

The background features a black field with dynamic, flowing waves of color. On the left, there are vibrant green waves that curve upwards and then downwards. On the right, there are warm orange and yellow waves that curve downwards and then upwards, creating a sense of movement and energy.

# 2021 “VBS” AND SUMMER POSSIBILITIES

# GETTING STARTED!

- Start with your Why?
  - This will help determine the format, setting, timing, audience, etc.

## USE YOUR WHY

- Once you have identified your “why,” use that to shape what you are going to do this summer.
- Use the things you have noticed or information you have gathered to inform your decision
- Endless possibilities...

# SUMMER IDEAS

- Parking Lot/Park/Green Space Gatherings
- Playlists
- Adopt a road/park
- Help older members with yardwork, etc.
- Youth <-> older adult driveway visits
- Family Activities
- Giving families space to breath/rest/process/etc.
- ???

# GETTING STARTED

- Ideas may include:
  - VBS – traditional or not
  - Summer of Playful Kindness
  - Summer of Rest
  - Family Events
  - More...
- Keep it Simple

# GETTING STARTED

- VBS Big Picture Pieces
  - When (date & time)
  - How (in-person, virtual, hybrid, family, drop off, etc.)
  - What (kit/material/curriculum will we use)
  - Plan A, B, C???

# GETTING STARTED

- Leaders
- How (format)
- Where (location)
- How much (budget)
- Partnerships (who can you partner with for resources, support, prayer)

# FORMAT

- 3, 4, 5 day morning or evening
- Weekend (2 day)
- One Day
- One time a week for 5+ weeks
- Rotation
- Classroom
- Rotating Leaders
- Combination
- Intergenerational
- Family Unit
- Virtual
- Hybrid
- Indoor/Outdoor



# GETTING STARTED

- Covid-19 Precautions
  - Volunteers
  - Children
  - Mitigation Policies (masks, sanitizer, hand washing)
  - Music
  - Communication
  - Other

# OUTDOOR VBS

- Location
  - Parking Lot
  - Green space
  - Local Park
- Weather
  - Heat
  - Rain
- Pop-up Tents
- Pest Control
- Safety Concerns
- Family Groups
- Video/Audio Considerations
- Set-up (tables, chairs)
- Timing
- Drop off/Pick up

# HYBRID

- Opening or kick off in person
- Send home boxes or kits that families can use at home
- Utilize Zoom or other online options

# ONLINE/DIGITAL

- Send home a box for families to use at home
- Utilize Zoom or other online platforms
- Resources from publishers, blogs, and others who are doing online vbs

# OTHER CREATIVE IDEAS

- Church in the park – every Sunday afternoon at a different park in your community, could include VBS or faith formation
- Postpone summer VBS and do something in the fall or winter

# CHOOSING A CURRICULUM

- Theology
- Cost
- User-friendly (director, leader, youth)
- Hybrid-friendly
- Kid-friendly
- Relatable
- What is important in your context (Bible story/Bible verse/music/art/games)
- Theme
- Scripture Messages
- Craft Projects

# DIGGING DEEPER

- Timetable (organization)
- Leader Training
- Protection Policy
- Partnerships
- Pre-registration
- Communication (especially around Covid-19)

# LEADERS

- Start with Prayer
- Who have been the effective leaders?
- Who might be willing to lead this year?
- Difficult conversations?
- Set your leaders up for success
  - Training
  - Clear Expectations (phones, pictures, arrival time, etc.)
  - Working with Teen Leaders (will you include teens leaders?)



# DECORATING

- Creative People in your Church!
- Facebook
- Pinterest
- Decorating Guide
- Other churches using that theme

# COMMUNICATION ADVERTISING/MARKETING

- Start with who is in your church
- Website
- Social Media
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Instagram
- Local bulletin boards
- Local Newspaper/  
Community Calendar
- Smile.fm

# COMMUNICATION ADVERTISING/MARKETING

- [Macaronikid.com](http://Macaronikid.com)
- Door hangers
- Postcards to send/hand out
- Bring a friend
- Kick-off Community

## Event

- Walk in a Parade
- Signs
- Send letter to last year's participants

# COMMUNICATION BEFORE/DURING/AFTER VBS

- Email/Letter to Registered Families
- Daily Newsletters
- Social Media \*\*
- Updates on website
- Closing Celebration (at VBS, Worship)
- Follow-up postcard
- Summer/Fall invitations
- Preschool

# GROUP MANAGEMENT

- Clear Expectations
- Clear plan for behavior concerns
- Who in your congregation is trained or has experience working with children of all abilities who can share best practices? Or is there someone in the local school district who could lead a training?
- Set yourself up for success with enough volunteers and age appropriate modifications

# APPRECIATION

- Parents/guardians/caregivers
- Leaders
- Behind the scenes help
- Appreciation gifts/ideas
- Congregation