Adult VBS Conference

Purpose Statement
This two-hour plan is designed to train and equip leaders to conduct LifeWay's Adult VBS 2015 Journey Off the Map.

Resources to Collect, Prepare, & Copy
Resources to Collect
- Focal Wall & Decorations
  - LifeWay's VBS 2015 Music CD
  - LifeWay's VBS 2015 Catalog
  - Adult Kit Items 1, 2, 3, and 4
  - Blue long tablecloths or poster paper
  - Brown long tablecloths
  - Green poster boards and wire hangers
  - Bright colored tissue paper with contrasting colored paper bowls and chenille stems
  - Thick rope [approximately 8 feet]
  - 5 Cardboard pieces
- The Journey Begins
  - Large tropical leaf on long stem. This item will be used to capture attention during the training session. (This technique is used by tour guides to assist groups in locating the guide in a crowd.)
  - Photo from a family vacation
- Uncharted Territory
  - LifeWay's VBS 2015 Catalog - At least one copy to use as an illustration or 1 copy for each leader if available
  - OPTIONAL: Sticky flags to mark pages for VBS 2015 Adult Resources and Extras in the VBS Catalog
  - OPTIONAL: Extra adult/family friendly resources to display near Focal Wall - Takin' It Home CD, Takin' It Home Parent Guide, VBS 2015 Explorer Bible
- Provide pencils or pens for leaders to record notes

- **Know Your Guide**
  - Three different colors of sticky dots, stickers or stars. You will need one per leader.
  - Tear sheets and markers
  - Molding clay and/or pipe cleaners to use as described on page 29-30 of the Adult Leader Guide
  - Kit Item 10 and Adult VBS 2014 Enhanced CD
  - Blank 3x5 cards [these can be white or colored]
  - OPTIONAL: Hole punch and ribbon or yarn to create a ribboned bookmark.

- **This is the Way**
  - Green poster paper
  - Tape to secure green paper under chairs

**Resources to Prepare**

- **Focal Wall & Decorations**
  - Prepare tropical leaves and bright flowers as described on page 47 of the Adult Learner Guide
  - Create session ladder as described for Adult Kit Item 2 - Session Titles

- **The Journey Begins**
  - No extra resources to prepare.

- **Uncharted Territory**
  - OPTIONAL: Precut extra edges off of Item 2 - Uncharted Territory
  - Item 3 - Adult VBS 2015 Resource and Extra Items: Cut apart and hide around focal wall. If the item will be used multiple times, consider laminating the copies.
  - LifeWay’s VBS 2015 Catalog - Flag the pages for the Adult VBS resource items as described in Teaching Step 2C.

- **Know Your Guide**
  - Place different colors of sticky dots on the back of chairs to divide the large group into 3 smaller teams.
  - 3 different Adult VBS 2015 Bible Study Lesson Plans [Use Session 1, 2, 4 or 5 as you will be illustrating Session 3 during the session], 3 tear sheets, 3 Learner Guides or one divided by sessions, and 3 markers
  - Cut 3x5 cards in half to form 1.5" x 5" bookmarks. OPTIONAL: Hole punch the top and add yarn or ribbon.

- **This is the Way**
  - Twist green poster paper to resemble green vines. Cut apart and attach Item 5 - Continue the Connection Tools to the vines. There should be one tool card on each vine. Secure the vines under the conference chairs before the session begins.

**Resources to Copy**

- **The Journey Begins**
  - Item 1 - The Journey Begins Relay [one per leader]

- **Uncharted Territory - Preparing to Lead Adults**
  - Item 2 - Uncharted Territory [one per leader]
  - Item 3 - Adult VBS2015 Resource and Extra Items [One set copied on colored cardstock]
OPTIONAL: Print all items located on the Adult VBS Enhanced CD and display in a 3-ring notebook.

Know Your Guide
- Copy of three different Adult Bible Study sessions
- Item 4 - Adult VBS Session 3 Bible Study [one set copied on colored cardstock]

This is the Way
- Item 5 - Continue the Connection Tools on green cardstock [one set copied on green cardstock]

Focal Wall Description
- Prepare focal wall as described in the Apprentice Construction Level on page 47 of the Adult Learner Guide.
- Add Kit Item 1 - Theme Poster, Kit Item 2 - Journey Off the Map Session Titles, Kit Item 3 - Bible Study Titles, Kit Item 4 - Daily Scriptures

Room Setup Description
- Work within the parameters dictated by your conference room, but allow room for a focal wall and easy movement of adults around the room.
- Set chairs in semi-circle around the focal wall and display tables.

Decoration Suggestions
- Review decorating ideas for Adult VBS 2015 found on pages 47-48 of the Adult Learner Guide. Choose the decoration construction level that best fits your conference space and budget.

Audio Visual Needs
- CD Player with speakers or electronic device to play soft background music
- Computer, projector and screen [optional]

Teaching Steps
1. The Journey Begins - Welcome Activity (5 minutes)
   a. Play VBS theme music as leaders arrive.
   b. Follow the actions as described in The Journey Begins on page 12 of the Adult Learner Guide
   c. Begin on time by giving an enthusiastic welcome to leaders.
   d. Introduce the VBS 2015 Theme by showing a photo from a vacation or exotic location. Ask adults to recall their own journeys to exotic locales. Reassure adults that these memories will be useful during the first activity.
   e. Distribute Handout 1 - The Journey Begins Relay. Encourage adults to get to know others by traveling around the room to complete the handout.
   f. Play VBS 2015 theme music while adults mingle. Signal time for leaders to take a seat by stopping the music and waving a large tropical leaf. Continue to use this attention tactic throughout the session as needed.
   g. Call on several adults to share information they collected on their handout.
   h. Explain that during Session 1 of Vacation Bible School adults will participate in a similar welcome activity.
   i. Reference the VBS 2015 logo and focal verse on the “Theme Poster” (Kit Item 1). Ask leaders to repeat the focal verse and point out the VBS 2015 Motto (located within the focal verse): This is the Way. Walk in it.
2. Uncharted Territory - Preparing to Lead Adults (25 minutes)
a. Congratulate leaders on successfully completing the first part of their Adult VBS Journey.
b. Advise leaders that Adult VBS has a new look and some great new changes for 2015. Say: It’s time for us to reveal these exciting changes!
c. Ask leaders what tools they like to have when they begin a journey to a new or unfamiliar place.
d. Distribute copies of Item 2 - Uncharted Territory Book and explain that a map or travel book might be a tool you would use before exploring an unfamiliar territory. Explain how to convert Item 2 into a folded book using these directions:
   Step 1: Fold the paper in half hamburger style.
   Step 2: Unfold the sheet and refold in half hot dog style.
   Step 3: Unfold the sheet and fold into quarters. Now you should have folded the sheet along each of the dotted panels.
   Step 4: Fold the paper in half hamburger style again and beginning at the folded edge, gently tear ending at the next dotted panel section.
   Step 5: Open the page and fold hot dog style. Gentle push the torn section in to form a diamond shape. Continue to push the edges to the center until the panels meet in a cross.
   Step 6: Crease the booklet so the title page is at the front of the book and the Item 7 description is at the back.

e. Assist adults as needed to successfully make a simple folded book. Say: Now you have a tiny guidebook to assist you in discovering some of the exciting resources available for adults and families as they Journey Off the Map in 2015!
f. Explain how uncharted territories are best traveled in pairs. Ask leaders to find a partner and then explore the Tangled Branch Treehouse for the Item 3 - Names of the Adult & Extra VBS Resources available in 2015. Once partners find a hidden item, they should work together to match it to the correct description on the Item 2 Uncharted Territory book and then record their answer on the provided line.
g. Turn on VBS music or jungle sounds while adults work. Assist partners as needed to locate each resource. Make sure adults leave the resource in place for other partners to discover.
h. When all items have been located and recorded, ask partners to take a seat. Ask teams to record additional notes in their Uncharted Territory books as you lead a discussion on some of the changes and new resources available for 2015. During the discussion, point out each of the items displayed near the focal wall and where to find the item in LifeWay’s VBS 2015 catalog. Use the following notes to assist you.
   Item 1: The Bible - This is the essential textbook for leading Adults during VBS 2015. All preparation should begin by opening, reading and studying this great Book! The daily scripture references used during Adult VBS 2015 use both the HCSB and KJV.
   Item 2: Adult VBS 2015 Starter Kit - This resource replaces the plastic 3 - ring box from previous years. The cost has also been reduced to $22.99! It is the only way to purchase the Adult Leader Guide. It contains all of the kit items, reproducible leader guide, one Adult Learner Guide, and the Adult VBS Enhanced CD. You get the same great product, but at a new lower price.
      • Show all of the kit items as you discuss the kit.
      • Be sure to reveal the Adult Learner Guide’s new format. Show leaders how to find the daily preparation steps for each lesson and
the margin notes which contain answers and helpful hints for successfully teaching each lesson.

- Ask partners to exchange tips for organizing the kit and daily sessions and for making preparation as easy as possible. Call on a few partners to share their ideas.
- Remind leaders that one of the best ways to make preparation easier is to divide the workload. Lead a discussion on ways to enlist adult helpers who will take on various helper roles during the Adult VBS sessions. Examples include Small Group Leaders, Snack Leader, Recreation Leader, Craft Leader, Mission Leader, Outreach Leader and Promotional Leader. Another idea might be to enlist a different Adult Leader to teach each session. Encourage leaders to involve more adults in the planning and implementation of Adult VBS 2015, which will then increase the attendance of adults at Vacation Bible School!
- When you involve more adults in the Adult VBS Ministry, you will need to train these new leaders! Discuss ways to equip the new leaders to conduct a successful VBS. Include regional VBS training, church meetings, lifeway.com/vbs and ministrygrid.com as sources for additional ideas and help. Ask leaders to share some of the techniques they use to prepare VBS leaders in their own church.

Item 3: Adult VBS 2015 Learner Guide - Used each day of Adult VBS. You need one per adult.

- Great resources are included in the book. Display the new look and format.
- Highlight the Ministry Off the Map ideas located on the last page of each session. [pages 10, 16, 22, 28, 34] and lead a discussion how these ideas might be used in churches to spark new ministry, reach the unchurched, or challenge existing members. Ask leaders to think of ways they could use these daily ideas in their own church or to share an Off the Map ministry idea from their own community.

- The cost of the Adult Learner Guide is $2.29 each.

Item 4: Adult VBS 2015 Enhanced CD - This item is only available in the Adult Starter Kit and so the cost is $0.

- Use a computer to show all of the many features available on the Enhanced CD or use a printed copy to illustrate all of the available resources.
- Point out the 5-session Parenting Workshop that is included as a free resource on the Enhanced CD. Lead the group to brainstorm how church leaders could best use this free resource and how it could be used in their church to attract new unchurched families.

Item 5: Takin’ It Home CD - This is an extra item and not included with the Adult VBS material.

- If you do not have one of these items to display, show the item in the LifeWay’s VBS2015 Catalog.
- It is a great resource to minister to the parents attending Adult VBS.
• Track downloads are available online for churches to create their own personalized CD at http://blog.lifeway.com/vbs/takin-it-home/
• Churches also have permission to copy the Takin’ It Home CD found in the VBS 2015 Jump Start Kit.
• If you have a computer and projector, demonstrate this item.
• Cost for this great extra resource is $14.99 for 10 CD’s or $1.50 per family.

Item 6: Explorer Bible - This is a full-text Bible that contains 30 days of devotions and fun Bible facts. Shaded Bible verse and margin notes take kids on a guided tour through the Gospel plan of salvation. The perfect take-home gift for parents whose child attends VBS!
• Available in both HCSB and KJV.
• Cost is $3.99 each.

Item 7: Takin’ It Home Parent Guide - Packed with five daily devotions for families, fun activities, and a Gospel presentation that includes the ABC’s of Becoming a Christian. It helps parents follow up on what their kids have learned during VBS and is perfect for after-VBS visits or handing out during VBS Celebration.
• If time allows, read one of the devotions to the group and brainstorm how this item might be used in their church.
• Cost is $3.49 for a package of 10 or 35 cents per family.

h. Thank partners for working to map out Adult VBS 2015! Ask leaders if they have any questions on the items covered.

3. Know Your Guide - Adult Bible Study Overview (55 minutes)
   a. Review the Bible Study sessions adults will study during VBS 2015 using Kit Item 2.
   b. Dig deeper into the set-up of the Adult Leader Guide by showing the leader devotions and Biblical Illustrator articles on the Enhanced CD and how each item can be used to strengthen the leaders knowledge of the scriptures covered during each Bible Study session.
   c. Explain how a session can be customized for each church and VBS schedule by using the reproducible lesson plans in the Kit.
   d. Journey Off the Map Adult Vacation Bible School is designed for five two-hour sessions, using the following schedule:
      Survival Springs (Registration and Refreshments, 10 minutes)
      The Journey Begins (Get Acquainted, 20 minutes)
      Uncharted Territory (Create Interest, 10 minutes)
      Know Your Guide (Bible Study, 50 minutes)
      This Is the Way (Application, 25 minutes)
      Off the Map (Closing, 5 minutes)
   e. If your Adult VBS is shorter than two hours consider the following options:
      • Each session has multiple steps.
      • Shorten or eliminate steps to fit the time you need.
   f. If your Adult VBS is longer than two hours consider the following options:
      • Add theme-related crafts and/or recreation. See ideas on the enhanced CD. You might be surprised at how quickly adults get engaged in these activities!
      • Add a worship time just for adults.
      • Include adults in The Overlook, the kids’ worship time.
• Add a mission emphasis. Many of the ideas in the children’s VBS 2015 Missions Rotation Leader Guide may be easily adapted for adults.
• Add a mission project.

a. Divide leaders into three teams using the colored dots on the back of each chair. If you have a small group of leaders, do not divide your group. Instead, let the smaller group work on one session together.

b. Provide each team with one of the Adult VBS 2015 Bible Study Lesson Plans, a tear sheet, Learner Guide, and a marker. Direct teams to review the provided lesson plan and highlight activities the lesson uses to engage adults in the Bible material. Number the proved tear sheet and record a list of 10 different strategies used to engage adults in the assigned Bible Study session.

c. As teams work, rotate around the room and facilitate as needed. Hint: Look for lesson engagement strategies by locating the action verbs.

d. Allow each team to report back to the group and place their Top 10 Engagement Strategy tear sheet near the focal wall. Compliment the group on their efforts and the strategies they uncovered in their search.

e. Say: You’ve had a chance to explore the Adult lessons, and now it’s time to gain some firsthand experience! Lead adults to participate in the hands-on engagement strategy used in Session 3 on pages 29-30 of the Adult Learner Guide. Distribute Item 4 - Adult VBS Session 3 Bible Study cards. If you have a small group, distribute fewer cards. Allow time for leaders to read the Scripture references, create their artwork, and then present back to the group.

f. Explain that Adult VBS sessions are designed to be engaging and interactive and not designed for a lecture format. Help leaders understand the value of using a variety of engagement strategies and how these strategies will work to involve the unchurched, young, middle and senior adults.

g. Explore ways to adapt strategies for larger or smaller groups or age specific groups. Use information from the Adult VBS Enhanced CD on how to adapt material to enhance this discussion.

h. Conduct a shortened version of the Session 3 Application: This is the Way, using the information located in the Adult VBS 2015 Leader Guide page 30. Show Kit Item 10 and play “Trusting Jesus” Track 2 on the Adult VBS Enhanced CD. Ask adults to record key elements for a trust relationship with Jesus on the bookmarks you distribute.

i. Share a personal story of an adult who was saved during Adult VBS at your church. Remind leaders of the importance of including the application session [This is the Way for VBS 2015] so adults can convert head knowledge to heart knowledge. Spend time praying with leaders as they prepare to teach adults in their churches and communities. Ask God to show each adult new ways to trust Him as we prepare for VBS 2015.

j. Encourage leaders to place their bookmark at Daniel 3 and to use it as a reminder to trust God as we prepare mentally and spiritually for VBS 2015.

4. This is the Way - Continue the Connection (25 minutes)

a. Review the 6 Steps of planning, promoting and hosting an incredible Adult VBS.
  • Step 1 - Know Your Purpose - Turn to the person to their right and share the purpose of conducting Adult VBS.
  • Step 2 - Start Planning - Ask leaders to now share with the person to their left, strategies they have used to plan a successful VBS.
  • Step 3 - Enlist and Train Workers and Step 4 - Promote and Publicize - Ask leaders where they can find some great ideas on training the

• Step 5 - Register Participants - Remind leaders that they can begin with adults already on their small group role, but encourage each to stretch during 2015 and target a new group of adults with the ministry of VBS.

• Step 6 - Continue the Connection - VBS is over and now the real work begins! Say: When you Journey off the Map with your Adult VBS ministry, you can’t just stop after session 5. You need to begin planning now for the best ways to connect with VBS adults after Vacation Bible School ends. Look under your chairs to locate Continue the Connection and Witnessing tools that are ready to help you navigate this new journey!

• Allow adults to find the Item 5 - Continue the Connection & Witness Tool vines. As the resources are read, take the individual vines and twist the vines together to form one larger, thicker and sturdier vine.

• Remind leaders that VBS does not end when the last decoration is put away. Every VBS leader has the responsibility of working with the rest of the VBS team to move a VBS participant to an actively involved, born again church member! Use additional insights from page 10 of the Adult Learner Guide as needed to reinforce the importance of relationship building with adults during and following VBS.

• Ask leaders what tools they use in their own churches to share the Gospel message and to Continue the Connection following VBS.

• Add the large vine to the focal wall connecting the Bible Study Sessions to the theme poster as you lead this discussion.

5. Off the Map - Closing (5 minutes)
   a. Challenge leaders to try a new tool or new idea for Continuing the Connection during VBS 2015.
   b. Allow leaders to share an idea they would like to try, if time allows.
   c. Close the training session by reading the VBS focal scripture together.
   d. Make yourself available for question following the training. Don’t begin packing to leave until all leaders have left the room.
   e. Spend time praying for each of the leaders who attended the Adult VBS Training session before you exit the room.
Item 1
The Journey Begins Relay

Instructions:
A journey off the map to uncharted territories will require keen observation skills and the ability to work closely with fellow adventurers. Use these questions to discover new insights as you meet and greet others in the room. Record your discoveries after each question. Be back in your seat when the music ends!

1. Find out who has traveled on the longest journey to arrive today.

2. Determine who has traveled to the most exotic location in their lifetime.

3. Discover the strangest thing someone has eaten on one of their journeys.

4. Who has the most embarrassing travel story to tell?
## Item 2 - Uncharted Territory

Used daily by each adult attending the Adult VBS sessions. Order one for each participant.

Cost is $____________

### Adult VBS Resource Item 3

Contains a reproducible leader guide with teaching plans, one Adult VBS Learner Guide, posters, an enhanced CD, and other teaching aids. Plus, a five-session parenting workshop guide is included.

Cost is $____________

### Adult VBS Resource Item 4

The Inspired and Inerrant Word of God collected in 66 books and two testaments. It is the textbook used daily with Adults during VBS.

Cost is $____________

### Adult VBS Extra Item 5

Uncharted Territory 2015

A full-text Bible that contains 30 days of devotions and fun Bible facts. Shaded Bible verse and margin notes take kids on a guided tour through the gospel plan of salvation. The perfect take-home gift for parents whose child attends VBS!

Cost is $____________

### Adult VBS Extra Item 6

Packed with five daily devotions for families, fun activities, and a gospel presentation that includes the ABC’s of Becoming a Christian. It helps parents follow up on what their kids have learned during VBS and is perfect for after-VBS visits or handing out during VBS Celebration.

Cost is $____________
Item 3-Adult VBS2015 Resource and Extra Items

- The Bible
- VBS 2015 Adult Starter Kit
- VBS 2015 Adult Learner Guide
- VBS 2015 Adult Enhanced CD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VBS 2015 Takin’ It Home CD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VBS 2015 Explorer Bible</td>
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<tr>
<td>VBS 2015 Takin’ It Home Parent Guide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel 3:1-7</td>
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<td>Daniel 3:8-15</td>
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<td>Daniel 3:16-18</td>
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<td>Daniel 3:19-25</td>
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<td>Daniel 3:26-30</td>
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### Item 5-Continue the Connection & Witnessing Tools

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>VBS 2015 Takin’ It Home CD</th>
<th>VBS 2015 Administrative Guide for Directors</th>
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<tr>
<td>VBS 2015 Writing Paper</td>
<td>VBS 2015 Postcards</td>
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<tr>
<td>VBS Family App</td>
<td>VBS 2015 Explorer Bible</td>
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<tr>
<td>VBS 2015 ABC Wristband</td>
<td>The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me</td>
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