



VBS 2014 Celebration

Purpose Statement

This 45-minute conference is designed to help conferees discover the purpose and new ideas for planning a successful VBS celebration.

Resources to Collect

Black paper bags –one for each 6-8 conferees

Tear sheets

Black poster board – 6 pieces

Markers

Optional – Inflatable Game Cube

Preparation

1. Using the black poster board, cut out the following words – Who, What, Where, When, Why, How. If you have access to an inflatable game cube, you can choose to prepare the 6 words and put one on each side of the cube.
2. Collect a black paper bag for each group of 6-8 conferees. Place a tear sheet and markers in each bag.
3. Place chairs in circles. Place one of the previously prepared bags in each circle.

Procedures

As conferees arrive, play the Agency D3 Music of Kids CD. Welcome agents at the door.

Introduce yourself. Share that during this session conferees will discover new and innovative ideas for planning an amazing celebration event. We will also discover the importance of using this opportunity to locate unchurched families in our communities.

Using the words that have been prepared, brainstorm the following questions with the group (you can either hold up the prepared words or roll the cube and let it land on a word).

- **Who** should be invited to our Celebration?
- **What** are we going to do during the Celebration (eat, program, open house, VBS musical)?
- **What** type of information are we going to have prepared for our guests?
- **When** is the best time to have a Celebration?
- **Where** are we going to have the Celebration? (sanctuary, classrooms, outside)
- **How** are we going to advertise our Celebration?
- **How** are we going to greet those who attend the Celebration? (greeters at every door, very good signage, leave parking available close to the building for visitors)
- **Why** do we have a Celebration event?

Share with the agents that some of the best ideas can be found by sharing our ideas with other people. Call attention to bags in the center of the circles. Have each group appoint a scribe and reporter. Instruct agents to list ideas for a fun and successful VBS Celebration keeping the Agency D3 theme in mind. After about 10 minutes, allow each group to share their ideas. Share with the group that if a VBS Celebration is successful, the event should be a time of really getting to know (making connections with) the families, especially unchurched guests.

Tell conferees that remembering the ideas that have been discussed in this conference will help to insure an effective VBS Celebration. Help conferees remember that families who are not used to being in church may find the event a bit intimidating. Churches should strive to make the event as inviting and comfortable as possible.

Lead conferees in discussing the handout.

Closing

Encourage agents to check www.lifeway.com/vbs regularly for additional

Celebration ideas.

Ask conferees to stand within their circles and hold hands. Dismiss the group with prayer.

Tips for a Successful VBS Celebration

1. The Pastor should have a visible role and all staff should be involved.
2. If a meal is served, couples should sit at different tables and serve as hosts and hostesses to the guests.
3. A brief, fun, and worshipful program should be planned.
4. Members should park as far away from the church building as possible to provide closer spaces for guests.
5. Advertise the event even during pre-VBS promotion.
6. Volunteers should man every door to help families find the proper locations.
7. Train volunteers to be connectors not greeters.
8. Have a packet of information available for guests. (This may include upcoming events, weekly program, information about the church, etc.)