional Bible for Kids*
 - *Devotions In the Wild: 100 Devotions to Zoom In on Jesus*
 - *VBS 2019 Daily Verse Tags*
 - *VBS 2019 Parent Guide*
- Item 1: “Handout” — Copy 1 per conferee.
- Item 2: “Motto Cards” — Cut apart the cards. Tape to the walls around the room. Cover each card with a green paper leaf and tape the leaf along one side so that it can be lifted like a flap to reveal the card underneath.
- Item 3: “Jeep Cards” — Print and cut apart the cards. Place inside a backpack.
- Green paper cut into large leaf shapes — Use to hide the Motto Cards (see above). Use additional leaves around the banner on the focal wall.
- 5 large solid-colored gift bags — Attach an “Animal Card” (pack item 3) to the front of each bag. Label the bags *Day 1*, *Day 2*, *Day 3*, *Day 4*, and *Day 5*. Place a leader guide in each bag. Add the following items to the appropriate bag, then place the bags around the room:
 - Day 1: Daily Snapshot 1 (pack item 2); pack items 4, 5, 13

- Day 2: Daily Snapshot 2 (pack item 2); pack items 14, 17
- Day 3: Daily Snapshot 3 (pack item 2); pack items 18, 19, 21
- Day 4: Daily Snapshot 4 (pack item 2); pack items 23, 24
- Day 5: Daily Snapshot 5 (pack item 2); pack items 27, 28, 30
- 25 pieces of construction paper — Print the words of John 20:31, one or two words per page. On additional paper, print these words (1 phrase per page): *if Peter, a zebra, however if, birds fly, the road*. Make a total of 25 pages for this game. (Add additional wrong words if needed.)
- Sticky notes and animal stickers — Place animal stickers on the sticky notes, one animal per note. On the back of each note (on the sticky side) print (small) one of these values: +3, +2, +1, -1, -2, -3. Make at least 10 notes. Stick the notes around the room.
- Backpack — Place the “Jeep Cards” (Item 3) inside the backpack.
- Tape
- Large piece of paper
- Marker
- Large gray oven mitt
- White paper (1 sheet per conferee)
- Pencils

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing a focal wall. Display the “Watering Hole Banner” (pack item 1) on the focal wall. Cover a table with a *VBS 2019 Tablecloth* or green tablecloth and display the curriculum alongside tabletop decorations. Add plastic or stuffed wild animals, toy cameras, and small toy jeeps among the curriculum items. Display a sign that reads *Bible Study at the Watering Hole* on the door or focal wall. (OPTIONAL: Spread a blue flat sheet in a corner of the room. Bunch up tan flat sheets or canvas tarps around the blue sheet to create ground surrounding the “watering hole.” Place a few animals (stuffed, plastic, or inflatable) around the watering hole. Hang the *VBS 2019 Visual Pack Posters* around the room.)

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play “In the Wild” (Music for Kids CD) as conferees arrive.
- Give each person a handout. Lead conferees to search among the leaves to find the words to fill in the blanks. Explain that a clue for each word can be found under the blank (group name for the correct animal on the correct word).
- Stop the music and welcome everyone. Ask them to share the words they discovered for the blanks. Correct words as needed.
- Teach the In the Wild motto and lead the group to say it together a few times: “Zoom In! Focus on Jesus!”

2. Panoramic Picture of VBS 2019 (5 minutes)

- Invite conferees to get a panoramic view of this year’s VBS. Say: “This summer we’ll head out on a wilderness adventure to encounter all kinds of animals in their natural habitats, and snap a few pictures, too. Kids will learn about amazing encounters people had with Jesus. These snapshots of Jesus in Scripture reveal who Jesus is and why He came. Kids will discover that an encounter with Jesus is an opportunity to respond to the gospel.”
- Play and sing “In the Wild” (Music for Kids CD). Teach a few of the motions for the theme song, if you choose, or encourage conferees to simply sway or move to the beat.

- Invite conferees to articulate who Jesus is and why He came. List their ideas on the large piece of paper. Tell conferees that 1st and 2nd graders will make a list and add to it each day of VBS, building on their knowledge and correcting their ideas as needed.
- Pray. Ask God to lead your training time and to help teachers begin now to help boys and girls have amazing encounters with Jesus.

3. Focus on Resources (15 minutes)

- Spread out the New Testament Cards (pack item 16), book side up, on a table or the floor. Choose a volunteer to start the game. Lead the volunteer to put on the gray oven mitt as a “flipper.” Explain that you will call out one of the gospel books by number (first gospel, second gospel, etc.) and she can slap that book name with her flipper.
- Call: “First Gospel!” After she slaps one of the Matthew cards, pick up the card and read the resource on the back of it. (Ask volunteer to return to her seat.) Talk about that resource and remove that card from the game.
- Choose another volunteer and repeat until all gospel cards have been pulled and the resources have been discussed.
 - *VBS 2019 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Guide*: This resource helps equip and prepare leaders. The guide includes leader devotions to help leaders prepare themselves spiritually, tips on decorating the Watering Hole (classroom), and Bible study plans for creating an engaging Bible study time for kids.
 - *VBS 2019 Grades 1–2 Bible Study Leader Pack*: This pack includes a large banner, Bible verse posters, games, and printables for teaching boys and girls.
 - *Music for Kids CD*: One copy of this resource is included in the leader pack. The CD contains music for singing, moving, and praising. There is no CD-ROM included in the pack this year. Instead, all printables have been dropped into the leader pack. Some additional VBS forms are available online at lifeway.com/vbs.
 - *VBS 2019 Field Guide: Grades 1–6*: This book includes activities to engage kids daily in the Bible study rotation and challenge them to continue studying snapshots of Jesus in the Bible after VBS. One Field Guide is recommended for each child.
 - *VBS 2019 Devotional Bible for Kids*: This is a full-text Bible containing 30 days of devotions to encourage kids to continue encounters with Jesus at home. It is available in CSB and KJV.
 - *Devotions In the Wild: 100 Devotions to Zoom In on Jesus*: This book leads kids and their families to catch snapshots of real-life encounters with Jesus in the Scriptures.
 - *VBS 2019 Daily Verse Tags*: These paw print-shaped tags will remind kids of the daily Bible content in VBS. Kids will love collecting these five tags!
 - *VBS 2019 Parent Guide*: This guide is packed full of five daily devotions for families, fun activities, and a gospel presentation to help parents follow up on what their kids have learned during VBS.
- Comment that the “Flipper Slap” is a Bible skills activity that 1st and 2nd graders may play in VBS (Day 2).

4. Snapshots of Teaching Kids (10 minutes)

- Give each conferee a piece of white paper. Lead them to fold the paper into fourths, creasing to make folds, and then opening the paper back up again.
- Say: “You now have four places for snapshots. Let’s talk about 1st and 2nd graders. Along the way, we’ll stop so that you can sketch a quick snapshot.”

- Talk about the characteristics of 1st and 2nd graders, stopping as indicated to lead conferees to draw a quick sketch.
 - Say: “First and second graders *use their whole bodies to learn*. They need to move and be active. Provide a variety of activities that are high energy, moderate energy, and low energy. Involve all the senses as you teach.”
 - Comment: “First and second graders are *still developing their abilities to think abstractly*. Many spiritual concepts may be difficult for concrete thinkers to grasp. Kids need clear and concrete explanations of concepts. Use simple terms and define words that are abstract and avoid abstract object lessons or analogies. Give simple and short directions.”
- Pause. Lead conferees to draw something in their first space to remind them how 1st and 2nd graders think and learn.
 - Continue: “Children love to be *creative*. They want to explore and discover as they learn, following their curiosity. Provide activities like drama, art, solving problems, and games. Offer ways for kids to express their own ideas in different ways.”
 - Say: “Children *need time* to complete their work. They often want things to be perfect or ‘just right.’ Make sure you provide time for them to complete their activities and let them know when transitions are coming.”
- Pause. Lead conferees to draw something in their second space to remind them about teaching this age group.
 - Continue: “First and second graders are *sensitive*. They seek approval from adults and from peers. Listen to what they say; be prepared for mood changes or impatient reactions. Offer positive words and facial expressions during activities.”
 - Say: “First and second graders are *moving toward independence*. However, they still need consistent rules and routines that offer the security of boundaries. Offer choices and some autonomy in activities whenever possible.”
- Pause. Lead conferees to draw something in their third space to remind them about the boys and girls they will teach.
 - Continue: “First and second graders are *growing spiritually*. They are learning to view Jesus as a friend and are beginning to feel the need to trust Jesus as Savior. Share information about becoming a Christian without pressuring kids to make immediate decisions. Guide kids to learn more about Jesus and the gospel, reassuring them that it is okay if God’s Holy Spirit is not leading them to trust Jesus right now.”
- Pause. Lead conferees to draw something in their fourth space that shows the main thing they want to remember about 1st and 2nd graders and how they learn.

5. Itinerary (5 minutes)

- Tape the “Verse Map” (pack item 7) to the focal wall. Ask 10 volunteers to choose a “Jeep Card” (Item 3) from the backpack (or ask fewer volunteers to choose more than one card).
- Ask volunteers, one at a time, to read the parts of the Bible study itinerary. Tape each card to the map after it is read. Discuss each part as needed.
- Mention that each day’s Bible study time is divided into these sections:
 - *Start It*: Activity that engages kids and introduces the day. (5 minutes)
 - *Learn It*: Activities that teach the Bible story in a creative way, review the content, and emphasize the VBS Scripture. (10-15 minutes)
 - *Live It*: Activity that teaches The Point for the day and applies to the kids’ lives. (5-10 minutes)

- *Finish It:* Activity to help review the day and reinforce concepts learned. (5 minutes)
- *Additional Activities – Application:* 2 options for activities that lead kids to explore The Point further (10 minutes each)
- *Additional Activity – Bible Skills:* Optional activity that leads kids to use the Bible and practice Bible skills (10 minutes)
- *Additional Activity – Bonus Verse:* Optional activity that helps kids learn and understand the daily Bible verse. (10 minutes)
- Explain that the Bible study is designed to be flexible enough to meet whatever time frame and structure your church prefers. Discuss three options that can be easily used for Bible study in VBS:
 - *30 minutes for Bible Study:* Use the Bible study plan as written for each session; leaders will not need any of the additional activity options unless they choose to use them as a substitute for an activity in the 30-minute plan.
 - *40 or more minutes for Bible Study:* Use the Bible study plan as written and select activities from the Additional Activity options to extend the time as needed.
 - *Two Bible Study Times:* Use the 30-minute Bible study plan during an opening Bible study session and supplement with Additional Activity options as needed to extend the time. Then use any of the remaining activity options during a closing Bible study session at the end of the day.
- Say: “Your VBS director should tell you how much time you will have in Bible study rotation and give you information on the overall schedule for your church’s VBS.”

6. Encounters with the Bible Content (40 minutes)

- Form 5 roughly equal groups. Give each group one “Animal Picture” (pack item 3) from those you have set aside. Lead each group to send out a scout to find a bag with the matching animal on it.
- After bags have been retrieved, say: “Write down the information about your day of VBS on the handout. Then review how the Bible story is taught.” Lead groups to talk about the content for their assigned day.
- Play “Worthy of All Praise” (Music for Kids CD) while groups work.
- Call on each group to report on the Bible content for its day. After each group reports, tape its “Daily Snapshot” and the “Bonus Verse Poster” to the focal wall.
 - Day 1: Encounter in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)
 - Jesus went to the temple when He was twelve and talked with the teachers.
 - Point: Jesus knew why He came.
 - Bonus Verse: John 6:38
 - Use the “Bible Story Stops,” telling part of the Bible story at each stop.
 - Day 2: Encounter at the River (Matthew 3:1-17)
 - John baptized Jesus.
 - Point: Jesus is the Son of God.
 - Bonus Verse: John 1:34
 - After listening to the Bible story, kids play “Capture the Animal” to answer review questions.
 - Day 3: Encounter on the Water (Matthew 14:22-33)
 - Jesus walked on the water to His disciples in the boat.
 - Point: Jesus proved He is God’s Son
 - Bonus Verse: John 14:1

- Kids will listen to the story and sketch on “Take a Snapshot” at key moments. (Similar to what we did when talking about child characteristics earlier)
- Day 4: Encounter at the Tomb (John 20:1-18)
 - Mary, Peter, and John saw the empty tomb. Mary saw the resurrected Jesus.
 - Point: Jesus rose from the dead.
 - Bonus Verse: John 14:6
 - Kids will sign the name *Jesus* as they hear it in the Bible story.
- Day 5: Encounter on the Road (Luke 24:13-35)
 - Two men encounter the resurrected Jesus on the road to Emmaus.
 - Point: The Bible was written so I can believe.
 - Bonus Verse: Romans 10:17
 - Kids will listen for key words and highlight them on “Track the Bible Story.”
- Remind conferees that it is always best to tell the Bible story with the Bible open so kids can see that the story comes from the Bible.
- Show the “Review Questions” (pack item 10) and “Discussion Questions” (pack item 11) from the leader pack. Mention that these can be useful for helping kids review and apply the Bible story to their lives.

7. Zoom in on the Verse (10 minutes)

- Open the Bible to John 20:31 and read the Bible verse. Display the “John 20:31 Poster” (pack item 6) and lead the group to say the verse together.
- Play “Avoid the Scat” (p. 42 of leader guide). Explain this activity is the Bonus Verse activity on Day 5.
 - Lay out the words of the verse in a 5-by-5 grid.
 - Explain that the goal of this game is to step on the words in order to complete the verse; however, not all of these words are part of the Bible verse.
 - Mention: “When someone is out exploring and looking for animals, he tries to avoid stepping in an animal’s scat, or waste an animal leaves after going to the bathroom. Let’s avoid the scat—the words that do not belong in the verse.”
 - Choose a volunteer to stand on the first words of the verse. Lead the volunteer to step on the next words in order. Guide the group to help the volunteer step through the verse, avoiding the words that don’t belong (the scat).
 - If the volunteer steps on an incorrect word, he must return to his seat and another volunteer may take a turn.
 - Repeat with a couple of volunteers as time allows.
- Lead the group to say the entire Bible verse together again.

8. Encounters with the Gospel (10 minutes)

- Mention that In the Wild is all about Jesus and intentionally evangelistic every single day. Leaders can share the gospel every single day of VBS. But there is an explicit focus on the gospel presentation in the Live It and Additional Application activities on Day 4.
- Show the “Follow the Tracks” (pack item 25) signs, one at a time. Talk about each one, using the information on the inside front cover of the leader guide.
- Show the signs from “Monkey Match” (pack item 26) and read the words, “Admit, Believe, Confess” aloud. Distribute the monkey shapes. Lead conferees to look up the verses and sort them onto one of the three signs. (Or show the monkey shapes and comment that kids will match the verses with the signs on Day 4.)

- Admit: Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9; Romans 3:23
- Believe: Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9
- Confess: Romans 10:9-10; Romans 10:13
- Remind leaders that our responsibility is to share the gospel. The Holy Spirit is the one who leads a person to trust in Jesus. Younger kids should hear the gospel and continue to learn more about Jesus as Savior. But reassure children that it is okay if they don't feel the Holy Spirit leading them to trust Jesus right now. And encourage them to talk with one of the leaders privately if they have questions or need to talk more about trusting Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- Point out the information in the leader guide (inside cover) so leaders can review it later.

9. Load Up (15 minutes)

- Say: "Before VBS, leaders must plan and prepare for the kids they will teach. Let's think about what we need to do to load up for our In the Wild adventure."
- Create two teams. Read a statement (below) to Team 1 and encourage them to fill in the blank. If they fill in the blank correctly, invite them to find a small animal on the wall to "capture." Move that animal to the Team 1 column on the "Anaconda Chart" (pack item 15) without revealing the backside. Repeat with Team 2.
 - Read daily _____ passages so God can speak to you through His Word. (*Scripture*)
 - Prepare spiritually by reading the leader _____ for each day. (*devotions*)
 - _____ for yourself, other VBS leaders, and the kids you will teach. (*Pray*)
 - Check with your VBS director about the schedule so you know how much _____ you have for Bible study rotation each day. (*time*)
 - Find out how many _____ are expected in your class. (*kids*)
 - Choose the _____ you will use to teach and plan each day's session. (*activities*)
 - Make a list of _____ and gather what you need. (*supplies*)
 - Sort and assemble items from your leader _____. (*pack*)
 - Use the CD or online sources to learn the _____ used in VBS 2019. (*songs*)
 - Plan for ways to _____ the encounters with Jesus after VBS is over. (*continue*)
- Continue alternating between teams until all blanks are answered.
- Reveal the points on the backs of the animals each team captured. Total the points for each team and congratulate the winner.
- Mention that this "Capture the Animal" game is played with kids during Learn It on Day 2.

10. Wrap Up (5 minutes)

- Say: "Prayer is one of the most important ways to prepare for VBS. Through prayer, we can ask God to impact the lives of families in our communities, across the country, and around the world."
- Ask each conferee to partner up with someone from a different church. Lead the pairs to pray for one another's church and VBS. Lead each person to write her name on her partner's handout and challenge conferees to continue to pray for their partners throughout the weeks ahead.
- After a few minutes, close in prayer, asking God to help leaders lead boys and girls to encounter Jesus this summer in VBS.
- Dismiss. Play "What You're Made For" (Music for Kids CD) as conferees exit.



VBS 2019 Grades 1–2 Bible Study

Search among the leaves for these words. (Clue: There's a picture of the animal that belongs with the group name under each blank.)

_____ (a leap of _____)

_____ (a prickle of _____)

_____ (a congregation of _____)

_____ (a zeal of _____)

_____ (a parliament of _____)

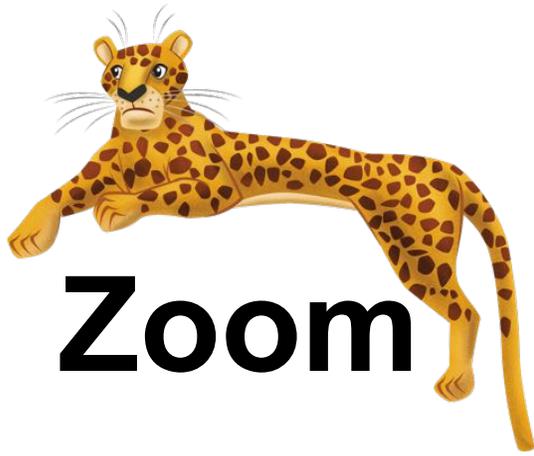
Resources for Grades 1-2

Encountering the Bible Content

DAY 1 Bible Story Point Bonus Verse	DAY 2 Bible Story Point Bonus Verse
DAY 3 Bible Story Point Bonus Verse	DAY 4 Bible Story Point Bonus Verse
DAY 5 Bible Story Point Bonus Verse	VBS Scripture

Other Notes

I will be praying for _____.

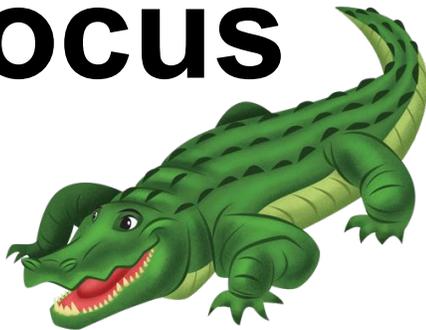


Zoom



In!

Focus



on



Jesus!





Start It: Activity that engages kids and introduces the day.
(5 minutes)



Learn It: Activities that teach the Bible story in a creative way, review the content, and emphasize the VBS Scripture.
(10-15 minutes)



Live It: Activity that teaches The Point for the day and applies to the kids' lives.
(5-10 minutes)



Finish It: Activity to help review the day and reinforce concepts learned.
(5 minutes)



Additional Activities — Application: 2 options for activities that lead kids to explore The Point further. (10 minutes each)



Additional Activity — Bible Skills: Optional activity that leads kids to use the Bible and practice Bible skills (10 minutes)



Additional Activity – Bonus Verse: Optional activity that helps kids learn and understand the daily Bible verse. (10 minutes)



30 minutes for Bible Study: Use the Bible study plan as written for each session; leaders will not need any of the additional activity options unless they choose to use them as a substitute for an activity in the 30-minute plan.



40 or more minutes for Bible Study: Use the Bible study plan as written and select activities from the Additional Activity options to extend the time as needed.



Two Bible Study Times: For the opening Bible study session, use the 30-minute Bible study plan; supplement with Additional Activity options as needed to extend the time. For closing Bible study session, use any of the remaining activity options.
