



## **File 20 VBS 2017 Starting a Backyard Kids Club**

### **Purpose Statement**

This 45-minute plan introduces leaders to LifeWay's Backyard Kids Club resources, designed to help churches reach outside the walls of the church to connect with families who may never attend a traditional VBS.

### **Resources to Collect, Prepare, & Copy**

#### Resources to Collect

##### Step 1

- Star Stickers in assorted colors or *VBS 2017 Sticker Name Tags* (one per conferee)
- Markers
- Heavyweight paper in assorted colors (1 piece per conferee)
- Clear tape

##### Step 2

- Foam board or other heavyweight material for creating signs
- Markers

##### Step 3

- Large blue tarp or a *Giant Game Floor Mat*
- Masking Tape
- 2 blue gift bags or 2 *VBS 2017 Starveyor™ Backpacks*.
- *VBS 2017 Backyard Kids Club Kit* (If possible, display the kits from the 4 previous VBS themes.)
- *2017 Backyard Kids Club Directors Guide*

#### Resources to Prepare

##### Step 1

- Cue *VBS 2017 Music for Kids*, CD Track 1, "Galactic Starveyors".
- Cover a table with a dark blue tablecloth of a *VBS 2017 Tablecloth*. Place the table near the door.
- Using the letters *B, K, C*, print one letter on individual stickers (one per conferee).
- Place stickers, heavyweight paper and clear tape on a table near the door.

##### Step 2

- Create 3 large signs, printing one of the following letters on one side of each sign: B, K, C. On the back of the signs, print one of the following questions: (B) What? (K) Why? (C) Where? Use heavyweight material, such as foam board to make the signs so that you can lean the signs against stationary objects around the room.
- Create a scripture poster by printing the words to Colossians 1:15-16 on heavyweight material, such as foam board, so that you can lean the sign against a stationary object

such as a hard case cooler. Option: Mount the scripture poster from the *VBS 2017 Visual Pack*.

### Step 3

- Print Item 1 on 20 pieces of heavyweight paper.
- Attach 5 of the *Galactic Starveyors™* Cards across the top of the blue tarp. Option: Insert in the top row of pockets of a *Giant Game Floor Mat*. Leave space for a second row of cards to be added by the conferees. Attach the remaining 5 *Galactic Starveyors™* cards to make a third row of cards. Option: Insert the remaining 5 *Galactic Starveyors™* cards in the third row of pockets of the *Giant Game Floor Mat*. Place the tarp or mat on the floor in a location that is easily accessible to conferees.
- Place 5 of the remaining cards into each gift bag or backpack.

### Resources to Copy

- Handout (one per conferee)

### Room Setup Description

Create a focal area by placing a tarp on the floor. Place camping chairs or a hard-case cooler at the front to use as a place to display the *2017 Backyard Kids Club Kit* and the *2017 VBS Directors Guide*. Set up chairs in a large semicircle facing the focal area. Display the following kit items on the blue tarp or on a piece of portable fencing: *Host Team Leader Folder*, *Music Folder*, *Children's Bible Study Folder*, *Preschool Bible Study Folder*, *Crafts Folder*, Recreation card sets, *Music for Kids CD* and *Music for Preschoolers CD*, Choreography DVD. Place one of the teaching pictures into the slots on the front of the *Backyard Kids Club Kit Box*.

### Decoration Suggestions

Try to create an outdoor feel by using artificial trees and plants, if available. A night atmosphere could be created by dimming lights as conferees enter the room, using the *VBS 2017 Star Projector* as if your class is outside looking at the stars. Refrain from attaching posters and other visuals to the wall. Instead, attach posters/visuals to foam board, Styrofoam ice chests, or the side of cardboard boxes to demonstrate how you can decorate an outdoor area where walls may not be an option.

### Audio Visual Needs

- CD Player

### Teaching Steps

1. **Welcome (5 minutes)** Have the VBS theme song playing as conferees arrive. Greet conferees, giving each person a letter sticker and a piece of heavyweight paper. Encourage conferees to roll the paper to create a telescope, using tape to hold the paper in place. Instruct conferees to attach their letter sticker to their telescope.
2. **BKC Intro (10 minutes)** Tell the group, "When I give a signal to begin, use your telescope to search for a small poster that has the same letter on your telescope. If you discover the poster, bring it with you to the blue tarp." After all signs have been discovered, instruct the sign holders to stand facing the chairs while the remaining conferees are seated. Encourage sign holders to stand in the order that they think the letters should go (*The correct order is BKC.*) Give assistance as needed, as some may try to put the letters in alphabetical order. Ask: "Who knows what these letters represent?" (*Answer: Backyard Kids Club*)

Guide those holding the signs to flip their signs to discover three of the most common questions asked about BKC. Share the following questions and responses. 1. What is BKC? *Backyard Kids Club is an opportunity to take VBS off your church campus to a location where people can be reached who may never attend a traditional VBS.* 2 Why should my church do BKC? *Acts 1:8 teaches that we are to share the Gospel everywhere and that begins in our own neighborhoods!* 3. Where can my church do

BKC? *Someone's yard, an apartment complex, a school, a park, an open field, another country – Any of these locations can work if they are safe and easily accessible to children.*

Direct attention to the scripture poster, inviting conferees to read the scripture together. Say: "As kids focus their telescopes on the marvels painted in the sky by the Creator, they will discover that the God who created everything there wants a personal relationship with them!"

3. **Name that Star (25 minutes)** Say, "If you've never been a part of leading a Backyard Kids Club, you may be excited about the possibilities of taking VBS into your community, but you may also be anxious about trying something different. For the next few minutes, we're going to focus our telescopes onto some resources that have been developed after much consultation with experienced BKC leaders...leaders who have years of experience taking VBS outside the walls of their church. Encourage conferees to form 2 groups. Give one of the bags or *Starveyor Backpacks* to each group. Instruct the groups to move near the tarp or mat displaying the *Galactic Starveyors™* cards. Lead teams to remove one card at a time and then locate the star name on the tarp (or mat) that matches the description on the card. Tell conferees that when a match is discovered, one team member should attach the card below the matching star name or insert the card into the empty pocket on the mat below the star name. (If the group is large, you may want to select 2 conferees to hold the tarp or mat upright so that all conferees can see. Groups should continue working until all stars have been named. Verify matches are correct, making changes as needed. Show each resource, drawing attention to the helps for sharing the plan of salvation with children.

- Contains promotion, registration, safety and security, and snack ideas (*Host Folder*)
- Provides ideas for Opening and Closing Worship (*Music Folder*)
- Provides five 30-minute Bible study sessions for grades 1-6 (*Children's Bible Study Folder*)
- Provides five 30-minute Bible study sessions for ages 3-Kindergarten (*Preschool Bible Study Folder*)
- Provides 10 craft ideas for kids, identifies 5 preschool friendly and 2 preteen friendly (*Crafts Folder*)
- Provides recreation ideas for both grade school and preschool ages (*Recreation card sets*)
- Theme related songs that kids and preschoolers will love (*Music for Preschoolers CD* and *Music for Kids CD*)
- Choreography instructions and demos for the theme related songs (*Choreography DVD*)
- Full color teaching pictures and resources to enhance teaching (*Bible Study Pictures/Bible Study Resources*)
- Bonus items to help in promotion, decorating, crafts, and Bible Study (*Window Sign, String Flags, Craft Pack Samples, Starveyor Kit: Grades 1-6*)

Share that each of these resources can be found in the *VBS 2017 Backyard Kids Club Kit*. Point out other items that are included in the kit:

Lead conferees to identify the team members needed for a Backyard Kids Club. Offer several suggestions for scheduling options. Draw attention to the planning steps found in the *Backyard Kids Club Directors Guide*. Make conferees aware that Backyard Kids Club Kits are available for the 4 previous VBS themes.

4. **Beyond the Walls (4 minutes)** Draw attention to the last section of the handout by spotlighting successful tools churches have used in reaching their communities through Backyard Kids Club.

5. **Closing (1 minute)** Challenge conferees to remember that many outside the walls of their church will never come to experience a saving relationship with Jesus unless someone takes the Gospel to them! Encourage them to pray over the next few weeks, asking God to reveal any personal reasons that might be hindering them from seeing and reaching the lost in their community.

Pray for conferees, their churches, and neighborhood families who will be touched in some way through Backyard Kids Club in 2017.



## Helping Kids Discover the God of the Universe

***What*** is BKC?

***Why*** should my church do BKC?

***Where*** can my church do BKC?

### Successful Tools for Reaching Communities through Backyard Kids Club

- Conduct a Kickoff Event to pre-enroll neighborhood kids and to build excitement for Backyard Kids Club.
- Pray before, during, and after Backyard Kids Club that children and families will come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- Provide an opportunity for parents to share the excitement of Backyard Kids Club by hosting a Celebration event that includes food, BKC music, games, and an opportunity for leaders to engage in conversations with parents.
- Follow up with kids and their families, sharing information about your church. Be sure to include upcoming events for kids and families.
- Connect with kids who made a decision to accept Christ. Consider offering a New Christians Class at the same location as your Backyard Kids Club.
- Plan one or more simple events during the year to build relationships with neighborhood children and their families.