

Dear Teachers and Helpers,

You are a wonderful blessing to our VBS! We are glad that you have chosen to teach a family group. May God strengthen you and fill you with the knowledge of His Word both to inspire and experience Faith Alive!

Instructions

Each day of VBS (except maybe on the closing day) teachers will meet for a staff meeting for about 30 minutes. Helpers should be asked to arrive with teachers so they can care for children who may ride with teachers or those who may come early. Helpers should have colors and paper ready to keep little hands busy (Christian coloring books are great) and be prepared to talk with older children. Teachers should take time each day to pray with helpers and any children present before going to staff meetings: thank the Lord for blessings, ask for a good day, take prayer requests, etc.

Staff Meetings

At staff meetings teachers will begin with prayer (litanies) and sing songs children will be singing as part of their Opening Devotions. These litanies and songs are inspirational, teach the daily theme and give teachers an opportunity to become familiar with the songs before their children sing them. This is especially helpful where actions are involved.

You should have met to go over the daily schedule, the Four Lesson Plans for the Week and Closing Day. However, any questions which arise about the schedule and Lessons can be addressed at morning staff meetings. On the first day or before the first day of VBS you should receive a list of names and ages of people in your family group, the name of your family or tribe, a schedule of when you will attend Craft Shops and your Song Book. Make sure you take a Song Book for your helper (s) too. Use the songs and litanies during Tent time as you are able and time allows.

Lessons

Each lesson is designed to be interactive and playful. This technique holds the attention of all ages and works toward interaction between the ages. While you are teaching in an exciting way you are also learning to teach in specific ways you will be able to use in your future teaching endeavors. Have fun teaching and learning!

Fun Memory Time

Memorization is an excellent learning tool, especially when it becomes a fun activity. VBS memory time is designed to be just that - FUN! Participants may not even know they are having memory time. Instructions are given in each lesson for fun family memory time. Use this as a special time "to play" with your family group. You will be teaching memory work and the lesson for the day. Please note that concepts are memorized, not entire passages.

Keeping Your Tent Clean

For those who are using tents these handy suggestions help keep tents clean during a rough week of VBS. Bring a rug to set outside your door. Shake it out often. Keep a small whisk broom and dust pan handy to clean up inside your tent. Assign clean up to participants. Encourage them to work together as a family dividing tasks, helping one another, picking up the slack and of course "forgiving" when someone falls short of their expectations. 15 minutes of clean up time is allowed at the end of each day.

Tent Times

10 Minutes each day (before first Craft Shop) is Tent Time. Welcome participants and explain the schedule for the day. Make sure most of the participants understand that they will be moving

Basic Schedule to Follow ⇒ to Craft Shop I ⇒ back to Tent for the Daily Interactive Lesson
⇒ to Craft Shop II ⇒ then back to Tent for Clean Up.

Craft Shop Times

Teachers and helpers will be accompanying participants to Craft Shops. This is especially necessary if Craft Shop Leaders do not have helpers. Even if they do have helpers the more "helpers" present, the easier and more fun Craft Times can be for everyone!

Snack Time

It works out best for helpers to go get snacks and bring them back to the tents. When helpers go for snacks they should return with one tray filled with napkins, drinking cups, a pitcher of Koolaid and enough snacks to feed their family group. You may or may not want to begin your lesson until snacks are finished. If trays are not being picked up during your lesson return them to snack area when your group leaves for Craft Shop II.

Four Daily Lessons

A Lesson Plan is provided in this Teacher and Helper Guide for you. Participants will not need a copy of the Lesson Plan. Check each lesson for a list of what you will need each day. Lessons are designed to be interactive. Basically that means they are designed to get and keep all ages involved. Have markers and paper ready for times younger participants may need something to keep little hands busy, which shouldn't be often with all of the action. Enlist the help of older participants to help younger participants sing, answer questions and even draw to keep them busy. Continually emphasize working together as families, loving and caring for each other.

Lessons are Planned around Four Themes:

Day One Theme: From Darkness into Light

Objective of Day One Lesson: To experience "Christ the Light" as our way out of the darkness of sin.

Day Two Theme: Called by God

Objective of Day Two Lesson: To hear the Good News of our salvation and share it.

Day Three Theme: Faith to Go

Objective of Day Three Lesson: To discover how God, through Christ, strengthens our faith to go.

Day Four Theme: Faith to Be.

Objective of Day Four Lesson: To discover how we can be more like Christ

Closing Day

Begin on the first day to be on the lookout for a song, a skit, an active liturgy, even a craft or picture your family group enjoyed or found meaningful or helpful. Consider sharing these kinds of things during a closing family program, in church worship the following Sunday or when visiting nursing homes on the closing day.

Please Note: The schedule for Closing Day is different from the rest of the week. Take careful note of what your VBS program leaders have chosen to do on Closing Day and plan accordingly. Keep your family group informed and help them prepare for one "fantastic" Closing Day!

Out of Darkness into Light

YOU WILL NEED: A large heavy quilt or blanket to cover your entire family group and a flashlight.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: Pass out Snacks. Make sure everyone is seated and ready to begin lesson

OPENING

INTRODUCTIONS! Go around your family group and have each member share something about themselves: their favorite color, their favorite pet, etc. and their name. Basically make this a get to know each other time.

SNAP OR DRAW PICTURES! Take a Polaroid picture of your family group or have paper and markers ready for family members to draw a picture of their group. If only one or two Polaroid cameras are available this picture can be taken at any time during Day One. It needs to be ready for Day Two Opening Devotions Board Activity.

LESSON ACTIVITY

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.. Isaiah 9:2

LEADER INSTRUCTIONS: Get everyone under a blanket. Use a flash light to read Isaiah 9:2 and ask: "How do you feel when you're in a dark place? Is anyone afraid of the dark?" Confess that you are afraid of the dark (even if you're not). Say, "I get this strange feeling - it's scary! Being lost in sin is pretty scary, too until Christ the Light of the World comes. Take the blanket off and let the light shine. Say, "That feels much better. I was getting really hot under there. Being out in the light is so much better." Explain that the whole world was lost in the awful darkness of sin. Then, Christ came to take away our sins and let His Light shine in our lives. That makes us feel great!

OPTIONAL PLAY ACTIVITY: *Direct family to cover up with blanket and repeat after you:*

“Isaiah said we're lost in sin” *(repeat)*. **“So throw off the dark and let Christ in!”**

(repeat)

Ask family to whip off the blanket! Repeat as time allows for fun and for learning.

Discuss the following questions:

1. What do you think the world would be like without any light? *Share answers*
2. What would happen to us if we didn't know Christ the Light of the World? *No salvation*
3. Long before Jesus was born which prophet told us He was coming into the world to be our Light? *Isaiah.*

Close with Memory Time: Turn "From Darkness into Light We Come" into a fun activity

Repeat the following words with rap type rhythm. You can divide into two groups for more challenge.

group 1: From darkness into Light we come, group 2: God's work in us has just begun,

group 1: We pray His peace and love is here; group 2: For us to share both far and near.

Encourage family group to repeat it until they have a real rap going - for fun and for memory

Permission to reproduce this UIM Resource is given to the ordering congregation ONLY and is not transferable. Each time this UIM Resource is used, a donation is requested to continue UIM for congregations like yours in the future. To review a wealth of UIM Resources, visit: www.familycrossfires.org Questions? E-mail: info@familycrossfires.org Donations to continue this ministry or in appreciation for help a UIM Resource has given you may be sent to: **Family Crossfires Ministries, Inc., N6753 Black Oak Circle, Shawano, WI 54166-1763.** ©2017