

Virtual VBS Teaching Tips

We have identified teaching tips to help plan your exciting Virtual VBS sessions.

Plan a time with your VBS Director to pick up your Virtual VBS Kit package, which will include a teacher book, student book, and crafts. Online STREAM Activities, *Mission Events, and videos for crafts and lessons are available. Incorporate these in your teaching.

*Mission Focus in the Director's Book

PRAY

Plan a time with the other teachers to pray for participants who are registered and those who will just show up. Use Skype, Zoom, phone tree, or phone contacts as possible ways to connect. Pray that you have the wisdom and courage to teach the lessons in new and exciting ways. Pray and thank God for allowing you to teach, utilize your teaching skills, and show your care for others.

PREPARE

Remember to have crafts ordered, your teacher and student book are provided in your kit.

Read and study each lesson, prepare the snacks ahead of time, and create your lesson plan. Practice storytelling techniques to encourage your participants. Here is one example from UMI:

Lesson Six: Healthy Healing

The sick woman received her healing from touching Jesus' clothes. Have the students practice healthy eating by sampling different fruits.

- cut up pieces of fruit, such as apples, pears, melon, strawberries, cherries, pineapple, bananas, or watermelon
- fruit-flavored dip (strawberry cream cheese mixed with marshmallow creme and a teaspoon of brown sugar)

Each student should a portion of mixed fruit with a dip for their healthy snack.

If remote teaching is new to you, first practice in front of a mirror, then ask a friend or family member if you can teach your lesson online to him or her. If you can reach an audience of one or two participants in your age group, this will help you relax. Remember, social space and protocols apply.

Select the space where you will teach. Be aware of the background and the surrounding space. Make sure the area is conducive to participants watching your show. Some video conference systems allow you to select an experience.

Practice “remote classroom” management. Children (and some adults) have short attention spans. Keep your teaching time engaging and plan activities for participants to do that keeps them involved. You will need to stay focused and listen to the participants. Watch the time.

FUN

Select a game from the VBS kit and see how you can utilize the game in your lesson. You can modify the game to fit your participants and your lesson.

- > Try the online STREAM activities first and then incorporate them into your lesson. Using these activities will engage the participants to think, laugh, and remember the lessons.
- > Download the music CD and play songs for the participants. Have a sing-along, create silly motions, or liturgical dances, then make a video and post them on social media or share with family or close friends.
- > Backyard (or indoor) Fun-n-Games (last day of VBS or another day)

Develop games for a group of children, no more than nine at a time to enjoy. Only one child can be at each station. Follow social distancing and other state and local rules and regulations.

Create such games as:

- **Toss the Balls in the Buckets**, three to five buckets, and golf size balls are needed. Select a distance for students to stand from the bucket to toss the ball in each bucket. Or substitute with bean bags.
- **Pop-A-Balloon**. Supplies Needed: Three medium size balloons per student and container for all the inflated balloons to fit. Blow up the balloons and place them in a container. Have each student pop three balloons as quickly as possible.

Prize Suggestions: Colorful beads, juice boxes, bubbles, or a gift card for ice cream.

Remember, Pray, Prepare, and Have Fun!