

VBS 2019 CHILDREN'S MUSIC ROTATION BASE CONFERENCE PLAN (2 HOURS)

Purpose Statement

This two-hour plan is designed to train and equip leaders to conduct LifeWay's In the Wild!™ music rotation for 1–6 grades.

Needed Resources

- *VBS 2019 Music Rotation Leader Guide with DVD*
- *VBS 2019 Music Rotation and Musical CD*
- *VBS 2019 Music for Kids CD*
- *VBS 2019 Music Book*
- *VBS 2019 Worship Rally Pack*
- *VBS 2019 Inflatable Frog (or beach ball)*
- *VBS 2019 Kids Gospel Guide*
- *VBS 2019 Devotional Bible for Kids*
- *VBS 2019 Flying Banner with Stand* (for icebreaker activity, or use hula hoops)
- *The Gospel: God's Plan For Me* booklet
- Item 1: "What's the Big Picture?" Handout — 1 per conferee.
- Item 2: "Animal Snapshots" – Make 4 copies of each animal snapshot. Write the daily Bible content (Bible story title & reference, bonus verse, daily point, and Bible connection) for each day on the back of each frame. (Daily information can be found in the *VBS 2019 Music Rotation Leader Guide* on pages 4, 9, 13, 18, and 23.)
- Sidewalk chalk
- 5–6 feet blue bulletin board paper — Using chalk, draw a curvy horizontal line to separate river from sky. Add a few clouds above and a few waves below the line.
- 1 hula hoop per every 4–5 conferees (if not using flying banner)
- OPTIONAL: Strips of colored crepe paper (about 24 inches long, 2 per conferee)
- Poster board — Write the verbs from the Day 5 song, "Believe," on the poster board: *read, memorize, hide, hear, revere, go and share, know, quote, believe.*
- Tape
- Laptop computer with disc drive and projector or large TV and DVD player

Room Setup

Center a large screen on the focal wall. Arrange chairs in a semi-circle in two (or more) rows in front of the screen. Allow plenty of room to move. Cover a focal table with a *VBS 2019 Tablecloth* and display the curriculum and resources. Decorate the room using the tips on page 31 of *VBS 2019 Music Rotation Leader Guide*. Tape the blue bulletin board paper to a wall and place the sidewalk chalk nearby. Tape each day's "Animal Snapshots" around the room. Create stations around room for the icebreaker activity using several *VBS 2019 Flying Banners with Stands* or by scattering hula-hoops on floor.

Teaching Steps

1. Welcome (5 minutes)

- Play the theme song, "In the Wild!" as conferees arrive.

- Invite early arrivers to draw animals that can be found near a river onto the blue paper using chalk. Explain that you will show the finished picture later.
- Welcome conferees. State that this conference will introduce the songs, the choreography, and the Bible content for each day of VBS. Explain that while conferees likely won't be able to master all of the movements today, you will give them strategies to break down the songs and help them learn to maintain a gospel-centered focus while teaching.
- Lead the group to play a quick icebreaker game. Play the theme song and guide conferees to move around the room. Pause the CD at random. When the music stops, all conferees should gather around one of the flying banners (or stand with one foot inside a hula hoop) and share their answers to one of the following questions with the others in their group:
 - Introduce yourself by naming an animal that starts with the same letter as your first name. (Example: Hi, my name is Hannah and I like horses.)
 - How many years have you participated in VBS (in any role)?
 - How many years have you helped with music at VBS?
 - Make the sound of your favorite animal for your group.
 - What is your favorite VBS song from a previous year?
- Continue playing and asking new questions for several rounds. Encourage conferees to meet new people at each stop.
- Guide conferees to return to the chairs. Enlist five volunteers to select an Animal Snapshot (Item 2) as they return to their seats (to be used later).

2. What's the Big Picture? Tips for Making Music Rotation Gospel-Centered (15 minutes)

- Ask: "What is the purpose of VBS?" Listen to answers. Discuss how VBS is the biggest evangelistic opportunity for most churches. Frequently, kids come to VBS who never attend any other church activities throughout the year.
- Ask: "How much time does it takes to prepare for VBS each year?" Listen to answers. Mention that volunteers spend a lot of time learning the motions, making decorations, preparing crafts, studying the Bible stories, and more, but how much time do they prepare to share the gospel with kids?
- Remind conferees that it's OK to have fun with the theme, but our primary objective must be to help kids come to an understanding of their need for a Savior. As leaders, we need to prepare ourselves for this exciting opportunity! We need to help kids 'zoom in and focus on Jesus.' (VBS motto)."
- Share the pointers from handout (Item 1). Lead conferees to fill in blanks. (Be sure to repeat the underlined words so conferees can fill in blanks.)
 - Focus on the Main Thing — Focus on the message more than the movements.
 - Every element of VBS should relate back to the gospel.
 - Is Your Camera Ready? — Be prepared. Know your choreography.
 - When you are prepared, you will be a more effective teacher.
 - Are your Batteries Charged? — PRAY! Study each day's Bible content.
 - Turn on the Flash — God's Word is a light and a lamp (Psalm 119:105). Incorporate the bonus verses whenever you can.
 - Say Cheese and Smile! — Be energetic! Kids will mimic your energy level, as well as your movements.
 - Avoid Blurry Pictures — Kids can get overwhelmed if you try to teach too much at once.
 - Make a plan for how to approach each song.
 - Teach in learnable chunks.

- When in doubt, start with the chorus or any part that repeats over and over again.

3. VBS 2019 Bible Content (5 minutes)

- Explain that the Bible content for VBS is strategically and intentionally written into every session to reinforce the same message over and over again throughout each day of VBS. Every element of "In the Wild" VBS (Worship Rally, Bible study, crafts, music, missions, recreation, and snacks) ties to the gospel.
- Mention that VBS songs are specifically written to reinforce each day's Bible content. Say: "When we focus on the lyrics and the Bible stories in music rotation, we are helping kids to 'Zoom in and focus on Jesus!'" Lead conferees to pretend to hold a camera and "zoom in" by twisting their hands around an imaginary lens as they say, "Zoom in," then point up with both hands while saying, "Focus on Jesus."
- Inform conferees that this conference will help them "zoom in" and focus on the meaning of the lyrics to the songs.
- Hold up a Bible and remind conferees that it is very important that music rotation leaders connect the song of the day with that day's Bible story or daily point. Mention that this year every Bible story is about Jesus!
- Introduce the theme verse, John 20:31: "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Explain that a large portion of the verse is included as the chorus of the Day 5 song, "Believe."

4. Resources to Lead VBS Music Rotation (5 minutes)

- Quickly overview the following things needed for music rotation:
 - *VBS 2019 Music Rotation Leader Guide* — Includes daily lesson plans for teaching the music and motions as well as an overview of each day's Bible story.
 - Music Rotation DVD — Includes instructional and practice videos for learning choreography, performance videos, and lyric videos.
 - New this year— Music videos (without lyrics) for each day's song. Music videos can be found on the *VBS 2019 Worship Rally DVD Set*.
- Project the DVD menu on the screen (if using a laptop). Discuss the difference between the instructional (instruction and demonstration) videos and performance videos.

5. Day 1 Song: "Why He Came" (10 minutes)

- Review the Bible content for Day 1. Call on the conferee with the Day One Animal Snapshot (lion cub) to read the cards.
 - Bible story and reference: Encounter in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)
 - Bible Connection: When Jesus was 12 years old, He traveled with His family to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. After the celebration Mary and Joseph headed back to Nazareth. After traveling a full day, they realized Jesus was not with them. They hurried back to Jerusalem and finally, on the third day, Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple. Jesus was listening to the teachers and asking questions. Everyone was amazed at how much Jesus understood at such a young age.
 - Today's Point: Jesus knew why He came.
 - Bonus Verse: For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. *John 6:38*

- Say: "Before we start learning the motions, let's 'zoom in' (twist hands, pretending to "zoom in" on camera) and focus on the lyrics to the bridge, which are: 'Let's go where God leads us.'"
 - Discuss what it means to obey God's will. Connect the lyrics of the bridge to the Day 1 Bonus Verse. This "snapshot" of Jesus gives us an example of how Jesus obeyed His Father's commands. Teach the choreography for the bridge.
 - Explain that learning the final movement or pose can help you feel successful and end confidently. Teach the final pose at the end of the song now, since it is similar to the bridge choreography.
- Explain that the chorus also relates directly to the bonus verse, just like the bridge. Teach the movements to the chorus after discussing the lyrics.
- Read the verse 1 and verse 2 lyrics, but don't teach the choreography yet. Focus on the message. Lead conferees to practice what they have learned so far. Play the "Why He Came" performance video from the DVD. Allow conferees to stand still and sing if they don't feel comfortable attempting the motions they have not yet learned.
- Teach the two verses of song, discussing the meaning of the lyrics as you teach.
- Remind the conferees that the motions aren't the main point. Encourage them to just have fun as they sing through our Day 1 song.
- Play "Why He Came" performance video on the DVD again as a final review.

6. Day 2 Song: "What God Has Done" (10 minutes)

- Point out the drawings of animals that early arrivers drew on the blue paper. Name the animals that were drawn. Ask if anyone drew a dove. Explain that today's Bible story occurred at a river and mentions a dove.
- Discuss the Bible content for Day 2. Call on the conferees holding the Day Two Animal Snapshots (meerkat) to read the cards.
 - Bible story title and reference: Encounter at the River (Matthew 3:1-17)
 - Bible Connection: John helped people get ready for Jesus, God's promised Messiah. John told people to repent of their sins and be baptized. One day Jesus came to the river and John told the people Jesus was the One he had been speaking about. Jesus asked John to baptize Him to follow God's plan. After Jesus was baptized, an amazing thing happened. The Holy Spirit appeared to Jesus like a dove and God declared that Jesus is indeed His Son!
 - Today's Point: Jesus is the Son of God.
 - Bonus Verse: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God. *John 1:34*
- Say: "The Day Two song is called, 'What God Has Done.' This song is a high-energy song and tells the Bible story. The kids will love this song and choreography."
- Invite conferees to "zoom in" (twist hands, pretending to zoom in on camera) and focus on the lyrics to the chorus.
- Read the lyrics to the chorus. Explain that the song lists three things that happen in the Bible story (heavens open, Spirit descends like a dove, voice spoke). Break it down and teach the motions to each of these parts.
- Once conferees are comfortable with motions for the chorus, teach the motions to the verse. Point out that the Bonus Verse ties in to the lyrics in the verse.
- Quickly teach the introductory choreography and the closing pose.

- Explain that although this song only has two parts (chorus and one verse), it takes time to master any choreography, especially those with fast tempos.
- Play the "What God Has Done" performance video from the DVD.

7. Day 3 Song: "What You're Made For" (15 minutes)

- Discuss the Bible content for Day 3. Call on the conferees holding the Day Three Animal Snapshots (polar bear) to read the cards.
 - Bible story title and reference: Encounter on the Water (Matthew 14:22-23)
 - Bible Connection: After a long day teaching near the Sea of Galilee, Jesus sent the disciples ahead of Him in a boat. The disciples saw Jesus walking to them on top of the water, and they were frightened. After Jesus identified Himself, Peter asked to come to Him on the water. Jesus said, "Come." As Peter walked to Jesus, he became afraid and began to sink. Peter called out for Jesus to save him. Jesus reached out, caught hold of Peter, and got back in the boat with him. The wind immediately stopped, and the disciples proclaimed that Jesus really is the Son of God!
 - Today's Point: Jesus proved He is God's Son.
 - Bonus Verse: Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God: believe also in me.
John 14:1
- Point out that the Day 3 song includes the ABC's of becoming a Christian.
 - Quickly review *The Gospel: God's Plan For Me* booklet. Explain that the ABC's are a response to the gospel. "We respond" is the last step when we hear the Good News.
 - Ask: "Do you remember our VBS motto? (Review it with motions.) Say: If we truly want our VBS to zoom in and focus on Jesus, everything we do at VBS has to be gospel-centered, including music rotation. The Day 3 song creates a wonderful opportunity to present the gospel to kids. If you don't feel comfortable, the *VBS 2019 Music Rotation Leader Guide* has information inside the front cover that can be very helpful."
 - Quickly review what each letter (A-B-C) means, then toss the *VBS 2019 Inflatable Frog* (or beach ball) to a conferee. Lead that person to randomly choose a letter to say—A, B, or C—as he/she tosses the frog to another person. The person that catches it should say the matching word, "Admit," "Believe," or "Confess," as he/she catches the ball.
 - Continue tossing the ball around the room, reviewing the ABC's. Challenge conferees to complete the whole phrase (example: A—Admit to God that you're a sinner)
- Teach the motions to the chorus. Connect "B—Believe" to the Bonus Verse.
- Quickly teach the introductory motions and closing pose. Lead conferees to practice what they have learned so far. Play the "What You're Made For" performance video from the DVD. Allow conferees to stand still and sing if they don't feel comfortable attempting the choreography they have not yet learned.
- Read the lyrics to verse 1 and verse 2. Then use the instruction video to teach verse 1.
 - Explain that the DVD has instruction videos that explain the movements.
 - If time permits, teach the motions to verse 2.
- Play the "What You're Made For" performance video and lead conferees to do the motions to the entire song.

8. Day 4 Song: "Worthy of All Praise" (15 minutes)

- Discuss the Bible content for Day 4. Call on the conferees holding the Day Four Animal Snapshots (panda bear) to read the cards.

- Bible story title and reference: Encounter at the Tomb (John 20:1-18)
- Bible Connection: On the third day after Jesus had died on a cross and been buried, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. As she approached the tomb, she saw that the stone had been rolled away. Mary went and told Peter and John who came to see for themselves. After Peter and John left, Mary looked into the tomb. She saw two angels. They asked why she was crying. A man standing nearby asked who she was looking for. Mary thought that the man was the gardener, but when He said her name she recognized His voice. It was Jesus! He sent Mary to share the amazing news with His disciples. Jesus is alive!
- Today's Point: Jesus rose from the dead.
- Bonus Verse: Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." *John 14:6*
- Explain that leaders do not have to wait until Day 4 to introduce this song. Explain that this song is the slowest of this year's VBS songs, but kids will enjoy it when given a chance to hear it a few times. Encourage leaders to introduce this song early in the week and then review it on Day 4.
- Lead conferees to "zoom in" (twist hands) and focus on one key truth that repeats throughout this song.
- Teach the motions to the phrase, "Jesus, You alone are worthy of all praise."
 - Read the lyrics. As you get to that phrase, encourage conferees to say it with you and do the movements.
 - Explain that the lyric videos provide flexibility if you want to change the motions or just focus on one part.
- Play the lyric video for "Worthy of All Praise." Lead conferees to do the motions only for "Jesus, You alone are worthy of all praise. Worthy of all praise."
- OPTIONAL: Distribute strips of colored crepe paper to conferees, two per person, to use with choreography during this one phrase.
- If time permits, teach rest of song.
- Play the "Worthy of All Praise" performance video and lead conferees to do the motions.

9. Day Five Song: "**Believe**" (15 minutes)

- Discuss the Bible content for Day 5. Call on the conferees holding the Day Five Animal Snapshots (giraffe) to read the cards.
 - Bible story title and reference: Encounter on the Road (Luke 24: 13-35)
 - Bible Connection: Two men were walking toward the village of Emmaus talking about everything that had happened during the last week. Jesus joined them, but they did not recognize Him. The men began explaining everything that had happened to Jesus and that He was a great Prophet. Jesus began telling them about Himself using Scripture to explain why all the things had happened. When they arrived in Emmaus, Jesus stayed and ate with them. As Jesus tore the bread and gave pieces to the men, they recognized Him. Jesus immediately disappeared from their sight. The men returned to Jerusalem and told the disciples about their amazing encounter with the risen Jesus.
 - Today's Point: The Bible was written so I can believe.
 - Bonus Verse: So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ. *Romans 10:17*

- Explain that leaders do not have to wait until Day 5 to introduce this song. This song has a lot of great lyrics and choreography that will require extra practice. Encourage leaders to introduce this song early in the week and then review it on Day 5.
- Point out that this song focuses heavily on the VBS Scripture, John 20:31. Display and read the verse: "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."
 - Leave the Scripture displayed and read the lyrics to the chorus from "Believe."
- Teach the motions to the chorus, continuing to discuss the meaning behind the lyrics.
- Lead conferees to "zoom in" (twist hands) to focus on some action verbs in the verses.
 - Explain that these verbs (read, memorize, hide, hear, revere, go and share, know, quote, believe) tell us what to do with God's Word, the Bible.
 - OPTIONAL: Hold up a poster or signs with each of the verbs as they are mentioned.
- If time permits, teach the motions for the verses as well as the introductory motions and the closing pose.
- Play the "Believe" performance video and lead conferees to do the motions to the entire song.

10. Teach the Theme Song: "In the Wild!" (10 minutes)

- Say: "In the wild, there's so much to discover for you and me! Let's stand and learn the movements to our Theme Song."
- Teach the motions to the chorus first, taking time to discuss the meaning.
- If time permits, teach the movements for the two verses, introductory choreography, and closing pose.
- Play the "In the Wild!" performance video (DVD) and lead conferees to do the motions to the entire song.

11. Review (5 minutes)

- Allow conferees to ask questions regarding the music rotation for VBS 2019.
- Share that decorating ideas can be found in the leader guide on page 31.
- Point out the supply list on page 31.
- Remind conferees that the LifeWay VBS website (lifeway.com/vbs) has many resources.

12. Continuing the Connection (5 minutes)

- Explain that VBS doesn't end after Day 5. The purpose of VBS is to share the gospel with the community. A vital part of VBS is the connections that are made with unchurched families during the week. Music rotation leaders have the opportunity to interact and impact most, if not all, of the kids who attend VBS. Challenge leaders (again) to be ready to share Jesus with them.
- Discuss ways to use VBS music as an outreach tool:
 - Invite kids to sing at a Family Night.
 - Invite kids to sing during a worship service.
 - Encourage kids to participate in children's and music activities at your church.
 - Sing VBS songs on a community stage, park, etc.
 - Send CDs home with kids with the church's information.
 - Encourage families to get the VBS app since it includes choreography videos.
- Share more resources:
 - *VBS 2019 Devotional Bible for Kids*
 - *VBS 2019 Kids Gospel Guide*

- *VBS 2019 Parent Guide*
- *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me*

13. Closing (5 minutes)

- Review the motto: "Zoom in! Focus on Jesus!" Challenge conferees to think of the motto as a guide to their own preparation for VBS.
- Remind conferees that music can have one of the greatest lasting impacts on a child. Children remember words set to music. The lyrics and biblical truths taught during VBS will live in the hearts and minds of the children long after VBS.
- Ask participants to stand. Read the VBS Scripture together.
- Close in prayer.

What's the Big Picture?

Tips for Making the Music Rotation Gospel-Centered

1. **Focus on the Main** — Focus on the _____ more than the _____.



2. **Is Your Camera Ready?**

Be _____.

Know your _____.

3. **Are Your Batteries Charged?** _____! Study each day's _____.

4. **Turn on the Flash** — God's Word is _____
(Psalm 119:105). Incorporate the _____
whenever you can.

5. **Say Cheese and Smile!** Be _____!

Kids will _____ your energy level, as well as
your _____.

6. **Avoid Blurry Pictures** — Kids can get
_____ if you try to teach too much at once.



Instructions: Print four copies on cardstock. Cut apart cards on the solid lines. Write each day's Bible story title and reference, bonus verse, The Point, and Bible Connection (one element per card) on the back of the corresponding day's cards.