

VBS 2016 Submerged Recreation Rotation Overview

Purpose Statement

This 45 minute plan is designed to train and equip leaders to conduct LifeWay's *Submerged* VBS recreation rotation.

Resources to Collect, Prepare, & Copy

Resources to Collect

- Step 1
 - Fish stickers in four different colors (1 sticker per conferee)
- Step 2
 - Index cards (4)
 - Marker
 - Large pieces of paper (4)
- Step 3
 - None
- Step 4
 - Cones (to establish playing field)
 - Sponges (1 sponge per 2 conferees)
 - Buckets (2)
- Step 5
 - Handout 1
- Step 6
 - Cones (used in Step 4)
 - Green bandana
- Step 7
 - None
- Step 8
 - Cones (used in Steps 4 and 6)
 - Jump ropes (2)
- Step 9
 - Bible
- Step 10 (Bonus/Optional)
 - Cones (from Steps 4, 6, and 8)
- Step 11 (Bonus/Optional)
 - None

Resources to Prepare

- Step 1
 - None to prepare
- Step 2
 - Write each of the following terms on a separate index card: *indoor*, *outdoor*, *water*, and *messy*.
- Step 3
 - None to prepare
- Step 4
 - Place cones around the room to create an ocean that conferees must cross.
 - Place half of the sponges in one bucket and the remaining sponges in the other.

- o Place one bucket on one side of the ocean and the other bucket on the other side.
 - o Option: You may cut the sponges in half to make them go further.
- Step 5
 - o None to prepare
- Step 6
 - o Place cones to designate the playing area and place the green bandana in the middle of the playing field.
- Step 7
 - o None to prepare
- Step 8
 - o Place jump ropes in the middle of the playing field about one foot apart.
- Step 9
 - o Mark Psalm 139:13-14 in the Bible.
- Steps 10 and 11 (Bonus/Optional)
 - o None to prepare

Resources to Copy

- Handout 1

Focal Wall Description

No focal wall is needed.

Room Setup Description

Position chairs around the room to leave an open space in the playing area in the middle of the room. This will allow room for conferees to interact with the different games that will be demonstrated.

Decoration Suggestions

Use the small inflatables, which include bubbles and a seahorse, to hang or place around the room. Remind conferees that recreation takes place. Use the large inflatable as decoration along with blue, light blue, and white inflated balloons to resemble bubbles found in the water. Promotional items such as the flags can be draped around the area. You may also choose to hang up the VBS 2016 scripture poster and the VBS 2016 motto poster from the VBS 2016 Visual Pack to help serve as a visual reminder of both. For more ideas for decorating, check out *Decorating Made Easy*.

Audio Visual Needs

- CD Player

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)
 - Greet conferees as they enter the room.
 - Provide each conferee with a fish sticker. Be sure to vary the color sticker you give to each conferee, so you have somewhat equal numbers of each color of sticker.
 - Introduce yourself and call attention to the different colored fish stickers each conferee is wearing.
 - Discuss different ways to form groups to play games based on this method.

- Suggest grouping people who are wearing the same colored fish sticker can form groups. Groups could be formed by placing one person from each color in a group. Share that in the first game today, one volunteer from each color group will be participating in a game.
2. Play Fin-ger Painting Pictionary (5 minutes)
 - Choose a volunteer from each color fish sticker to participate in this game.
 - Explain to conferees that a version of each game played today is a game found in the *VBS 2015 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*.
 - Share that each volunteer will be assigned a word to draw for everyone watching to guess. Provide each volunteer a prepared card to illustrate.
 - Demonstrate how each volunteer must hold the marker in the crook of his elbow to make the drawing.
 - Allow one minute of drawing and guesses for each item before revealing the answer, if needed.
 - Congratulate volunteers on working hard.
 3. Debrief Fin-ger Painting Pictionary (5 minutes)
 - Explain each volunteer was drawing one of four kinds of games included in the *VBS 2015 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*.
 - Share that there are four categories, and each of the 21 games included on the cards falls into at least one category: indoor, outdoor, messy, and water games.
 - Point out Fin-ger Painting Pictionary is considered a messy game. In the directions, kids are asked to paint different aquatic sea creatures using only their elbows and washable paint. One option to avoid paint would be pudding.
 - Inform conferees they will receive a handout to reference each game during the conference.
 - Mention other games that are labeled messy include Squid Tag and Seaweed Toss. Messy games are not assigned or suggested for a particular day of VBS. The games may be used whenever they are needed.
 4. Play Dodge the Sponge (5 minutes)
 - Choose two colors of fish stickers to be on one team and two colors of fish stickers to be on another team.
 - Announce that this game is supposed to be played with water and explain there are four water game suggestions in the *VBS 2015 Recreation Rotation Leader Cards*. Some churches choose to do a water day on day five, and these cards would be a good place to begin in planning for the theme.
 - Call attention to the playing area as designated by the cones and the buckets of sponges found at each end of the playing field. Make note the sponges do not have water.
 - Challenge teams to grab one sponge at a time from the bucket and toss it at the other team. The goal is for the sponge to make contact with someone from the other team. Once a conferee has been tagged by a sponge, he must remove himself from the area.
 - Tell conferees they must place the sponges back in the buckets after each throw, and sponges caught in the air with hands doesn't count as being "out." Play until you are only left with one player or it is time to move to the next activity.

5. Debrief Dodge the Sponge (5 minutes)

- Explain that you want to help conferees dodge any potential problems that may occur during recreation rotation.
- Use the following points to review with conferees. When possible, add in any personal experiences to help make the point clear and easy to remember.
 - Be prepared.
 - Provide conferees with Handout 1.
 - Share that Handout 1 includes all the games located on the cards for children. You can have this easily accessible when you need to know what supplies you'll need for the next game.
 - Check and double-check your supplies. Make sure you have what you need. Do not wait until the day of VBS to gather what you need. Most items are basic, but some are specific items that you need to make sure you have available, ready to use, and the correct quantity.
 - Know the point.
 - Physically point out the "Make the Point" sections found on the Recreation Rotation Cards.
 - Read through the Bible story for each day. Consider asking the Bible story leader for review questions or make up your own. The reference for each story is located on a card for each day.

6. Play Steal the Seaweed (5 minutes)

- Point out the cones set up as the ocean for the game. Place the green bandana in the center of the ocean.
- Form two new teams by combining two different color combinations of fish. Direct each team to stand on a different side of the ocean.
- Number the players on each team, so each player is matched up.
- Call out a number, and instruct the player on each team to crab walk to steal the seaweed and return to his team's side of the ocean. The player from the other team will try to tag the player who gets the seaweed first. If the seaweed makes it home, the team gets a point. If the player gets tagged, the other team gets the point.
- Play as time allows.

7. Debrief Steal the Seaweed (5 minutes)

- Share that you don't want actions that happen in Deep Sea Recreation to **steal** the joy of rec time. Review the following reminders to help kids have a fun, safe time in recreation.
 - Set simple rules, such as respect the boundaries, respect the leaders, and respect your friends.
 - Establish a cool down zone. This is a place kids can visit when they need a minute to cool off, temperament-wise.
 - Participate in the games. If you don't, kids won't. This includes your youth workers, too! Caution youth workers not to outplay the kids but definitely participate.
 - Be over prepared. This way you never run out of things to do. Maybe a game takes less time than you anticipated. When you over prepare, you will always have an activity ready. Remember you can play games again, and kids enjoy doing so!

- Diffuse situations quickly. Make sure more than one leader knows how to play the game if you need to step away to handle a situation. Kids are competitive, and you may need to take a moment to help some kids know what they are doing isn't acceptable.
 - Share Steal the Seaweed is considered an indoor or outdoor game suggested for Day 1. This type of activity (indoor/outdoor game) has the most options available to play. Ten different game cards are available. Remind conferees to check out Handout 1 for more info on those games.
8. Play Jump the Waves (5 minutes)
- Designate cones to mark two lines at each end of the play area and call attention to the area for conferees. Place the two jump ropes parallel about a foot apart.
 - Explain that conferees will take turns jumping over the wave without touching the jump ropes.
 - Encourage conferees to play the game, and increase the distance between the ropes after each conferee has jumped the wave once. If players fall into the ocean, direct them to dry off on the beach, then return to the game.
 - Play as time allows or the waves grow too big for conferees to jump over.
9. Debrief Jump the Waves (5 minutes)
- Identify the game Jump the Waves as an indoor game. One indoor game is provided for each day, so five indoor games are included in the recreation cards.
 - Say: "You will be jumping over hurdles, obstacles, and challenges when you lead kids in Deep Sea Recreation!"
 - Read aloud Psalm 139:13-14.
 - Challenge leaders to be prepared physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually to lead the kids in VBS through the games but also to form relationships and encourage them.
 - Close in prayer.

VBS 2016 Children's Recreation Rotation

-Supply List-

<i>Kind of Game</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Supplies Needed</i>
	1	Octopus Tag	2 cones
Indoor	1	Funny Fish	2 cones, pool noodles, string, small magnet, paper fish, paper clips
	1	Steal the Seaweed	Cones, green bandana or bean bag
	2	Predator Tag	Cones, up to 4 hula hoops
Indoor	2	Reverse the Rainbow	Color candy (10-12 pieces per child)
	2	Hunting for Pearls	Cones, Ping-Pong® balls, permanent marker, bucket
	3	The Sea Anemone v. The Clownfish	Cones, 2 squirt bottles, 2 pool noodles
Indoor	3	Jump the Waves!	Cones, 2 jump ropes
	3	Shark Bait	Cones, Balloons (2 per player)
	4	Clamming for Marbles	Wading pools, marbles, 2 small buckets, cones
Indoor	4	Draw Your Swordfish	Pool noodle cut in half
	4	Turtle Races	Cones or obstacles
	5	Sharks and Minnows	Cones
Indoor	5	A Mighty Current	Masking tape, balloons (1 per child)
	5	School of Rainbow Fish	Fishing poles with magnets, 7 different colors of construction paper, paper clips, wading pool, blue and white balloons, cones
Messy		Fin-ger Painting Pictionary	Paper, pans, washable paint, index cards, baby wipes
Messy		Squid Tag	Cones, Disappearing ink or water spray bottle
Messy		Seaweed Toss	Cooked spaghetti noodles, buckets, water
Water		Water Ball	Varies: sprinkler, kiddie pool, slip-n-slide, water balloons, sponges
Water		Manta Ray Relay	4 buckets of water, 4 towels
Water		Dodge the Sponge	Cones, buckets of sponges, sponges (1 sponge for every 2 kids)
Water		Sea Lion Balancing Act	Buckets of water balloons or sponges (1 bucket per team), small buckets (1 per team)