

Helpful Information for a Happy VBS Week

VBS Prep...

- Wear your VBS shirt each night. Teens report to the chapel by 5:30pm for the teen program. Adults arrive to their homeroom/post by 5:30pm. Children will start arriving by 5:45pm (teens will arrive to their posts around the same time).
- All counselors (adult and teen) should be familiar with this *Helpful Information for a Happy VBS Week* sheet.
- Lead counselors should also look through the clipboard sheets in their homeroom, so you know what information is available to you. Lead counselors should carry the clipboard with them to all VBS activities.

Arrival/Homeroom...

- Greet children and offer to appropriate activities (see *Help...What do I do now?* sheet). Coloring sheets, crayons, and playing cards will be provided in your homeroom bin. Keeping the children engaged and not running around will help prevent behavior issues later. Each homeroom will also have a cd player with a VBS music cd.
- Establish expectations/rules for the group. Children want structure. For example: **Be Responsible, Be Respectful, Be Safe** (give examples)
- Teach a way to get the group's attention, such as a clapping pattern to be echoed by the kids; "1-2-3 eyes on me..." and they respond, "1-2 eyes on you!", etc. Use your method all week.
- Lead counselors should take attendance and distribute nametags each night, as well as collect nametags at the end of the night.

Hallway Behavior...

- Do **NOT** leave for the skit prior to being dismissed by a core team member at your door. Thanks!
- No piggyback rides or carrying students. Someone always feels left out. You may choose line buddies, leader/caboose for the night, friendship train (everyone holds hands), or number order for the older kids.
- Children must be accompanied to the restroom.

Activity Stations...

- Supervise your group and make sure each child is accounted for when you change activities.
- Spread counselors throughout the group, especially during Skit, Music, and Bible Story. Engage with the children so they feel included and this will help everyone have a great week!
- Look for ways to praise each child every evening.
- **PARTICIPATE!** The kids will be more willing to participate and have fun if they see you doing it – especially the teens! Don't be afraid to have fun, play, dance, and sing!

End of the Night/Dismissal...

- Collect all nametags.
- Dismiss children only to a parent unless you receive permission to do otherwise.
- For ease of pick-up, please have parents wait in the hall and dismiss one child at a time.