

Welcome to Discovery Mission VBS,

Your parish is invited to an exciting Catholic Vacation Bible School to explore the vocations of marriage, priesthood and the religious life as children enjoy energetic assembly, music, Scripture, games, art and prayers.

When children ages four to eighteen are enveloped in Sacred Scripture and catechesis, they discover more about our beautiful faith and Jesus' special call to each of us.

The lessons you are about to lead do not rely on novelties to help you teach about the Bible or our faith. Children hunger for the Word of God and to know, love and serve Jesus. They seek the richness of Jesus and His Church through Scripture, prayer, Catholic teachings, music, art, games, and solid Catechesis.

Children up to age twelve participate in groups, rotating to faith formation stations while teens guide groups and learn simultaneously. We encourage your parish to recruit high school and adult volunteers to lead stations.

This Director's Guide, Faith Formation Station Guides, Director's Flash Drive, Scripture Posters, the Music CD, and Dance DVD, are provided in the Discovery Mission Director's Kit. We encourage you to order a few of the following items to make Discovery Mission even more exciting: **Stand-up Cutout Priests, Religious Sisters and Religious Brothers, CDs and tees for children, optional art materials, decorations, and fun VBS extras** at www.vocationbibleschool.com. Another item that may be purchased is a "Discovery Map," but you may recruit art station volunteers to help you with a homemade map.

Young Catholics are our future. We want to help you make your VBS week a success. Please contact us whenever you require guidance.

May God Bless you and your parish,

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YOUNG CATHOLICS
are our future.



☐ **Prepare to Teach**

Now that you've read through your planning timeline, it's time to think about being an energetic leader during the VBS week. At a successful VBS, children become energized and excited about our Catholic faith through fun, organized activities that engage them in Scripture and Catholic Teaching.

The following advice will be helpful to you and your station leaders **and is provided in all of the Discovery Mission VBS Guides:**

- During the VBS week, leaders should be excited about being Catholic. We need to discover our energetic sides, join games, create, participate and laugh. Just as we become engaged with Scripture, we must engage ourselves with the future of our Church—children.
- Pope Francis once said that God loves us but He also likes us. Children should be reminded that they are likable as we visit, listen to them, and show them respect.
- “Discipline” means to teach. Leaders teach correct behavior by example. In religious education we are blessed to call correct behavior “Christ-like behavior.”
- Using signals is fun, they cue children to practice good behavior and they work! For example, when leaders clap a pattern, children clap it back and they quiet down. A gentle ringing bell is a pleasant sound children respond to when they are already working quietly and it reminds them to stop working. Lights out may signal children to sit down. Politely tell the children what they need to do, rather than asking them. For example, “Please sit down,” is more effective than “Can everyone sit down?”

- Explain your expectations before children learn, pray, create and play. Children cooperate when they understand the rewards of good behavior and the consequences of misbehaving. Please take time to read “Image of God” in this guide to learn more.

Everyone volunteering at VBS should read through the lessons several days before they teach.

Objectives at the beginning of lessons summarize the goals we want children to meet. They also explain how children reach the goals.

Materials follow the objective.

Preparation for the lesson may include copying, collecting materials, making samples, or setting up visuals and learning spaces.

Lesson procedures begin with an anticipatory set, which helps students joyfully anticipate what is to come in the lesson. We strongly encourage you to use the anticipatory set provided or make up your own. Visual, auditory or kinesthetic (tactile) learners will pay attention when anticipatory sets and lessons implement a variety of learning styles and materials.

Bold, italic words are suggested spoken words. When terms, teachings or lesson steps are difficult to explain, the bold, italicized words make the lessons easier to teach and understand.

(Words in parenthesis are answers to questions. Answers do not need to be read out loud if children answer the questions correctly. But, if leaders require guidance in summarizing correct answers, they should refer to the words in parenthesis.)



Embark on your Discovery Mission!

VBS leaders, we pray that you are looking forward to an energetic Discovery Mission VBS. May the Holy Spirit guide you throughout the week!

