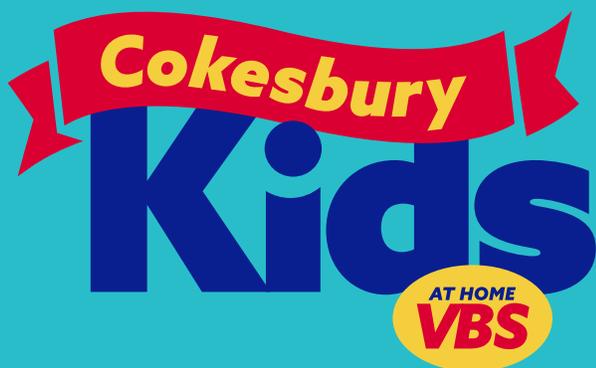


At-Home VBS Director Guide



Now that you've made the decision to move your 2022 VBS to an at-home program, your VBS is likely to look somewhat different than previous years. Still, it will be a great event for your church with some adaptation! Start with what's been working for you. Have you been broadcasting worship? Recording videos for your congregation? Finding ways to distribute materials to children and adults? Whatever you've been doing, Cokesbury VBS can be adapted to fit your needs.

Note: This year, we are giving permission to share materials from **Food Truck Party** and **Discovery on Adventure Island VBS**. These include leader books, music videos, Bible Adventure Videos, and more. See the attached page titled "Cokesbury VBS At-Home Sharing Guidelines" for more information.

Plan Your 2022 Cokesbury At-Home VBS



Distribute At-Home Packets to Parents

- Distribute supplies and materials several days before VBS begins. Use a large envelope, tote bag, or another holder—such as a Cokesbury VBS drawstring bag—to package all items together.
- Print and send physical copies of Cokesbury VBS At-Home Packets for your VBS attendees, or email PDF files to families. You can distribute all five sessions or send one session at a time.
- Equip families for craft, science, and/or snack rotations.
 - o Gather supplies you are providing each attendee for craft, science, and/or snack rotations.
 - o If you are not providing supplies, distribute with your At-Home Packets a copy of the per-attendee supply list included with this packet.
 - o If you are providing supplies, make sure to divide purchased materials from [CokesburyVBS.com](https://www.cokesburyvbs.com) so that every attendee has supplies for each Cokesbury Craft.
 - o Distribute any other VBS items (activity books, t-shirts, etc.) to attendees.
 - o Include a letter to parents (a sample letter has been included with this Director Guide) with important information related to your At-Home VBS.

Use Your At-Home Packets

- Each At-Home Packet follows one session of Cokesbury VBS, for a total of five packets.
- Packets contain the following:
 - o Material Lists – lists for craft, science, and snack materials from the session in one convenient place
 - o Bible Background – a supplemental aid to give context for each session’s story before teaching
 - o Craft – instructions for one “Make-It-And-Take-It” Craft and one Cokesbury Craft (materials for Cokesbury Crafts available at CokesburyVBS.com)
 - o Science – instructions for one session-specific science experiment
 - o Snack – instructions for one session-specific snack
 - o Self-Learning – discussion questions and devotions for Younger Elementary and Older Elementary VBS attendees
 - o Closing Prayer – an interactive prayer to end each session
 - o Fun Pages – printable pages with activities for Younger Elementary and Older Elementary VBS attendees
 - o Take-Home Page – a family resource with questions and information designed to promote discussion after each session

Supplement Your At-Home Packets

• **Virtually Host a Live At-Home VBS During Your Originally Scheduled VBS**

- o Use your preferred video messaging application to invite your attendees into Opening and Closing Assembly or any of your rotations.
- o Invite your leaders to create video meeting rooms for their rotation stations. Since most VBS stations are no more than 20 minutes long, free versions of conferencing applications like Zoom could work very well (for more on scheduling, see a sample scheduling chart for virtual VBS Assembly and rotations at (<https://www.cokesburyvbs.com/free-resources>)).
- o Attendees can rotate around virtual rooms as your leaders teach the Bible lesson, help assemble crafts, demonstrate science experiments, and make snacks each day.
- o Consult video messaging cautions to ensure safety for your group. Set up a password for your meetings, limit who is able to contribute in video calls, and refrain from publicly publishing links to keep your meetings from being hijacked.

• **Equip Your Families to Do VBS On-Demand Using Amplify Media™**

- o You will have access to videos for Food Truck Party and Discovery on Adventure Island VBS with a subscription to Amplify Media! Direct your attendees and their families to Bible Adventure Videos and Music Videos from these programs. Videos can be accessed from any web browser. If your church has a subscription to Amplify Media, the videos can be accessed from any mobile device. Download the app from the Apple App Store, Google Play, or Roku.

• **Equip Your Families to Do VBS On-Demand Using Your Own Video Content**

- o Use your church's resources, as well as your own creativity, to create your own videos for your group.
- o Create videos for Opening and Closing Assembly, Bible Storyteller, any of the Rotation Stations—whatever fits best for your church and your attendees!
- o Post on a closed/password protected website or in a closed Facebook group and only give passwords or group memberships to registered participants.

• **Follow Up Daily with Your VBS Attendees and Volunteers**

- o Consider scheduling a daily follow-up session by age level or between small group leaders and students. For age-level or small group discussion, use the first and last page of each session's Reflection Time Leader Guide.
- o Also consider scheduling a daily check-in session with parents or other At-Home VBS volunteers using the Leader Devotions found on the Decorating and Publicity CD-ROM.
- o In either daily check-in, include a “what went well today/what I’m most thankful for today” and a “what can be improved from today/what I’m not so thankful for today” time of sharing. This will help identify praise and prayer needs and adjustments to make before the next session of VBS.

After Your VBS

Follow-up is an important part of every VBS, but it's absolutely crucial for an At-Home VBS. Follow up with your attendees as well as your volunteers after your VBS program has concluded.

- Show Your Team Appreciation! Hopefully you have been actively appreciating your team and leaders all along. Now it's time for the grand finale of appreciation! Show your team how much you value them with one or more of these ideas, or come up with your own:
 - Send a note or Thank-You Postcards. Remember everyone who gave their time and resources during the planning and the execution of VBS.
 - Recognize your leadership team during church services.
 - List the names of those who served during VBS in your church newsletter.
 - Create some type of simple gift to give those who served. Some ideas are candy, gum, packages of popcorn, tea, etc. Check out other ideas on our Pinterest boards!
- Reuse one or more of the Bible lessons as a Sunday school lesson or for a Sunday/Wednesday evening. If you did not do a full five-session VBS, use any leftover lessons.
- Check out crafts from the Craft Leader that can be used later instead of during VBS. Make plans to use a couple of these at a later time either in the summer, during the fall, or at winter break.
- Report on the success of your VBS in your church newsletter and through social media. Encourage your attendees and leaders to share their favorite memories. Display pictures of your attendees during VBS for all to see.
- Invite your VBS volunteers and attendees' families to complete a survey. Use email, your church's social media accounts, or a dedicated service like SurveyMonkey or Google Forms to get feedback on your At-Home VBS. You can do this during your VBS program to make adjustments as you go, or after your program concludes to help inform any other at-home ministries your church might be providing. Plus, it's a great way to keep connected with your VBS attendees and their families!
- Take a well-deserved rest following your successful At-Home VBS!

Cokesbury VBS At-Home Sharing Guidelines

During this time when your in-person Vacation Bible School may be disrupted, Cokesbury VBS would like to equip you to continue providing a VBS experience for your church and community—even if you can't physically be together.

Sharing Your Video

Until your church is free to gather as usual again, we grant permission for you to share your purchased Cokesbury VBS videos through live streaming VBS sessions—on applications including but not limited to Zoom, Skype, and Facebook—in closed groups for the purpose of study. We are waiving stricter guidelines to allow:

- Live streaming or “real-time” public sharing for a specific time period, like the duration of an online VBS Station, a Bible Storytelling session, or Assembly Time.
- Streaming in a closed setting, such as a private Facebook group or through a password-protected web location. Here, sessions can be recorded or archived for viewing through the week.

Please be sure if you post on YouTube or your church website that your settings are such that the videos are password-protected or only available to those who have a link. We ask that you remove Cokesbury VBS Videos once your VBS is complete.

Sharing Your VBS Leader Guides and Print Resources

To aid your remote volunteers and parents leading VBS activities, we also grant permission to share content from your Cokesbury VBS Director and Leader Guides through email, file sharing, and when live streaming your VBS sessions in closed groups for the purpose of study.

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