



Scheduling Options

You know your church best. That's why Cokesbury has developed To Mars and Beyond VBS to be flexible and adaptable to churches of all sizes, locations, and demographics. Be creative in planning the program and daily schedule that works best for your Voyagers!

The following pages contain recommended schedules for how To Mars and Beyond VBS could be organized to provide the students with time to experience all that the program has to offer.

Notice that there is a schedule for elementary students at the top of the page and a schedule for preschoolers at the bottom of the page. The program is designed to keep these two groups separate.

The leader books in the To Mars and Beyond VBS Super Starter Kit contain the activities for elementary-age students.

The Preschool/Kindergarten Leader book contains activities suited for your youngest Voyagers. Trying to use the elementary-age activities with preschoolers will be frustrating for both your leaders and your students.

For students younger than three, check out our free lessons for toddlers and twos available at cokesburyvbs.com.

If you would like your preschoolers to travel to centers, ask the To Mars and Beyond VBS Star Guides to use ideas from the Preschool/ Kindergarten Leader book. The book contains recreation, craft, Bible story, science, and music lesson plans specifically tailored to this age group. (The leaders for the craft, music, science, and recreation centers will also find these adaptations and alternative ideas in their leader books.)

If you are working with students with special needs, please consult Vacation Bible School for Students with Special Needs, available as a download from cokesburyvbs.com.

Recommended Scheduling

Two-Hour Program

(First through Sixth Graders)

| | Group A | Group B | Group C | Group D |
|-------------|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 9:00–9:20 | Opening Assembly with Mission Time and Music | | | |
| 9:25–9:40 | Craft | Bible Story | Recreation/Snack | Science |
| 9:45–10:00 | Science | Craft | Bible Story | Recreation/Snack |
| 10:05–10:20 | Recreation/Snack | Science | Craft | Bible Story |
| 10:25–10:40 | Bible Story | Recreation/Snack | Science | Craft |
| 10:45–11:00 | Reflection Time | | | |

Two-Hour Program

(Preschoolers and Kindergartners)

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 9:00–9:20 | Bible Beginnings |
| 9:20–9:30 | Gathering Time with EP3-20 |
| 9:30–9:45 | Experience the Bible Story |
| 9:45–9:55 | Respond to the Bible Story |
| 9:55–10:05 | Science Time |
| 10:05–10:20 | Craft Time |
| 10:20–10:35 | Recreation Time |
| 10:35–10:45 | Snack Time/Missions |
| 10:45–10:55 | Music Time |
| 10:55–11:00 | Reflection Time |

Two-and-a-Half-Hour Program

(First through Sixth Graders)

| | Group A | Group B | Group C | Group D | Group E |
|-------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 9:00–9:15 | Opening Assembly with Mission Time and Music | | | | |
| 9:20–9:35 | Craft | Bible Story | Music | Recreation/ Snack | Science |
| 9:40–9:55 | Science | Craft | Bible Story | Music | Recreation/ Snack |
| 10:00–10:15 | Recreation/ Snack | Science | Craft | Bible Story | Music |
| 10:20–10:35 | Music | Recreation/ Snack | Science | Craft | Bible Story |
| 10:40–10:55 | Bible Story | Music | Recreation/ Snack | Science | Craft |
| 11:00–11:15 | Reflection Time | | | | |
| 11:20–11:30 | Closing Assembly | | | | |

Two-and-a-Half-Hour Program

(Preschoolers and Kindergartners)

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 9:00–9:25 | Bible Beginnings |
| 9:25–9:40 | Gathering Time with EP3-20 |
| 9:40–9:55 | Experience the Bible Story |
| 9:55–10:10 | Respond to the Bible Story |
| 10:10–10:25 | Science Time |
| 10:25–10:45 | Craft Time |
| 10:45–11:00 | Recreation Time |
| 11:00–11:10 | Snack Time/Missions |
| 11:10–11:25 | Music Time |
| 11:25–11:30 | Reflection Time |

Three-Hour Program

(First through Sixth Graders)

| | Group A | Group B | Group C | Group D | Group E | Group F |
|-------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 9:00–9:20 | Opening Assembly with Mission Time and Music | | | | | |
| 9:25–9:40 | Craft | Bible Story | Music | Recreation | Mission/ Snack | Science |
| 9:45–10:00 | Science | Craft | Bible Story | Music | Recreation | Mission/ Snack |
| 10:05–10:20 | Mission/ Snack | Science | Craft | Bible Story | Music | Recreation |
| 10:25–10:40 | Recreation | Mission/ Snack | Science | Craft | Bible Story | Music |
| 10:45–11:00 | Music | Recreation | Mission/ Snack | Science | Craft | Bible Story |
| 11:05–11:20 | Bible Story | Music | Recreation | Mission/ Snack | Science | Craft |
| 11:25–11:45 | Reflection Time | | | | | |
| 11:50–12:00 | Closing Assembly | | | | | |

Three-Hour Program

(Preschoolers and Kindergartners)

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 9:00–9:30 | Bible Beginnings |
| 9:30–9:45 | Gathering Time with EP3-20 |
| 9:45–10:00 | Experience the Bible Story |
| 10:00–10:15 | Respond to the Bible Story |
| 10:15–10:30 | Science Time |
| 10:30–10:55 | Craft Time |
| 10:55–11:15 | Recreation Time |
| 11:15–11:30 | Snack Time/Missions |
| 11:30–11:50 | Music Time |
| 11:50–12:00 | Reflection Time |

Two-Hour Program Options

Option 1-Night

⊕ **Four Centers**

- ⊙ Bible Story
- ⊙ Crafts
- ⊙ Recreation/Snack
- ⊙ Science

⊕ Mission and Music during the Opening Assembly

⊕ Final center is Reflection Time

⊕ No Closing Assembly

⊕ Plan five-minute travel time to each center

| Minutes | Example | Event |
|---------|-----------|---|
| 20 | 6:00–6:20 | Opening Assembly with Mission and Music |
| 15 | 6:25–6:40 | Center One |
| 15 | 6:45–7:00 | Center Two |
| 15 | 7:05–7:20 | Center Three |
| 15 | 7:25–7:40 | Center Four |
| 15 | 7:45–8:00 | Reflection Time |

Option 1-Night

⊕ **Four Centers**

- ⊙ Bible Story
- ⊙ Crafts
- ⊙ Recreation/Snack
- ⊙ Science

⊕ Science demonstration during the Opening Assembly

⊕ Final center is Reflection Time

⊕ No Closing Assembly

⊕ Plan five-minute travel time to each center

| Minutes | Example | Event |
|---------|-------------|---|
| 20 | 9:00–9:20 | Opening Assembly with Mission and Science |
| 15 | 9:25–9:40 | Center One |
| 15 | 9:45–10:00 | Center Two |
| 15 | 10:05–10:20 | Center Three |
| 15 | 10:25–10:40 | Center Four |
| 15 | 10:45–11:00 | Reflection Time |

Option 1

| ⊕ Four Centers ⊕ Bible Story ⊕ Crafts ⊕ Recreation/Snack ⊕ Science | Minutes | Example | Event |
|---|----------------|----------------|---|
| ⊕ Mission during the Opening Assembly | 25 | 9:00–9:25 | Opening Assembly with Mission and Music |
| | 20 | 9:30–9:50 | Center One |
| ⊕ Final center is Reflection Time | 20 | 9:55–10:15 | Center Two |
| | 20 | 10:20–10:40 | Center Three |
| ⊕ No Closing Assembly | 20 | 10:45–11:05 | Center Four |
| ⊕ Plan five-minute travel time to each center | 20 | 11:10–11:30 | Reflection Time |

Option 2

| ⊕ Five Centers ⊕ Bible Story ⊕ Crafts ⊕ Recreation/Snack ⊕ Science ⊕ Music | Minutes | Example | Event |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| ⊕ Reflection Time | 15 | 9:00–9:15 | Opening Assembly with Mission |
| | 15 | 9:20–9:35 | Center One |
| ⊕ Mission during the Opening Assembly | 15 | 9:40–9:55 | Center Two |
| | 15 | 10:00–10:15 | Center Three |
| ⊕ Closing Assembly | 15 | 10:20–10:35 | Center Four |
| | 15 | 10:40–10:55 | Center Five |
| ⊕ Plan five-minute travel time to each center | 15 | 11:00–11:15 | Reflection Time |
| | 10 | 11:20–11:30 | Closing Assembly |

Option 3

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Five Centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊖ Bible Story ⊖ Crafts ⊖ Recreation ⊖ Snack ⊖ Science | Minutes | Example | Event |
|---|---------|-------------|---|
| | 25 | 9:00–9:25 | Opening Assembly with Mission and Music |
| | 15 | 9:30–9:45 | Center One |
| ⊕ Mission and Music during the Opening Assembly | 15 | 9:50–10:05 | Center Two |
| | 15 | 10:10–10:25 | Center Three |
| ⊕ Final Center is Reflection Time | 15 | 10:30–10:45 | Center Four |
| ⊕ No Closing Assembly | 15 | 10:50–11:05 | Center Five |
| ⊕ Plan five-minute travel time to each center | 15 | 11:10–11:30 | Reflection Time |

Option 4

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Four Centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊖ Bible Story ⊖ Crafts ⊖ Recreation ⊖ Snack | Minutes | Example | Event |
|--|---------|-------------|---|
| | 30 | 9:00–9:30 | Opening with Science Time, Mission, and Music |
| | 15 | 9:35–9:50 | Center One |
| ⊕ Science, Mission, and Music during the Opening Assembly | 15 | 9:55–10:10 | Center Two |
| ⊕ Reflection Time | 15 | 10:15–10:30 | Center Three |
| ⊕ Closing Assembly | 15 | 10:35–10:50 | Center Four |
| ⊕ Plan five-minute travel time to each center | 15 | 10:55–11:10 | Reflection Time |
| | 15 | 11:15–11:30 | Closing Assembly |

Three-Hour Program Options

Option 1

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Five Centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Bible Story 🕒 Crafts 🕒 Recreation 🕒 Science 🕒 Snack ⊕ Mission and Music during the Opening Assembly ⊕ Reflection Time ⊕ Closing Assembly ⊕ Plan five-minute travel time to each center | Minutes | Example | Event |
|--|---------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| | | 30 | 9:00–9:30 |
| | 15 | 9:35–9:50 | Center One |
| | 15 | 9:55–10:10 | Center Two |
| | 15 | 10:15–10:30 | Center Three |
| | 15 | 10:35–10:50 | Center Four |
| | 15 | 10:55–11:10 | Center Five |
| | 15 | 11:15–11:30 | Reflection Time |
| | 25 | 11:35–12:00 | Closing Assembly with Music |

| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊕ Four Centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🕒 Bible Story 🕒 Crafts 🕒 Recreation 🕒 Science ⊕ Everyone eats snack together at one time ⊕ Reflection Time ⊕ Closing Assembly ⊕ Plan five-minute travel time to each center | Minutes | Example | Event |
|--|---------|-------------|-------------------------|
| | | 20 | 9:00–9:20 |
| | 20 | 9:25–9:45 | Center One |
| | 20 | 9:50–10:10 | Center Two |
| | 15 | 10:15–10:30 | Snack Time for everyone |
| | 20 | 10:35–10:55 | Center Three |
| | 20 | 11:00–11:20 | Center Four |
| | 20 | 11:25–11:45 | Reflection Time |
| | 10 | 11:50–12:00 | Closing Assembly |

Three-Hour Program Options

Option 3

| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Five Centers <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Story <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Snack <input type="checkbox"/> Science <input type="checkbox"/> Music | Minutes | Example | Event |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| | 25 | 9:00–9:25 | Opening Assembly with Mission |
| | 20 | 9:30–9:50 | Center One |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reflection Time | 20 | 9:55–10:15 | Center Two |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Closing Assembly | 20 | 10:20–10:40 | Center Three |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan five-minute travel time to each center | 20 | 10:45–11:05 | Center Four |
| | 20 | 11:10–11:30 | Center Five |
| | 20 | 11:35–12:00 | Reflection Time |