



**JESUS GREW  
in WISDOM  
and in STATURE  
and in FAVOR with God  
and all the people.**

**LUKE 2:52**

discover christian church // VBS 2026

June 8-11 // 9:30 am — 12:30 pm

**VOLUNTEER INFORMATION**

## Our DISCOVER KIDS VBS Mission Statement:

Discover Kids strives to partner with parents in teaching children spiritual truths to grow them into active disciples. It is our goal and prayer to walk beside children as they learn to love like Jesus, live like Jesus and GROW LIKE JESUS!



## HOW CAN I USE VBS TO HELP KIDS GROW IN JESUS?

- Trust in Jesus as your own Lord and Savior and as the real leader of this week
- Let God speak to you through his true word and share it with kids
- Know that God loves you beyond all comprehension and help kids know too!
- Recognize that we all have sinned against God and deserve His judgment **and** that Jesus died on the cross in our place to pay for that sin and restore us to a right relationship with God.
- Believe that your personal relationship with Jesus will allow each child to see Jesus in you!
- Create and/or seize every opportunity possible to help each child grow toward the goal of a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Learn kids' names! It is an important beginning for building a relationship which God can use to share His love with them.
- Pray daily for the kids in our care and for our fellow workers.
- Use the creative energy that God has given us to reach kids for Jesus.
- Use each activity (crafts, recreation, etc.) to help kids remember what they have heard about Jesus in the lessons.
- Support and encourage what is said by fellow VBS leaders and teachers.
- Cooperate with each other, trusting that God is using all of us together to help kids believe, trust, and grow closer to Jesus.

This year's theme focuses specifically on helping kids learn how to

**GROW** LIKE JESUS and **GO** FOR JESUS!

We will be using a farm theme to study some of Jesus' agriculture parables.

Each story is a brain picture of an important element of what it looks like to  
PLANT, GROW, TEND and SOW on a personal walk with Jesus.

Each of us need to GROW in Him so that we can be part of the HARVEST for Him!

Our goal is that every child,  
those who are meeting Him for the first time and those who know well Him already,  
leaves with a better understanding of the way Jesus can work in their lives  
when we seek to GROW more like Him!

**THANKS for HELPING LEAD as they GROW through VBS!**

## SOME HELPFUL INFORMATION!

### ATTIRE

Volunteers should dress comfy — be ready for messy crafts, fingerprints and snacks! Clothing reflecting the VBS theme, or past T-shirts are encouraged!

### **Theme Days:**

DAY 1: Backwards Day

DAY 2: Team Color Day (bandana color — picture day!)

DAY 3: Crazy Hat or Hair Day

DAY 4: Dress like a Farmer Day

### ARRIVAL

**On your first day of VBS, please arrive in the Worship Center Lobby around 8:45 am** to pray for the week, answer any last minute questions, and to be at your assigned spot when the children start to arrive. **Doors will open to kids at 9:15 am!**

The rest of the week, please try to be here at **9:00** to settle in and be in place.

### ATTENDANCE

Please take your attendance and snack count during the “Opening” time (9:30 am). You will have 2 copies: keep one attendance list with you for your reference. **Drop the other attendance sheet AND the snack count in the offering buckets when you leave opening!**

Please keep the attendance list with you at all times in case of a fire or other emergency.

*NOTE: This sheet is to be given to the recreation leader in charge of your children during recreation. Be sure to get the list back when you pick up your children after recreation.*

### VBS FOR THE LITTLES (Nursery – 3's)

Children of the volunteer staff get the whole VBS experience! Please be sure the little ones are pre-registered so that we can plan our staffing accordingly. Teachers/workers in the under 4's group need to be ready to receive children at 9:10 a.m. so that parents can get to their assigned spots!

### CLASS SCHEDULES AND TRAVELING

Your personal schedules will be on the back of your nametag. Please try your best to be on time to the areas that you are traveling to (i.e. recreation, music).

- Keep your kids together and not roaming freely while traveling. Please develop an age appropriate way to keep your groups together (i.e. hold hands, hold ropes, etc.).
- Three year olds and younger travel for several rotations, and spend the rest of the time in their classrooms. Nursery group will stay in place except for necessary walks.
- Four and five year old groups travel to recreation, story time and music. However, craft and snack/prayer time will be done in their classrooms. Kindergarten through sixth grade groups travel to all activities, and 4th—6th graders will leave church one day for a service project.
- All groups should travel through the BACK hallway on the way to rec rotations. This will allow groups to see the décor throughout the building AND minimize distraction at the nursery window!

### VBS TSHIRTS

**VBS SHIRTS ARE NOT AUTOMATICALLY PROVIDED TO ALL KIDS.** Please be ready to reassure a child whose parent chose not to purchase one in a positive way. Shirts ordered and paid for will be labelled and bagged for your group. **A few extras in limited sizes may be available for purchase. Parents can inquire at the welcome desk.**

## CRAFTS

K-3rd grade students will go to a craft station upstairs. Check your schedule to see which craft room you are assigned to.

1 – 5 yo's will have craft time in their home base room. **Leaders for each group are responsible for leading the craft.** The craft and instructions are provided; each day a bag will be delivered to you with all the needed supplies. Do your best and have fun!

## DAILY LESSONS / TEACHINGS

Storytellers will tell the daily lesson and tie in the Life Application. Your job as a group leader will be to help kids pay attention during lessons and reinforce the story as possible throughout the day. During any down time you encounter, please help the kids learn the memory verse for the week which will be rewarded by the pocket pals during your snack time!

## DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Even during the fun of VBS, you may have a child or two who are disruptive or uncooperative. *Removing a temptation should always be the first attempt to resolve a problem.* For example, if 2 specific children together is the problem, keep them separated whenever possible! :-). All group leaders need to decide on rules before VBS and communicate them clearly to their class. Standing firm on your rules is the best way to set expectations. First step of correction might be a sideline talk and to shadow the leader for a time. If the child continues to be disruptive, please bring him/her to the Registration/Director's counter where we will help decide next steps.

## DISMISSAL FROM THE WORSHIP CENTER

The following guidelines will be followed for dismissal from the Worship Center:

### “STOP” SIGN

- The host will dismiss all preschoolers first. During the closing they will return to their rooms while the “Stop Sign” slide is UP.
- **All other groups (K – 6<sup>th</sup>) are to remain SEATED during the dismissal process.** During the closing the children of these “other” groups are to stay seated with their teachers until picked up by a parent. If you have children of other workers in your group, you may make arrangements together for the best way to hand off these children.
- The “Stop Sign” is for the parents and children K - 6<sup>th</sup> grade. **As the preschoolers leave, we want the parents and children to remain seated.**

### “GO” SIGN

- Parents may go find their preschooler when the slide is turned to “Go.” These procedures need to be followed rigidly in order to insure the safety of the younger children. **THANK YOU!**

## MEMORY VERSE / POCKET PALS

Kids have the opportunity to recite the memory verse each day to the Pocket Pals. We will be focusing on just one verse, Luke 2:52 (NIV), in hopes that they can truly commit it to memory and heart! They will need to know the verse and the scripture from where it comes— and with better accuracy as the week progresses! Pocket Pals will be roaming the building during snack time to find each group. Memory verse cards will be in your attendance bag. Kids will receive a new token key chain each day which connects to the story or the theme of the day. These will be collected on lanyards through the week and moved to a caribiner on the last day. **Please keep the lanyards for your group at the end of each day so that we have a way to track what they have received and to prevent loss!**

## EMERGENCIES

In case of an emergency that requires immediate attention, use your cell phone!

Emergencies: 911; Police 889-1231; Fire: 889-8382. Above all else, remain calm. Keep the children calm. Make sure you know the names of the children for which you are responsible. Keep them close to you. Reassure them of their safety and security.

## FIRE EMERGENCY PLAN

If an alarm has not sounded, the person who discovers a fire should pull the nearest alarm lever. The fire department is called automatically through the church's alarm system. Anytime the fire alarm sounds, the entire building should be evacuated as quickly as possible. Follow the evacuation plans for your area of the building. (Prior to the start of VBS find out where the nearest exit is located.) Doors and windows should be closed. Discover VBS staff will determine if the building is completely and safely evacuated. Once you have evacuated the building, do not leave your group/class for any reason. If you need first aid, it will be brought to you. If you need to go to your own child for an injury, an adult will come and relieve you. All teachers should take attendance of children once they are in a safe place outside, away from the building. Report any missing children immediately to the VBS Director who will be located at the center of the Worship Center main parking. Keep the children as quiet as possible in order to hear any instructions that are being given, and wait for further instruction from the Ministry Staff. DO NOT let parents take children. Everyone will need to be accounted for before they leave the premises or return inside the building, therefore, a record of who each child is released to must be kept with the attendance sheet. Children of all ages are only to be released to their parents. An "all clear" signal should be sounded when conditions permit re-entry to the building.

## TORNADO WARNING PROCEDURES

In case of a Tornado warning the following procedures will be followed:

- The fire alarm will sound, and the VBS Staff will inform you that there is a tornado warning. Teachers will then take students to the assigned areas as indicated on the building map evacuation plan posted in their rooms. Note that bathrooms are one of the safest places – know your classroom evacuation plan.
- Have students take a "protective position" – hands over the head in a seated position on the floor. They are to remain quiet at all times. Teachers are to take attendance once the students are in place at their safe location. Be sure every child is accounted for.

## ILLNESS/INJURY PROCEDURES

You have a small baggie of bandaids and gloves in your leader bag. For any injury larger than that, please seek out a member of the VBS leadership team. NO medications can be given on site without a parent present.

***If YOU are unable to attend a session due to illness or other emergency – please call or text Shannon Gilbert (614-306-7323) or the church office (889-1572) ASAP so that a replacement can be found for you.***

## PARKING

We ask that the staff please park in the back of the lot furthest from the building. This enables parents to pickup and drop off with ease. It will also provide a place close to the building for snacks and recreation!!

## PRAYER/SNACK TIME

- **PLEASE BE VERY AWARE OF FOOD ALLERGIES IN YOUR GROUP!** Some of these are severe and require diligent monitoring. These will be indicated on your attendance sheet AND on the SNACK CARD.
- Although prayer time is combined with your snack time the emphasis of this time should be prayer. Please list prayer requests in the Prayer Journal included in your attendance bag. Be sure to pray over these with your group during this time.
- Please send one member of your team to pick up your snack tray from the worship center communion window right before your snack time. After snack, please return your tray and water jug.

## RECREATION

- 2—5 year old classes should be dropped off at the appropriate time at the doors to the playground near the Fireside Room. Adult leaders pick up at the same spot at the end of rec time. KG—3rd grade groups should be similarly dropped off at the Gym Doors in the Global Café. 4th—6th grade groups are to meet at the main worship center lobby. The recreation team will meet you at those locations at the time their rec session is to start.
- **Be sure to give your attendance list to the recreation leader who is in charge of your children, and to get it back when you pick up your group. The attendance list needs to stay with the children and the adult responsible for them at all times.**

## TEEN HELPERS

WE LOVE OUR STUDENT LEADERS!!! We have many teens who serve in VBS and want to utilize them to their greatest potential—they are our VBS leaders of the future! The teen helper can be of great assistance to the leader. They can run errands for you, return the snack tray, help children in the opening and closings, and countless other tasks. This is a great way for them to serve. Many of the teens are also expert at relationship building—kids are just drawn to bigger kids! :-). Just like adults, teens should never be alone in a classroom with children. **Please give your teen helpers specific instructions so that they are empowered to be most helpful to you!**

## ADDITIONAL SAFETY REMINDERS

**2 ADULT RULE:** 2 adults (one at least age 21 or over) are assigned to every group. There should never be a situation where a child is 1:1 with an adult out of sight of others.

**RESTROOMS:** Adults will not enter restrooms with child/youth that are able to use the restroom facilities independently. If adult assistance is required, keep the door open and inform the other adult(s) of the need to provide this assistance.

- Children are to be monitored if sent to a restroom outside the classroom. Do not allow adults or teens to enter the restroom if there are children inside.
- Diapers are to be changed in view of other adult workers and not behind closed doors. Every effort should be made for diapers to be changed by females only.

**WINDOWS ON DOORS:** All classrooms and offices have windows on their doors. Windows may not be covered. All areas of the room should be visible through these windows.