

VBS 2019 VBX PRETEEN (GRADES 5–6) BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (2 HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This two-hour plan is designed to train and equip leaders to teach preteens using LifeWay's 2019 VBX materials.

Needed Resources

- 5 VBS 2019 VBX® Preteen Bible Study Leader Guides
- VBS 2019 VBX® Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack
- VBS 2019 Field Guide: Grades 1–6
- VBS 2019 Tablecloths
- Leader pack items 1–3, 5, 12, 15, and 24 — Prepare the pack items according to the instructions listed on each item. For item 5 (“Habitat Posters”), cut apart the posters and label the habitats: *Physical/Social* (beach), *Intellectually* (big city), *Emotional* (country), and *Spiritual* (mountains). Attach posters to different walls around the room.
- Item 1: “Handout” — Copy 1 per conferee. Encourage conferees to take notes as desired throughout the conference.
- Item 2: “Snapshots” — Copy 1 per conferee onto 11X17” paper and cut apart.
- Tape
- Sticky notes
- Pens
- Pictures of animals — Cut out 4 tropical birds, 4 pigeons, 3 cows, and 4 bears. Print one of the following statements on each animal cut-out, then place in conferee chairs:
 - Tropical birds: *Appear to constantly be on the go; are experiencing growth spurts; love to socialize and have good sense of humors; enjoy sports, competitions, and games.*
 - Pigeons: *Can memorize and think quickly; try to avoid tasks that appear difficult to learn; Imaginative and curious; can solve problems easily.*
 - Cows: *Experience emotional roller coasters; may exhibit oppositional behavior at times; critical of themselves and others.*
 - Bears: *Developing a value system; ready for spiritual answers and directions; adopting a religious belief system; developing concepts of love and trust.*
- 4 small Command® hooks — Attach to wall a few feet apart to create two rows.
- String or twine — Stretch string between both sets of Command hooks.
- 8 clothespins — Clip four clothespins to each row of string on the wall.
- Metallic permanent marker
- 8 Polaroid frames (clip art available online at vbs.lifeway.com/downloads) — Print out the frames, then cut out. Using a metallic permanent marker, print one of the following statements per Polaroid, then clip the first four to the top row of string with clothespins and the last four to the bottom row of string (in random order):
 - VBS Scripture
 - VBS Motto
 - Christ Connection
 - LOBL: Bible
 - *But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31*
 - Zoom in! Focus on Jesus!
 - *God Sent Jesus to fulfill His promise of redemption*

- *The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. When we trust Jesus as Savior and Lord, He forgives our sin and gives us eternal life.*
- Photocopies of page 3 from the leader guide — Copy 1 per conferee.
- 5 small bags of animal crackers
- 5 copies of the “5x5 Card” (pack item 24) — Print the following words in random boxes on each card: *Messiah, Prophet, Jesus, Emmaus, Cleopas, Scriptures, tomb, Jerusalem, angels, and fire.* Fill in the remaining boxes with them words such as *camera, zebra, bear, mountain,* and so forth.
- 5 small bags — Print a number 1-5 on each bag. Place each bag in a different area of the room. Put the following items in each bag:
 - *VBS 2019 VBX® Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*
 - Small bag of animal crackers
 - 1 completed copy of the “5x5 Card”
- Print five different sets of animal footprints (OPTIONAL: Substitute the *VBS 2019 Removable Paw Prints.*) — Place one set of footprints leading to each of the bags.
- Photocopy of the “Critter Litter Cards” (pack item 12) — Cut apart on the dotted lines, then write the following on the back of the cards (1 per card):
 - Cow: *Worship Rally*
 - Deer: *Excite*
 - Goat: *Snack Break*
 - Llama: *Explore*
 - Swan: *Crafts*
 - Seal: *Missions Break*
 - Echidna: *Excel*
 - Alligator: *Recreation*
 - Calf: *Songs, application video, and introductory time for the day.*
 - Fawn: *Introduces the theme and Bible content with an icebreaker activity.*
 - Kid: *Time for preteens to get a yummy bite to eat.*
 - Cria: *Engages preteens in the Bible story and connection to daily life.*
 - Cygnet: *Time for preteens to make a themed item as a reminder of the day’s Point.*
 - Pup: *Time for preteens to learn about what God is doing around the world.*
 - Puggle: *Time to apply the Bible content to their lives and learn the Bonus Verse.*
 - Hatchling: *Time for preteens to burn off some energy.*
- Backpack, camera bag, or *VBS 2019 Jumpstart Bag* — Place the “Critter Litter Cards” you prepared inside the backpack.

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Create a focal wall using the suggestions on page 6 of the leader guide. Adhere the “VBS Scripture Poster” (pack item 1), “Gospel Plan Poster” (pack item 2), and “Motto Poster” (pack item 3) to the focal wall. Attach the “Captions Pictures” (pack item 15) near the focal wall. Cover the focal table with a *VBS 2019 Tablecloth* and display the curriculum alongside tabletop decorations. Place a handout (Item 1) in each chair.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome: To the Wild! (10 minutes)

- Welcome conferees and explain that today they will learn more about preteens and how they learn.
- Encourage each conferee to look at the “Captions Pictures” and have them come up with funny captions for the animals.
- Give conferees sticky notes and pens to write their captions.

- Tell conferees that regardless of what their favorite animal is, the VBX theme for this year is one that will be fun and exciting for all preteens.

2. Find your Habitat (20 minutes)

- Call attention to the “Habitat Posters” around the room.
- Ask conferees to stand and walk up to the habitat where they feel they most belong or where they would ultimately like to live.
- Explain that each habitat matches with an animal located in the chairs.
 - Point out that each habitat is labeled with a category (Physical/Social, Emotional, Spiritual, Intellectual) that relates to the characteristics of the preteens they will be leading in VBX.
 - Invite conferees to move around the room, collecting the animals and matching them to their habitats.
 - Point out to conferees that this game is similar to one of the Excite games found on Day 1 in the leader guide.
- Read and discuss the characteristics of preteens written on the back of each animal after they have been successfully matched to the correct habitat.
 - Tropical Birds:
 - Appear to be constantly on the go
 - Are experiencing growth spurts
 - Love to socialize and have good sense of humors
 - Enjoy sports, competitions, and games
 - Pigeons:
 - Can memorize and think quickly
 - Try to avoid tasks that appear difficult to learn
 - Imaginative and curious
 - Can solve problems easily
 - Cows:
 - Experience emotional roller coasters
 - May exhibit oppositional behavior at times
 - Critical of themselves and others
 - Bears:
 - Developing a value system
 - Ready for spiritual answers and directions
 - Adopting a religious belief system
 - Developing concepts of love and trust.
- Mention that understanding who preteens are will help conferees as they plan each session of VBX.

3. Zoom In (15 minutes)

- Explain that each day of VBX is unique and will have a specific lesson, but each lesson culminates with kids learning some key spiritual truths.
- Share that photographers often use a telephoto lens to snap super close up photos of animals. Explain to conferees that we are going to zoom in on the four key parts of VBX.
- Point out the Polaroid frames on the focal wall. Explain that the first row of frames contain four key elements of VBS. Each frame matches one of the frames on the row below.
 - Invite four volunteers to take turns trying to match the frames.
 - Debrief the activity after each correct match is made:

- **VBS Scripture**—Explain that this is theme verse for 2019. Further, elaborate that there are Bonus Verses for each day, but one goal should be for every preteen to memorize John 20:31.
- **VBS Motto**—(Zoom in! Focus on Jesus!): Explain that the VBS motto is a quick summary of all that preteens will be learning in VBX. Kids will focus in on some amazing, real-life encounters with Jesus. Each encounter is like a snapshot—a specific moment in time captured on the pages of Scripture. And when put together, these isolated encounters clearly reveal the most amazing truth of all—Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing we can have life in His name.
- **Christ Connection**—The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He forgives our sins and Gives us eternal Life.
- **LOBL: Jesus**—God sent Jesus to fulfill His promise of redemption.

4. Trace the Tracks (20 Minutes)

- Direct each conferee to open his leader guide to page 3 (or distribute pre-made copies of page 3). Explain that this page has a quick overview of each Bible Story for VBX.
- Guide conferees to form five groups, assign each group a day (1–5), and give the following directions:
 - Each group must follow Animal Tracks to the group’s bag.
 - Choose one volunteer to be the Wildlife Manager for your group. This person will share the information from the assigned Bible story. (If your group is small, skip the second bullet and allow conferees time to practice for a few minutes before presenting.)
 - Other group members will quickly reenact the Bible story information as the Wildlife Manager reads.
 - When you get to Day 5 instruct the groups to pull out the “5X5 Card” (pack item 24) and animal crackers.
 - Instruct the groups to listen carefully to the Bible story and place an animal cracker on the word if they hear it. Instruct the groups to wait until the Bible story is over before revealing if they got five words in a row.
- Encourage conferees to be “wild” and let their tusk down. This will not only help them as they teach preteens, but will also make this a more enjoyable conference activity.
- Start with the Day 1 group. After each story, share the appropriate debrief below:
 - **Day 1 Encounter in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)**—Point out that Jesus knew why He came. Just like God had a purpose for Jesus’ life, He also has a purpose for each preteens’ life, and He invites them to be a part of His will. As you teach remind preteens that as they follow Jesus they also follow the will of God.
 - **Day 2 Encounter at the River (Matthew 3:1-17)**—State that the point of the day is to help preteens know that Jesus is the Son of God. Remind conferees that when preteens understand who Jesus is, they can respond to Him in many ways such as worshiping Him, obeying Him, and telling others about Him.
 - **Day 3 Encounter on the Water (Matthew 14:22-33)**—Today’s point is, Jesus proved He is God’s Son. In today’s Bible story Jesus’ power over the creation offers proof that He is God’s Son and His resurrection proves He has the ultimate power over life and death. This lesson is an important reminder that when our hearts are troubled or our circumstances are fearful, we can find comfort in the One who has power over all things!

- **Day 4 Encounter at the Tomb (John 20:1-18)**—Today’s story should fill us all with hope because Jesus rose from the dead. He is alive! Without this fundamental belief we have no hope or forgiveness of our sin.
- **Day 5 Encounter on the Road (Luke 24:13-35)**—And the week all comes back to this point—the Bible was written so I can believe. That means the entire Bible as Jesus reminds the men on the road to Emmaus. Jesus, Himself, used the Scriptures found in the Old Testament to reveal His identity. And just as the two men were eager to share what they had learned about Jesus, we should also want to share what we know about Jesus and the Bible.
- Ask if any groups got five words in a row. Let conferees know that this activity can be found on Day 5 in the Explore section of their leader guides.
- Remind Conferees about the first activity “Find your Habitat.” With that information in mind, ask conferees for any additional thoughts or ideas on how they would teach the Bible Stories to preteens at their church.

5. Creature Features (20 Minutes)

- Ask conferees (animals) to remain in their previous groups (habitats). Announce that they will now follow the tracks in their leader guides for additional information.
- Explain that the last two pages of each session have information about two well-known VBS staples: Crafts and Recreation.
 - Direct conferees to find their assigned day’s craft and recreation options in the leader guide.
 - Encourage conferees to quickly read over the options and write a simple description on the back of their “5x5 Cards” of each craft and recreation option for their day.
 - After a few minutes, allow the conferees to give reports. If available, allow the conferees to show a sample of the craft options for their assigned day.
 - Debrief by pointing out that this year there are two recreation options for each day. One option is tied to the biblical content and the second is a fun, theme-related option.

6. Critter Litters (15 Minutes)

- Explain that VBX is based on the rotation model of VBS that LifeWay has been using for many years. It can be done as a stand-alone preteen experience or as part of the traditional VBS rotation plan. For the purposes of this activity, conferees will learn more about the suggested VBX schedule.
- Invite sixteen conferees to come up and pull one of the “Critter Litter Cards” (pack item 12) from the backpack. Explain that some of the names printed on the cards are the names of baby animals and some are the names of adult animals.
- Give 60 seconds to the conferees to match up the baby animal name with the adult animal name. Allow the seated conferees to assist by shouting out the names of possible matches.
- Reveal the correct answers (on the bottom of the pack item). Then ask the conferees to flip the cards over to reveal the parts of the VBX schedule written on the back.
- Ask the conferees to match up the parts of the VBX schedule with their descriptions as follows:
 1. **Worship Rally**—Songs, application video and introductory time for the day.
 2. **Excite**—Introduces the theme and Bible content with an icebreaker activity.
 3. **Snack Break**—Time for preteens to get a yummy bite to eat.
 4. **Explore**—Engages preteens in the Bible story and connection to daily life.
 5. **Crafts**—Time for preteens to make a themed item as a reminder of the day’s Point.

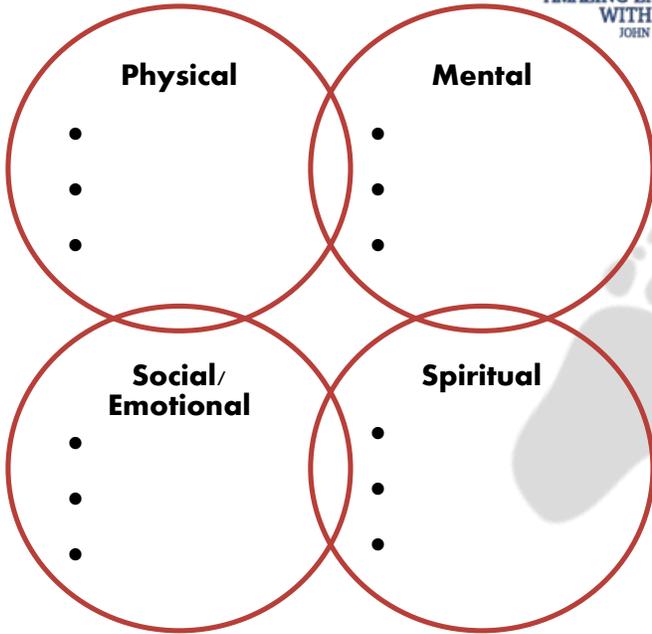
6. **Missions Break**—Time for preteens to learn about what God is doing around the world. **Note:** missions is not taught in the VBX class, preteens will go to the actual rotation.
 7. **Excel**—Time to apply the Bible content to their lives and learn the Bonus Verse.
 8. **Recreation**—Time for preteens to burn off some energy. **Note:** point out that there are two options, one related to the Bible content and one theme-related.
- Remind conferees that this plan matches how the curriculum is written, but each church is unique and may choose to organize its schedule in any way it chooses.
 - Point out that if a church is having preteens rotate with the other age groups, they will want to focus on the Explore segment for their Bible study time using activities from Excite and Excel as needed to extend their time.

7. Animal Round Up (15 minutes)

- Give each conferee one of the “Snapshots” (Item 1).
- Direct the conferees to take a few moments to think of an “Aha” moment or a question they still have about leading preteens. After allowing time to think, ask the conferees to write their question or “Aha” in the white space on the bottom of their “Snapshot.”
- Ask conferees to tape their “Snapshots” around the “Motto Poster” (pack item 3) on the focal wall.
- Take a few minutes to share some of the conferees responses and answer any questions conferees may have. Allow other conferees to share how they would answer some of the questions as well.

8. Closing (5 minutes)

- Congratulate conferees on being such a “wild bunch.” Ask them to gather in the center of the room.
- Pray that God would use this year’s VBS to draw preteens to Him.
- Dismiss by asking conferees to refer to the “VBS Scripture Poster” (pack item 1) and read the VBS verse in their best “wild” voice.



THEME OVERVIEW



VBS Scripture:

VBS Motto:

Christ Connection:

LOBL:

Bible Content

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5

VBS Follow Up

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

