

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Starting Guide

PRAY

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide in your planning, unify your church, and bless your evangelistic efforts.

LOCATION

Find the best space to meet the needs of the children: church, school, tents, another location, etc.

DATES

Select dates to best fit your church's schedule. Try to avoid conflicts from other church or community events.

TIMES

Choose a time when volunteers are available and children are most likely to attend: morning or evening.

LENGTH

Decide on the length for your event. 2.5 hours work well in the mornings, 2 hours works better in the evenings.

START TIME

Consider starting VBS at the same time as Sabbath School to encourage weekly follow up.

VBS TEAM

Gather a planning team of church members and the pastor to oversee all details.

GOAL

Think about the evangelistic purpose of the event and how to follow up with guests.

BUDGET

Present a plan to the church board which is reasonable, yet stresses the evangelistic effort of VBS.

RECRUIT

Get church members excited and committed to reach children for Jesus.

NETWORK

Brainstorm ideas with friends. Look to other Adventist churches for helpful volunteers.

CURRICULUM

Explore available VBS resources. Consider themes and Adventist beliefs.

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FUNDRAISING

Be creative in gathering funds. Invite members to contribute offerings, specific supplies, or the cost of one child to attend.

ADVERTISING

Use social media, community events, local newspapers, radio stations, yard signs, door hangers, and word of mouth.

REGISTRATION

Encourage pre-registration to assist with purchasing materials and organizing groups. Check out myvbs.org.

INCENTIVES

Provide goodies for kids who pre-register, bring a friend to VBS, dress up for the theme, and attend every day.

AUDIENCE

Target age levels of children. If possible, plan preschool and teen groups.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Consider methods to reach children with disabilities and those who use English as second language.

SCREENING

To ensure a safe environment, have all volunteers complete Sterling Volunteer training and background checks.

DECORATIONS

Look for backdrops and props to support the VBS theme. Check seasonal sales and thrift stores. Borrow, if possible.

LAYOUT

Plan where to host each rotation at your facility. Multiple areas will be needed for stations.

INVITE NOW

Think of neighbors, coworkers, classmates, and cousins who can attend. Pray for and invite them now.

CONTACT

Check out MISDAkids.org for resources. Email questions to misdakids@misda.org.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS

Set a specific goal for the number of guests and volunteers. Watch how the Holy Spirit will work.