

# VBS 2024 BACKYARD KIDS CLUB TEACHING PLAN

## Teaching Steps

- The first step is deciding on a location. Below are some suggestions:
  - Park
  - Church members' homes
  - Mission location
  - HOA clubhouse
  - Recreation center
  - Parking lot
  - Restaurant
  - Daycare center
  - Mobile home park
  - Government housing
  - With other churches
- An essential step in the process is getting the word out about BKC.
  - Social media and links to registration on church's website, QR codes, etc.
  - Fliers in the neighborhood
  - Place posters in common areas of nearby apartments.
  - Reminder cards to previous attendees
  - Enlist kids to get the word out. Parents and kids respond well to other kids in the neighborhood.
  - Banners, yard signs, etc.

## Roles and responsibilities of each leader

- **Host/Team Leader:**
  - The Host/Team Leader is the onsite director. Provides the location and leadership for the BKC.
  - Main duties: Publicity, registration, snacks, security, follow-up, communicating details back to the church staff.
  - The host also provides the snacks.
  - Ideally the host does not have any teaching responsibilities, so he/she is available for any needs that arise.
  - The host works with the team to set the date, schedule, and any kickoff or celebration dates.
  - The host can also be the team leader, or the team leader can be another person on the BKC team.
  - The host must have the gift of hospitality—making people feel welcomed and loved.
  - Whenever possible, recruit hosts that are open to a 2–3-year commitment. It takes time to develop relationships. In some cases, it may take families 2–3 years of participating in a BKC before making a visit to the host church.
  - Snack tips:
    - Plan for snacks to last 10 minutes.
    - Keep in mind that many children have food allergies. Plan for allergen free snacks (or alternatives).
    - Consider only serving water since BKC is usually outside. Watch for warning signs that children are overheated or dehydrated.
    - Be sure to think through trash pickup. Tie a large bag to a tree or bring a large trashcan outside.
    - Involve other church members by asking them to provide snacks for the teams. Adults who may not be able to participate in the week of BKC might love to shop, prepare, and deliver snacks to the host ahead of time.
    - Remember to take every opportunity to teach. Snack time is a great time to review the Bible Stories and/or applications from Bible Study.
- **Bible Study Leader**
  - The Bible Study lasts 30 minutes.

- Recruit Bible Study leaders for both preschool and children's Bible studies.
- The daily Bible stories and applications are the same for BKC as the main VBS curriculum. Activities and games have been adapted to fit a broadly graded group of children and are easily portable and done outside.
- The Preschool teaching plan includes an abbreviated Bible verse (paraphrase) and coloring sheet option on the back. There is also a separate preschool music CD with songs that are incorporated into the lesson.
- The children's teaching plans have an "Explore Deeper" activity (usually a game or craft option) to extend the time if needed.
- Tips for Bible Study:
  - Think through sun versus shade. You do not want kids staring into the sun as they look at the leader.
  - Provide clear physical boundaries. A flat sheet or blanket not only gives them something to sit on but also provides a visual boundary.
  - Provide a cooler for the leader to sit on. Store supplies inside to prevent them from blowing away (other options include a large box, basket, or bag nearby).
  - Ask other team members (Music, Rec, Crafts, etc.) to sit with the children during Bible Study time to assist the Bible Study leader and to help the children stay focused.
  - Be spiritually and mentally prepared for distractions. Do not be surprised if a neighbor decides to mow the lawn or a hot air balloon goes overhead during Bible Study time.
  - Day 1
    - **Session Title:** Truth Comes from God
    - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** Satan Tricked Adam and Eve (Genesis 2–3)
    - **Some People Say:** Truth can be different for different people.
    - **God Says:** Truth comes from Me.
    - **Today's Point:** Truth comes from God.
  - Day 2
    - **Session Title:** God's Plan Is Best
    - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** Daniel Chose God's Way (Daniel 1)
    - **Some People Say:** Do what makes you happy.
    - **God Says:** My plan for you is even better.
    - **Today's Point:** God's plan is best.
  - Day 3
    - **Session Title:** Everyone Needs Jesus
    - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** The Rich Young Ruler (Mark 10:17-27)
    - **Some People Say:** Being a good person gets you into heaven.
    - **God Says:** Everyone sins and needs a Savior.
    - **Today's Point:** Everyone needs Jesus.
  - Day 4
    - **Session Title:** Jesus Is the Only Way (Preschool: The Bible Is True)
    - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** John Wrote about Jesus (John 14:1-6; 18–20; Acts 1:9-12)
    - **Some People Say:** There are many ways to get to heaven. (Preschool: Is the Bible really true?)
    - **God Says:** Jesus is the only way to get to heaven. (Preschool: The Bible is true!)
    - **Today's Point:** Jesus is the only way. (Preschool: The Bible is true!)

- Day 5
  - **Session Title:** Speak the Truth in Love
  - **Bible Story Title and Reference:** Paul Encouraged the Ephesians (Acts 9:1-6; 19:1-10,21-31; 20:1; Ephesians 3:14–4:16)
  - **Some People Say:** If you don't agree with me, you don't love me.
  - **God Says:** Speak the truth in love.
  - **Today's Point:** Speak the truth in love.
- **Crafts Leader**
  - Leads crafts for 25 minutes.
  - The BKC crafts are chosen for their suitability for outdoor use. Additional craft ideas are available in the *VBS 2024 Crafts Rotation Leader Guide*.
  - Some tips for BKC Crafts:
    - Lead kids to stand around tables instead of sitting in chairs. (12 kids can stand around a table where only 6 chairs would fit.)
    - Plan ahead for wind! Place small items/crayons/markers in heavier bowls or cups to keep them from blowing away or rolling off the table.
    - Provide hand wipes nearby if doing a messy craft. This will give children a place to clean their hands rather than needing to go inside to find a sink.
    - Keep extra copies of the preschool Bible Study coloring pages on hand for children who finish early. Or have the Recreation Leader to stand-by ready to play a favorite game again as kids finish their craft.
    - Lead kids to place their finished craft near the pick-up area so they do not forget them when they leave.
- **Recreation Leader:**
  - Leads recreation for 25 minutes.
  - Determines early arrival activities 15–20 minutes before starting BKC.
  - The recreation cards for BKC are identical to the cards for VBS.
  - Instruct leaders to be very familiar with the playing area. Watch for tree roots, little ditches, or other items that might be hazardous or cause safety concerns.
  - Give very clear boundaries on how far kids may go during games.
  - Consider stationing extra adults or student leaders at those boundaries.
  - Determine in advance with the BKC team if recreation can include water or messy games.
  - Select 3–4 games per day. It is better to have more prepared to fill extra time.
  - Some tips for BKC recreation:
    - End a game before the kids lose interest. You can always bring it back as an opening or closing game during drop off/pick up the next day.
    - Evenly disperse younger and older children on each team when forming teams with broadly graded ages. For relay games, place the youngest children at the front of the line and older children at the back. This will help ensure that kids compete against others their own age.
    - Give teams theme related names such as “Sand Dollars” and “Orcas.”
- **Music/Worship Leader:**
  - Leads Opening Rally for 15 minutes and leads Closing Rally for 15 minutes.
  - The Music Folder gives an outline for daily opening and closing rallies. A two-character skit is also provided. This helps tie in the theme each day and sets up Bible study. Consider asking older children or middle school/high school students to perform the skits.
  - Choose leaders with high levels of enthusiasm and energy. The music/worship leader should be familiar enough with the songs and movements to teach them to the children each day.
  - If technology is available at a BKC site, the music/worship leader may choose to show the performance videos on the DVD while leading songs. Review the music from Opening Rally, the motto, and the memory verse.

- Use the Connection Questions included on the Closing Rally card to review the lesson. This can have a huge impact. Often parents arrive a little early. By reviewing everything at the end, parents can listen in on what their children learned. Parents who are already believers can continue the conversation with their child as they go home. Parents who are not believers will hopefully ask their children to explain what they learned!

## Follow Up

*Some people say: "The kids won't come to church afterward. We only see them one week a year."*

*BKC says: "Make connections and they'll return."*

- Suggestions for follow up:
  - Sponsor a tent or booth at a community festival.
  - Support church kids at the ball field or basketball court.
  - Coffee station at the church before or after the service
  - Host Family Nights or Days
  - BKC Family Experience
  - Family Retreat or Camp
  - Parenting Seminar (Adult VBS Printable)
  - Provide parent devotional literature.
  - CSB Outreach Bible for Kids
  - Learn and use guests' names.
  - Send texts to guests thanking them for coming to BKC.
  - Send handwritten notes to parents.
  - Invite guests to upcoming events at church.
  - *VBS 2024 Parent Guides* (005846983)
  - Send short notes using the *VBS 2024 Note Cards* (005846489)
- Set a goal of reaching a certain number of families within a week after BKC.
- Families need to feel the value of things they are investing time and energy into. Many times a meaningful connection can begin with one simple gesture that shows people they are genuinely cared about. Most people are both looking for and longing for a place to belong. We should help those families find that with our local body of believers.