



## Notes, Takeaways & Resources

### Four options & what to consider:

#### Traditional VBS

**Pros:**

- could be a record number of kids this year!
- move date to later in the summer
- familiar

**Cons:**

- gathering numbers (including volunteers)
- daily cleaning
- parental uneasiness of large crowds

**Considerations:**

- poll last years VBS families and ask (it's a great way to check in on families as well!)
- avoid small classrooms
- avoid using rooms that Seniors will use on Sunday to preserve the cleanliness
- try to do as much as you can outside to maintain some social distancing

#### Virtual Bible School

**Pros:**

- safe
- encourage 2/3 families to gather together
- utilize zoom's breakout rooms feature for rotations
- private Facebook group for families to share
- empowers the parents

**Cons:**

- relies heavily on parental involvement
- most likely would have to be in the evening
- simplify crafts

**Considerations:**

- length of time (1-1 1/2 hrs)
- music licensing
- offering collection

#### Back Yard Kids' Club

**Pros:**

- safe for small numbers - open air
- keeps your church clean
- simplistic for quick planning
- great opportunity for parents to socialize
- finale options: parks, inflatables, outdoor, host home cook-outs

**Cons:**

- less use of videos

**Considerations:**

- length of time (1-1 1/2 hrs)
- thoroughly vet the neighborhood
- weather shelter (garage, tent)
- insurance

#### Alternate Schedule

**Customizable****See attachment for scheduling options**

- Back to School bash
- Labor Day Weekend
- Winter break
- One day event
- Weekend event
- Sunday mornings/nights/Wednesday nights
- After school club (at school or park)



## Planning - What is the best option for YOUR church?

### Traditional VBS

List pros, cons & considerations specific to your church and your community.

### Virtual Bible School

List pros, cons & considerations specific to your church and your community.

### Back Yard Kids' Club

List pros, cons & considerations specific to your church and your community.

### Alternate Schedule

List pros, cons & considerations specific to your church and your community.



## Notes, Takeaways & Resources (cont.)

### More considerations:

#### **Safety & Security**

Have a written protocol no matter what event you choose. Let families know what precautions you're taking to keep their kids safe (cleaning, hand washing, background checks, neighborhood vetting, weather, etc)  
(see sample handout)

#### **Neighborhood Vetting for BYKC**

The host home is key! Search your church's database and look at member's homes on Google Maps. Great places are heavily populated neighborhoods, townhouse communities, a neighborhood with a central gathering spot, shelter, etc. Be aware the ages of kids in the neighborhoods. Look for nice sized front or back yards. Check the sex offender registry for local predators that may live nearby.

#### **Training**

How will you train your team leading up to whatever VBS format you choose? Utilize Zoom, create a private Facebook group for your team and go live or record videos and post there. BCM/D VBS page has Lifeway VBS training videos. Kentucky Baptist Association also has great trainings as well!

#### **Budgeting**

If you're concerned about funding your VBS with all that is happening, consider reaching out to your congregation and rally them help support VBS this summer monetarily. Share the vision and the importance of VBS this summer over any other summer. If your budget has been reduced, consider one of the less expensive options (back yard kids' club). Lifeway has allowed copying of materials for this summer only as a way for churches to get the most use out of their curriculum.

#### **Promotion**

If you haven't started utilizing on line promotion, now is the time! Look into Facebook ads, create a Facebook event, join your local town or city's Facebook page and post your event there. Look into local parenting Facebook pages and post your event there. Ask all of your members to share the event on their Facebook page. For backyard kids' clubs, get out there and walk the neighborhood (with the host homeowner of course!) and personally invite neighbors. See if you can hand out flyers or invite cards wherever schools are distributing lunches for kids. Invest in yard signs, make them non-date specific so you can re-use them year after year. Include only the church website and say something like "Backyard Kids' Club HERE next week" and place them out the week prior.



## **Notes, Takeaways & Resources (cont.)**

### **More considerations & Resources:**

#### **Virtual VBS Family Kits**

Personalize VBS take out kits for families! Use a pizza box for each family. Decorate the outside with the family's name. Have parents register for a kit. Ask questions on the registration form that will allow you to personalize it for each family (ie., what's your favorite snack, what's your favorite candy) include those personal items on the kit. Include a welcome letter and instructions. Create an envelope or folder for each day with all they need in it. Simplify the daily instructions, no longer than one page! In families with preschoolers include bubbles and sidewalk chalk. Place craft kits, name tags, t-shirts, activity packs and a music cd in each box. Set up a date for pick up at your church.

#### **BCM/D VBS Page (training)**

<https://bcmd.org/vbs>

#### **Kentucky Baptist Association VBS Training Page**

<https://www.kybaptist.org/stories/vbs-clinics-2020,3812?>

#### **4 Ways ebook - Lifeway**

[https://bcmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/4\\_VBS\\_STRATEGIES\\_screen.pdf](https://bcmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/4_VBS_STRATEGIES_screen.pdf)

#### **Including Lifeway's music in your virtual VBS**

<https://vbs.lifeway.com/2020/04/13/how-to-include-music-in-your-virtual-vbs/>

#### **Lifeway Director's Club - FREE**

<https://vbs.lifeway.com/directors-club/>

#### **Alternate Schedules**

[https://vbs.lifeway.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Alternate\\_VBS\\_Schedules.pdf](https://vbs.lifeway.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Alternate_VBS_Schedules.pdf)