

VBS, Camps and Other Programs

Programs like camps, VBS and short-term missions Children's Ministry usually involve such a wide, age-range of children that it's best to use two or three curriculums, instead of just one, to meet everyone's learning level. This is easy to do with the Praise Factory family of curriculum, since you are using the same, sixteen Big Question Units in all three curriculums.

There are so many ways to do these programs. Here are the most common ones I've heard of:

- One, half day
- One, full day
- One evening
- Friday Night-Saturday
- Five, half days
- Five, full days
- Five evenings in a row
- Five one-day evenings (such as five Wednesday nights in a row)
- Two, five-day weeks in a row

Although these programs take place at many different times, they typically run one of three, standard lengths of time:

- 1 1/2 hour programs
- 2 1/2 hour programs
- 6 hour programs

Here are session suggestions for each of these three lengths of programs:

NOTE: I have put some place holder times in schedules. You change them to your actual times.

1 1/2 Hour Multi- Age Programs

1 1/2 Hour Program (for 2 year olds):

- 9:00 Free Play/Activity Centers
- 9:15 Opening Circle Time (Singing, Big Question, Bible Verse and Bible Story)
- 9:30 Free Play/Activity Centers
- 9:45 Activities: Game, Craft and/or Music
- 10:20 Closing Circle Time
- 10:30 Dismissal

1 1/2 Hour Program (for ages 3-5):

Hide 'n' Seek Kids or Deep Down Detectives Session, as written

1 1/2 Hour Program (for elementary age kids):

Praise Factory Investigators Session, as written

VBS, Camps and Other Programs: 1 1/2 Hour Schedule

1 1/2 Hour Program (for 2 year olds): (Hide 'n' Seek Kids or Deep Down Detectives)

- 9:15 – Early Arriver Activity – a few puzzles or paper and crayons on a table)
- 9:30 – Activity Centers
- 9:40 – Clean Up Toys
- 9:45 – Opening Circle Time (Add actions to songs to make this time more active)
- 10:05 – Craft Time (Use one of the Extra Crafts)
- 10:15 – Play with Toys /Check Diapers/Potty Break
- 10:25 – Clean Up Toys
- 10:30 – Memory Verse Time: Music, Movement & Memory; Bible Verse Review Game
- 10:40 – Snack Time
- 10:50 – Closing Time/Take Home Sheet/Coloring Time (Ask them the Closing Time questions as they are coloring at the tables)
- 11:00 – Parents come

1 1/2 Hour Program (for 3-preK 5 year olds): (Hide 'n' Seek Kids or Deep Down Detectives)

- 9:15 – Early Arriver Activity – a few puzzles or paper and crayons on a table)
- 9:30 – Activity Centers
- 9:40 – Clean Up Toys
- 9:45 – Opening Circle Time (Add actions to songs to make this time more active)
- 10:05 – Craft Time (Use one of the Extra Crafts)
- 10:15 – Play with Toys /Check Diapers/Potty Break
- 10:25 – Clean Up Toys
- 10:30 – Memory Verse Time: Music, Movement & Memory; Bible Verse Review Game
- 10:40 – Snack Time
- 10:50 – Closing Time/Take Home Sheet/Coloring Time (Ask them the Closing Time questions as they are coloring at the tables)
- 11:00 – Parents come

1 1/2 Hour Program--elementary school (Praise Factory Investigators)

- 9:00 Opening Large Group Time: Welcome, Singing
- 9:15 Opening Large Group Time: Big Question, Bible Truth, Bible Verse and Bible Story
- 9:45 Small Group Activities (Discussion and Games/Music/Craft Activities) If desired, each small group can prepare their activity for Small Group Presentations in Closing Large Group.
- 10:15 Closing Large Group Time: Small Group Presentations and/or Singing
- 10:30 Dismissal

VBS, Camps and Other Programs: 2 1/2 Hour Schedule

2 1/2 Hour Program (for 2 year olds): (Hide 'n' Seek Kids or Deep Down Detectives)

- (8:45 Early Arriver Activity – a few puzzles or paper and crayons on a table)
- 9:00 Activity Centers (first set)
- 9:10 Clean Up Toys
- 9:15 Opening Circle Time (Add actions to songs to make this time more active)
- 9:25 Activity Centers (first set)
- 9:35 Craft Time (Use one of the Extra Crafts)
- 9:45 Play with Toys /Check Diapers/Potty Break 2
- 9:55 Clean Up Toys
- 10:00 Snack Time
- 10:10 Memory Verse Time: Music, Movement & Memory; Bible Verse Review Game
- 10:20 Activity Centers (second set)
- 10:30 Clean Up Toys
- 10:45 Craft Time (one of the extra crafts)
- 10:55 Play with Toys /Check Diapers/Potty Break 2
- 11:00 Clean up Toys
- 11:05 Active Indoor/Outdoor Play
- 11:25 Closing Time Circle Time
- 11: 15 Coloring Time/Take Home Sheet
- 11:30 Parents come

2 1/2 Hour Program (for 3-preK 5 year olds): (Hide 'n' Seek Kids or Deep Down Detectives)

- (8:45 Early Arriver Activity – a few puzzles or paper and crayons on a table)
- 9:00 Activity Centers (first set)
- 9:15 Clean Up Toys
- 9:20 Opening Circle Time (Add actions to songs to make this time more active)
- 9:40 Craft Time (Use one of the Extra Crafts)
- 9:55 Activity Centers (first set)
- 10:10 Clean Up Toys
- 10:15 Potty Break/Wash Hands
- 10:25 Snack Time
- 10:35 Active Indoor/Outdoor Play OR Activity Centers (second set)
- 10:50 Clean Up Toys
- 10:55 Memory Verse Time: Music, Movement & Memory; Bible Verse Review Game
- 11:10 Closing Time Circle Time
- 11:20 Coloring Time/Take Home Sheet
- 11:30 Parents come

2 1/2 Hour Program--elementary school (Praise Factory Investigators)

- 9:00 Opening Large Group Time: Welcome, Singing
- 9:15 Opening Large Group Time: Big Question, Bible Truth, Bible Verse and Bible Story
- 9:45 Small Group Activity 1: Discussion and Craft Activity
- 10:15 Active Outdoor/Indoor Play
- 10:30 Snack (Story-related snack) ACTS and Discussion Time (related to activity they are about to do 10:45 Small Group Activity 2: (Prepare this one for presentation to the rest of the children during Closing Large Group Time, if desired)
- 11:15: Closing Large Group Time: Small Group Presentations and/or Singing
- 11:30 Dismissal

VBS, Camps and Other Programs: 6 Hour Schedule

6 Hour (Full Day) Program (for 3-preK 5 year olds): (Hide 'n' Seek Kids or Deep Down Detectives)

Use one Bible Truth and Bible story for the whole day's session. Afternoon provides an opportunity for reinforcement.

Morning Schedule

- 8:45 Early Arriver Activity – a few puzzles or paper and crayons on a table)
- 9:00 Activity Centers (first set)
- 9:15 Clean Up Toys
- 9:20 Opening Circle Time (Add actions to songs to make this time more active)
- 9:50 Active Indoor/Outdoor Play (Playground or organized games)
- 10:30 Potty Break/Wash Hands/Snack Time
- 10:45 Music, Movement & Memory Game and Singing
- 11:00 Craft Time (Use one of the Extra Crafts)
- 11:30 Activity Centers (second set)
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch and Play Time/Rest Time

Afternoon Schedule

- 1:00 Bible Story Review & Bible Verse Review (repeat story and storyboard or use games to review)
- 1:20 Craft Time (Use one of the take home sheet coloring activities of the Extra Crafts)
- 1:40 Activity Centers (second set)
- 2:00 Snack and Potty Break
- 2:30 Closing Circle Time Review/Singing
- 2:40 Free play, games, possibility outdoors
- 3:00 Dismissal

6 Hour (Full Day) Program--elementary school (Praise Factory Investigators)

Use two stories from same Bible Truth: one in the morning, one in the afternoon.

- 8:45 Greet children and parents as they arrive
- 9:00 Small Group Time: Introduce Big Question, Bible Truth, Bible Verse, etc.
- 9:15 Large Group Singing and Bible Story
- 9:45 Small Group Activity 1: Bible Truth Game
- 10:15 Small Group Activity 2: Craft
- 10:45 Snack and ACTS Prayer Time
- 11:00 Outdoor Fun - Active Game 1
- 12:00 Lunch and Free Play Time

Afternoon Schedule

- 1:00 Large Group Singing and Second Story (Other Bible Story or Story of the Saints)
- 1:30 Small Group Activity 1: Presentation Activity (Choose a different activity for each small group to work on during this time. They will present it to the rest of the children at the end of the session, if desired.)
- 2:15 Snack Time
- 2:30 Closing Large Group Time: Small Group Presentations and/or Singing
- 3:00 Dismissal

VBS, Camps and Other Programs: Choosing Curriculum

You've figured out how many sessions your program will run and how long each session will last. Next, you need to figure out which curriculum you want to use. We suggest using Hide 'n' Seek Kids and/or Deep Down Detectives with your pre-schoolers and Praise Factory Investigators for your elementary school kids.

Find a unit you want to become the theme of your VBS. Choose the Bible Truths you want to teach. The charts of the following pages should help you see how the Bible Truths match up in the three curriculums. You've got tons of resources within each concept to fill up your schedule.

Here's a reminder of what you have in each:

Each Hide 'n' Seek Kids unit has:

- There is just one Bible Story and one Bible verse per unit.
 - There are 5 lessons of curriculum in each unit.
 - There is tons of music.
 - The activities in each of the 5 lessons include:
 - 1 Bible Story Review Game
 - 1 Bible Verse Game
 - 1 Music, Movement & Memory Activity (especially good for Bible Memory)
 - 1 Coloring Sheet/Take Home Sheet
- There are also 3 extra crafts
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Each Deep Down Detective unit has:

- There are multiple Bible truths within each unit.
 - There are three lessons of curriculum, per Bible Truth, within each unit.
 - There is one Bible story for each Bible Truth.
 - There are 3 lessons of curriculum for each Bible Truth.
 - There is tons of music
 - The activities in each of the 3 lessons include:
 - 1 Bible Story Review Game
 - 1 Bible Verse Game
 - 1 Music, Movement & Memory Activity (especially good for Bible Memory)
 - 1 Coloring Sheet/Take Home Sheet
- There are also 3 extra crafts
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Each Praise Factory Investigators unit has:

- Multiple Bible truths within it.
- There are three lessons of curriculum, per Bible Truth
- There are 3 stories for each Bible Truth: 1 Old Testament, 1 New Testament, and one Church History/missions.
- There are 3 lessons of curriculum for each Bible Truth--one for each of the three stories.
- There is tons of music.
- Each of the 3 lessons includes:
 - 1 Bible Story Review Game with Discussion Questions
 - 1 Bible Verse Game with Discussion Questions
 - 1 Bible Truth Game with Discussion Questions
 - 1 Craft with Discussion Questions
 - 1 Bible Verse Game with Discussion Questions
 - 1 Bible Verse Song with Discussion Questions, Sign Language and Song Game
 - 1 Hymn with Discussion Questions, Sign Language and Song Game
 - 1 Story-related Snack
 - 1 Take home sheet with the key concepts, the story and some discussion questions