

VBS + PRAYER

It is vital that pray surrounds every aspect of Vacation Bible School.

One way that can happen is with a prayer guide. It describes each of the days of VBS, the memory verse and the theme.

It has the potential of getting many people involved, especially shut-ins, relatives of the students outside the area, and those who want to help but don't enjoy the energy*of VBS.

Be sure to publish and distribute three weeks ahead. Put the guide in all bulletins for two week ahead. Let the worship leaders or VBS leaders explain and model prayers during worship.

OTHER PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

It is also possible to have a prayer-walk before lessons start each day. Start 30 or 45 minutes ahead of time and visit each of the classrooms, craft rooms, and music rooms during the week. Combine the activity of the room, the adult leaders, and the bible themes for the day in your prayer.

Praying for and commissioning leaders, teachers, and musician for VBS during worship is important to give them greater power. Pray for leaders to be filled with the Fruit of the Spirit. The United Methodist Book of Worship has suggestions on pages 591, 592, and 601.

USING THIS GUIDE

You can adapt this guide for your church, placing your church name and names of leaders in the proper space.

Be sure to list your days specifically. There's room for church contact information by phone or internet. You can name the VBS director and pastor or other leaders. There's room for your church's mission statement so people can connect this ministry with the church's purpose.

Print pages 2 and 3 back to back for a tri-fold prayer guide.

* by energy, of course, we mean chaos

Day 2

Jesus is the Vine; we are the Branches

Bible Study: Jesus' teaching in the Upper Room in John 15: 1, 2

Theme: The vine is the root system that draws water and nutrients from the soil. His followers are the branches that produce the grapes.

Memory verse: Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the vine, and you are the branches. If you stay joined to me, and I stay joined to you, then you will produce lots of fruit."
-- John 15:5

Clip art of a vine

Day 3

Prayer Is the Root of Growing in Christ

Bible Study: St. Paul instructs the people of Colosse that Christianity is a relationship to Jesus, not just a philosophy.

Theme: Just as plants don't leave the soil to try other things, Jesus wants us to have a regular conversation with him (prayer).

Memory verse: Plant your roots in Christ and let him be the foundation of your life. Be strong in your faith. Colossians 2:7

Day 4

Fruit of the Spirit, part 1 Love, Joy, Peace

Bible Study: As the Holy Spirit softens the rocky, weedy or hard soil, the seed planted grows to a bountiful harvest. Just at the fall harvest fruit (singular) in Green County is more than one crop (wheat or corn, for instance), the fruit of the Holy Spirit in us is a transformed attitude toward others.

Jesus had the fullness of the Spirit in his ministry. There are nine "Fruit of the Spirit"; we will look at three on each night of VBS. Spiritual *gifts* are given to different people for tasks in the church; no one has all spiritual gifts.

Spiritual *fruit*, on the other hand, is a part of each mature Christian's life. This fruitfulness comes from God; it's not something we could produce without God.

Theme: Jesus taught in the Upper Room that giving up your life (or something else valuable) to help someone else get close to God is the greatest gift. It is the deepest definition of love.

Memory verse: Jesus taught, I tell you to love each other, as I have loved you.
-- John 15:12

Additional memory verses

For now there are faith, hope, and **love**. But of these three, the greatest is **love**.
-- 1 Corinthians 13:13

Shout praises to the LORD,
everyone on this earth.
Be **joyful** and sing as you come in
to worship the LORD! - Psalm 100: 1, 2

By faith we have been made acceptable to God. And now, thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, we have **peace** with God.
-- Romans 5:1

Day 5

Fruit of the Spirit, part 2 Patience, Kindness, Goodness

Bible Study: Jesus said the greatest in his kingdom had childlike virtues.
- Matthew 18:1-5

Theme: The disciples asked Jesus who would be the greatest. He turned it upside down and had them consider a child. The disciples thought in terms of strength, but Jesus thought in terms of trust. To be *childlike* is Christian maturity; to be *childish* is just plain immature.

Memory verse: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and goodness.
-- Galatians 5:22

Additional memory verses

In fact, God is **patient**, because he wants everyone to turn from sin and no one to be lost.
-- 2 Peter 3:9

But you, the Lord God, are **kind** and merciful. You don't easily get angry, and your love can always be trusted.

-- Psalm 86:15

A good tree produces only **good** fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces.

-- Matthew 12:33

Day 6 Fruit of the Spirit, part 3 Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control

Bible Study: The parable of the lost sheep in Luke 15: 3-7.

Theme: Jesus tells a parable of a shepherd who seeks out one lost sheep even though he has 99 sheep that are safe. He doesn't stop until he finds it and rejoices greatly when he does. God faithfully searches out each of us (like lost sheep or hard soil). We should be faithful to God and to our friends.

Memory verse: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. -- Galatians 5:23

Additional memory verses

I have fought well. I have finished the race, and I have been **faithful**. -- 2 Timothy 4:7

Be beautiful in your heart by being **gentle** and quiet. This kind of beauty will last, and God considers it very special.

-- 1 Peter 3:4

God's Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and **self-control**.

-- 2 Timothy 1:7



DAILY ACTIVITIES FOR PRAYER

Pray for the students. Pray for safety, fun, and lessons that are memorable. Pray students will be bold to invite their friends. Pray for our teachers, cooks, helpers. _____ is the director. Pray for **Pastor** _____.

We serve dinner family style each night at 5:30.

We celebrate communion on Tuesday night.

You can pray for our praise band leading the music. Music is a power way to instill the lessons. Pray for the teachers, craft leaders, story tellers, and activity people.

Pray that our mission is fulfilled during VBS:

CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Phone _____ website _____

_____ United Methodist Church Prayer Guide

2013 Vacation Bible School

Dear Pray-er,

Please use this guide and daily bible readings as you prayer for our bible school this week. There is a **prayer walk at 5:00 each night** (start in sanctuary).

GROW
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Our theme is growing for God the way crops grow in Green County. We culminate with the Fruit of the Spirit.

Read each bible passage and theme. Let the Holy Spirit guide your prayer for all age groups, music, crafts, story tellers, games, and meals.

Day 1 Soil and Rain

Bible Study: parable of the soils in

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Theme: God plants the seeds of his grace in us to grow, but sometimes we are like bad soil: packed hard, rocky, or dry. The Holy Spirit can make us like soft soil, welcoming the seed and the rain.

Memory verse:

God waters all the fields and levels the lumpy ground. He sends showers of rain to soften the soil and help the plant grow.

-- Psalm 65:10