

Alternative Plans for VBS-COVID19



 UNITED METHODIST KIDS OF
Arkansas
GROWING YOUNG DISCIPLES

Alternative Plans for VBS-COVID19



Feelings:

- Sadness, disappointment for the kids, loss of a summer spiritual milestones, loss of community outreach...
- Weight load lifted, safety worries gone, fielding parent concerns...
- Mad because you are feeling like you don't know what to do now, you feel made to do something you don't want to do...

Alternative Plans for VBS-COVID19



Choices:

- Adapt your current VBS Curriculum to online format. Zoom small groups.
- Low Tech would be to pack VBS supply bags for pick-up. Phone Calls.
- Combine forces with other churches and break down the adaptations jobs and share with one another like you would your VBS decorations.
- Postpone VBS for a fall date.
- Save all that you have for next summer. Pick a new virtual for July.
- Or a combination of all.

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Why plan a VBS when we can't be together?

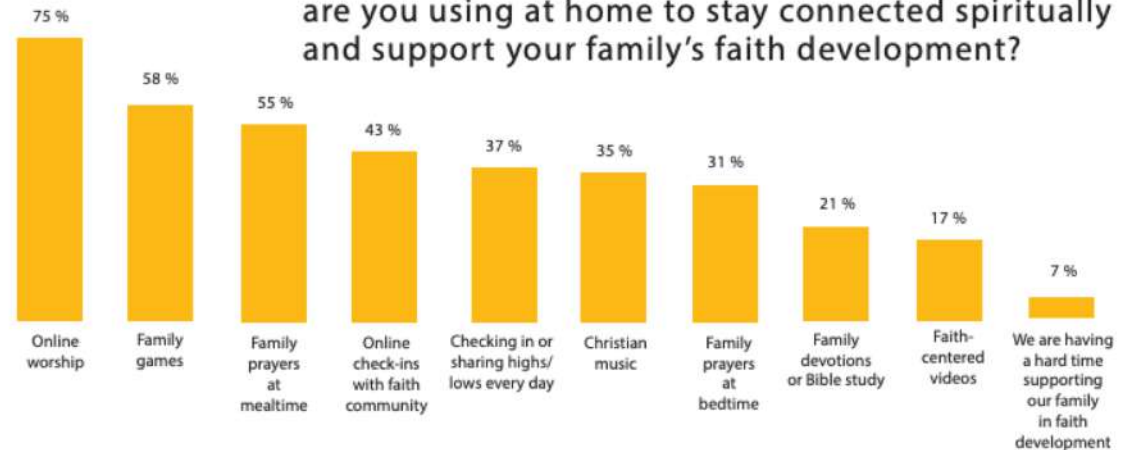
- God created us to be connectional people.
- A time of isolation, requires us to reach out even more.
- AMI Screen time is different and over. Fun VBS Songs, Stories & talking to friends would be like when they watch a YouTube channel.

Surveys completed:
2535 from 42 states
(23% response rate)
April 8-12, 2020

Report presented:
by Jake Sorenson
& Casey Fuerst
April 13, 2020

FAITH DEVELOPMENT AT HOME

During this time of national crisis, what resources are you using at home to stay connected spiritually and support your family's faith development?



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How to get started:

- Promote the week of VBS@home and Post registration for VBS as you will need contact info., phone numbers and digital contact like email.
- Use all the volunteers you had, and you may have more now that people's work situations may be different, as your small group leaders.
- Assign them each 3-5 kids to call or zoom. Small groups allow time for all to share.
- Send link or have Low-tech supplies to parents. Tell them to have their child view/read/listen to VBS before 2 p.m. each day then they will zoom or call with small group.

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Sample Format Letter for Families:

I am so excited for your child to take part in our @HomeVBS. Giving your child an opportunity to hear God's Love for them in the songs, stories and valuable connectional conversations each day with their assigned Small Group leader. Your small group leader will need you to prepare your child for Zoom at 2:00 pm each day of @HomeVBS. Of course, you can log-on to VBS when it works for you each day. However, because in the heat of the summer many play outside in the morning and come inside during the heat to cool down so you may want to structure @HomeVBS like this:

12:00 pm Kid Lunch

12:30-1:30 pm Log onto @HomeVBS for kids. (This time it is chosen for possible working from home parent would have computer free if there were not other devices for viewing.)

1:30 pm prepare your child for their Zoom or phone call from their small group leader.

2:00 pm Social and Sharing time with your small group.

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Small Group Time (Most important):

- Low Tech you would see if you can conference call for best relational conversation with the group.
- Zoom Conference wait until all your kiddos are on and mute them until you share the structure of your time together.

Structure of Call with Small Group:

- Welcome to day # ___ Insert the slogan or Bible point for the day!
- Tell them that in order for everyone to be heard they have to click thumbs up to talk.
- What was your favorite part of today's @HomeVBS today? (Let all who want to share. Some may share dance moves they learned!)
- Recite the weeks Scripture together.
- Close with Listening Stones focusing on the story taught.(Each child NEEDS a chance to share. This connects the group so don't skip.)
- Ask who would like to close in prayer.

*Should take about 15 min.-30 min. depending on size of group and how much they share.

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Insert any of your curriculum into format:

- Cokesbury offerings. (Scott Spradley will share.)
- Any other purchased VBS
- Original Curriculum
- It is Not Legal to use Grow's "free DeepBlue VBS"

Upload all your VBS recordings on a Amplify Media platform, YouTube Channel, FB watch party, or embed the links into your church website. Please note Copyright with you VBS publisher before using.

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Think about these options and talk about it with your VBS team.
Is this just what is needed for the long no AMI school days, can't go on vacation, can't go to camp, no playdates days in July?
Children's Council Rep Can help?

Questions and Connect