



VBS 2013 Grades 3-4 Base Conference

Purpose Statement:

This two-hour, interactive conference plan is designed to equip, guide, and encourage Bible study leaders to use LifeWay's *Colossal Coaster World VBS, Grades 3-4 Bible Study* curriculum resources. Conferees will experience some of the activities suggested in the curriculum in order to discover ways to engage kids fully in Bible learning.

Resources to Collect, Prepare, & Copy

Resources to Collect

- Bible
- *Grades 3-4 Bible Study Leader Guide*. (One copy for the conference leader and individual copies for each conferee. If it is not possible to provide Leader Guides for each conferee, make copies of "Day at a Glance," pages 40-41 in the Leader Guide.)
- *Grades 3-4 Bible Study Leader Pack*. (One copy.)
- *Grades 3-4 Daily Park Guide*. (One copy for the conference leader and extra copies for conferees.)
- Painters tape
- Buttons or pennies (100-200)
- One pack of white paper
- One dozen sharpened pencils
- 12-15 Bibles
- Stickers (colored dots, about 50 each time you teach)
- 3 foam balls of 3 different colors

Resources to Prepare

- Laminate focal wall items from the *Grades 3-4 Bible Study Leader Pack* (pack items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 18, and 20).
- Small group instruction cards for step 4.b. (*Day 1: Go through the session on pages 8-13 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 30 minutes for Bible study; Day 2: Go through the session on pages 14-19 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 30 minutes for opening Bible study and 15 minutes for closing Bible study; Day 3: Go through the session on pages 20-25 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 45 minutes for Bible study; Day 4: Go through the session on pages 26-*

31 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 20 minutes for opening Bible study and 10 minutes for closing Bible study; Day 5: Go through the session on pages 32-37 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you were allotted 40 minutes for opening Bible study and 20 minutes for closing Bible study.)

- Bible Study CD item: "Day 1 Story Questions." (See Leader Guide, page 9, "Learn It #4 Prep")
- Leader Pack Item 8 "Coaster Headrests." Laminate and cut out.

Resources to Copy

- Handout 1: "Park Planning Guide"
- "Day at a Glance," Leader Guide, pages 40-41 (optional)

Focal Wall Description

Using painters tape, attractively arrange the following items from the *Grades 3-4 Bible Study Leader Pack* to model a focal wall for an actual Bible study room:

- "Colossal Coaster Banner" (pack item 2)
- All five of the "Colossal Coaster Banner Add-ons" (pack item 3)
- "Bible Scripture Poster," HCSB or KJV (pack item 7) and "VBS Motto Poster," (pack item 9)
- All five Bible story pictures (pack items 10, 11, 15, 18 and 20)
- "Paul's Travels Park Map" with "Park Map Markers" (pack items 4 and 5)
- "Paul, Missionary and Writer" (pack item 6)

Room Setup Description

- Arrange chairs in a semi-circle, facing the focal wall. (If space is limited, create two rows of chairs in semi-circle formation.)
- Place a display table near the focal wall to display curriculum materials and various Colossal Coaster World VBS accessories.

Decoration Suggestions

Decorations for Bible Study at Coaster Alley can be simple, elaborate, or anywhere in between. Using ideas from "Fun Options for Other Areas of the Room," *Grades 3-4 Bible Study Leader Guide*, pages 6 and 7, decorate the conference room as if you were decorating it for your own first and second graders at your church.

Audio Visual Needs

- CD player or MP3 player with speakers

Teaching Steps

1. Colossal Coaster World Parking Lot (Before the Session Begins)
 - a. Play the song "Colossal Coaster World"(VBS 2013 Music for Kids CD) in the background.
 - b. Greet conferees as they arrive.
2. Park Entrance (Welcome): Play "Colossal Coaster Dare" Game (5 minutes)
 - a. Play this game as you would "Simon Says."
 - b. Conferees line up against a wall opposite you.
 - c. Give commands for the conferees to follow. If you begin the command with the words "dare to," conferees should follow the command. If you do not say, "dare to," conferees should stand still. Anyone who follows the command when you do

- not say, “dare to,” must go back to the wall and start over. Make the game fun by being as silly as you feel comfortable. (Examples: *Dare to throw your hands in the air; dare to hop backwards two times; spin to the left three times; dare to look scared; make a silent scream; etc.*)
- d. After playing for about three or four minutes, remind conferees that this year’s VBS, *Colossal Coaster World*, is about facing our fears and trusting God. Each day, kids will be challenged with a dare to do just that.
 - e. Read the VBS Scripture, 2 Timothy 1:7, and pray, asking God to help us trust Him as we face our fears.
3. Park Orientation (Overview): “A Day in the Week of Colossal Coaster World” (25 minutes)
- a. Emphasize that the Bible Study Leader Guide is designed to be easy to use, and that many of the teaching resources can be found in the Leader Pack and *Daily Park Guide*.”
 - b. Mention that spending a few minutes each day preparing to teach, during the two or three weeks preceding VBS, will help ensure a smooth week of VBS and give teachers more time to develop relationships with kids and families.
 - c. Begin to walk through the Leader Guide. (Use copies of “Day at a Glance” for conferees that do not have Leader Guides.)
 - d. Talk about the importance of knowing how to talk to kids about becoming a Christian, and point out the guidance provided on the inside of the front cover of the Leader Guide.
 - e. Using information from page 3 of the Leader Guide, give a brief overview of the VBS theme, Scripture, motto, and Bible content.
 - i. Point out that there is only one Bible verse for kids to memorize, 2 Timothy 1:7.
 - ii. Talk about the unique opportunity to share the gospel with kids by studying the life and ministry of Paul each day.
 - iii. Mention that each session title is stated as a dare for kids to face their fears and trust God in specific situations.
 - f. Explain that there are two very important daily elements related to Bible study, the “Colossal Coaster Challenge” and the “Christ Connection.”
 - i. “Each day includes a time to help kids make the ‘so what’ connection to that day’s Bible truth. The ‘Colossal Challenge’ is designed to help kids apply what they learned each day to their lives outside of VBS.” (*Grades 3-4 Bible Study Leader Guide*, page 4)
 - ii. The “Christ Connection” is a daily reminder that the entire Bible points to the redeeming work of God through Christ (see example on page 10).
 - g. Starting on page 8 of the Leader Guide, walk through a session.
 - i. Point out the margin notes that help teachers see at a glance what they need to gather and prepare for the day.
 1. Remind conferees of the importance of personal spiritual preparation. Encourage them to read the Bible story in their own Bibles, read “Today’s Purpose,” and read or listen to the “Leader Devotions” (Leader Guide, pages 42-44).
 2. As a group, listen to the day one “Leader Devotion” (Bible Study CD: Track 10).
 3. Lead the conferees to pray silently, offering themselves to God for Him to use them to do whatever God wants them to do.
 - ii. Ask conferees to locate the “Colossal Challenge” for day one (designated within a fancy picture frame on page 8). Call on someone to read it out

- loud. Ask the group how they might be able to discern whether or not kids make a personal connection to the Bible content each day.
- iii. Point out that the Bible study session has five segments: Get Started, Learn It, Live It, Pray It, and Departure.
 - iv. Note that additional activities are provided for schedules that call for more than 30 minutes of Bible study time. Every session includes two application activities, one review activity, and one Bible skills activity. Each of these additional activities takes about 10 minutes to execute, and can be lengthened or shortened as needed.
4. Planning for a Fun Day at the Park (35 minutes)
- a. Using information from “Park Options” on page 4 of the Leader Guide, talk about the variety of Bible study schedule options, even if everyone in the conference already knows that their church has allocated 30 minutes for the Bible study session.
 - b. Guide conferees to form 5 groups. Assign each group one of the daily Bible study sessions, with these instructions:
 - i. Day 1: Go through the session on pages 8-13 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 30 minutes for Bible study.
 - ii. Day 2: Go through the session on pages 14-19 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 30 minutes for opening Bible study and 15 minutes for closing Bible study.
 - iii. Day 3: Go through the session on pages 20-25 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 45 minutes for Bible study.
 - iv. Day 4: Go through the session on pages 26-31 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 20 minutes for opening Bible study and 10 minutes for closing Bible study.
 - v. Day 5: Go through the session on pages 32-37 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you were allotted 40 minutes for opening Bible study and 20 minutes for closing Bible study.
 - c. Allow each small group two to three minutes to report.
 - d. Remind conferees that the purpose of VBS is to introduce kids and their families to Jesus. Many children become Christians during this most evangelistic week of the year. Others hear about Jesus for the first time. And for others, VBS is their family’s first introduction to Jesus and to your church. Therefore, the Bible content that teachers present and the relationships they build with kids and families are the most important parts of VBS for Bible study leaders.
 - e. Ask conferees to complete the “Park Planning Guide” (Handout 1), individually or in small groups.
 - f. Guide conferees to discuss their answers. Be prepared to answer questions related to specific Bible content and application.
5. Riding the Rides (50 minutes)
- a. Announce that since conferees have planned their day at the park, they will now get to ride the rides! (Note: Lead conferees to actively participate in the following Bible-learning activities that are suggested in the Leader Guide. Demonstrate that Bible learning can be both fun and purposeful at the same time. The more you can involve the conferees in doing the activities, the more they will understand why kids need to be active participants in learning Bible truth. Do whatever it takes to get conferees out of their chairs and into the fun!)
 - b. Ride the “Obedience Coaster.”

- i. Tell the Bible story "Paul Obeyed," following "Learn It," steps 1-4, on pages 9-10 of the Leader Guide.
 - ii. Use the review approach in steps 5-6 on page 10 of the Leader Guide.
 - c. Ride the "Bold Coaster."
 - i. Lead conferees through steps 1-2 of Get Started for Day 2 on page 15.
 - ii. Review the Day 2 Bible story by leading conferees through the story found on page 16 along with the button activity in step 2 under Learn It along with *Grade 3-4 Daily Park Guides*.
 - iii. Continue the review by leading the group through step 4 on page 16 under Learn It.
 - d. Ride the "ABCs Coaster."
 - i. Lead conferees to play the games in steps 1-3 under Get Started in Session 3.
 - ii. Invite group members to listen to the Bible story under step 2 on pages 21-22 in The Leader Guide.
 - iii. Use steps 3 and 4 under Learn It to review.
 - e. Ride the "Stand Strong Coaster."
 - i. Lead conferees through steps 1 through 3 under Get Started on Day 4.
 - ii. Tell the Bible Story "Paul Responded Wisely" on pages 27-28 of The Leader Guide.
 - iii. Use step 6 under Learn It to show conferees one of the ways to review the Scripture passage of the day using "Coaster Headrests" (pack item 8).
 - f. Ride the "Coaster of Trust."
 - i. Lead conferees through the Bible story on pages 33-34 using the activity and story under step 2 of Learn It. Conferees will need *Grades 3-4 Daily Park Guides*.
 - ii. Expose conferees to one of the Application Activities at the end of the teaching plan. Point out "Promises on a Stick." Have fun with the activity.
6. Park Closing (5 minutes)
 - a. State, "We have had fun getting just a glimpse of how kids can learn how to face their fears and trust God, as they spend time at Colossal Coaster World."
 - b. Say, "One of things that we as VBS leaders may be fearful about is following up with families after VBS is over." Remind conferees that without a plan, we probably won't contact unchurched families after VBS. Encourage conferees to work with their church's VBS Director to develop a strategy and plan for connecting with unchurched families and parents who are not Christians.
 - c. State: "While teaching VBS and following up with families may not be comfortable for us. God will give us a spirit of power. Let's say the VBS Scripture together before we leave to remind us that God does not want us to be fearful."
 - d. Using the "VBS Scripture Verse Poster" (pack item 7) that is on the focal wall, lead conferees to recite the verse in unison.
 - e. Pray, asking God to remove any fears we may have related to VBS and to give us power, love, and a sound mind.



Park Planning Guide

Match the session title, Bible story reference, Christ Connection, and Colossal Coaster Challenge for each day of VBS. Using the following key, place a shape by each element of the session: ☺ = Day 1; + = Day 2; △ = Day 3; □ = Day 4; ◇ = Day 5. (Day 1 is shown as an example.)

| Day | Session | Bible Story | Christ Connection | Challenge |
|--------|----------------------|------------------|---|---|
| ☺Day 1 | Dare to Believe | Acts 21:27—23:11 | Although Paul and other Jewish leaders originally tried to stop people from telling the good news about Jesus, the gospel continued to spread to more and more people. Soon, Paul would be used by God to reach people all over the world to proclaim Jesus as God's plan for salvation. | Kids can understand that God gives them power to face their fears no matter what happens. |
| +Day 2 | Dare to Trust | Acts 27 | ☺Before Paul's conversion, he was a person who captured believers in Jesus and took them to jail. After his conversion, he began to preach the gospel wherever he went. God had a plan for Paul's life to carry His Son's name to people who had not heard about Jesus and the sacrifice He made for their lives. | Kids can name ways that they might respond wisely in fearful situations. |
| △Day 3 | ☺Dare to Change | Acts 9:20-30 | Paul was willing to be used by the Lord even as a prisoner on a ship during a storm. He encouraged the ship's crew and promised them that God would protect them. Paul trusted God because God has fulfilled His promises, including the promise of sending His Son to be our Savior. | Kids can share the plan of salvation and pray for someone who is not a Christian. |
| □Day 4 | Dare to Speak Up | ☺Acts 9:1-18 | Paul and Silas told the jailer and his family about Jesus. The jailer's family believed in Jesus and were baptized. The jailer and his family understood Paul's message that forgiveness of sins is only through Jesus. | ☺Kids can understand they can trust God to help them overcome their fears. |
| ◇Day 5 | Dare to Stand Strong | Acts 16:16-34 | Paul did not avoid confronting people he knew would challenge that God wanted everyone—including Gentiles—to be saved. Paul testified that Jesus is Savior and Lord in every situation he faced in his life. | Kids can confidently tell someone what they know about God. |



Park Planning Guide

(answers)

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Day 1

Go through the session on pages 8-13 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 30 minutes for Bible study.



Day 2

Go through the session on pages 14-19 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 30 minutes for opening Bible study and 15 minutes for closing Bible study.



Day 3

Go through the session on pages 20-25 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 45 minutes for Bible study.



Day 4

Go through the session on pages 26-31 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you are allotted 20 minutes for opening Bible study and 10 minutes for closing Bible study.



Day 5

Go through the session on pages 32-37 of the Leader Guide and mark the activities you would choose if you were allotted 40 minutes for opening Bible study and 20 minutes for closing Bible study.