



VBS Planning for the Dominican Republic

PURPOSE AND FREQUENCY

The **purpose** of the VBS program is:

- To provide a valuable program for the children in the church where we have been working.
- To function as an evangelical outreach program in the community in partnership with the local church.

The **first VBS** may be scheduled on Sunday morning.

The **second VBS** is scheduled near the end of the trip after it has been advertised in the community, at the work site, medical clinic or during other trip activities.

At least two different VBS programs should be prepared ahead of time. An optional third VBS can be scheduled between these two. It can be held at the work site, in the local community or in a different community such as where group members have worked in the past. Some groups have provided less formal “daily” VBS programs to children at the work site including scripture reading, singing and coloring pages.

TYPICAL AGENDA

- Provide name tags for all participants (we recommend making hearts with *Jesus loves [Jesus Ama a]* _____ written in Spanish and the child’s name on them, then hang around their necks with yarn or ribbon.)
- Begin with singing as the children gather. Church members and local children may have songs to share or lead, in addition to what the group has prepared.
- Have the local pastor or representative speak first. Greet those who have gathered and pray with the children.
- Inform them of the VBS activities.
- Teach a verse, if applicable to your message.
- Present a Bible-based drama (skit). Consider having the narration in English (so the participants from the US understand what and when to do their part) and also translated into Spanish for the Dominicans.
- Do a craft project that will tie into the Bible reading and drama. You may just want to photocopy illustrated Bible story coloring pages in Spanish that coincide with the skit to be presented (many can be printed off of the internet).
- Games are optional.
- A simple snack is very much appreciated. The Dominicans should organize the distribution of food.
- End with recalling the verse, singing and a prayer.

IMPORTANT BASIC PRINCIPLES

- Confirm the date and time with FFP staff upon arrival.
- Ask for assistance from the church members who usually work with the children; VBS should be a partnership with the local church or community leadership.
- No material items should be given to the children to keep (e.g. crayons) except for the crafts that they make (e.g. coloring pages). Crayons and extra supplies may be left with the church for their programs or for the school.
- When passing crayons or materials, it’s best to have group members posted near groups of children to give one or two crayons at a time. The children can trade with each other or hand back in a crayon to get another.
- Keep the craft simple and expect that people of all ages will want to color or make the craft.
- Large events (with many children or limited space) require less complicated crafts and simpler skits.
- Make sure that you have enough materials for all of the children (the group members should make their names tags last for instance).

HAVE FUN WITH VBS! This is a true highlight for the children in the community!