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Enlist a VBS Intercessory Prayer Team. Give each intercessor a list of names which would include teachers, students, VBS director/ general officers, pastor. Print

daily updates to share. Several individuals would be praying for the same names. Prayers should be very specific. Pray that the Lord would speak to their hearts and give them understanding to receive Christ. Pray that the Lord would give them courage to ask Jesus into their life and follow Him. Pray that the parents would be receptive to the children coming to know Christ, and if the parents are lost, that there would be an opportunity to witness to them. Pray for wisdom and boldness for the teachers, workers, and leaders. Instruct the prayer team members to pray daily at a certain time, early if possible, but at least by the beginning of VBS.



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THE PASTOR SHOULD ALWAYS BE PRESENT DURING VBS.

The pastor's presence is an evangelistic tool in itself. VBS is an especially effective time to build relationships with children, youth, and adults. This can be the most evangelistically effective and fruitful week of his entire year.

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The times immediately preceding and following VBS sessions are very significant also. As parents are arriving with their children, the pastor

and selected workers could be outside greeting them, building relationships. There should also be a time for parents as they come to pick up their children. A room could be provided for them to wait and have refreshments.

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Usually it is best not to issue an invitation by asking the children to come forward while everyone is singing an invitational hymn. Here is a suggested format:

1. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes.
2. Share the plan of salvation simply and quickly in an age appropriate manner.
3. Assist them in praying to give their life to Jesus.
4. Ask those who are ready to follow Him to raise their hands.
5. At that time the teacher can note the children who have responded. Ask those children to remain seated while others move to the class. Make certain a teacher/ counselor remains with those seated.

For More Information

Evangelism & Church Health Team

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VBS evangelism strategies

Vacation Bible School should be considered as a major facet of the church's overall evangelism strategy. It is estimated that Vacation Bible School yields over 25% of all baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention each year!



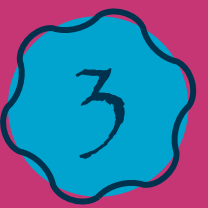
VBS

Making an annual, focused, intentional effort to plan an evangelistic Vacation Bible School will often result in as many or more conversions, baptisms, and viable prospects for evangelism and church membership than any other event on the church calendar.



Encourage your teachers to share the plan of salvation every day in class. Instruct the teachers to give the children an opportunity to respond by lifting their hands with heads bowed and eyes closed. The teacher will then note which children are interested and follow-up.

The students can be given a "God's Special Plan for Children" booklet* during the VBS joint worship services or during the class. The pastor or the teacher can read and explain (draw illustrations, etc.) the booklet to the students. At the conclusion of the booklet, ask them to bow their heads and close their eyes. Ask how many of the children would like to give their life to Jesus, and then pray with them.



Give an evangelistic invitation at every VBS worship rally. Why do this? There will always be children who will miss the traditional Thursday evangelistic service. This way every child has an opportunity to hear the gospel and respond. Learn to share the gospel in a 2-3 minute presentation.

Instruct the leaders to avoid the "language of Zion" and speak so the children can understand (consult Eugene Chamberlain's book "When Can A Child Believe?"). Be more concerned with a child's understanding and comprehension than a child's age.



The use of personal salvation stories in VBS can be extremely effective both in the VBS celebration and in the classes. Be certain these speakers are dedicated Christians whose lives match their story. Use persons of different ages each night. Train the persons in sharing their story to do so in 1-2 minutes. A very good outline is: 1) my life before receiving Jesus 2) how I received Jesus as my Lord 3) my life since receiving Jesus. Make certain that the listeners always have the opportunity to receive Christ.

Lead the teachers to see evangelism as the number one priority of the Vacation Bible School.



Schedule evangelism training in "God's Special Plan for Children"* during a Sunday evening service. Urge all VBS and Sunday School teachers to be present. Teach them how to share their faith. This can also be done on a Wednesday or another evening of the week. By doing this during a worship service, you are equipping your entire congregation to share the gospel on a child's level. Remember: VBS includes youth and adults. Teachers must learn how to deal with each age group.

The teacher should be a part of the invitation during the VBS worship/celebration service. During the invitation, the teachers should watch their children to see which ones lift their hand, indicating an interest in receiving Christ as Savior. Teachers must be very sensitive and not be in a hurry to get to class. The most important decision their students can ever make is to receive Christ as Savior.



Make certain that recreation/refreshment workers are trained and willing to share their faith with the students.

Recruit a follow-through team. These soulwinners must be trained in family visitation (specifically in witnessing to the parents of children and youth) after the VBS. They must be willing to give several days to follow through on decisions and prospects.



Teach children how to share their faith with friends and family using the "EvangeCube".

Encourage the teachers to pray that every day someone in their class would ask Jesus to come into their life. Especially pray for children by name who seem to be ready to receive Christ. Pray that many would be saved during the week. Why just pray only one would be saved?



* Can be ordered at www.namb.net or 1.866.407.NAMB.