

VBS 2019 GRADES 3–4 BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (2 HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This two-hour plan is designed to train and equip VBS teachers to lead 3rd and 4th graders in LifeWay's *In The Wild*[™] VBS curriculum.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2019 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*
- *VBS 2019 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Pack* — Prepare pack items 1–4, 6, 8–9, 11–13, 17, 21, 23, and 28. Prepare each as directed on the item. Copy items 4 and 23 so that every conferee has one of each. Pull the following 4 cards from pack item 12 and place them in a bag: *SSSAY It Like A Snake, Say It Faster Than A Cheetah, Growl It Like A Tiger, and Scratch Like An Itchy Gorilla While You Say It.*
- *VBS 2019 Field Guide: Grades 1–6*
- *VBS 2019 Tablecloth*
- *VBS 2019 Kids Gospel Guide*
- *VBS 2019 ABC Wristbands*
- *VBS 2019 Bookmarks* (1 bookmark per conferee)
- *VBS 2019 Parent Guide*
- *VBS 2019 Devotional Bible for Kids (KJV and/or CSB)*
- *VBS 2019 Devotions In the Wild: 100 Devotions to Zoom In on Jesus*
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me*
- *VBS 2019 Daily Verse Tags*
- *VBS 2019 Snapshot Viewers*
- Item 1: "Handout" — Photocopy 1 per conferee.
- Item 2: "Assignment Cards" — Print and cut apart. Place one assignment card in each of 5 backpacks (or theme-related gift bags). Read over the "Live It" section (leader guide) for each day and place the items needed for that day's teaching procedure in the corresponding bag.
- Photocopy the instructions for the following four Additional Activity Options from the leader guide. Gather the supplies needed to complete each activity and place alongside the instructions in different areas around the room.
 - "Follow Those Tracks" (Day 1) — pack item 9, construction paper (7-8 sheets)
 - "Monkey See, Monkey Do" (Day 1) — pack item 7
 - "Carnivore, Herbivore, Omnivore" (Day 2) — alphabet tiles from a board game or alphabet cereal (remove Q, X, Y, Z), bag or basket, scratch paper, stopwatch or timer
 - "Big Mouth (Bonus Bites)" (Day 4) — pack items 8 and 13, numbered cube, miniature marshmallows, stopwatch or timer
- Any supplies needed for the "Start It" activity on Day 2, the "Learn It" activity on Day 2, the "Live It" activity on Day 1, and the "Finish It" activity on Day 3. (Step 3)
- 5 backpacks or theme-related gift bags
- CD Player

Room Setup

Arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the focal wall. Decorate the room using the ideas found on pages 6–7 of the *VBS 2019 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*. Hang the "In The Wild Banner" (pack item 1) on the focal wall. "Banner Add-Ons" (pack item 2) will be added to the banner as the conference progresses. Cover a table with a *VBS 2019 Tablecloth* and display the leader guide, leader pack, *Field Guide: Grades 1–6* (learner guide), and other VBS products. Place handouts and teaching items on the table and place the prepared backpacks on the floor by the focal wall.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (10 minutes)

- Play “In The Wild” (Music for Kids CD, track 1) as conferees enter and welcome them to the Watering Hole. (NOTE: Music for Kids CD is now included in the leader pack.)
- Ask conferees to pick up one of the *VBS 2019 Snapshot Viewers* and look at the pictures from each day’s Bible story. Describe to a friend what is in the scene. Ask conferees to pass the snapshot viewers around. Collect viewers when all conferees have arrived.
- Invite the conferees to play the “Start It” activity found on page 10 of the leader guide. Distribute one of the “Parent and Child Cards” (pack item 4) to each conferee. Remind conferees to keep their cards hidden so that no one can see them. On your signal, the animal parents (green cards) will attempt to locate their babies (yellow cards). Explain that conferees must mimic the sounds and mannerisms of the animal on the card to find their partners.
- When matching parent/child pairs find each other, direct them to step aside, but continue to keep their cards concealed. After about two minutes, lead the group to reveal the cards. Congratulate pairs who successfully found each other. (OPTIONAL: Give a small prize to those who matched up correctly). Ask them to keep their cards for another activity during the conference.
- Welcome conferees to the Bible Study Watering Hole. Explain that this is where 3rd and 4th graders will gather each day to dig deeper into the Bible study and build relationships. Point out decorations in the room that have brought the Watering Hole to life. Refer conferees to pages 6–7 in the leader guide for more decorating ideas.

2. Essentials for the Adventure (15 minutes)

- Comment: “When heading out on a wilderness adventure, one has to have the right essentials in order to have a great encounter. In The Wild VBS 2019 has a variety of essentials that are necessary for the adventure.” Introduce the following materials on display.
 - Leader Guide: Point out the leader helps on pages 1–6, the daily teaching plans on pages 8–42, and the supply list on pages 43–44. Note that there are teacher devotionals at the beginning of each daily Bible study.
 - Leader Pack: Give an overview of the variety of resources that are contained inside. Explain that one Music for Kids CD is included in the leader pack this year. So Bible study leaders now have access to all of the music for In the Wild. (Note: There is no longer a CD-ROM included. Reproducible pages have been dropped into the leader pack instead of being included on a CD-ROM.)
 - Show the “In the Wild Banner” (pack item 1). Explain that this banner will be used throughout VBS and the “Banner Add-ons” (pack item 2) will be added to it each day.
 - Field Guide: Explain that this is the learner guide. It is used daily at the Watering Hole (Bible Study). Show some of the features found in the Field Guide.

3. Snapshot of 2019 VBS (45 minutes)

- Lead conferees to complete the handout (Item 1) as you guide them to learn the motto, theme verse, and Bible content for VBS 2019.
- Introduce the motto and ask conferees to stand and say it together.
 - Guide conferees to pass around the bag with the four cards from pack item 12 until you say stop. The conferee left holding the bag will pull out one of the cards and lead the group to say the motto as directed on the card. Continue passing the bag and letting

- other conferees pull a card out until all cards have been selected. Mention that is an activity used on Day 2 to help teach the VBS Scripture.
- Call attention to the “John 20:31 Poster” (pack item 3). Read the verse to the group.
 - Ask conferees to bring back the “Parent and Child Cards” (pack item 4) used in the welcome activity.
 - Guide the conferees to line up according to the size of animal on their cards (smallest to largest). When the line is formed, prompt conferees to read the verse aloud, one word and one person at a time down the line. (NOTE: For large groups, form two lines.)
 - Remind conferees that this verse will be emphasized daily during Bible study. Additional verses (called Bonus Verses) and a supporting learning activity are included as an “Additional Activity Option” in the leader guide each day.
 - Direct conferees to the “Schedule Options” for Bible study on page 4 of the leader guide. Review these options, but remind teachers to ask their VBS director for guidance in determining their schedule and responsibilities for each session.
 - Explain that each day’s lesson is divided into four parts. Demonstrate an activity for each session to help conferees become familiar with the activities and purpose of each section.
 - Start It: Opening Activity — Do “An Eagle’s Range of Vision” activity (Start It, Day 2).
 - Learn It: Bible Study — Do “Ball of Yarn” activity (Learn It, Day 4).
 - Live It: Application — Do “Why Jesus Came” activity (Live It, Day 1).
 - Finish It: Re-emphasis of the point for the day — Recite the main point activity (Finish It, Day 3).
 - Create five groups and give each a prepared backpack with an assignment card (Item 2).
 - Lead teams to read their assignment cards and use the items inside the backpack to complete each assignment. Allow 10 minutes for teams to complete their assignments.
 - Ask each group to choose a team captain to present to the group.
 - Encourage conferees to complete their handouts as each day’s material is presented.
 - Share the Day 1 Bible story using the corresponding Bible story picture (pack item 6). Be sure to include the “Today’s Point” shown on the Banner Ad-on (pack item 2) and the Bible passage as you share. Demonstrate how the lesson will be taught by following the lesson plan in the “Learn It” section of each lesson. Ask the first group (Day 1) to share how the Bible story is applied in the “Live It” section of the Day 1 session.
 - Continue through all five Bible stories and the “Live It” sessions helping conferees to see that each of the 5 “snapshots” of Jesus we’ll study in VBS clearly reveal the most amazing truth of all—Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing we can have life in His name.

4. Zoom In: Additional Activity Options (20 mins.)

- Explain that at the end of each daily lesson, there are four 10-minute additional activities provided. These are intended to provide additional application, to teach Bible skills, and to emphasize the Bonus Verse provided for each session.
- Show the additional activities set up around the room.
 - Bonus Verse Activity (“Follow Those Tracks,” Day 1)
 - Application Activity (“Monkey See, Monkey Do,” Day 1)
 - Application Activity (“Carnivore, Herbivore, Omnivore,” Day 2)
 - Bible Skills Activity (“Big Mouth,” Day 4)
- Explain that while on an adventure in the wilderness, we may have the chance to get up close and have a personal encounter with animals in their natural habitats. Today, we are going to get up close and personal with some of the optional activities that are provided at the end of each daily Bible study by encountering four of these optional activities. (NOTE: Form 4 groups and rotate them to a different activity every 3–4 minutes, until time is called. Or you may stay in one group and rotate together, until time is called.)

- Allow time for conferees to complete the activities. Then ask conferees how they could use these activities in their rooms during VBS. (Some answers may include a second Bible study session after rotations, as early-arrival activities, as late-stayer activities, or as optional activities for the “Live It” section of the lesson.)
- Invite volunteers to share what they learned from an activity.

5. Focus! Help Kids Discover How to Become a Christian (10 mins.)

- Explain to conferees that helping kids discover what it means to become a follower of Christ is the most important encounter a person can ever have. Each and every day of In the Wild VBS offers strong opportunities for kids to respond to the gospel, as each day is centered on who Jesus is and why He came. Teachers can share the gospel every day, but on Day 4 more attention is given to what it means to believe.
- Give each conferee a copy of the “PAWS a Moment” response card (pack item 23). Demonstrate how it is used on Day 4 in the “Live It” section of the leader guide.
- Show additional LifeWay resources that could be used in helping a child understand what it means to become a Christian.
- Point out that “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Us” located on the inside front cover of the leader guide. Invite conferees to practice sharing the gospel with the person next to them.
- Say: “In the busyness of VBS, it can be easy to lose the urgency of telling others about Jesus. Pray that God would make clear those moments when you can share the gospel with someone.”

6. Gas Up the All-Terrain Vehicle (5 minutes)

- Explain to the conferees that before going on a wilderness adventure, you need to make sure your all-terrain vehicle has plenty of gas. You don’t want to run out of gas in the wild with all of those animals wandering around!
- VBS teachers also need to fuel up in order to have a great VBS. Explain the six steps to help prepare for VBS found on page 1 of the leader guide.

7. A Wild and Amazing Adventure Awaits (5 minutes)

- Lead the group to repeat the motto together as loudly as possible, in their favorite animal voice.
- Read the VBS Scripture together.
- Create five groups. Encourage each group to take a photo together on their smartphones. Suggest they share the picture with the others in the group and use it as a reminder to pray for each other as they prepare and lead VBS.
- Give each conferee a VBS Bookmark as a reminder to pray for VBS.
- Pray for the conferees and then dismiss them into the wild.

VBS 2019 Grades 3–4 Bible Study

Motto: _____ ! _____ !

Bible Verse: _____

John 20:31

	Today's Point	Bible Story	Bible Passage	Finish It!
Day 1				
Day 2				
Day 3				
Day 4				
Day 5				

Live It!

Day 1	
Day 2	
Day 3	
Day 4	
Day 5	

Group 1

- Read the Day 1 Bible story and teaching procedures found in “Live It” on page 11–12 of the *VBS 2019 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*.
 - Look at the items in your bag.
 - Answer the following questions and be prepared to share your findings with the large group:
 - How are the items found in your bag used during the session?
 - What is the purpose of this activity?
 - What is the Daily Verse Tag given to kids in the “Finish It” section to help them remember the point for the day?
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Group 2

- Read the Day 2 Bible story and teaching procedures found in “Live It” on page 19 of the *VBS 2019 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*.
 - Look at the items in your bag.
 - Answer the following questions and be prepared to share your findings with the large group:
 - How are the items found in your bag used during the session?
 - What is the purpose of this activity?
 - What is the Daily Verse Tag given to kids in the “Finish It” section to help them remember the point for the day?
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Group 3

- Read the Day 3 Bible story and teaching procedures found in “Live It” on page 26 of the *VBS 2019 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*.
 - Look at the items in your bag.
 - Answer the following questions and be prepared to share your findings with the large group:
 - How are the items found in your bag used during the session?
 - What is the purpose of this activity?
 - What is the Daily Verse Tag given to kids in the “Finish It” section to help them remember the point for the day?
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Group 4

- Read the Day 4 Bible story and teaching procedures found in “Live It” on page 33 of the *VBS 2019 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*.
 - Look at the items in your bag.
 - Answer the following questions and be prepared to share your findings with the large group:
 - How are the items found in your bag used during the session?
 - What is the purpose of this activity?
 - What is the Daily Verse Tag given to kids in the “Finish It” section to help them remember the point for the day?
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Group 5

- Read the Day 5 Bible story and teaching procedures found in “Live It” on page 40 of the *VBS 2019 Grades 3–4 Bible Study Leader Guide*.
- Look at the items in your bag.
- Answer the following questions and be prepared to share your findings with the large group:
 - How are the items found in gym bag used during the session?
 - What is the purpose of this activity?
 - What is the Daily Verse Tag given to kids in the “Finish It” section to help them remember the point for the day?