

## VBS 2020 SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH KIDS CONFERENCE PLAN (45 MINUTES)

### Purpose Statement

This 45-minute plan is designed to train and equip VBS leaders to help kids encounter Jesus in a personal way through sharing the gospel.

### Needed Resources

- *VBS 2020 Kids Gospel Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Parent Guide*
- *VBS 2020 Gospel Wristbands*
- *VBS 2020 Devotional Bible for Kids*
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me*
- *I'm a Christian Now* materials
- Book: *It's Worth It* by Landry Holmes
- *VBS 2020 Devotional Bible for Kids*
- *VBS 2020 Tablecloths*
- *VBS 2020 Kids Memory Maker*
- *VBS 2020 Caution Tape* — Cut into four equal strips. Tape onto focal wall, making an empty, square frame.
- Self-stick notes
- Item 1: "Matching Challenge" — Copy onto cardstock then cut apart cards. Make one set of cards for each group of 3–5 people.
- Item 2: "Beams" — Photocopy onto cardstock and cut out 9 I-beams. Write one of the following tips for framing children's salvation on each beam, then tape beneath participants' chairs:
  1. *Never simplify the gospel.*
  2. *Use open-ended questions.*
  3. *Every child deserves personal counseling.*
  4. *Celebrate a decision, but be cautious about rewards.*
  5. *A salvation decision may or may not be emotional for a child.*
  6. *Use your own testimony.*
  7. *Involve the parents/guardians.*
  8. *Ask a child to name someone they know who is a Christian and then ask how he/she thinks that person became a Christian.*
  9. *Earn the right to talk with a child about salvation by building a relationship.*
- Print each of the following statements on a separate piece of paper, then crumple into balls. Include blank paper wads to create approximately one ball per conferee.
  - *Different terminology to explain the same thing (becoming a Christian, being saved, accepting Jesus, asking Jesus to be my Savior, asking Jesus into my heart/life, being born again, etc.)*
  - *Thinking the child isn't old enough*
  - *Confusion about baptism*
  - *Does asking questions mean a child is ready to make a decision?*
  - *Symbolic or churchy language that kids don't understand*
  - *Non-Christian family*

## Room Setup

Arrange seating in groups of 3-5 chairs for small group interaction. Cover a table with a *VBS 2020 Tablecloth* and display the evangelism tools and books on top. Decorate with tools, tool bags, and building blocks.

## Teaching Steps

### 1. Preparing Your Tool Belt (10 minutes)

- Greet conferees as they arrive. Introduce yourself then lead them to form groups of 3–5. Provide each group with self-stick notes and encourage them to write as many places they can think of where children get information. Allow two minutes to list as many places as they can (one per sticky note).
- Allow the first group to share its ideas and add their sticky notes inside the caution tape frame on the focal wall. Allow each subsequent group to share (and add) any places that haven't already been shared and added to the wall.
- Point to all the self-stick notes and mention how vast the amount of information is that children have available at their fingertips. State that the most important thing leaders can do is to help children prioritize important information. By sharing the gospel plan with children through VBS, we give children an opportunity to hear (and respond to) the most important information of their lives.
- Draw attention to the multiple resources on the table that can be used to help teachers share the gospel (and follow up) with children during VBS.
- Use the following statistics from *It's Worth It* to share the importance of being intentional about sharing the gospel through VBS:
  - 95% of American parents whose child has attended VBS agree that participating in VBS was one of their child's most meaningful church experiences (p. 48).
  - 69% of American parents will encourage their child to participate in a VBS event at church they don't attend if invited by one of their friends (p. 51).
  - 78% of churches use VBS as their largest outreach to unchurched kids in a given year (p.71).
  - Lifeway annually learns of 65,000 new commitments to Jesus Christ as a result of VBS (p.70).

### 2. Hitting the Nail on the Head (10 minutes)

- Distribute a set of "Matching Challenge" cards (item 1) to each group. Ask the groups to "hit the nail on the head" by matching the Bible verse to the correct step of The Gospel: God's Plan for Me.
- Discuss the gospel plan in detail. Use the *VBS 2020 Kids Gospel Guide* to guide the discussion.
- Talk about the importance of using scripture with each step of the Gospel Plan
  - God Rules — Colossians 1:16–17
  - We Sinned — Romans 3:23
  - God Provided — John 3:16
  - Jesus Gives — Romans 5:8
  - We Respond — Romans 10:9–10,13

### 3. Creating a Solid Frame (10 minutes)

- Explain that just like any construction project begins with a good foundation and solid framework, children need a framework in order to understand salvation.

- Lead conferees to look under their chairs to see if they have a piece of the I-beam frame (item 2). Ask them to hold onto their beam as you discuss each point one at a time.
- Collect the beams as each point is discussed and add them to the focal wall, creating a cross from the beams (see talking points included after each statement).
  - **Never simplify the gospel.**
    - There is no separate gospel for children. The same gospel plan an adult would hear is the same gospel plan a child should hear.
    - Terminology will require explanation, but the gospel isn't different for younger children.
  - **Use open-ended questions.**
    - Allow children time to process and think of answers in their own words.
    - A yes or no question might enable a people-pleasing child to answer too quickly.
  - **Every child deserves personal counseling.**
    - Avoid large group appeals.
    - Allow each child time to ask questions and talk with an adult without other children present.
  - **Celebrate a decision, but be cautious about giving rewards.**
    - Encourage children to share their decision with their friends and family.
    - Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt a decision instead of the desire for a reward.
  - **A salvation decision may or may not be emotional for a child.**
    - Every child responds differently.
  - **Use your own testimony.**
    - Children learn by example. Share with children when and how you decided to become a Christian.
  - **Involve the parents/guardians.**
    - Make sure to tell parents or guardians about the decision the child made.
    - Use this opportunity to reach the entire home for maximum effectiveness.
  - **Ask a child to name someone who is a Christian and then ask how he/she thinks that person became a Christian.**
    - The child's answer is very telling and may reveal how much he/she actually understands about salvation.
  - **Earn the right to talk about salvation by building a relationship.**
    - Use every opportunity in VBS to get to know the children.
    - When children trust you they will listen to you tell them how to trust Jesus.

#### 4. Remove the Obstacles before You Build (10 minutes)

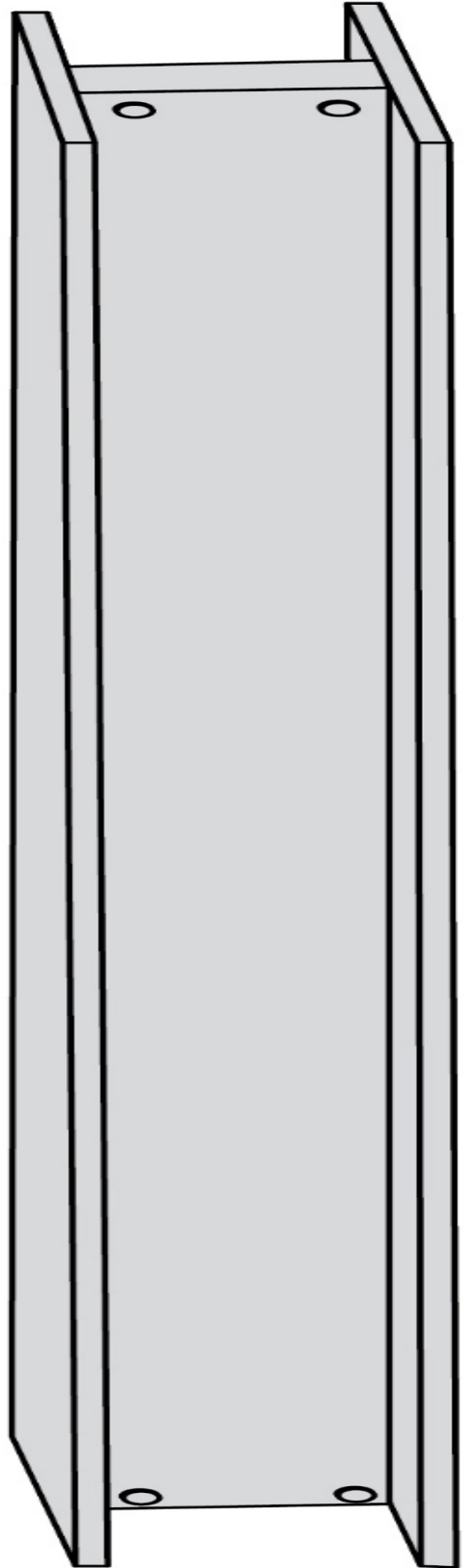
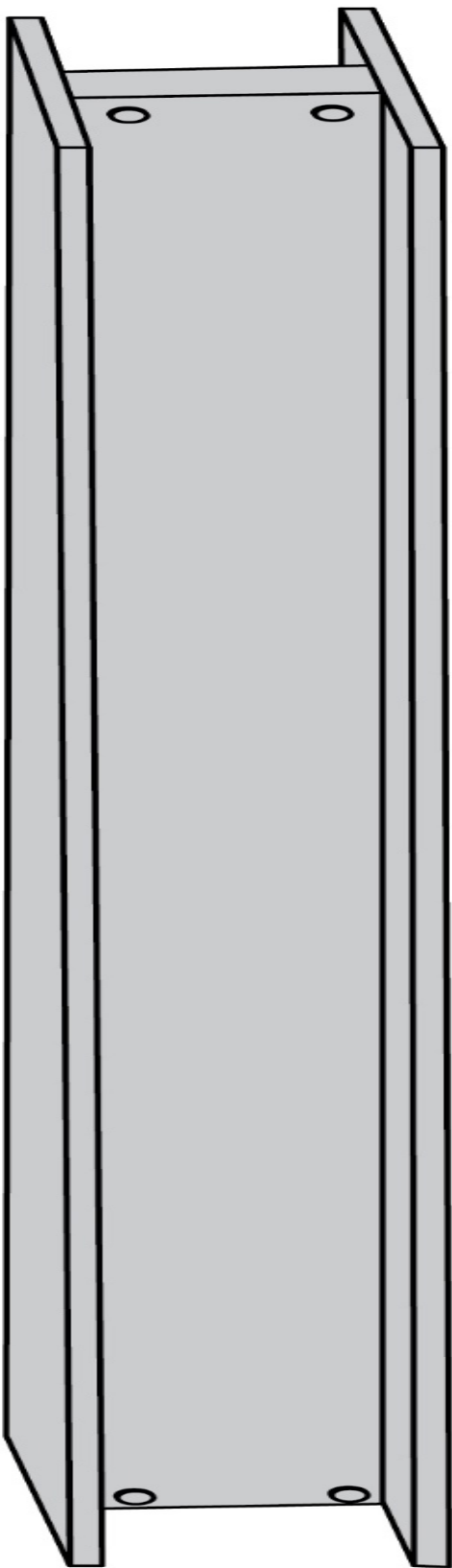
- Lead conferees to play a game. Ask them to pick up any of the crumpled paper balls around the room.
- Divide the room in half and lead conferees to move to one side of the room or the other (into roughly equal teams). Explain that the goal of the game is to clear out any obstacles from their side of the room so that we can begin to build.
- Allow a couple of minutes for conferees to throw the obstacles onto the other side of the room, trying to get rid of any paper balls that land on their side of the room. Signal to stop.
- Lead conferees to pick up any nearby obstacles and open up the papers. If they have a paper with writing, they are a group leader. Ask conferees who have papers without writing to gather around one of the group leaders and discuss ways to overcome the obstacle written on their group's paper.

- Allow each group to share its obstacle and their ideas on how the obstacle could be removed.

**5. Everybody Has a Job (5 minutes)**

- Remind conferees that every VBS volunteer needs to be prepared to share the gospel regardless of their area of responsibility.
- Encourage VBS teachers to be prepared by having a Bible ready and bookmarked to share the gospel plan with a child.
- Lead conferees to pair up with one new friend in the room and pray for each other to have opportunities to share the gospel during VBS.
- Close in prayer, then dismiss.

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">God Rules</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;">Colossians 1:16–17</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him.</p>
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">We Sinned</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Romans 3:23</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.</p>
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">God Provided</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>John 3:16</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.</p>
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Jesus Gives</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Romans 5:8</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.</p>
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">We Respond</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;">A – Admit to God that you are a sinner <i>Romans 6:23</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">B – Believe that Jesus is God’s Son and receive God’s gift of forgiveness from sin <i>John 3:16</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">C – Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord <i>Romans 10:9–10,13</i></p>



Item 2: Beams