

## **Vision:**

To give un-churched children in your community the opportunity to come to know Christ and grow strong in Him.

## **Goal:**

To equip the body of Christ to reach (evangelize) and teach (disciple) the un-churched children in your community with the Gospel message.

Millions of children are born into un-evangelized homes every year. Who will tell them about Jesus? “And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things.” Romans 10:15.

You can be the answer to this question by developing a team of people from your fellowship, who will go into a local park, for 1-5 days.

You can give the children that receive Christ during your outreach, the opportunity to receive follow-up Bible studies that will be sent to their homes throughout the following months. Additionally, you will find that the children from your fellowship who attend the Park Outreach, will have their spiritual needs met in a different way than attending church. But, there will still be an emphasis on evangelizing the un-churched.

What are some of the benefits of having a VBS Park Outreach? There are many!

An outreach of this kind gives so many opportunities for young and old alike to be involved. From the youth helping in the games and set-up, to the elderly helping in registration and security, there is a place for almost anyone to help and minister.

Some parents have been so ministered to, by their children being blessed, that they have become interested in attending church and learning more about God.

Do you know that children represent the **LARGEST** mission field in the world? Ongoing research shows that 85% of all commitments made to Christ occur between the ages of 4-13 years of age. In only five VBS Park Outreaches of one week each, we have had the great blessing of seeing over 500 children make decisions to follow Christ!

So many children in our communities have never heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and God’s love for them. They may never have the opportunity to attend a Bible believing church. We can bring the Gospel to them!

Periodically, you may want to visit [www.CalvaryCurriculum.com](http://www.CalvaryCurriculum.com) for more resources pertaining to VBS Park Outreaches.

## Getting Started:

Seek the Lord for: the what, when, where, how and why of the event.

### A. What are we going to do?

What is the theme/ Will there be a theme?

Will we buy curriculum or write our own?

Pray through this issue.

### B. When will it happen?

Pray through this as there are a lot of things to consider.

What is going on in the community?

What are the school activities, church activities?

Certain times will not be good. Are the children in school, is there a rainy season?

### C. Where will it take place?

Where are the most children hanging out? Is there a covered place? Which park? Will the outreach be in the am or pm? When do the children typically hang out there? What times is it really busy? Will the city allow us there? Security is something to think about. Is there a bathroom? Is there water or drinking fountains? Is there a lot of traffic? Will the city require a park permit? Will there be a fee to use the park? Will the city require you to provide liability insurance coverage? Your Parks Department will have information concerning park use.

### D. How will it take place?

What will we need for an outreach to take place? Will we use tables, pop-up canopies? Plan for expandability and try to buy materials where items can be returned, if necessary. The registration table and the person to receive the children is the person with a smile, and is warm, kind, outgoing and personable.

## E. Park considerations:

Are there restrooms in the park? When are the lawns mowed in the park? When are the lawns watered? Are there trash cans? Will you need to bring trash cans with trash bags? Where will the trash go after the end of each day? Leave the park cleaner than you found it.

## F. Why do it?

Main vision for the event - "TO SAVE CHILDREN"

The vision is not to disciple children; that happens at church in Sunday school. The outreach goal is to "save children"

Secondly: What we do should always support and back-up the main vision.

**\*\*\* A good leader delegates well and discerns who has the gifts that God is bringing to the team. A good leader knows that he/she will not be able to do it all!**

### Why do an outreach?

#### I. Hindrances are inevitable.

- Expect the unexpected.
- Be flexible and open to last minute change.
- Be humble and willing to cooperate (guard your testimony).
- Expect opposition.

#### II. Many Children do not know the truth.

- Children in America lack basic knowledge about Christianity
- Public schools enforce separation of church and state.
- Children are not being taught at home about Christianity (Jesus).

#### III. Children choose their beliefs at young ages.

- 75-80% of those who serve Christ as adults make their decisions to follow Him before the age of 13!
- Children today face a blatant, open challenge that "you decide what is right for you" yet possess little or no Biblical information to help them decide their personal beliefs.

#### IV. Unreached kids (and their families) probably won't visit your church

- Most unbelievers will not visit your church.

- Most “outreach” events that happen at church rarely have newcomers. Of those who do attend usually come from within the existing church population or visit from other churches.
- Get out of your comfort zone and bring the Gospel to their world.
- A large number of children will never be invited to or be allowed to attend church.

#### V. Children do want to know God.

- Children are interested in knowing God even though they are bombarded with high-tech, media-rich activities that entertain them rather than touch their hearts or spirits.
- Children may mask their quest in many ways. They may search for belonging, truth, stability, relationship or purpose through sports, friends, technology, education and more.

#### IV. Why go to the community?

- Many kids have never heard that Jesus loves them and cares for them.
- This outreach may be the only opportunity for them to hear the truth and respond to God.
- This outreach may lead parents to first-time commitments to Christ or a re-commitment to Him.

### Things to consider with your outreach

#### I. This is not Sunday School.

- Children in a public setting typically see the world from a different viewpoint than those who attend your church.
- Entering the world of unreached Children for outreach is like moving into a foreign country as a missionary.
- The same principles that guide effective missionaries will help here too

#### II. Seek the Lord.

- First and foremost PRAY.
- God hears our prayer and gives guidance and direction to those who ask.
- Nothing can take the place of the Holy Spirit working in hearts.

#### III. Secure support from your Church.

- Important to have leadership support.
- Consider the budget and outreach expense planning.
- Outreach most effective when Body of Christ works together.

#### IV. Get going.

- Go into the community.
- Move beyond fear of what others think.
- Love must motivate you past “I am too busy to care.”

#### VI. Commitment is important.

- Commitment makes a huge difference.
- Personal and team commitment necessary.

### Introducing Kids to Jesus

#### I. Know your heart.

- What has Jesus done for you?
- How did you come to know Him?
- How has He changed your life?
- The children need to hear about it.
- There is no more effective witness than one filled with the Word and shared from a genuine heart of love for God and for people. Your heartfelt words may leave an eternal impression.

#### II. Know who you will be ministering to

(Signs that a child might be ready to receive Jesus)

- The child is asking questions about God or lingers after others leave
- The child responds after a lesson with salvation message

#### III. Know Who and what you will be sharing about.

- Explain God’s love and our fellowship (or friendship) with Him.
- Our sin separates us from friendship with God.
- The blood of Jesus and His forgiveness of our sins brings us back to God.
- We become a part of God’s forever family.