



Vacation Bible School Toolkit For Youth Involvement



Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Diocese of Dallas

VBS...Tapping Possibilities... Creating Connections...Empowering Discipleship

Consider viewing VBS as a segment of the catechetical curriculum for middle school and high school youth...imagine the possibilities...

Involving youth in VBS serves multiple purposes:

- it benefits the VBS program by **expanding the volunteer base** and providing youth assistants for adult leaders
- it **aligns** with the **goals** and **tasks** of the **catechetical mission** of our church regarding youth as described in National Directory for Catechesis and Renewing The Vision
- it **strengthens** and **expands** the catechetical **curriculum** for adolescents
- it provides youth the opportunity to **deepen** their **understanding of discipleship** by serving others
- it allows adults to experience, acknowledge and **affirm the gifts of youth** in the parish
- it allows youth a way to **witness their faith** by sharing it with younger children
- it provides opportunities for **intergenerational ministry** and faith sharing
- it engages parish adults as **youth ministry partners**
- it provides opportunities to **empower families** as faith communities of the home
- it **deepens relationships** between youth and parish adults, **strengthening their identity** and involvement as life-long members of the church



**"The fundamental task of
Catechesis is...the formation
of disciples of Jesus Christ"**
NDC 20

This toolkit, with its corresponding resources, will help you access
VBS as a **curriculum resource** and create **catechetical
opportunities** for youth to learn about and practice their faith as
young disciples of Jesus Christ!

Each Of These Resources Is A Four Page Newsletter Outlining Strategies And Tools To Assist You With Implementation:



- I. Introduction and Overview
- II. Preparing Adults To Work With Adolescents
- III. Youth VBS Leaders
- IV. Documenting Catechetical Objectives
- V. Creating Catechetical Connections For Youth
- VI. Helping Youth Break Open The Scriptures
- VII. Family Connectors
- VIII. Appendix A and B

"...catechesis comprises six fundamental tasks, each of which is related to an aspect of faith in Christ. All efforts in evangelization and catechesis should incorporate these tasks."

Six Tasks Of Catechesis And VBS

VBS addresses five of the six tasks of catechesis for adolescents (GDC, #85, 86; NDC, p. 60-62):

1. Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
2. Moral Formation
3. Teaching to Pray
4. Education for Community Life
5. Missionary Initiation



Renewing The Vision And VBS

VBS addresses all 3 goals for ministry with adolescents as outlined in *Renewing the Vision*, USCCB, 1997

1. To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today.

- Adolescents who assist with VBS, whether they are with the children or working behind the scenes, are living out discipleship of Jesus through their service.
- Adolescents who help with the children are serving as role models for the children and their parents on what it looks like to be a disciple.

2. To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the Catholic faith community.

- VBS is an integral part of the life of the faith community. It is part of the mission to evangelize and to serve. It is part of the catechetical work of the church.
- Adolescents who assist with VBS are responsibly participating in the life, mission, and work of the parish.
- Youth involved in VBS experience the affirmation of being valued as young leaders in the parish and strengthen their identity as church members.

3. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person.

- The leadership skills that are needed and practiced by adolescents assisting with VBS helps foster their personal growth.
- Participation in the scripture based activities (i.e. prayer, story time, music, etc.) helps foster the spiritual growth of the adolescent assistants.



Evangelization...Adolescents...VBS

VBS addresses the following fundamental evangelization objectives for adolescents (NDC, p. 52):

To foster in the heart of every believer an experience of personal conversion to Jesus Christ that leads to a personal renewal and greater participation in the Christian life in the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ.

To encourage a greater knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and Sacred Tradition of the Church.

To ensure that all Catholic institutions, especially parishes, are accessible and welcoming to all.

"Evangelization and catechesis are among the principle means by which the Church hands on the faith." NDC 15

Office Of Youth And Young Adult Ministries

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How do I get a copy of one or more of the resources listed?

To request a copy of the materials found in this “Toolkit”, please email Anne E. Keough (akeough@cathdal.org). You will receive a link and login information to a Sharepoint website where all the materials can be accessed for your use within your parish and more specifically for use strictly within the Diocese of Dallas. Permission is granted for the duplication of materials for use within the Diocese of Dallas with the statement that identifies the contributing authors.

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Providing Feedback:

As you use the resources in this “Toolkit”, we invite you to provide feedback to our office. Look to the Sharepoint site as the venue for solicitation of this feedback.

* At the end of the summer we will put out a Survey Monkey that will ask for all users’ input and feedback on use of this tool. (ie: What did you find helpful?; What would you like more information on?)

Future Plans:

We would love to continue building this resource over the years adding to it pieces from those who have implemented its content. If you have any resources you found helpful in your implementation that were not found in this “Toolkit” or examples of how you personally implemented any of these pieces, we ask you to consider providing our office with a copy by uploading it on the Sharepoint site. Please note the contributing authors.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following parishes for their initial work surrounding VBS and Youth Leaders that served as a springboard for this project: All Saints-Dallas, Our Lady of Angels—Allen, St. Joseph—Richardson, St. Mark—Plano