

## **VBS 2016 Adult-2 Hour Base Conference**

### **Purpose Statement**

This two-hour plan is designed to train and equip Adult VBS Leaders to conduct LifeWay's *Submerged VBS 2016*.

### **Resources to Collect, Prepare, & Copy**

#### Resources to Collect

- Decorations as described in the VBS 2016 Adult Leader Guide VBS 2016 Adult Starter Kit, VBS 2016 Adult Learner Guide, VBS 2016 Enhanced CD,
- OPTIONAL: If available, display the following items that enhance the VBS 2016 Adult material: Decorating Made Easy, VBS 2016 Devotional Bible for Kids, VBS 2016 ABC Wristbands, VBS 2016 Parent Guides, and Takin' It Home CD.
- Markers for name tags
- 3 small theme related gift bags and 3 larger theme related bags
- Rope long enough for all participants to be able to hold a section.

#### Resources to Prepare

- Place nametags and markers by the door as leaders enter.
- Scatter the Item 4-Fish School Signs around the walls of the conference room.
- Gather all items listed in the margin on pp 28-30, Session 3. Adults will be using the material to conduct an abbreviated version of this Adult VBS session.
- Divide the Session 3 materials into bags and label the bags 1. Dive In & Buoyancy Check; 2. Critical Pressure & Lifeline; 3. Decompression & Zero Bubble.
- Laminate the copy of Item 5-Continuing the Connection with Adults and punch a large hole in the top of each card. The hole should be large enough to slide easily on a rope.

#### Resources to Copy

- Make a copy of all items on the VBS 2016 Adult VBS Enhanced CD and place all items in a 3-ring binder for display.
- Copy Item 1 Name tags on 2X4 labels for each leader. OPTION: Use VBS 2016 Sticker Name Tags instead of Item 1.
- Copy 3 sets of Item 2 Ocean Facts on colored cardstock and put each set in a separate decorate bag.
- Copy Item 3-Check Your Gear for each adult leader.
- Copy Item 4-Fish School Signs
- Make 3 copies of the Session 3 Lesson Plan from the Adult VBS Enhanced CD and place them in bags with the resources from the Adult VBS Leader Guide margin notes.
- Make one copy of Item 5-Continuing the Connection with Adults on cardstock.

### **Focal Wall Description**

Add Kit Items 1, 2 and 3 to the focal wall above a resource table decorated as the coral reef described in the VBS 2016 Adult Leader Guide pp. 48. Include the following items on the resource table: VBS 2016 Adult Starter Kit, VBS 2016 Adult Learner Guide, VBS 2016 Enhanced CD [If possible, make copies of all items on the Enhanced CD, put in a 3-ring binder, and display with the other VBS 2016 Adult resources.] OPTIONAL: If available, display the following items that enhance the VBS 2016 Adult material: Decorating Made Easy, VBS 2016

Devotional Bible for Kids, VBS 2016 ABC Wristbands, VBS 2016 Parent Guides, and Takin' It Home CD.

### **Room Setup Description**

Set-up the room for comfort, conversation, and a variety of activities. If using a computer and projector, set-up to one side of the Focal Wall.

### **Decoration Suggestions**

Decorate the room using DIY suggestions from the VBS 2016 Adult Leader Guide pp. 47-48, Decorating Made Easy ideas, or a couple of sections from the VBS 2016 Super Duper Sized Backdrop found on page 41 of the 2016 VBS Catalog.

### **Audio Visual Needs**

- CD Player with speakers for background music
- OPTIONAL: Computer, projector, and screen

### **Teaching Steps**

- 1) Before the Conference Begins
  - a) Take a picture of the room so you can return items to their original location.
  - b) Decorate as described in Focal Wall, Room Set-up, and Decorations
  - c) Place Item 1 Name tags in each chair or on a table as the leaders enter.
  - d) Put the Item 2 Buoyancy Check theme bags in front of chairs.
  - e) Allow time to pause and pray for leaders before anyone arrives.
  - f) Play VBS 2016 Theme song in a loop as leaders begin to arrive.
- 2) Opening (5 Minutes)
  - a) Greet leaders at the door. Encourage each to make a nametag and take a look around the Adult VBS Observation Station.
  - b) Start the conference on time.
  - c) Divide leaders into three equal teams. Explain that before the submarine can dive, each dive team needs to get familiar with the ocean. Leaders will work together to match the ocean facts in the bag with the appropriate number card. Caution leaders that they must complete their work before the dive alarm sounds [sound is located on the VBS 2016 Enhanced CD]. Set a timer for four minutes and encourage adults to work quickly. Check group work using the following information:
    - In the deepest part of the ocean, the pressure is equivalent to a person trying to hold up 50 jumbo jets.
    - Approximately 72% of the earth's surface is covered by oceans.
    - The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean covering 30% of the earth's surface, and its name means 'peaceful sea' in Portuguese.
    - Oceans contain 80% of all life on Earth.
    - Anything below 650 feet is considered deep sea, and the deep sea is 300 times larger than land.
    - The Mariana Trench is nearly 7 miles below the water's surface and is big enough to fit 120 Grand Canyons.
  - d) Congratulate leaders on working together to complete the VBS 2016 Adult Day 1 Opening Activity. Say, "Each day of VBS, Adults will begin their deep sea dive by getting to know each other or strengthening existing relationships. Let's see what other deep sea treasures await our adult dive teams during VBS 2016!"

- 3) Prepare to Lead Adult VBS (approximately 30 minutes)
  - a) Distribute Item 3: Check Your Gear handout to each leader.
  - b) Say, "All divers must do a pre-dive check to ensure they are well acquainted with the gear they will use during the Adult VBS Dive." Encourage everyone to conduct a detailed search of the VBS 2016 Adult materials located on the resource table and work together to successfully complete the handout. OPTION: If you have more than one set of Adult VBS Resources, optimize this hands-on experience by dividing your group into two teams. Place Adult VBS Resources in a dive bag with the Item 3 handouts.
  - c) Give adults 10-15 minutes to review the material and complete the handout. Offer assistance as leaders work.
  - d) Highlight the following information as you review the Item 3 handout.
    - The VBS 2016 Adult Starter Kit contains the Adult VBS Leader Guide, with daily VBS teaching plans, one Adult VBS Learner Guide, posters, kit or teaching aides, and the enhanced CD. The kit costs \$23.99
    - To maximize the Adult VBS experience, churches should order one VBS 2016 Adult Learner Guide for each participant. The cost of the Learner Guide is \$2.69.
    - The Enhanced CD contains resources that will boost leader preparation for VBS, Adult VBS Options that will maximize the VBS experience for adults and even equip parents to discuss what their kids are learning during VBS.
    - Demonstrate how to use the Adult VBS Enhanced CD and review all of the items located on the CD using the printed version or a computer and projector.
    - Emphasize how the Biblical Illustrator articles can be used to enrich the Adult VBS leader's teaching.
    - Be sure to show the PowerPoint resources that can be used during Adult VBS, and the Adult VBS Teaching Plans that can be customized for each church or reproduced for small group leaders to use during Adult VBS.
    - Point out the margin notes in the Adult VBS Leader Guide. The margin notes contain the resources needed for each activity and answers to questions found in the Adult VBS Learner Guide.
    - Emphasize the Adult VBS Enhanced CD list of resources and the Adult VBS Kit list. These resources can be used to help divide and organize the materials especially if multiple leaders are involved in the preparation process.
    - Remind leaders that the VBS 2016 Adult lessons have been translated to Spanish and are a free resource at [www.tarrantbaptist.org](http://www.tarrantbaptist.org).
  - e) Say, "Why do you think fish school?" [According to North Carolina Aquariums, Schooling allows fishes to swim longer, travel through colder temperatures and avoid predators more effectively than if they swam alone.] "A similar principle is true for unchurched adults attending a small group VBS for the first time. Adult VBS can offer a secure and non-threatening way for first time church attenders to study God's word while building authentic and meaningful relationships. One of the key elements of a successful Adult VBS is getting the right people on your dive team!" Ask participants to look around the room for the Item 4 Fish School Signs. Have adults place the signs in order on the focal wall to form one large school of fish.
  - f) Lead a discussion on effective recruitment and Adult VBS small group leader training using the Item 4 statements.
    - **Pray, plan and prepare early**-Recruiting the best dive team requires you to begin early! Read the Bible Studies and lesson plans and prepare your heart to lead.
    - **Share your vision with others**-Talk to your VBS director, pastor and other church leaders. Clarify and fine-tune your vision and goals.
    - **Recruit within your target**-Make sure to recruit small group leaders that are similar to the adults you hope to target with your Adult VBS ministry.

- **Train with purpose**-Consider your target group and train your small group leaders accordingly. If your target is unchurched or spiritual orphans, you might train your leaders how to build relationships and share the gospel message. The LifeWay VBS Blog, [www.lifeway.com/vbs](http://www.lifeway.com/vbs) and [ministrygrid.com](http://ministrygrid.com) are excellent and adaptable training tools.
  - **Customize the schedule to meet their needs**- Adult VBS is very flexible and can be easily adapted. Find out what will best meet the needs of your target group and then customize your VBS schedule to meet that need.
  - **Monitor and adjust**-Don't be afraid to change or adapt on your quest for excellence.
  - g) Invite others to add their thoughts and ideas as you discuss recruiting and training Adult VBS small group leaders. OPTION: Provide extra blank fish school sheets that leaders can write on. Add their ideas to those included in this plan.
  - h) Thank leaders for their input and advice. Say, "Focus your attention on the observation window as we dive deeper for a more detailed look at Adult VBS 2016!"
- 4) Submerge! (1 hour)
- a) OPTION: Use PowerPoint to reviews the Adult VBS Session Segments.
  - b) Say, "Adult VBS Submerged: Finding Truth Below the Surface is designed for five two-hour sessions, as indicated by this schedule:"
    - **Dive in** (Registration and Snacks, 10 minutes)

Adult snack ideas are located on the Adult VBS Enhanced CD, but you can also get Ideas from the VBS 2016 Refreshment Cards

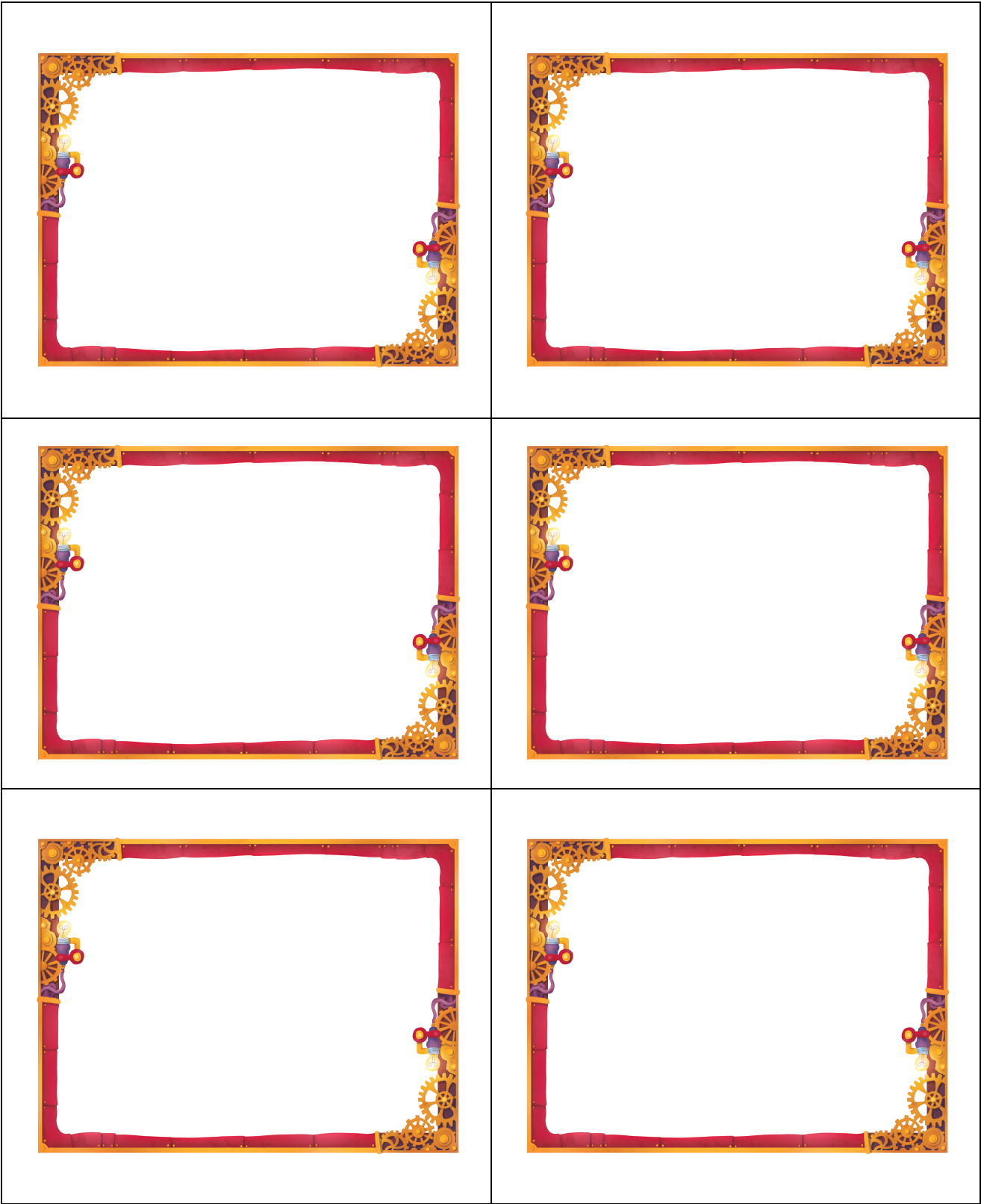
  - **Buoyancy Check** (Get Acquainted, 20 minutes)
- Adults will use the Adult Learner Guide during this session. The activities are generally thematic and offer time for adults to engage and build relationships.
- **Critical Pressure** (Create Interest, 10 minutes)
- Critical Pressure is a bridging activity to the sessions' Bible Study.
- **Lifeline** (Bible Study, 50 minutes)
- Focus on the Bible content using interactive sessions to reinforce the daily point and purpose.
- **Decompression** (Application, 25 minutes)
- Like a diver rising from a deep-sea dive, decompression allows time for adults to focus on the Biblical content and apply it to their daily life.
- **Zero Bubble** (Closing, 5 minutes)
- A submarine term for maintaining a Zero trim angle as it travels through the ocean. In adult VBS, the closing allows time for adults to refocus and look ahead to the next session.
- c) Divide adults into 3 teams. Give each team a Day 3 lesson plan and resources needed to teach the Day 3 content. Allow leaders 15 minutes to prepare and 10 minutes to

showcase how adults will engage and learn during VBS Day 3. Ask leaders to offer suggestions on how they might adapt the material for the adults in their church or for college age vs. senior adult learners. Assist adults as they prepare their session.

OPTION: For a smaller group of leaders, prepare to explain what happens in 1. Dive In & Buoyancy Check; Divide the adults between 2. Critical Pressure & Lifeline; and 3. Decompression & Zero Bubble.

- d) Use information from pg. 6 of the Adult VBS Leader Guide to offer suggestions for witnessing to adults on Day 3 and every day of Adult VBS using the information from Commit, Pray, Apply, and Recognize. Show other witnessing tools displayed on the Adult VBS resource table near the focal wall.
- 5) Continuing the Connection with Adults (20 minutes)
- a) Play soft music as a background for the next activity.
  - b) Ask adults to stand and form a circle. Pass out the rope so that every adult can grasp it with both hands. As the leader, you will complete the rope circle by holding the two ends of the rope.
  - c) Explain that preparing and leading an effective Adult VBS is important, but even more important is our role immediately following VBS and the weeks and months following VBS.
  - d) Ask leaders to silently read the Barna statistics from Item 5-Continue the Connection with Adults as you slowly thread the statements onto the rope and slide it to the next person.
  - e) When every person has read the three statements, drop your section of the rope and take a pair of scissors and cut the rope between each leader as you say: "Every time we choose to not send a card, pick up the phone or visit a home we are choosing to cut your churches' lifeline to unchurched adults that attended VBS. It isn't easy to finish a busy week of VBS knowing that our job is not ended, but if we want to change these Barna's statistics, it is imperative that each Adult VBS worker understands the impact of not Continuing the Connection following VBS." Ask leaders to take their piece of rope back to their home church and use it as a reminder to Continue the Connection with every person that attends VBS during 2016!
  - f) Give a tear sheet to each set of three leaders and ask them to write down ideas they have for Continuing the Connection with adults.
  - g) Allow time for adults to record their responses and then let each group share some of the ideas they listed or have all adults do a gallery walk around the posters as time allows.
- 6) Closing (5 minutes)
- Ask adults to hold their piece of rope as you close by saying the VBS scripture together.
  - Close the session by praying for each of the leaders and the ministry they will have with adults during VBS 2016.

Item 1 Name tags



Item 2 Deep Sea Dive

<p>Approximately _____ % of the earth’s surface is covered by oceans.</p>	<p>Oceans contain _____ % of all life on Earth.</p>
<p>In the deepest part of the ocean, the pressure is equivalent to a person trying to hold up _____ jumbo jets.</p>	<p>The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean covering _____ % of the earth’s surface, and its name means ‘peaceful sea’ in Portuguese.</p>

<p>The Mariana Trench is nearly ____ miles below the water’s surface and is big enough to fit ____ Grand Canyons.</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>Anything below ____ feet is considered deep sea, and the deep sea is ____ times larger than land.</p>	<p>120</p>



650	300
80%	30%

72%	50
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## Item 3

**Check Your Gear**

Dive into the materials adult leaders will use to conduct Adults VBS 2016. Put an X in the column where you found the resource. The first item's location has been completed as an example.

	<b>Adult VBS Starter Kit</b>	<b>Adult Leader Guide</b>	<b>Adult Learner Guide</b>	<b>Adult Enhanced CD</b>
<b>Adult VBS Kit Items</b>	<b>X</b>			
<b>Leading Adults to Christ Article</b>				
<b>Daily VBS Bible Studies</b>				
<b>Adult VBS Scheduling Options Ideas</b>				
<b>Biblical Illustrator Articles</b>				
<b>Adult Enhanced CD</b>				
<b>Deep Sea Adult Recreation Ideas</b>				
<b>Adult VBS Decorating Ideas</b>				
<b>Adult VBS Daily Lesson Plans</b>				
<b>Adult Learner Activities &amp; Resources</b>				
<b>Parenting Workshop Guide</b>				
<b>Deep Sea Adult Snack Options</b>				
<b>Customizable Adult VBS Lesson Plans</b>				
<b>Diving Deeper Ideas</b>				
<b>Deep Sea Adult VBS Craft Ideas</b>				
<b>Adult VBS Promotional Ideas</b>				

## Item 4 Fish School Signs











# **Customize Your Schedule to Meet The Need**





Item 5-Continuing the Connection with Adults

<p><b>59 percent</b> of young Christians disconnect either permanently or for an extended period of time from church after age 15.</p>	<p><b>36 percent</b> said they didn't feel comfortable asking their most pressing life questions in church.</p>
<p><b>24 percent</b> of adults in the study said that faith is not relevant in their career or interests.</p>	