



JOTM Next Steps in a Backyard Kids Club

Purpose Statement

This 45-minute plan is designed to assist leaders in planning for successful follow-up with those who attend their church's Backyard Kids Clubs.

Resources to Collect, Prepare, & Copy

Resources to Collect

Step 1

- Chef hat cutouts (one per conferee)
- Markers
- 6 sheets of 8 ½ x 11" heavyweight paper
- 6 cones

Step 2

- 3 sheets of heavyweight paper for assignment cards

Resources to Prepare

Step 1

- *VBS 2015 Music for Kids*, CD Track 1, "Journey Off the Map"
- Create 6 signs by printing one of the following on an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of heavyweight paper: Main Course, Sides, Drinks, Paper Goods, Condiments, Dessert. Attach one sign to each cone.
- Print one of the following on each chef hat cutout: Hamburger patties, Wieners, Hot dog and hamburger buns, Baked beans, Chips, Fruit tray, Capri Sun, Bottled Water, Cooler filled with ice, Plastic forks and spoons, Bowls, Napkins, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup, Homemade ice cream, Cupcakes, Cookies (Tip: If you expect more than 18, add more items to each category or duplicate some items,)

Step 2

Prepare 3 assignment cards:

- **Connection Ideas** – Name several simple follow-up events that could take place during the year. Include at least one activity for each season of the year.
- **Connection in One Hour** – What if you parceled out your follow-up efforts and got everyone involved to give just ONE MORE HOUR to make a difference for your church and for the Kingdom? As a group, review the "ONE-HOUR

ASSIGNMENTS” on page 42 of the *Backyard Kids Club Directors Guide* and be prepared to highlight the benefits of this plan with the large group.

- **Connections with Kids Who Made Decisions** – As a group, scan pages 43 and 44 of the *Backyard Kids Club Directors Guide*. Be prepared to share with the large group about resources and a discipleship plan for children who make professions of faith during BKC.

Resources to Copy

- Handout 1 (one per conferee)

Room Setup Description

Place a large tarp under chairs for conferees. Set up the chairs in a large semicircle. Place camping chairs or a hard-case cooler at the front to use as a place to display the *Backyard Kids Club Kit* and the *VBS Directors Guide*. Place a card table or other portable table near the door. Cover the table with a *VBS 2015 Journey Off the Map Tablecloth* or a flat bed sheet in a bright color. Place chef hat cutouts in a basket on the table. Place *Handout 1* on the table near the basket. Create a craft area by setting up a folding table covered with bright colored paper. Display craft materials and sample crafts on the table. Scatter six cones around the room. You could also create an area for eating by placing a large blue tarp on the floor, using green flannel backed round tablecloths to create lily pads on top of the “water”.

Decoration Suggestions

Try to create an outdoor feel by using artificial trees and plants, if available. Refrain from attaching posters and other visuals to the wall. Instead, attach posters/visuals to foam board, Styrofoam ice chests, or the side of cardboard boxes to demonstrate how you can decorate an outdoor area where walls may not be an option.

Audio Visual Needs

- CD Player

Teaching Steps

1. **Welcome (5 minutes)** Have the VBS theme song playing as conferees arrive. Stand at the registration table, greeting conferees as they arrive and giving each conferee a chef hat cutout. Encourage conferees to place any items they may have brought with them in a chair and then move to the cone that best matches the item listed on their chef hat.
2. **Celebrate! (10 minutes)** After groups are formed, say, “I can’t believe tonight is the last night of Backyard Kids Club! What a great week! I see that you all brought items for the cookout tonight. Let’s do a quick check before the kids arrive to make sure we have everything we need.” Ask one person from each group to share what items they have. Make note of any important items that may be missing and why they might be missing. Discuss the benefit of having an immediate opportunity for follow-up that includes the families of BKC kids. Offer ideas (ice cream party, cookout, picnic, family game night.)
3. **Continue the Connection (25 minutes)**
Share that after a week of pouring out their heart and soul, time and resources, and every ounce of energy they had, they can now breathe a sigh of relief and head for home! But wait! There’s still work to be done! Everyone knows follow-up is important and “someone” should connect with the kids who came to Backyard Kids Club that are not a part of a church. But that’s the pastor’s job, right? Surely, the deacons can help him. Emphasize that the “someone” needs to be a leader that a child has developed a relationship during the week and not someone that may be a stranger to the kids (pastor, other staff member, deacon). The most effective Backyard Kids Clubs keep the neighborhood connection going throughout the year. As unchurched families develop relationships with their church-going neighbors, they are more likely to be open to having faith conversations and the possibility of visiting your church.

Say, “For some, follow-up is the part of the BKC expedition that makes them the most uncomfortable. Let’s explore some ways to continue the connection that make the follow-up aspect of BKC less daunting.” Ask each group to merge with one other group in order to form a total of three groups. Give one of the follow-up assignment cards to each group, instructing groups to take five minutes to complete the assignment. Ask one member of the group to be prepared to share their findings with the large group.

Give a signal for groups to stop working. Ask each group to give a brief report on their findings. Be prepared to offer additional follow-up ideas as time allows.

4. **Connection Coordinator (4 minutes)** Share that while all of these are excellent follow-up strategies, it is important to be organized with follow-up to make sure no family falls through the cracks. Introduce the idea of creating a position for a Connection Coordinator. Give a brief description of the responsibilities found on page 41 of the *Backyard Kids Club Directors Guide*.
5. **Closing (1 minute)** Close by praying, “Father, just as Daniel and his friends stepped into uncharted territory, help these leaders know that they too can be obedient as they step into unfamiliar territory, knowing that You are there to guide them as they follow Your command: ‘This is the way. Walk in it.’”



NEXT STEPS...

BKC SCRIPTURE: And whenever you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: “This is the way. Walk in it.” Isaiah 30:21 (HCSB)

BKC MOTTO: This is the way. Walk in it.

CELEBRATE!

CONTINUE THE CONNECTION...

- **Connection Ideas**
- **Connection in One Hour**
- **Connections with Kids Who Made Decisions**

CONNECTION COORDINATOR