

File 5 VBS 2017 Grades 5-6 VBX Leadership (2 Hours)

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this 2-hour conference plan is to prepare leaders to teach preteens using LifeWay's 2017 Galactic Starveyors VBS. The session will help conferees prepare to teach the VBX material, to understand the Bible content, and to lead preteens in VBX.

Resources to Collect, Prepare, & Copy

1. Welcome
 - Binary Cards from VBX Enhanced CD: (Day 2 Folder: VBX_17_BinaryCards). Print out and cut one card per conferee.
 - Enhanced CD: Track 1 "Galactic Starveyors"
 - CD Player

2. Exploding Stars: Getting to Know Preteens
 - 5-Balloons
 - 5- Markers
 - 5- Toothpicks

3. Cosmic Chaos: Scheduling VBX
 - Galaxy Items (Item 6: *VBX Bible Study Leader Pack*). Cut each item out.
 - 1-Blindfold
 - Black bulletin board paper (4ft wide strip)
 - Handout 1: Scoping Out VBX (Give 1 to each conferee)
 - On separate paper strips, print the following words:
Excite, Explore, Excel, Small Group Time, Worship Rally, Snack Break, Mission Break, Recreation, and Crafts. Tape one of the printed strips to the back of each galaxy item.

4. Eclipse—VBS Scripture Memorizing Activity
 - VBS Scripture Poster (Item 1: *VBX Bible Study Leader Pack*)
 - Earth Poster (Item 12: *VBX Bible Study Leader Pack*). Cut out the Earth shape.
 - 1-Flashlight

5. Zoom Out: View all the VBX Resources
 - Zoom Out Cards (Printed from Day 1 VBX Enhanced CD)
 - Write one of the following items on the back of each Zoom Out Card:
 - a. *VBS 2017 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide*
 - b. *VBS 2017 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack*
 - c. *VBS 2017 Starveyors Kit: Grades 1-6*
 - d. *VBS 2017 Crafts Rotation Guide*
 - e. *VBS 2017 Recreation Leader Cards*
 - f. *VBS 2017 Mission Rotation Leader Guide*

- g. *VBS 2017 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards*
- h. *VBS 217 Devotional Bible for Kids*

6. Zoom In: Bringing the Bible Study into Focus

- Clear Candy Jar
- Bag of Starburst® Candies
- Prepare candy: With a marker, write on each piece a single number 1 to 5. Place candy in the candy jar and mix the candy up.
- 5 Gift Bags
- Prepare gift bags by writing on separate bags: Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, and Day 5.
- Handout 2: "Assignment Card." Make five copies on card stock. After making the copies, fill in the blank to assign a day: Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, and Day 5. Place each card in its corresponding bag.
- 5 –*VBX Preteen Leader Guides*. Place one leader guide in each gift bag.
- Item 7: Colossians 1:17 Poster (*VBX Bible Study Leader Pack*), place in the Day 1 bag.
- Item 9: Romans 3:23 Poster (*VBX Bible Study Leader Pack*), place in the Day 2 bag.
- Item 14: John 1:14a Poster (*VBX Bible Study Leader Pack*), place in the Day 3 bag.
- Item 16: 2 Corinthians 5:19a Poster (*VBX Bible Study Leader Pack*), place in the Day 4 bag.
- Item 17: John 14:26 Poster (*VBX Bible Study Leader Pack*), place in the Day 5 bag.
- 1 Pack—*VBS 2017: Starveyors Kit: Grades 1-6*. Separate cards out and place each card in its assigned day bag.

7. Small Group Time

- Print out the Small Group Discussion Questions for each conferee. (*VBX Enhanced CD: Day 1: VBX17_CD_SmallGroupDiscussion*. Note: There are two pages)

8. Planet Challenge: VBS Crafts and Recreation

- Cut apart the "Planet Cards," Item 3 from the *VBX Bible Study Leader Pack*. Keep the cards with the blue background and black background separated.
- 2—Poster Boards
- On strips of paper, write the following names of the crafts and then tape one strip to the back of five separate planet cards with the blue background: Day 1: Planetary Super Balls; Day 2: Shooting Stars; Day 3: Constellation Journal; Day 4: Nebula Coasters; Day 5: Cosmic Bible Pen Pocket.
- On strips of paper, write the following names of the recreation games and then tape one to the back of five separate planet cards with the black background:

Day 1: Asteroid Belt; Day 2: Moving Targets; Day 3: Star Rescue; Day 4: Star Catchers; Day 5: Solar System Scramble.

- Print a copy of the “Planet Cards and Facts Answer Key” (CD) for conference leader reference.
- Prepare a sample of each preteen craft to display.

9. Don't Drop The Asteroid: Preparing for VBX

- 6—Balloons
- One Marker
- Print a number 1-6 on each balloon.
- Prepare small sentence strips by printing one step on each strip:
 - Step 1: Prepare your heart.
 - Step 2: Get the basic facts from your VBS Director.
 - Step 3: Plan
 - Step 4: Gather & Prepare
 - Step 5: Teach
 - Step 6: Continue the Connection
- Roll up each strip and place in the balloon with the corresponding number. Inflate and tie off the balloons.
- Enhanced CD: Track 3 “Who You Are, Instrumental”
- CD Player
- 6—toothpicks

10. Zoom Out: Closing

- *VBS 2017 Star Tags* (Item Number 005790546)—1 per conferee. (Or you can choose anything you might want to give to conferees as a reminder about leading VBX.)

Focal Wall Description

Use the items in your *VBX 2017 Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack* to create an inviting focal wall. Use Item 1: Scripture Poster as the center. You will add Items 7, 9, 14, 16, and 17 around the Item 1 poster as you teach this conference.

Room Setup Description

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the focal wall, leaving room in the middle for space for activities.

Decoration Suggestions

Use the items in your *VBX 2017 Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack* and the suggestions given on page 6 of the *VBX 2017 Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide* to decorate your room.

Audio Visual Needs

- CD Player
- VBX 2017 Preteen Enhanced CD (Located in the *VBX 2017 Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack*).

Teaching Steps

1. **Welcome (5 minutes):** Play “Binary Stars” from the leader guide on page 16. Explain that Binary Stars are two stars in a system in which one revolves around the other. Give each conferee a “Binary Card” (CD). Explain that when you play the “Galactic Starveyors” theme song from the Enhance CD (Track 1), conferees will orbit around the room. When the music stops, the conferees will pair up with another conferee based on the criteria that the conference leader gives. Once the conferees are paired up, they will share with each other their answers to the questions on their Binary Cards. Play three rounds requiring conferees to pair up with someone different in each round. Use the following criteria for conferees to match up:
 - Find someone who is the same height as you.
 - Find someone who has the same hair color as you.
 - Find someone born in the same month as you.

After playing, ask the conferees to return to their seats. Let the conferees know that this is one of the fun welcome activities that preteens will experience during VBX.

2. **Exploding Stars: Getting to Know Preteens (10 minutes):** Preteens are an exciting group to teach and build relationships with. During VBX, we have the opportunity to help preteens search the visible to discover the invisible, which is our VBS Motto. To teach and lead preteens, we must first understand preteens.

Explain to the conferees that this activity is adapted from the “Exploding Stars” activity on page 33 of the leader guide. Divide the group into five smaller groups and give each group a balloon and marker. Assign each group one of the five characteristics of preteens listed on page 5 of the leader guide: Physically, Socially, Spiritually, Emotionally, and Intellectually. Ask conferees to blow their balloons up, tie them off, and write details about the characteristic that was assigned to them on their balloons. Let the conferees know they can refer to page 5 of the VBX leader guide for examples.

After groups have discussed their assigned characteristic, allow each group to share with the rest of the groups. After all groups have shared, say: “Preteens may seem like they are going to explode with all the changes and challenges that they face, but God has made a way for preteens to make it by having a relationship with Him.” Give each group a toothpick. Say, “An exploding star is a Super Nova that is about to expire with a large explosion. Do a countdown from ten to one, and then pop the balloons. Remind conferees that preteens will discover that the God of the universe wants to have a relationship with them. The tips discussed will help you teach and lead preteens on how to begin and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

3. **Cosmic Chaos: Scheduling VBX (10 minutes):** Say: “There are many options on how to schedule VBX. Sometimes trying to schedule VBX can be a little chaotic, but you can minimize the chaos by understanding what each part of VBX is all about.” Give the conferees Handout 1: Scoping Out VBX.

Cosmic Chaos is an activity from page 12 of the leader guide. We are adapting this activity to help us learn about how to schedule VBX. Gather the “Galaxy Items” (pack item 6) with one section of VBX taped to the back of each item. Select a conferee, blindfold him, and give him one of the “Galaxy Items.” Spin the conferee around a few times and instruct him to place the item on the black butcher paper. Continue with different conferees taking turns until all items have been placed. Stand back and observe the cosmic chaos that the conferees created. Place the “Galaxy Items” in order for the conferees to see.

Explain that each portion of the VBX schedule is important and you want to make sure you include certain portions each day. Turn over each item and discuss each portion of VBX. Ask conferees to look at Handout 1: “Scoping out VBX” and fill in the blanks as you discuss these areas (Excite Explore, Excel, Small Group Time, Worship Rally, Snack Break, Missions Break, Recreation, and Crafts).

Explain that Explore is a section you want to make sure you include each day of VBX. Also, the Missions Break is found in the *VBS 2017 Missions Rotation Leader Guide* that is not included in the *VBX Leader Guide* or Pack. Each church has the flexibility to determine what schedule works for them. Refer to page 4 of the leader guide for additional information.

4. **Eclipse: VBX Scripture Memory Activity (10 minutes):** Explain that this year in VBX we will help Preteens discover the incredible mysteries of the final frontier, right from their own backyards. Preteens can grab their telescopes and head to the clubhouse observatory where endless discoveries await! Their telescopes become a portal through which preteens encounter amazing and wonderful things designed by a Creator who is even bigger than the vastness of His creation.

The theme verse for VBX comes from Colossians 1:15-16. This Scripture memory activity comes from the “Eclipse” activity on page 25 of the leader guide. Call attention to the “VBS Scripture Poster” (pack item 1) displayed on the wall. Lead conferees to recite the Bible verse.

Select a conferee to shine a flashlight on the poster. Select another conferee to hold the “Earth Poster” (pack item 12). Instruct the conferee to move the Earth poster slowly in front of the moon on the “VBS Scripture Poster” challenging conferees to say the verse aloud during the eclipse of the moon. Repeat the eclipse a couple of times.

5. **Zoom Out: View All the VBX Resources (10 Minutes):** Say: “It is important for VBX leaders to know what material is available to use in VBX.” Lead the conferees to play Zoom Out adapted from activity on page 11 of the leader guide to the discover what resources are available.

Select eight conferees to volunteer for this activity and give each one a “Zoom out Card” (CD). Explain to that this is a review activity of the Day 1 Bible story based on Genesis 1. The conferees are to read the statements on their cards and arrange themselves from the most specific statements to the broadest statements with the help and direction of the other conferees. (Answers can be found in the margin on page 11.)

After volunteers have finished arranging the statements, say: “The Day 1 Bible study is about God, who created everything and wants a relationship with us.” Ask volunteers to be seated, but to keep their cards. Say: “Some resources that will help us teach preteens about this relationship are written on the back of “Zoom out Cards.” Ask volunteers to look on back of their cards and take turns naming the items listed. The resource items to discuss are:

- *VBS 2017 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Guide* (includes craft and recreation ideas)
- *VBS 2017 VBX Preteen Bible Study Leader Pack* (Explain that the Enhanced CD is included in the pack. Point out that the instructions for each pack item are on the strip at the bottom of the item. The strips can be cut off if desired.)
- *VBS 2017 Starveyors Kit: Grades 1-6* (The kit includes 5 daily cards and a Galactic Spinner. The Daily Cards include challenges for preteens to complete after VBX. Each cover card has two spinner add-ons. One side of the add-ons can be colored by the preteens and the opposite side will be used to play games suggested in the leader guide.)
- *VBS 2017 Crafts Rotation Guide* (additional ideas for leaders)
- *VBS 2017 Recreation Leader Cards* (additional ideas for leaders)
- *VBS 2017 Mission Rotation Leader Guide*
- *VBS 2017 Snack Rotation Recipe Cards*
- *VBS 2017 Devotional Bible for Kids* (Full Bible with 30 days of devotions and activities)

Give a brief description of each VBX resource.

6. **Zoom In: Bringing the Bible Study into Focus (40 minutes):** Say: “Now we will Zoom In and take a look at each day’s Bible Study. We will start with an activity that is found on page 33 of the leader guide called “Counting Stars.” Show the conferees the jar of candy that you have prepared. Ask how many candies are in the jar? (Listen for answers and then reveal the real total.) Say: “God knows exactly how many stars are in the universe. God also knows the preteens that will be in your VBX, and He is preparing them, even now, to listen to the Bible stories that you will teach during VBX.”

Pass the candy jar around and ask each conferee to take a piece of candy. Ask them to find the number written on the piece of candy and to group together with others that have the same number. (There should be 5 different groups. Even groups out if needed.)

Give each group one of the prepared Bible Study bags that corresponds to the group number. Ask groups to take out the items in their bags, look at each one, and discuss the information listed on their “Assignment Card.” Instruct groups to be ready to report the following discoveries:

- The title of the lesson
- The Bible story summary & Scripture reference (found on page 3 of the leader guide)
- Read the Bonus Verse written on that day’s poster. (After groups share the Bonus Verse, place the verse poster on the focal wall.)

- The “Today’s Point” for the lesson (found on the Daily Cards in the *Starveyors Kit* or on pages 8, 15, 22, 29, and 36 of the leader guide)

Give 5-6 minutes to discover the answers and fill in the “Assignment Card.” Call for groups to share beginning with Day 1. Be ready to offer additional information about each session after groups have presented.

7. **Small Group Time (10 minutes):** Give each conferee both pages of the “Small Group Discussion Questions” (CD). Remind conferees that during Small Group time an assigned leader will stay with a group of preteens all week to develop relationships, discuss the Bible content, and share the gospel.
 - **Small Group Discussion Questions:** Ask each group to look at the “Small Group Discussion Questions” sheet and to discuss within their group the questions that are assigned for their day. Within in their group, take turns reading the discussion question and discuss how a preteen would answer the question.
 - **Sharing the Gospel:** Say: “Each day VBX small group leaders will have the opportunity to share the gospel by using “The Gospel Plan Discussion” sheet. Review how each day’s Bible study fits into sharing the gospel each day.”
8. **Planet Challenge: VBX Crafts and Recreation (10 minutes):** Share that the group will play a challenge activity to help discover the crafts and recreation options that are available for VBX. The game is called “Planet Challenge” and it is adapted from an activity on page 9 in the leader guide.

Create two teams. Assign one team to be the blue team and the other to be the black team. Tell teams that you have hidden a set of the “Planet Cards” (pack item 3) around the room. Each card has a planet in our solar system on it. Teams are to find the cards with the color background they were assigned, bring them back to their team’s assigned poster board, and arrange the planets in order starting with the planet closest to the sun. Signal; start, for teams to begin. Watch for the winning team. (Answers can be found on the “Planet Cards and Fact Answer Key” on the CD.)

After teams have placed planets in order, instruct them to take the planets off their poster board and share the crafts and recreation printed on back of the “Planet Cards.” (Note: the crafts are written on the blue team’s cards and the recreation games are written on the black team’s cards.) Display the crafts for conferees to see.

9. **Don’t Drop the Asteroid: Preparing for VBX (10 minutes):** Say: “Before VBX begins leaders need to get prepared. There are six steps that can help leaders prepare for VBX.” Continue, “To learn these six steps we will play “Don’t Drop the Asteroid.” This game is adapted from the activity found on page 37 of the leader guide.”

Ask for 6 volunteers. Distribute the prepared balloons to the six volunteers. Share that their job is to keep all the asteroids (balloons) up in the air while the music is playing. When the music stops, volunteers must grab an asteroid and hold it until the conference leader calls out the number written on their asteroid. Play “Who You Are, Instrumental” (track 3) from the Enhanced CD and begin the game.

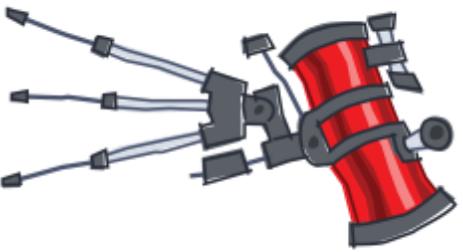
Stop the music and lead players to secure the balloons. Call for the player holding balloon #1 to pop the balloon with a toothpick, secure the paper that was placed inside, and read the statement on the paper strip to the group. Continue playing until all six balloons are popped (in order 1-6) and the six steps have been discussed. Use information found on inside front cover titled, Six Step VBS to support the discussion.

- Step 1: Prepare Your Heart
- Step 2: Get The Basic Facts from Your VBS Director
- Step 3: Plan
- Step 4: Gather and Prepare
- Step 5: Teach
- Step 6: Continue the Connection

10. **The Sky's the Limit: Closing (5 minutes):** Thank conferees for attending. Encourage VBX leaders by reminding them of the difference they are making in the lives of preteens by helping them discover that the God of the Universe wants to have a relationship with them.

Encourage leaders to have an "out of this world" time as they lead preteens in VBX. Ask the conferees to say the VBS Motto: "Searching the Visible. Discovering the Invisible." Repeat the motto two times. Consider giving each conferee one of the star tags from the *VBS 2017 Star Tags* (Item Number 005790546) as a reminder to shoot for the stars as they pray, plan, and provide VBX for preteens.

Close in prayer.



GALACTIC STARVEYORS

SEARCHING
THE VISIBLE
DISCOVERING THE
INVISIBLE

Scoping Out VBX

- _____ : Corporate worship gathering of all VBS age groups.
- _____ : Introduced the theme and Bible content with an icebreaker or introductory activity.
- _____ : Engages preteens in the Bible story and makes the Bible connection to daily life.
- _____ : Reviews the Bible story and life application for the day.
- _____ : Time to discuss the Bible content. One leader will stay with the group all week to develop relationships.
- _____ : Time for preteens to learn about missionaries around the world. (Available in the *Missions Rotation Leader Guide*)
- _____ : Time for preteens to unleash their energy with fun games, (Included in the *VBX Leader Guide*).
- _____ : Time for preteens to get creative by making unique crafts. (Included in the leader guide)

VBX Crafts

- Day 1: Planetary Super Balls
- Day 2: Shooting Stars
- Day 3: Constellation Journal
- Day 4: Nebula Coasters
- Day 5: Cosmic Bible Pen Pocket

VBX Recreation

- Day 1: Asteroid Belt
- Day 2: Moving Targets
- Day 3: Star Rescue
- Day 4: Star Catchers
- Day 5: Solar System Scramble

VBX is designed as a stand-alone resource or as part of a traditional VBS rotation schedule. It's flexible!



Day _____

Zoom in on the information about your assigned day's lesson below in your group. Be ready to report your discoveries to the rest of the class.

- The title of the lesson.
- The Bible story summary & Scripture reference (found on page 3 of VBX Leader Guide)
- The Bonus Verse written on that day's poster that is in your bag. Add your poster to main display wall after reporting to the entire class.
- The "Today's Point" for the lesson (found on the daily Starveyors Kit Cards in the bag or on pages 8, 15, 22, 29, and 36 of the VBX Leader Guide)