



The Seventh-day Adventist Church
Jamaica Union Conference

A GUIDELINE FOR A SUCCESSFUL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MISSION

Nurture Children and Adolescents into a loving,
serving, relationship with Jesus

VISION

Every Child and Adolescent a Disciple of Christ

.....
President: Pastor Everett Brown

Executive Secretary: Dr. Meric Walker

Treasurer: Pastor Bancroft Barwise

Director: Dr. Lorraine Vernal

Assistant Director: Mrs. Judith Forbes
.....

THOUGHTS FROM CHILD GUIDANCE ELLEN G. WHITE

“If they(children) possess personal attractions and rare natural abilities, greater care should be taken in their education lest these endowments be turned to a curse and are so used as to disqualify them for the sober realities of this life and through flattery and vanity and love for display, unfit them for the better life.” P. 37



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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
JAMAICA UNION CONFERENCE**

Pastor Everett E. Brown

When it is planned and executed with careful, deliberate thought, Vacation Bible School is an effective weapon in our evangelism arsenal against the enemy; so we appreciate those in the Church who, year after year, give leadership and direction to this extension of the Sabbath School Department.

The imminent approach of eternity beckons the children of God to do their utmost for the Master, and by extension for their neighbours, to usher them into safe harbour before probation closes.

*Vacation Bible School is the one evangelism product exclusively targeting the children and adolescents in the community. In our planning, we must be ever conscious that **Every Child and every Adolescent is a Disciple for Christ**. With the young being bombarded constantly with numerous, negative distractions, Vacation Bible School must take on new urgency and careful attention, so that the children who attend are deliberately nurtured as **Disciples for God's Kingdom**.*

*We welcome you and hope that this **Vacation Bible School Experience** will be your gateway to a reformed, rejuvenated, expanded VBS in your church this year. We urge you to put VBS in an attractive package to entice your target group and make it into a powerful, effective vehicle for discipling the young, impressionable minds in your community.*

May God bless you and multiply your effort.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT

Dr. Lorraine Vernal, Director
Mrs. Judith Forbes, Assistant Director

Dear Team member

Welcome to the Jamaica Union Conference Vacation Bible School experience. On behalf of Team JAMU we thank you for making the sacrifice as you join us on this journey to empowerment. As leaders and supporters of Children & Adolescents Ministries we are guided by the mandate to nurture every child and adolescent into a saving relationship with Christ. Our Master places inestimable value on them and we are privileged to be God's instruments guiding them to His Kingdom.

We were intentional in calling this an 'experience' as every activity has been carefully selected as we seek to create what we hope you will replicate in your own Vacation Bible School. Come with an open mind, a positive attitude to share ideas and strategies. Join us as we explore life through the eyes of our children and adolescents and go back to advocate on their behalf. The statistics over the years have shown that many of us have failed our precious gems. We still use the same old methods and many of us do not remember how we were as children. It is our goal to help you better understand our 21st century children and share information as we cater to your local peculiarities. Allow the Holy Spirit to inform and inspire you.

It is our prayer that this VBS experience will draw you closer to Christ and that those you interact with will experience His transforming power as we prepare for God's Kingdom. We command you to enjoy your VBS experience.

INTRODUCTION WHAT IS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an evangelistic programme of the Seventh-day Adventist Church promoted by the Department of Children and Adolescents Ministries. It is aimed at children and adolescents of the church and community between the ages of 4-12. It takes place mainly during the months when children are out of school, but can be used for evangelistic campaigns, camps and community outreach, among others.

The programme is designed to last three to four hours a day during five to ten days ending with a graduation programme to which the parents and guardians of the children are invited. It can take place in the church, church school or someplace where you have the proper conditions to address them.

The general objectives of the VBS: The Vacation Bible School has the objective of affirming Christian values in the character development of the students so that they may be better members of the family, church and community, and share with others the message of salvation through Bible stories.

The specific objectives of the VBS:

- Reach the students who do not know Jesus and plant the seed of the Gospel in their hearts.
- Strengthen the faith of the children and adolescents of the church and lead their footsteps to Jesus.
- Present the character of our Creator
- Promote the strengthening of the character traits of Jesus in students.

Who is responsible for VBS?:

The Children's Ministries Coordinator works with the Pastor and Board to establish a Children's Ministries Committee to provide ministries for children. The Committee should consist of individuals with interest and experience in working with children. Ordinarily the members include Sabbath School Division Leaders, Vacation Bible School Leader, Adventist Junior Youth Leaders, and two to three others who have a passion for ministry to children.

If the church has a Children's Ministries Department, Vacation Bible Schools, Children's Branch Sabbath Schools, Neighborhood Bible Clubs, and Story Hours, they will come under the direction of Children's Ministries. ***SDA Church Manual 2015, p. 88.***

Children's Ministries develops the faith of children from birth through age 14, leading them into union with the Church. It seeks to provide multiple ministries that will lead children to Jesus and disciple them in their daily walk with Him. It cooperates with the Sabbath School and other departments to provide religious education to children and fulfills its mission by developing a variety of grace-oriented ministries for children that are inclusive, service-oriented, leadership-building, safe and evangelistic. ***Ibid., p. 87***

Purpose of Vacation Bible School:

The purpose of Vacation Bible School is to bring the gospel to boys and girls in a way that is attractive and instructional and to awaken an interest in the parents toward the plan of salvation. Many parents have been reached for Christ through their children's influence. Vacation Bible School is more than a 'baby sitter' for the community during the summer months. It is an evangelism programme of the highest order. "Assuredly I say unto you, unless you are converted and become as little children you will by no means enter the kingdom of God." Matt. 18:3

Vacation Bible School is...

...AN OPPORTUNITY so great that allows for the community in which you live to be reached with the message of Christ's soon return. Do not allow your Church to be the last to join this plan of action.

...A MAGNET to attract children from your community, allowing the church to reach them through the aid of the Holy Spirit.

...AN IMAGE BUILDER. It becomes an effective community outreach programme for your Church, and creates visible results for your Church:

- ❖ Increased community interest in the Church
- ❖ Increased Sabbath School attendance
- ❖ Entire families attracted to your Church
- ❖ Creates keener knowledge and understanding of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- ❖ Better understanding and fellowship among children and youth
- ❖ More actual conversions – more people added to your church
- ❖ Better public relations
- ❖ Children trained to be good citizens
- ❖ Provides a Sabbath School outreach programme for public evangelism.

Vacation Bible School is an asset to the Church. Therefore, the Pastor should be involved, giving inspiration and guidance to the programme. The boys and girls would be proud to have the Pastor visiting during VBS and even taking an interest in their crafts and other activities.

VBS offers the following opportunities for the Pastor:

- ❖ A chance for intimate acquaintance with the children of his Church and community
- ❖ An excellent chance to mold lives that soon may be young people and adults of his Church
- ❖ A God-given opportunity to reach homes otherwise lost to him and his Church
- ❖ A glorious privilege to prepare minds for the here and the hereafter
- ❖ One of the best missionary opportunities that will last, and one that will keep him jovial and young at heart as he interacts with the children.

Vacation Bible School B's:

- ❖ Be Prayerful: Make every plan subject to prayer
- ❖ Be Early: Don't wait until the last minute to plan or execute
- ❖ Be Organized; Nothing detracts from a leader as much as the lack of organization
- ❖ Be Cheerful: A smile costs you nothing and pays big dividends
- ❖ Be Diligent: The Lord expects this of you

- ❖ Be Concerned: As if your own child or grandchildren were lost, without Christ and hope
- ❖ Be interested: In each child, especially those who seem to have problems
- ❖ Be Considerate: Of those you work with
- ❖ Be Sincere: Insincerity shows on you
- ❖ Be Liberal: With your means, your time, and your talents
- ❖ Be Alert: To the signs of the Holy Spirit's working on hearts, leading to conversion

Types of Vacation Bible School:

VBS takes many forms and is held at any time and in all types of places wherever there are children and a place to meet. Some of the places where successful schools have been held are:

Church: This can be a general assembly held in the sanctuary and class conducted in the Church Hall or Sabbath School Class rooms.

School: This involves getting permission to hold VBS in a school, utilizing the use of a variety of classrooms which are convenient for the various activities.

Home: Neighbourhood children come to the home and meet in the living room, garage, or even in the yard.

Rented Hall: Many halls can be beautifully prepared and made convenient for a VBS.

Shopping Centre Utilizing an empty store. During the holiday season, some areas may have stores for rental that could be convenient for VBS.

Tent: Where there is a community with many children and the church is not central, a tent could be utilized in an open lot or in the backyard of a premises.

The object is to have a VBS in a central location wherever children and parents can attend easily.

10 KEYS TO POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

1. Find ways to praise children for their good behavior
2. Give children choices within limits. Say, "Would you like to sit in this chair or that one"?
3. Invite children—especially troublesome ones—to be your helpers
4. Ask Children for their suggestion and find ways to implement their ideas
5. Compliment children when they perform a simple task well
6. Take time to understand the child's negative feelings and find appropriate ways to release them
7. Be firm, but kind and fair when children misbehave
8. Treat children with respect
9. Be a good listener. Find out what's going on in the child's life that may be causing him or her to behave a certain way
10. Discourage competition among children and avoid comparing them with one another

PLANNING FOR VBS

January or six months before VBS)

1. Call on God's spirit to guide the planning
2. Review evaluation and recommendations from previous programs
3. Establish a VBS planning committee, meet with the Children's Ministries Coordinator to establish a plan and to brainstorm
4. Ascertain the date and hours for VBS from Church Calendar
5. Choose schedule for your programme
6. List goals for VBS
7. Publicize date to congregation and educate about staffing needs
8. Consider long-term craft preparations
9. Set a budget
10. Request congregational prayers and support for the planning process
11. Conduct the first readiness session

4 months before VBS

1. Pray God's blessing on the facilities
2. Evaluate the previous attendance and budget to project this year's figures and needed materials
3. Begin recruiting staff/key leaders
4. Conduct second readiness session
5. Order material from Conference
6. Develop a publicity plan

3 months before VBS

1. Call on God to create a spirit of openness to service within the congregation
2. Request congregational prayer partners for each staff member
3. Distribute copies of the appropriate sections of the programme guide to persons filling the various job descriptions
4. Confirm assignments and start training sessions where necessary
5. List any remaining job vacancies
6. Advertise date in church bulletin/notice board and share theme and focus with the congregation
7. Decide on type of publicity to be used
8. Distribute a supply list and invite congregational donations
9. Schedule and plan a dedication service of personnel or day of prayer for success of programme

2 months before VBS

1. Give God thanks for the gift of creativity and for the gifts of the congregation
2. Plan decoration according to the theme
3. Finalize VBS Schedule
4. Publicity to community and congregation

5. Distribute registration forms to church and community
6. Encourage the congregation to invite friends and neighbours
7. Conduct the second readiness session
8. Ask God's blessing for the larger community
9. Begin publicity campaign
10. Make pre-enrollment plans – community
11. Make room assignments
12. Begin working on decoration/backdrop
13. Conduct readiness session three

4 weeks before VBS

1. Give God thanks for those who are made a commitment to the programme
2. Publicize pre-enrollment
3. Conduct readiness session four
4. Check that materials are in hand
5. Finalize follow-up plans
6. Check for details – make sure everything is going as planned

3 weeks before VBS

1. Call on God to provide you with the energy and an eye for significant details
2. Begin pre-enrollment
3. Check registration numbers against materials ordered. Order additional if necessary
4. Conduct readiness session five

2 weeks before VBS

1. Call on the Holy Spirit and go into the community and encourage attendance. Call on prayer ministry to plan a community prayer walk
2. Conduct readiness session six
3. Provide teachers with current information about their classes
4. Have a special prayer session with them. Pray over material to be used.

1 week before VBS

1. Call on God to focus and calm all participants
2. Last minute check on supplies
3. Final room preparations, decoration etc.
4. Make sure programme is in place as planned
5. Invite congregation to the closing celebrations
6. Introduce staff to the congregation and invite a congregational blessing on their ministry
7. Special prayer session

Day Before VBS

1. Run the programme mentally
2. Go through checklist to ensure everything in place
3. Pray for the success of the programme and that the children will be spiritually impacted

First day of VBS

1. Call on the Spirit of God to surround the staff and children with love and security
2. Arrive early. Meet with staff for prayer
3. Greet children and parents
4. Celebrate the opportunities to witness. Enjoy the spirit of God at work
5. Watch for rough spots needing adjustment. Evaluate and make adjustments as needed
6. After the children depart, have a briefing and brain storming session with staff to catch loose ends

During VBS

1. Conduct daily staff meetings
2. Remind staff of closing programme preparations
3. Send letter about closing programme to parents
4. Prepare appreciation certificate for all staff members (purchase gifts needed)
5. Make final plans for follow-up

Day after VBS

1. Conduct a clean-up session
2. Organize left over materials
3. Prepare VBS report

One week after VBS

1. Conduct a staff meeting to evaluate the VBS programme
2. Complete all records, including financial summary
3. Finalize plans for follow-up with Pastor, Children's Ministries Coordinator and leader in charge of follow-up
4. Enlist VBS workers in other church programmes
5. VBS report to go to Sabbath School Superintendent for report for Conference
6. Check with Communication Leader to write a report for Conference, Union or local paper
7. Photo display for congregation (to highlight the blessings of VBS)

Very early in the planning process, staff should give serious consideration to establishing goals for the VBS programme:

1. What objectives must be met if the programme is to be considered a success?
2. Who do you expect to participate – children at what ages, youth, family units?
3. Is God calling you to reach out in a new way to a new segment of the community?
4. Are you planning a week or two-weeks programme to enrich the Church children's understanding of the Bible?
5. Is the programme to be an outreach to the community?

Discussion of these issues in advance allows everyone to work together with a common understanding

Suggestions for minimizing cost

1. Begin planning early
2. Watch supermarket sales for food items that can be stored
3. Consider crafts which use recyclables and ask members to collect the needed items.
4. Know what material you will be getting from your local conference so you can know what others you can work on. Example – welcome banner, forms for registration, etc.

READINESS SESSIONS **(See planning for VBS)**

Readiness session 1:

1. Preliminaries:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Welcome
 - c. Devotional
2. Director's Report
 - a. Discuss financing programme
 - b. Explain age guidelines
 - c. Present general schedule
 - d. Clarify job descriptions
3. List requests
4. Reports
 - a. Committee chairpersons
 - b. Announcement time for departmental training sessions
5. Discuss goals
6. Distribute teacher programme helps
7. Learn songs
8. Close with prayer

Readiness Session 2

1. Opening Preliminaries
2. Discuss decisions
 - a. Incentives, certificate, refreshments etc.
 - b. Outline special features
 - c. Discuss age-group characteristics
 - d. Examine lesson aims

Readiness Session 3

1. Preliminaries
2. List names and phone numbers of workers
3. Discuss supplies and equipment
4. Plan daily schedule
5. Discuss programme themes and goal
6. Discuss lesson objectives

Readiness Session 4- 6

1. Preliminaries
2. Examine and demonstrate teaching methods with teachers
3. Have display of craft samples
4. Discuss any other plans relating to VBS

Final session

1. Preliminaries
2. Sing VBS songs
3. Call for reports from chairpersons/heads of areas
4. Be sure each teacher knows where to meet for class
5. All should now have a sample of schedule and material to work with
6. Reminders:
 - a. Remind group of their need to seek God's help
 - b. Remind group of importance of keeping accurate records
 - c. Discuss follow-up plans
 - d. Discuss graduation and look at format
 - e. Review aims and goals

STAFFING SELECTION

1. VBS Director – VBS administrator
2. Division Leaders – Assist VBS Director to supervise departments
3. Teachers – Teach classes
4. Craft Director – In charge of craft
5. Music Leader – lead out in the music, assist with graduation planning
6. Pianist – Provide music
7. Secretaries – note information for report, write reports
8. Follow-up Leader – Plan for VBS follow-up. Crucial to VBS success
9. Cooking Staff – Cooks meals or assists with refreshments
10. Devotional Leader – plan for devotions
11. Custodian – See to water and toiletries etc. Supervise clean up
12. Publicity Director – Publicize VBS
13. Refreshments Director – plan menu, purchase goods
14. Recreational Leader – Plan for recreational activities especially with small children
15. Photographer – ensure that pictures are available for report and display

PUBLICITY IDEAS

1. Announce the date and time of your VBS at Sabbath School and Church. Invite volunteers to sign up.
2. Display photos from previous VBS by creating an attractive display
3. Use church bulletin

4. Other Reminders:

- a. Solicit help from Pastor or somebody who has the experience of running VBS
- b. Ask Church members to remember VBS in their prayers
- c. Plan a visitation campaign to reach neighbours and friends
- d. Set a goal for the number of children your church plan to invite this year
- e. Ask individuals to serve as prayer partners
- f. Utilize skills and talents

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The curriculum for VBS must acquaint the learner with God's will and encourage him/her to accept God's will and put it in practice. God's will is found in God's Word. Therefore, the Bible must have the central place in the curriculum. The VBS materials are designed to be:

1. Christ Centered: Jesus is to be the object of every lesson and the goal of every part of the programme
2. Bible based: The Word of God is to be the foundation and ground of every activity, story and lesson. It is to be used by the teachers, and by the children themselves as much as possible.
3. Child related: VBS should be a pleasurable experience for every child. It should appeal to the child's conscious and subconscious needs. It should generate warm and friendly feelings of security and trusts.
4. Evangelical or conversion oriented: Every song, story and the Bible lessons can be a vehicle through which the Holy Spirit speaks to hearts. Frequent opportunities should be given for children to express themselves. They should be tactfully and prayerfully led to accept Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

SAMPLE OF DAILY PROGRAMME

1. General Assembly: Children march in with Bible and flags and repeat pledges
2. Devotion: Where possible use one person to be devotional speaker
3. Classes: Roll Call, Object Lesson story, Lesson study and activity
4. Craft*
5. Games & Nature story
6. Lunch*
7. General Assembly & Graduation preparation
8. Clean up
9. Practice for graduation (two last days)

*(Happening at the same time: rotate the Craft and Lunch time between the smaller children and the older ones)

GRADUATION PROGRAMME SAMPLE

Children & Platform Party marches in
Songs and Pledges
Chairpersons Opening Remarks
Opening Song
Scripture Reading
Prayer
Special Item – Primaries
Welcome
Special Item – KG's
Report
Special Item – Juniors
Charge
Presentation of Certificates (Children do item then certs)
 KG - Item
 Primaries - Item
 Juniors - Item
Valedictorian (Optional)
Vote of Thanks
Closing Exercise
CRAFT DISPLAY - Sunset
P

UNDERSTANDING POSTMODERN CHILDREN **HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Early Planning Stage

1. Pray: God knows the best way to get things done at your church! He will show you the most effective way to reach the boy and girl in your community in an effective way through Vacation Bible School.
2. Ask: "Why are we doing what we are doing"? "What is our purpose"? "How does God want to work"?
3. Set date for VBS, inform the Church Board and ensure that it is placed on the Church Calendar
4. Order VBS material

Middle Planning Stage

1. Enlist Workers
 - a. Pray for workers for the harvest. VBS is God's work, count on Him to help you to recruit the right people. Look for individuals who are teachable, flexible, dependable and are team players.
 - b. Don't wait for volunteers to come. Most people want to help but are not good initiators. Some people lack confidence in their ability to teach or lead. Others

- simply has never been asked. Make the approach person-centered. Ask specific persons to do specific jobs.
- c. Let potential volunteers observe children's classes before they decide so they can have a better idea of what is expected
 - d. Provide clear, detailed job descriptions
2. Raise visibility of VBS through promotions: The more excited people become, the more likely they will want to be involved. Let the church know something exciting is about to happen.

Final Planning Stage

1. Train workers for success: It is not wise to give lay people a job and not tell them how to do it
2. Training involves: Time, energy, patience. But training helps ensure that what you delegate will get done because volunteers will know how to do it. Through training you impart your vision of what you hope to accomplish through VBS. Training will build team spirit among all your volunteers.
3. Thank you ideas to our volunteers:
 - a. Token with message "ZERO would happen in our VBS without your willingness to help"
 - b. Heart Magnet that says "You are at the heart of what happens in VBS"
 - c. Give a plant with a note. "Our VBS wouldn't grow without you"
 - d. Appreciation Certificates
 - e. Thank you note
4. Always remember to make prayer a vital part of the planning process

Steps (USE OUTLINE ON PAGE 7 AS YOU CHECK LIST)

- The key to a great VBS program is planning. Start planning 4-6 months before the VBS. During this time, you will need to:
 - **Choose your dates and time**, making sure that they do not clash with any church events.
 - **Choose a theme**. Consider your target audiences (preschoolers, children, youth, etc.), goals, ministry objectives, focus of the program, budget, etc.
- Three months before the VBS, you will focus your planning, order supplies, and shape the program through volunteers and materials. Here are some ideas of what to do during this time:
 - **Set a budget**.
 - **Recruit key leaders**: Music, Snacks, Games, Bible Story, etc. and volunteers.
 - Plan publicity strategies.
 - **List and order supplies** for publicity, decorating, leaders' manuals, and teaching.
 - Schedule staff training meeting 4-6 weeks before the VBS.
- Two months before the VBS, you will begin to set the wheels in motion:

- **Start publicity** in church. Ask for donations of supplies your church members may have. Display outdoor banners and hang publicity posters in your church and community. Some VBS kits include a promotional DVD. Show it during a worship service or other church gathering.
 - **Plan the VBS schedule.** Many programs run up to three hours a day with 20-25-minute sections.
 - **Review the staff members;** recruit additional as needed.
- Four to six weeks before the VBS, you will be making your final preparations:
 - **Begin pre-registration**
 - Hold the scheduled **staff training.**
 - **Review the registration** and order extra supplies as needed.
- A week before the VBS, you should:
 - **Assign** pre-registered participants to their classes and departments
 - **Finalize** room assignments
 - **Decorate** the church and set up rooms
 - **Review** and check all details: schedule, signs, supplies
- On the day before VBS:
 - **Conduct a kickoff event**
- During VBS:
 - **Register participants** as they arrive
 - **Make sure all volunteers are present**
 - **Oversee all VBS activities**
 - **Communicate** with key leaders every day to see how things are going
 - **Distribute** evaluation forms and award certificates on the last day
 - **Thank and recognize volunteers** at the awards/graduation ceremony
 - Enjoy yourself!
- After VBS,
 - **Clean up** and return the church building to its original arrangement
 - **Return/replace** all supplies
 - **Follow up with children** and new contacts.

ASSEMBLY PLEDGES & SONGS

BIBLE PLEDGE

I pledge allegiance to the BIBLE, God's Holy Word, and will take it as a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path, and hide its words in my heart that I may not sin against God.

BIBLE SONG

(Tune: Battle Hymn of the Republic)

We are thankful for our country;
It's a land where we are free.
We are thankful for the BIBLE
It's God's Word for you and me.
We are thankful Oh dear Jesus;
He is God's beloved Jesus;
He is God's beloved Son;
And He loves everyone.

CHORUS

Thankful yes, we all are thankful (Rept 3 times)

To God for everything

CHRISTIAN FLAG PLEDGE

I Pledge allegiance to the CHRISTIAN FLAG,
And to the Saviour for whose kingdom it stands,
One brotherhood, uniting all mankind in service and love.

CHRISTIAN FLAG SONG

(Tune: "Onward Christian Soldiers")

We are Jesus' children, marching as we sing
Showing all we love Him for He is our King.
He loves all the children, and they love Him too.
He will help and lead us in all that we do.

CHORUS

We are Jesus' children, marching as we sing
Showing all we love Him, for He is our king.

NATIONAL PLEDGE

Before God and all mankind,
I pledge the love and loyalty of my heart,
The wisdom and courage of my mind,
The strength and vigour of my body in the service of my fellow citizens.
I promise to stand up for justice,
brotherhood and peace
To work diligently and creatively
To think generously and honestly
So that Jamaica may, under God,
Increase in beauty, fellowship and prosperity
And play her part in advancing the welfare of the whole human race.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Eternal Father, bless our land
Guard us with Thy might hand
Keep us free from evil powers
Be our light through countless hours.
To our leaders, Great Defender,
Grant true wisdom from above.
Justice, truth be ours forever,
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica land we love.

Teach us true respect for all
Stir response to duty's call
Strengthen us the weak to cherish,
Give us vision lest we perish
Knowledge send us heavenly Father
Grant true wisdom from above
Justice, truth be ours for ever
Jamaica, land we love
Jamaica, Jamaica, Jamaica land we love

LESSON THEME
CELEBRATION

C – CHOICES: Little Decisions Add Up
E – EXERCISE: Keep moving
L – LIQUIDS: Splashing and Paddling
E – ENVIRONMENT: The Big House We Live In
B – BELIEF: Building on a Strong Foundation
R – REST: Changing Batteries
A – AIR: The fresher, The Better
T – TEMPERANCE: How to say “NO”. Building a wall to protect me
I – INTEGRITY: The Way I Feel is a Choice
O – OPTIMISM: Attitude Altitude
N – NUTRITION: Choosing the Best Building Material
S – SERVICE: Helping Others Makes Me Happy

Chose a THEME SONG and a THEME TEXT

THEME TEXT: 3 John 2

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. New King James

THEME SONG:

CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	LESSON THEME	MESSAGE FROM GOD	ACTIVITIES FROM LESSON	CRAFT	OBJECT LESSON
DAY 1 C	CHOICES	Matthew 25:40	QUIN: The question Man	PRAYER MAT	Lost Sheep
DAY 2 E	EXERCISE	Psalms 139:15		PROMISE PLAQUE	Talents
DAY 3 L	LIQUIDS	Revelation 21:6	WILMA: The Wise	WALL PLAQUE	Net
DAY 4 E	ENVIRONMENT	Psalms 24:1,2		BOTTLE DECORATION	Mustard Seed
DAY 5 B	BELIEFE	Matthew 6:9-13	MY PROMISE:	PENCIL HOLDER	Homeowner
DAY 6 R	REST	Psalms 4:8	MESSAGE FROM GOD	EGG-STRA PENNY DISH	Bridesmaids
DAY 7 A	AIR	Psalms 150:1,6	INSIDE VS OUTSIDE	PAPER FLOWER	Yeast
DAY 8 T	TEMPERANCE	James 4:7		PROMISE HOLDER	Taxman/Pharisee
DAY 9 I O	INTEGRITY/OPTIMISM	Proverbs 17:22			Sower
DAY 10 N S	NUTRITION/SERVICE	1 Corinthians 10:31 Isaiah 58:10			Good Samaritan

GAME IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

Main Deck

This game is played by dividing an area into three sections. Each section has a name: the middle is CELEBRATION DECK, (SING CHORUS OF CELEBRATE LET US CELEBRATE) the left is QUARTER DECK and the right is MAIN DECK. A designated person will callout a deck. The last one to run there is out. This game is played until only one person is left.

Identify Your Partner

Have two players face each other for one minute. Then have them turn around so they are back to back and have them name five physical features of each person and are out if they can't. Partners will be switched, and kids will continue the game until only two players are left.

Tape Line

Have players line up on a line of duct tape. Ask them to switch places completely without anyone falling off the line. As kids fall off, they have to start over.

Boot Camp

Boot camp is a drill where students move quickly through four more "camps". Each camp contains a sports activity: (depending on how large the group is decide on number of camps to accommodate the number)

- Jump rope
- Hopscotch
- Hula hoop
- Tossing ball etc.

Divide number of students in each "camp". They must do the activity in the center for two minutes. At the end of two minutes, the class leader blows a whistle and each group moves to the camp to your right, until they have moved through all stations. Students are allowed to move through the camps more than once.

Team Sports

If your VBS has a large space or a playground nearby that is available, consider setting up a team sport for recreation. Kickball, softball, basketball, football, are popular with young people. Set up teams and play a game for 15 minutes. Encourage winners and losers to exhibit good sportsmanship. Be sure to have a free 'referees' on hand to make sure that the game rules are followed.

MEET TEAM JAMU

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THE BEGINNER CHILD	<p>Has a short attention span Can't sit still for long periods Learns by repetition Is very self-centered Needs a frequent change of activities Has lots of fears Tires easily Is sometimes rigid and inflexible Wants to touch and taste everything Appreciates Jesus as a friend</p>	<p>SO... Keep things moving without seeming to hurry the children. Give children a chance to stand up every few minutes. Be loving and understanding when they do the unexpected. Provide lots of adult supervision Make your room a friendly place Provide lots of hugs and smiles</p>
THE KINDERGARTEN	<p>Is growing rapidly Is developing independence Has a growing vocabulary Forgets easily Is beginning to play cooperatively Explodes when angry Is sometimes jealous Thinks of God in a personal way Asks honest questions about God, death, worship Is excited by new experiences</p>	<p>SO... Establish routines at VBS; explain them the first day. Give children a chance to do things for themselves. Don't talk down to the children Repeat rules and directions every day. Ask children to show how grown up they are by responding quickly to directions. Listen to children. Answer their questions.</p>
THE PRIMARY	<p>Is active and energetic Is curious, inquisitive and mentally alert Is learning to read Needs help to develop social skills Is motivated by individual goals and recognition Is developing a sense of right and wrong Identifies with an admired adult Enjoys noncompetitive group activities Seeks personal attention Seeks answers about Jesus Christ</p>	<p>SO... Don't talk down to primaries. Provide opportunities for children to discover Bible truths. Don't embarrass children who can't read. Team up readers with non-readers. Affirm children for acting responsibly. Affirm groups for their group effort. Let children know that you noticed them. Listen to children. Answer their questions.</p>
THE JUNIOR/TEEN	<p>Has a lively imagination Is loud and energetic Enjoys active participation Talks a lot Matures at a different rate from peers Is beginning to think abstractly Is fragile, possibly lacking in self-esteem Is anxious to please peers Can respond to life-related Bible teaching Is ready to make salvation decision</p>	<p>SO... Talk to them as if they are grown-ups Take their ideas and suggestions seriously. Value their energy and channel it. Relate learning to things they are interested in. Show them how to apply Bible truth to daily life. Give them a chance to decide for Jesus.</p>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The Vacation Bible School of the _____

Awards this Certificate to _____ For Enrollment,
Attendance and Co-operation.

Presented this _____ of _____



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The Vacation Bible School of the _____

Awards this Certificate to _____ For Enrollment,
Attendance and Co-operation. **KNOW YOUR CHILDREN**

Presented this _____ of _____



The mission of the Children's Ministries Department is to nurture children into a loving, serving relationship with Jesus.

We seek to fulfill our mission by developing the following:

1. **Grace-oriented ministries**, in which all children will experience the unconditional love of Jesus, find assurance of acceptance and forgiveness, and make a commitment to Him and develop their faith.
2. **Inclusive ministries**, in which the volunteers who minister and the children to whom they minister will be valued and involved regardless of race, color, language, gender, age, abilities, or socio-economic circumstances;
3. **Leadership ministries**, in which volunteers are empowered, trained, and equipped for effective ministry to children;
4. **Service-oriented ministries**, in which children are given opportunities for hands-on service to people in their neighborhood or city, which could establish a pattern of outreach to others that may well continue through life;
5. **Cooperative ministries**, which involve working in partnership with other ministries, such as family ministries, Sabbath School, and stewardship, to support and help parents develop the faith of their children.
6. **Safe ministries**, whereby our churches adopt safeguards to protect children from physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse; to choose volunteers with high spiritual and moral backgrounds; and to minimize the church's liability; and,
7. **Evangelistic ministries**, in which children who are not enfolded in the church family will be introduced to the love of Jesus through outreach-programs such as: Vacation Bible Schools, children's branch Sabbath Schools, Neighborhood Bible Clubs, and Story Hours.