

VBS HOST SUCCESS TIPS

Prepare for Success

Study the Guide

- Know the flow, schedule, and guide well enough that you aren't reliant on it.
 - Use our RBKids Cue Cards to make your own notes/cues so you don't have to hold the Script.
- Know the lesson and materials well enough to make eye contact with kids and use a warm, dynamic voice as you lead.

Practice Your Stage Presence

- Use your voice, movement and body language to command the room.
- Practice talking in front of a mirror or video yourself. This will help with timing, voice inflection, and facial expressions!
- Try saying these phrases in different ways:

"Whoa! Did you see that?!"	"God's love is out of this world!"	"Wait... what just happened?"
<i>Shocked excitement</i>	<i>Super energetic space-hero voice</i>	<i>Over-the-top confusion</i>
<i>Suspicious curiosity</i>	<i>Whispered with wide-eyed wonder</i>	<i>Slow and serious</i>
<i>Goofy dramatic flair</i>	<i>Announcer-style with dramatic</i>	<i>Fast and panicked</i>

Work as a Team

- Know how you, your co-leader (if applicable), Worship Leader, and Production team will work together to lead well. Talk about cues and practice transitions.
 - If you have a co-host, practice the skits and transitions together before VBS!
 - Locate your props and have a storage and easy access plan for each night

Keep Attention Spans in Mind

- The average attention span for our youngest VBS kids is 3-5 minutes
- We cater large group by splitting up talking with worship, but our talking needs to be clear, confident, and keep things moving!
- Don't lose the moment with extra words - PRACTICE making your point in as few sentences as possible.
 - Shorter = clearer, more engaging, and easier for kids to follow.
 - Avoid asking questions unnecessarily - it riles kids up and wastes time
 - "What was our main point today?"
 - "We've had a different main point every day. I hope you remember what it was today. Let's find out!"
 - "Let's read today's verse together."
 - "We've got a great verse that connects with everything we've been talking about. I think you'll really like it. Are you ready to read it with me?"
 - "Stand up and worship with us!"
 - "Alright everyone, I think it's time to get up on your feet and get ready for some fun because worship is about to begin!"
 - "Crew leaders, take your kids to their next station!"
 - "Okay, now we're all finished here, and it's time for everyone to go to their next part of VBS. Crew leaders, are you ready? Go ahead and take your kids now!"



Keep it Fun and Engaging

- VBS is meant to be FUN! Use voice inflection, humor, and funny voices to develop a fun engaging stage presence.
- Clear expectations increases engagement!
 - Give expectations for each transition. For example:
 - Worship - stand, sing loudly, dance but don't leave your row or distract your neighbors
 - Bible story - sit quietly, don't touch your neighbor, listen to this very important True Story from the Bible!

Be Sensitive to our First Time Guests

- We are praying that kids will experience church for the first time with us!
 - Avoid "churchy" words/phrases that are unfamiliar to kids who haven't read the Bible or been to church
 - Give simple definitions and explanations without assuming any prior knowledge
 - Seek out kids you don't know and learn their name.

MISSIONS

This year, we are partnering with Samaritan's Purse to support The Greatest Journey - a powerful discipleship program for children around the world who have received Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts.

Many children who receive these shoeboxes live in difficult or even dangerous situations - whether due to poverty, conflict, or natural disasters. The Greatest Journey provides hope beyond the gift, introducing children to the greatest gift of all: a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Through a 12-lesson Bible study, children learn how to follow Jesus and share His love with others. The course is taught by local volunteers, many of whom were once shoebox recipients themselves. This program doesn't just impact one child—it often transforms entire families and communities as children bring the Gospel home with them.

It costs just \$6 to enroll one child in The Greatest Journey.

- That \$6 provides a student workbook, a New Testament in the child's own language, and training for a local teacher.

Your gifts this week will help equip and inspire children around the world to live a life rooted in Christ. Every dollar matters—and every child reached can make an eternal difference.

Giving Instructions:

Preschool Crew Leaders will be dismissed before the Missions videos are played. However, their Crew Leaders will explain the project in a simple and meaningful way during their first rotation. Preschoolers will also have a chance to give as they transition from large group. As each crew is dismissed from large group, please have your ushers stationed at the doors with collection containers. The host will remind kids to place their offerings in the containers as they head to their next station

**Missions videos are found on the resource page at rockbridge.cc/vbsresources
please watch videos before the first night of VBS.**



COMMUNICATING OFFERING TO KIDS

As we give kids (and their leaders!) an opportunity to give financially each night, we want to be sure we have explained what it is and why we do it. Here are some basic truths to keep in mind as you set up offering each night:

1. **Gratitude:** Remind the kids that offering is a way for us to show gratitude to God for all He has given us. It's our chance to say "thank you" and worship Him with our giving.
2. **Stewardship:** Teach our kids about stewardship – the idea that God has entrusted us with resources like money, time, and talents, and it's our responsibility to use them wisely and for His glory.
3. **Generosity:** Emphasize the importance of generosity and giving to others in need. Encourage the children to give cheerfully and sacrificially, knowing that their gifts can make a real difference in the lives of people in different parts of the world.
4. **Faith:** Challenge our kids to step out in faith and trust God with their giving. Teach them that when we give, we are partnering with God in His work and trusting Him to provide for our own needs.
5. **Community:** Highlight the importance of giving as a community. Explain that when we give together as a group, we can accomplish more and make a greater impact than we could on our own. Emphasize that our giving from all campuses will be added together!
6. **Celebration:** Finally, celebrate each offering time as a special moment of worship and unity. Encourage our kids to give with joy and anticipation, knowing that their gifts are pleasing to God and will help further His kingdom.

Bible Verses to Focus Kids On:

1. "This service (Giving tithes and offerings) that you perform is not only **supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.**" (2 Corinthians 9:12)
2. **I praise God because He made everything.** "In the beginning, God made the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1, NIV).
3. **"Everything comes from the Lord.** All things were made because of him and will return to him. Praise the Lord forever!" Romans 11:36
4. "Whatever you do, **work at it with all your heart,** as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:22, NIV).
5. Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, **when it is in your power to act.** (Proverbs 3:27, NIV); "The generous will themselves be blessed, **for they share their food with the poor"** (Proverbs 22:9).

Example:

"It's offering time! God gives us so much - and now we get to give back to Him. Our offering helps others and shows God how thankful we are. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians that our gifts meet real needs and overflow with thanksgiving to God. Let's give with joy and worship Him through our generosity so that people all over the world can hear about Jesus!

TOKENS

This year, our kids will participate in a Token Challenge! Tokens will be used throughout VBS to reward kids for remarkable expressions of love, kindness, great listening, participation, memorizing our Main Points and Bible verse, and more!

- **Award Tokens from Stage:** Verbally announce the awarding of tokens and have someone record it to add to the total!
 - *"You all did a great job saying today's Main Point! But, I'll give 20 tokens if we can say YESTERDAY'S Main Point right now! 1-2-3- "(insert kids saying it!). Yes! Ryan, did you write that down? +20 tokens!"* Use your physical tokens to award kids as you interact
 - with kids more personally throughout the night.
- **Play into the Hype:** Emphasize the excitement of earning tokens! Reward tokens to recognize and celebrate behaviors you want to see repeated.
 - Be specific as you award tokens so kids can confidently repeat their positive actions.
Ex: Great worship participation, getting silent immediately, attentively listening, repeating the Memory Verse, etc.
 - *"Did you hear the way they sang? What a powerful reminder. Let's add 10 tokens!"*
- **Overall Token Goal:** Kids will work together to reach an Overall Token Goal (please know your campus goal!) and receive a celebration on the last night of VBS!
 - Although the goal is collective, you can still award tokens by crews, to "this side of the room", to "all the preschool kids", etc.

Give Out Tokens Immediately: We want to help kids connect their positive attitudes, behaviors, and participation with the reward of the token, so as soon as you see a behavior to celebrate, pass out the reward!

Use short phrases like "Everybody say: Way to Go, Friends!" to help kids celebrate receiving tokens, but to also stay on track. We want to minimize the "screaming cheering" as we transition through elements of large group.

Pick Up Tokens: Replenish your stash of tokens by visiting the volunteer check-in area.

Token Collection: Kids can turn in their tokens during rotations, but they'll all be brought to the large group bucket at closing so we can update our goal progress each night!

There will be slides that will be updated nightly with the Token and Missions amounts. Please create this plan with your Production Team and communicate nightly on the plan for announcing progress.

Have a GREAT Week!

- **Have Fun and Lead with Joy:** Enjoy your time just as much as the kids as God fuels you!
- **Devotions:** Read the Leader Devotions to personally connect with the nightly lessons.
- **Fuel Yourself:** Let your "why" motivate you during challenging moments.
- **Pray:** Ask God for wisdom, energy, and the right heart as you lead. Pray that He will specifically use you - your time, effort and energy - for His glory!

