

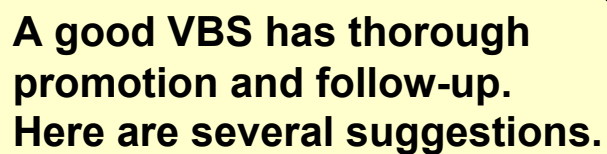
PROMOTION

Why Promote Vacation Bible School?

Summer is for having fun. Children are looking for fun and so are their parents. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a wonderful way to introduce people to the fun of your congregation. The simple, straight forward message of law and gospel at your VBS is also an ideal way to introduce people to Jesus, their one and only Savior. Yes, you could use "Let's Build an Ark" simply to strengthen the faith of your present member children and their parents. That's a great goal. Their participation will depend on thorough promotion of "Let's Build an Ark" within your congregation. "Let's Build an Ark" was also designed to reach a larger audience and we encourage you to promote it to your entire community.

How Can We Promote Our VBS within Our Congregation?

1. Set the dates for your VBS by January and advertise them in your church newsletter and on a bulletin board. People will keep VBS in mind when planning their vacations if they know the date far enough in advance.
2. Have your VBS Coordinator make a special announcement in front of church making everyone aware of the dates and the theme for VBS. Have the Coordinator make similar announcements to various groups and at various events of the congregation. Repetition of information is essential.
3. Enlist the help of your Sunday school teachers. Have them talk up VBS over the last few weeks of Sunday school. Provide them an invitation and/or registration form to hand out at the last Sunday school class before summer. (Registration form is on this CD)
4. Recruit a VBS Registrar to create a data base with the names of every family in your congregation with children of the age to attend VBS. Make a list for your prayer group so they can pray for their participation. Make a list for your phone calling group. Make labels for your mailing group.
5. Have VBS registration forms sitting out in a heavy traffic area with a box to put them in. Highlight the spot with a poster about VBS or a nice craft that the children can look forward to making.
6. A few weeks before VBS call each family that hasn't registered to make sure they are aware of VBS and find out if they might still want to participate.
7. Send a final letter of enthusiastic welcome to each family that registered during the week just prior to VBS, providing them the specific schedule, drop off and pick up times, etc.



A good VBS has thorough promotion and follow-up. Here are several suggestions.

How Can We Promote Our VBS to Our Community?

1. Work to schedule your VBS on a week when other churches are not having theirs and when the community calendar is light. Try to avoid weeks with sports camps, swim lessons, festivals, etc.
2. Advertise! The greater variety of media you use the better. The money you save on purchasing your VBS program from Kremer Publications can be invested in advertising. Consider the money you spend on advertising an investment that will bear dividends in the future.
 - a. The radio will announce your program free of charge as a public service. Paid advertisements will be more frequent, more attention getting, and at the appropriate times of day to catch your target audience.
 - b. The newspaper will put your VBS on the community calendar and on the religion page for free. Ask for an interview concerning a fun children's program for your community. A paid advertisement can be placed on a page more likely read by the unchurched.
 - c. Place an ad on the events page of your local shopper.
 - d. Do a bulk mailing to every household on the mail routes closest to your church. Postage for bulk mailings is less expensive. If costs are prohibitive, mail to a certain number of routes one year and the others the next.
 - e. Put your VBS information on the community cable channel.
 - f. Rent a billboard for a month or two preceding your VBS.
 - g. Be certain to have a full page ad on your church website.
3. While supplies last, this course also comes with a huge 3'x4' vinyl banner, complete with grommets. This banner is printed in full color. All churches need do is purchase 4" vinyl letters at a local hardware store and apply them to the banner. You can purchase the banner at Kremer Publications at 1-800-669-0887.
4. Ask members to put up yard signs (also available from Kremer Publications) in the front yards of their homes.
5. Train, equip, and encourage members to talk to their FRAN network (friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors) about your VBS. Provide them with invitations to hand out.
6. Put up posters that people can tear the registration phone number from on bulletin boards of grocery stores, laundromats, fast food restaurants, YMCA's, etc.
7. Canvass neighborhoods with larger concentrations of children. Knock on doors and give a verbal invitation. Register the children on the spot or leave the number for registration.
8. Recruit drivers in advance so those who inquire can be assured that rides are available if needed.
9. Offer childcare for children below VBS age so their older siblings can attend and their parents can help out.
10. Recruit a VBS registrar and have his/her number on all advertising for registration. Make sure that person's answering machine alerts all callers that they have the right number, that they can leave

registration information on the answering machine, or simply leave a phone number for a call back.

11. Hand out VBS flyers in your local parade.

12. Include an attention getting outing in your VBS week. Advertise accordingly. You might consider a trip to a local travel agency. Plan a picnic to follow in a local park. Invite the parents. The more time you can spend with people the better you will get to know them and the more comfortable they will become with you.

13. Remind children during the closing of each day that you would be very excited for them to bring another friend the next day. Your VBS has the potential to grow considerably after the first day.

14. Send friendly notes home each day alerting parents to the efforts their children are making to get ready for the closing service and that they won't want to miss that service. Put the time and date of the closing service in each note. The closing service is a wonderful opportunity for them to see their children's crafts and take them home.

15. Consider having your VBS closing musical on a Thursday evening instead of Sunday. Guests are more likely to participate in something specifically for their children. Their participation can be easily lost over the weekend. A special service allows freedom to do something completely different specifically with your guests in mind.

16. Consider feeding the children and their parents a simple lunch with ice cream for dessert on the final day.

17. Invite the community to see the closing musical.

18. Invite the local TV station to see the size of the ark marked off in your parking lot.

19. Display the ark in your church hallway after the VBS is over.

20. Make the ark available for display at a local library.

21. Videotape the entire week's festivities and place them on YouTube for families, friends, and kids to enjoy. This also makes a great outreach ad for your church. Be certain to put the YouTube video on your church website following the VBS program.





DECORATION IDEAS

(TEMPLATES FOR ANY SIGNS MENTIONED BELOW ARE ON THIS DISK.)

Decorate your school or church to reinforce the theme of this Bible school program. Consider some of the following ideas to help bring out Noah's construction site idea.

U Purchase some yellow caution tape at a local hardware store and wind it throughout the hallways showing that this is Noah's construction site.

U Put up signs throughout the building such as (See files on this disk.)

DON'T MISS THE BOAT
THIS WAY TO ARK K
WATCH OUT FOR ANIMALS
JOIN NOAH'S CREW
HARD HAT AREA
TO ARK TOURSK
FOR SAFETY'S SAKE, TRAVEL IN PAIRS
MEASURE TWICE—CUT ONCE

What would a fun VBS be without decorations. Turn your church into Noah's Construction Site.

U Decorate your entrance to look like an ark entrance.

U Place construction cones throughout the building.

U Have cut pieces of lumber, planks, railroad ties, and sawhorses lying around.

U Put the ark blueprints on the walls (see disk).

U Place animal footprints in the hallways.

U On doors (like janitor's closet) put signs such as NOAH'S OFFICE, BLUEPRINT AND DESIGN SHEM, GENERAL CONTRACTOR HAM, CONSTRUCTION BOSS JAPHETH, MRS. NOAH'S KITCHEN, RAINBOW ROOM. (These signs are on this disk.)

U Place wooden barrels or crates throughout the building and label with (or use paper cartons with wood grain drawn on):

ELEPHANT FOOD	HIPPO HAY
BIRDSEED	SNAKE SNACKS
MONKEY SHAVINGS	MOUSE MUNCHIES

U Place hay or straw bales throughout the building.

U Take a number of paint cans and label them to read PITCH. (On disk)

U Paint a giant rainbow on your building windows.

U Play the songs from the musical on hallway intercom speakers.

Signs are included on the disk.

**TO ARK
TOURS**

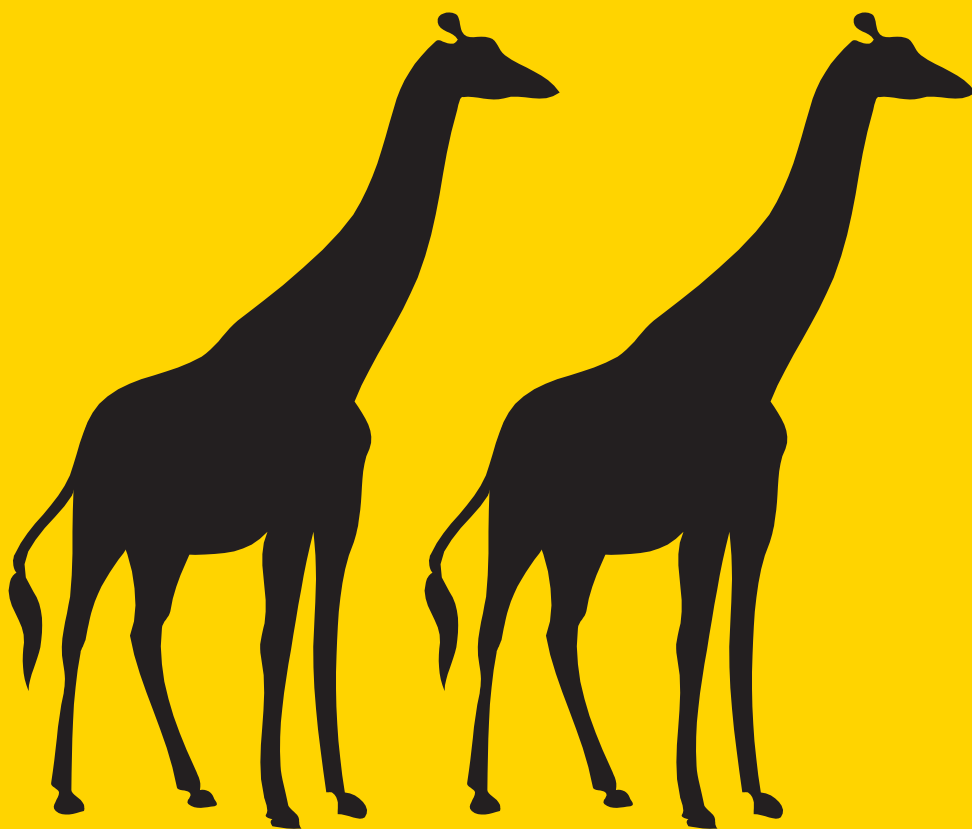


ELEPHANT



FOOD

**FOR SAFETY'S
SAKE TRAVEL
IN PAIRS**



SNACKS



TABLE DECORATIONS

Gather up old (cleaned) woodworking tools and toolboxes and set on tables as centerpieces. Tools like mallets, old planes (without blades), hammers, or even cut pieces of lumber will work well. (Keep safety in mind.) You could also use hard hats, tool belts, tool aprons, and workman's gloves.

You may wish to place candy tools, cookies or cakes on the tables for the children to enjoy. You can find the following on the Internet:

Carpenter Tools Candy Molds at confectioneryhouse.com
Hard Hat & Tools Chocolate Candy Mold at countrykitchensa.com
Noah's Ark Metal Cut-Out Set for Mini Cookies at thepartyworks.co
Noah's Ark Cake Pan at thekoshercook.com
Noah's Ark Pan at wilton.com

You can also have great fun with daily snacks and refreshments.

Consider using assorted brightly colored paper plates, paper cups, and napkins.

PAPER TABLE CLOTH ARTWORK

Cover the tables with table cloth paper. Place a number of assorted crayons on each table. Encourage the children to draw their own ark, animals, or rainbows at their place setting.

You could also cut out animal pictures from magazines and glue them to the table cloths for an added touch.

SERVERS

Those helping serve the food could wear hard hats or tool belts. Also see "Noah's Crew Member" t-shirt iron-on artwork on this disk.

WASTEBASKET

Place a sign over the wastebasket that reads, "Help Keep the Ark Clean."

OUTSIDE EATING

If the children sit on the lawn and eat their snacks outdoors, have them sit in pairs.

DAY 1
Noah's Lion and Sheep Cupcakes



Lions

Ingredients

Cupcakes
Yellow (light brown) icing
Miniature chocolate chips (eyes and nose)
Tube icing (black for mouth)
Caramel popcorn (mane)

Instructions

Spread icing on cupcakes.
Place miniature chocolate chips for eyes and nose.
Use the tube icing for the mouth.
Place caramel popcorn around head for mane.

Sheep

Same as lions except use white icing and place miniature marshmallows around the face instead of caramel.

DRINK OF THE DAY
Shem's Pitch Punch

Ingredients

1 (12 ounce) can unsweetened frozen apple juice, thawed
36 ounces carbonated white soda

Instructions

Pour together, stir, and enjoy!



GAMES TO PLAY

These indoor and outdoor games make good icebreakers and can be a lot of fun during break time.

NAME: RAINY DAY ARTIST
AGES: ALL
SUPPLIES: Elephant sheet found in this file, markers for each child.
Print out and give each child a half elephant sheet. Students are to be as exact as possible when drawing the other half of the face.

A dozen fun games are provided for you to enjoy with the kids.

NAME: FEED THE ANIMALS RELAY
AGES: ALL
SUPPLIES: (For each team) One empty bucket, one bucket filled with water, one soup ladle (try to use ladles that are all the same size), a pair of sawhorses covered with a board to form a table, one two-by-four measuring 8' or 10' in length.

Have the course ready before the relay. Set a filled bucket and ladle at the determined starting line. Along each team's course, lay a two-by-four on the ground and lay a board across two sawhorses. Set the empty bucket at the finish line. Divide the class into groups of six or so. At GO the first student from each team takes the soup ladle and dips it into the water bucket. He/she then carries it down the course, first balancing atop the two-by-four and then bending to crawl beneath the sawhorse table. Then the student proceeds to the finish line, where he/she empties the ladle into the empty bucket. He/she races back to the starting line again going under the sawhorse table and walking across the two-by-four. He/she then hands the ladle off to the next student. Rather than having the first team that finishes win, have the team with the most water in its bucket win.

NAME: MRS. NOAH'S DINNER BELL
AGES: Preschool-Grade 2
SUPPLIES: Bell, blindfold

Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one person to sit in the center blindfolded. The object is to pass the bell from one child to the next without having it ring. The children may not hold the bell clapper. When the teacher yells, "Dinner!" the bell stops. The blindfolded child tries to point to the child holding the bell.

NAME: NOAH'S WORK GLOVE RELAY
AGES: Preschool-Grade 4
SUPPLIES: One piece of wrapped candy for each child, one pair of clean adult work gloves per team.

Divide your students into teams of six or so. Have the teams sit in rows on the ground. Set a piece of candy on each child's lap. Give the first child in line from each team a pair of clean work gloves. At GO he/she puts on the gloves, unwraps the candy, and puts it in his/her mouth. Then he/she removes the gloves and hands them off to the next person. First team to unwrap its candy wins.

NAME: NOAH'S RAVEN
AGES: Preschool-Grade 2
SUPPLIES: None

Teacher stands in front of the children. He/she tells the children to flap their arms like a bird when he/she mentions an animal that flies. If the animal doesn't fly, they must leave their arms at their sides. If they make a mistake, they are out. The commands are to be said quickly: ravens fly, cows fly, doves fly, squirrels fly, geese fly, etc.

NAME: FIND NOAH'S ANIMALS
AGES: Preschool-Grade 2
SUPPLIES: Slips of paper with animal names or animal pictures on each (for pictures see the animal faces in the musical file on this disk), two slips for each animal

Have each child draw one slip of paper from a hat. After the children have looked at the pictures, they must begin to act and sound as the animals would act and sound. While doing this, they must locate the other child with the same animal. They can sit together as a pair during the snack.

NAME: PAUSE
AGES: Grades 3-6
SUPPLIES: A remote control (does not have to work)

Divide the class into teams of about four students each. Teacher reads one of the scenarios as listed below. Teams have 30 seconds to get in position with the scenario. At 30 seconds the teacher clicks the remote and yells, "Pause!" Students immediately pause in position. (The teacher may wish to take a photo of the still scene.)

Possible scenarios:

- Noah and family building ark
- The scene in the stable at Bethlehem
- Listening to a sermon in church
- Children of Israel making bricks for Pharaoh
- Daniel in the den of lions
- Singing in the church choir
- Working in the kitchen getting a snack ready for VBS

NAME: NOAH'S ANIMAL ALPHABET
AGES: Grades 3-6
SUPPLIES: None

Have the children sit in a circle. The first child chosen must name an animal whose name begins with A (Aardvark). The next child must then name a food for that animal that begins with the same letter (Apple). Proceed around the circle with the next letter in succession (Bear, Banana; Camel, Cabbage; etc.).

NAME: DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?
AGES: Grades 3-6
SUPPLIES: None (works well to help learn memory passage)

Children line up in one long line. Teacher says first word of memory passage to first child in line. He/she then turns around and says the word to the next child, and on down the line. Meanwhile the teacher goes to the end of the line. When the word reaches the end of the line, the teacher gives the child on that end of the line the second word. He/she now repeats the first two words to the next student, and it gets passed on down the line until the first two words reach the first student. Then the teacher gives that person the third word. Now all three words are repeated on down the line. Continue until all the words from the passage are used up.



CRAFT SUGGESTIONS

Kremer Publications always includes a set of craft suggestions for each day of the week and at each grade level. However, since this course includes the making of the ark model, the suggested craft ideas are limited. These craft ideas can be used to supplement your class. Each has been chosen to use only materials that are easily obtained and easy to do in a short period of time.

The ark is your major craft item for the week. If you need more suggestions, they are here as well.

ANIMAL CRACKER ARK

Age Level: Lower Grades

Materials

Template #1 ark template
Crayons or markers
Blue tissue paper
Animal crackers
Sandpaper

Directions

1. Cut out the ark from the template.
2. Color the ark with crayons or markers.
3. Using the roof section on the template, outline and cut the roof out of sandpaper.
4. Glue sandpaper roof to ark.
5. Tear blue tissue in small pieces, wrinkle, and glue to look like water in the lower side of the ark.
6. Glue animal crackers in the window openings.



HANDPRINT RAINBOW #2

Age Level: Lower Grades

Materials

Large sheet of heavy paper
Five smaller pieces of colored construction paper each of a different bright color
Markers and safety scissors
Glue

Directions

1. Have children trace around their fingers on five pieces of brightly colored paper.
2. Help children cut out their hand prints.
3. Have children glue the prints in the form of an arched rainbow.

