

VBS 2018 VBX PRETEEN (GRADES 5–6) BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (2 HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This two-hour plan will help leaders understand how to teach and reach preteens through LifeWay's VBX 2018 materials.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2018 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide* (5 total)
- *VBS 2018 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack* — Prepare pack item 8.
- *VBS 2018 Playbook: Grades 1–6*
- Handout (at end of this document) — Copy 1 per conferee.
- Chenille stems (at least 1 per conferee)
- Tape
- *VBS 2018 Decoration Punch-outs* (or cut outs of football player, basketball player, baseball player, band member) — Label the athletes: *Physical* (football player), *Mental* (basketball player), *Social/Emotional* (baseball player), and *Spiritual* (band member). Attach each to the focal wall.
- Athletic equipment die cuts — Cut out 4 football helmets, 4 basketballs, 4 baseball caps, and 4 marching band hats. Print one of the following statements on each of the appropriate cut outs:
 - Football Helmet: *Like to use abundant energy; Have good coordination and muscle skills; Approaching puberty; and Girls usually taller than boys.*
 - Basketball: *Imaginative, creative, and curious; Discerns time and space relationships; Can cope with success and failure; and Think quickly and memorize easily.*
 - Baseball Cap: *Self-centered; Can accept rules and responsibilities; Like to win and improve; and Aware of sex roles.*
 - Band Hat: *Developing a value system; Ready for spiritual answers and directions; Adopting a religious belief system; and Developing concepts of love and trust.*
 - Attach completed equipment statements to the walls around the room.
- 4 clipboards — Attach clipboards to the focal wall using Command[®] strips if possible. (Optional: Place clipboards on a table near the focal wall.)
- 4 sheets of copy paper — Clip one paper to each clipboard. Print the following statements on separate sheets of paper:
 - *His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 2 Peter 1:3*
 - *Gear Up! Get Ready! Game On!*
 - *In Jesus, we have everything we need to live a life that honors God. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He rescues us from sin and death and gives us power to live joyfully for Him.*
 - *The Bible teaches how to live a Christian life by following Jesus.*
- 4 index cards — Print the following statements on separate cards: *VBS Scripture*; *VBS Motto*; *Christ Connection*; and *LOBL: BIBLE*. Place in a gym bag along with a variety of sports equipment, jerseys, and socks.
- Photocopy of page 3 from the leader guide (1 per conferee)
- 5 sheets of cardstock — Print the following directions on each sheet of cardstock:

- *Choose one volunteer to be the sports announcer for your group. This person will share the information from your assigned Bible story in his best “sportscaster” voice.*
 - *Other group members will quickly reenact the Bible story information as the announcer reads.*
- 5 small spiral notepads
- 5 pens or pencils
- “Baseball Scorecards” (Enhanced CD item) — Print 4 copies to yield 16 scorecards. Cut apart on the dotted lines. On 8 of the scorecards, cross out the word “HOME” and print the following statements on the backs (1 per card): *Worship Rally; Excite; Snack Break; Explore; Crafts; Missions Break; Excel; and Recreation.* On the other 8 scorecards, cross out the word “VISITOR” and print the following statements on the backs (1 statement per card). Then place all 16 scorecards under random conferee chairs.
 - *Songs, application video, and introductory time for the day.*
 - *Introduces the theme and Bible content with an icebreaker activity.*
 - *Time for preteens to get a yummy bite to eat.*
 - *Engages preteens in the Bible story and connection to daily life.*
 - *Time for preteens to make a themed item as a reminder of the day’s point.*
 - *Time for preteens to learn about what God is doing around the world.*
 - *Time discuss the Bible content.*
 - *Time for preteens to burn off some energy.*
- Dry-erase marker
- 1-by-1½-inch sticky note pad (for adding the score to leader pack item 8).
- 6 index cards — Print the following statements on the index cards:
 - *Connect each prospective preteen with an active church family. Provide contact information and guide each family to contact preteen throughout the year.*
 - *Host a get-together for all preteens one or two months after VBS.*
 - *Enlist follow up teams.*
 - *Make an in-home visit.*
 - *Connect the preteen’s parents with a Sunday School class.*
 - *Send a postcard with church information on it.*
- Football and plastic wrap — Wrap in plastic wrap. Add an index card from the list above, then continue wrapping some more. Add another card and continue wrapping in plastic wrap. Continue in this manner until all cards have been covered between layers of plastic wrap.

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle. Place a handout in each chair. Use the focal wall suggestions on page 6 of the VBX leader guide. Adhere the “Scoreboard” (pack item 8) to the focal wall. Attach the four cut outs of “players” on the focal wall. Cover a table with a *VBS 2018 Tablecloth* and display the curriculum alongside tabletop decorations.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome: Get Your Game On! (10 minutes)

- Welcome conferees and explain that today they will learn more about preteens and how they learn.
- Encourage each conferee to take a chenille stem and shape it into something that represents his or her favorite sport.
- Allow conferees to show their shapes for the group to guess their favorite sport. Remember, some conferees may choose a nontraditional sport.

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

2. Get Your Head in the Game (20 minutes)

- Mention that most sports require players to use special gear or equipment.
- Point out the different types of equipment posted around the room and explain that each one matches one of the players posted on the focal wall.
 - Point out that each player on the focal wall is labeled (Social/Emotional, Spiritual, Physical, and Mental).
 - Invite conferees to move around the room, collecting the headgear and matching it to a player on the focal wall.
- Read and discuss the characteristics of preteens written on the back of each piece of headgear after they have been successfully matched to the correct player.
 - Physical (football player)
 - Like to use abundant energy
 - Have good coordination and muscle skills
 - Approaching puberty
 - Girls usually taller than boys
 - Mental (basketball player)
 - Imaginative, creative, and curious
 - Discerns time and space relationships
 - Can cope with success and failure
 - Think quickly and memorize easily
 - Social/Emotional (baseball player)
 - Self-centered
 - Can accept rules and responsibilities
 - Like to win and improve
 - Aware of sex roles
 - Spiritual (band member)
 - 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. Learning the Plays (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 just like a coach plans specific plays in order for athletes to reach a goal, each session of VBX will help preteens reach certain goals.
- Place the gym bag in the center of the semi-circle of chairs. Point out the four coach's clipboards on or near the focal wall.
 - Explain that inside the gym bag are four key "plays" that will be run during VBS. Each play matches one of the things written on a clipboard.
 - Invite four volunteers to take turns rummaging through the gym bag, find a "play," and matching it to the appropriate clipboard.
 - Debrief the activity after each correct match is made:

- ~ **VBS Scripture:** Explain that this is theme verse for 2018. Further elaborate that there are Bonus Verses for each day, but one goal should be for every preteen to memorize 2 Peter 1:3.
- ~ **VBS Motto** (Gear Up! Get Ready! Game On!): Explain that the VBS motto is a quick summary of all that preteens will be learning in VBX. Kids will learn that in their spiritual lives, they need to “Gear Up!” (gather the necessary “equipment” for Bible study), “Get Ready” (prepare their hearts and get their minds focused and ready for Bible study), and “Game On!” (dive into the Bible and apply it to life).
- ~ **Christ Connection:** *In Jesus, we have everything we need to live a life that honors God. When we trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord, He rescues us from sin and death and gives us power to live joyfully for Him.* Explain that kids will learn that Jesus has empowered them to honor God through their lives. He has provided salvation and the gift of eternal life.
- ~ **LOBL: BIBLE:** *The Bible teaches how to live a Christian life by following Jesus.* Explain that the Levels of Biblical Learning is a plan of discipleship for birth through preteens that helps to gauge what kids are able to understand at different ages. Preteens are able to understand that the Bible is the tool for teaching Christians how to follow Jesus.

4. Instant Replays (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:
 - Choose one volunteer to be the sports announcer for your group. This person will share the information from your assigned Bible story in his best “sportscaster” voice. (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 announcer reads.
- Encourage conferees to be silly and let their guards 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 replay, share the appropriate debrief below:
 - **Day 1:** On Day 1 preteens will hear the Parable of the Lost Sheep. The point of the session is: Jesus cares about me. Be sensitive to preteens who may not have a lot of people in their lives who genuinely care for them. Remind preteens that Jesus cares for every person.
 - **Day 2:** On Day 2 preteens will hear the story of the Resurrection of Lazarus. The point of the session is: Jesus gives me hope. Some preteens in your group may really need to hear this message. They may be in the middle of tough situations and just need to know that they have a reason for hope. There’s nothing too big, too scary, or too overwhelming that Jesus can’t take care of it.
 - **Day 3:** On Day 3 preteens will learn that Thomas Believed. The point of the session is: Jesus helps me believe. Thinking back to the information about the spiritual development of preteens that we learned earlier, note that preteens are primed and ready to adopt a religious belief system. Help preteens know that they can believe in Jesus, just like Thomas.

- **Day 4:** On Day 4 preteens will learn that John Wrote About Jesus. The point of this lesson is: Jesus loves me. All preteens need to hear this truth. Jesus loves each and every one of them. In a world that is based on looks and skills they can know that no matter what, Jesus loves them!
- **Day 5:** On Day 5 preteens will learn about Paul and Silas in Prison. The point of the lesson is: Jesus gives me joy. Preteens can learn that they can have joy in spite of their circumstances.

5. Scouting Reports (20 Minutes)

- Ask conferees to remain in their previous groups. Announce that they will now “scout” 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.
 - Give each group a spiral notepad and 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 in their notebooks 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. 7th Inning Stretch (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 conferees to look under their chairs to find 16 scorecards (8 HOME and 8 VISITORS). Each scorecard will have either a term or a definition on it.
- Guide those with “VISITOR” scorecards to gather together and form a team and those with “HOME” scorecards to form a second team.
- Explain that on your signal, teams will try to place their 8 cards in the order each element occurs in the suggested VBX schedule (see leader guide). Assign *terms* to the VISITOR team and *definitions* to the HOME team.
 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.
 7. Excel: Time to discuss the Bible content.
 8. Recreation: Time for preteens to burn off some energy.
- Allow time for teams to work. Then debrief by checking their work. For every correct placement, add a sticky note on top of a square on the “Scoreboard” (pack item 8) next to the team’s name.

- 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. Field House Analysis (15 Minutes)

- Remind conferees that one of the goals of VBX should be building lasting relationships with preteens. Explain that you will share several ideas for keeping contact with their “players” after the game is over.
- Toss the prepared football to a conferee. Guide him to unwrap the plastic wrap until he reveals the first card. Ask the conferee to read the card and then toss the football to another conferee.
- Talk about each card after it is discovered and read. Add any additional clarification as needed.
- Remind conferees that proper follow up after VBX increases the chances that preteens will remain actively involved in church, strengthening his relationship with Christ.

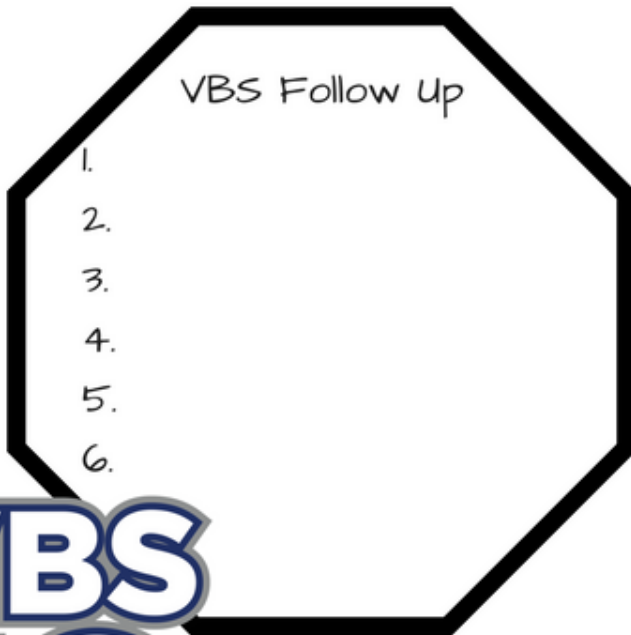
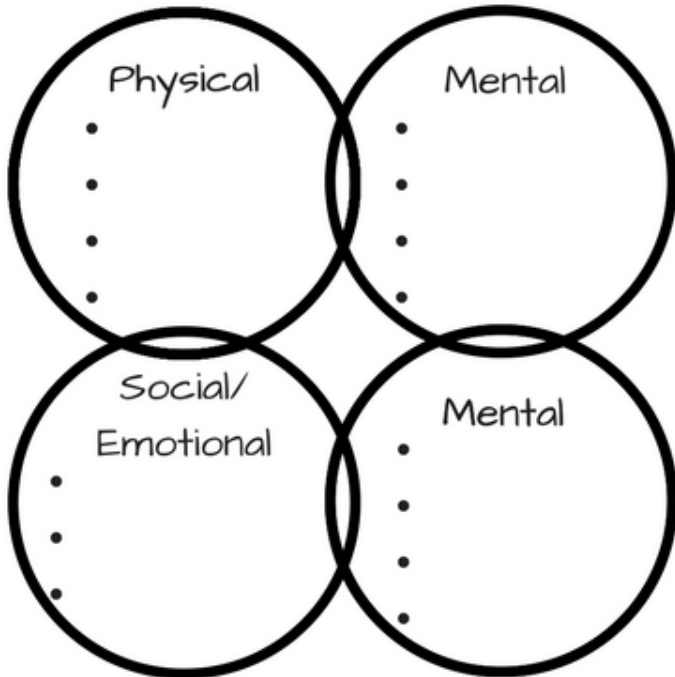
8. Team Huddle Up (5 Minutes)

- Congratulate the conferees on a “good game” by giving each person a high-five. Ask conferees to gather in the center of the room in a team huddle.
- Pray over the conferees that God would use this year’s VBX to draw preteens to Him.
- Dismiss by asking conferees to place a hand in. On the count of three, conferees should shout the VBX motto: “Gear Up! Get Ready! Game On!”



GAME ON!

2 PETER 1:3



Theme Overview

VBS Scripture:

VBS Motto:

Christ Connection:

LOBL:

Bible Content

Day 1:

Day 2:

Day 3:

Day 4:

Day 5:

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