



# For the Smaller Church

Cokesbury's Vacation Bible School 2009, CAMP E.D.G.E., is an extreme adventure camp where children experience and discover God everywhere!

Churches of all sizes can take part in the daily Bible treks and support those teaching through a choice of action-packed recreation activities, creative crafts, or extreme science discoveries.

This resource addresses many of the issues facing smaller churches wanting a successful VBS program. Some of the most common concerns are scheduling, finding enough adult volunteers, finding enough room, purchasing resources, and finding children to attend VBS.

## **Scheduling Time**

Sometimes the most common VBS schedule isn't the best VBS schedule. A smaller church may want to try organizing a VBS program as a summer Sunday school, or on a weekend, or as a one-day program. Scheduling ideas are found on page 2 of this leaflet.

## **Finding Adult Volunteers**

CAMP E.D.G.E. can be organized with four adult leaders and three helpers. See page 3 of this leaflet for ideas.

## **Monetary Resources**

Cokesbury offers two resource plans to equip the smaller church. Look at page 4 to see which plan meets your needs.

## **Finding Children**

Page 3 has helpful suggestions on how to advertise your VBS program and invite children to your church.

# VBS Schedule Options

## A One-Day VBS

### The One-Day Plan

Plan your VBS to last one seven-hour day. Present the lessons following the adjacent schedule. If you have enough children to group them into separate travel teams, you can divide them into three equal groups. If two groups will work better, let them travel to Bible story and craft time separately but come together for music.

Time	Event
9:00–9:30	Opening assembly with music
9:35–10:35	First story with craft or discovery time
10:40–11:40	Second story with craft or discovery time
11:45–12:15	Lunch and quiet time
12:20–1:20	Third story with craft or discovery time
1:25–2:25	Fourth story with craft or discovery time
2:30–3:30	Fifth story with craft or discovery time
3:35–4:00	Closing assembly with music

## A Weekend VBS

A weekend event can use all of the stories with one supportive activity—either a craft or a science project. You can switch which activity should be showcased for each session.

Add mission and music time to break up the rotation and give other leaders a rest throughout the day.

Finish the day with Reflection Time so you can pull together everything the children have learned.

Friday (two hours)	
Time	Event
6:00–6:30	Opening assembly and music
6:35–6:55	Rotate to the Bible story, craft, or discovery activity for Session One
7:00–7:20	Rotate to the Bible story, craft, or discovery activity for Session One
7:25–7:45	Rotate to the Bible story, craft, or discovery activity for Session One
7:50–8:00	Closing assembly
Saturday (six hours)	
9:00–9:30	Opening assembly and music
9:35–9:55	Rotate to the Bible story and craft or discovery activity for Session Two
10:00–10:20	Rotate to the Bible story and craft or discovery activity for Session Two
10:25–10:45	Rotate to Mission or Music
10:50–11:10	Rotate to the Bible story and craft or discovery activity for Session Three
11:15–11:35	Rotate to the Bible story and craft or discovery activity for Session Three
11:40–12:10	Lunch
12:15–12:35	Rotate to Mission or Music
12:40–1:00	Rotate to the Bible story and craft or discovery activity for Session Four
1:05–1:25	Rotate to the Bible story and craft or discovery activity for Session Four
1:30–1:50	Rotate to the Bible story and craft or discovery activity for Session Five
1:55–2:15	Rotate to the Bible story and craft or discovery activity for Session Five
2:20–2:35	Reflection time
2:40–3:00	Closing assembly

## Finding Adult Leadership

If adult leadership is a concern in your church, the ideas described on page 2 require a commitment from only four adult leaders:

- a music leader
- a craft leader
- a Bible story leader
- a science activity leader

The children can be divided evenly into three groups. Each group of children should have an adult or youth helper travel with them to help with activities. If you need to create more

than three groups of children, then have two groups at a time visit each activity center.

Bring all of the children together for music.

Use the single storyteller option for the Bible story time. The narrations to the stories are on the *Bible Storyteller & Sound Effects CD*. Tell the story using these scripts or play the story from the CD. See the opening pages of the *Bible Storyteller* leader book for more information.

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## Designing a One-Room VBS

If space is an issue at your church, plan to do your VBS program in one large fellowship hall.

Follow the plans on the previous page. Instead of having children move between rooms, have them move from station to station within one large room. Areas can be draped off using sheets and piping or rope to create boundaries between areas.

The specialty areas you can create are

- The opening and closing assembly space for assembly time and music
- the Bible storytelling area
- a craft area
- a science area

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## Inviting Neighborhood Children to VBS

A VBS program is a perfect time to invite your community into your church. The following are some ideas for reaching out to the children in your community.

- Hang *Doorknob Hangers* telling people about VBS on front doors all over your community.
- Send *Invitation Postcards* to everyone in the congregation, telling them to bring a friend.
- Ask Sunday School children to send VBS invitations to their friends.
- Put announcements in the church bulletin and newsletter as well as your local newspapers.

- Display posters in supermarkets.
- Provide registration forms to any nonchurch organizations, such as scouts or teams, that use your facility.
- Make fliers advertising your VBS program. Include a registration form on the flier. Ask local merchants to include your flier when they are bagging merchandise.
- Invite other churches to join you in VBS. Rotate the duty of “host church” among all participating congregations.

# A VBS Plan to Fit Your Budget

## CAMP E.D.G.E. Starter Kit

If your church plans to organize a VBS program using all of the activity centers, then the CAMP E.D.G.E. Starter Kit is a wise choice. For \$69.99 you will receive

- Director's manual
- Leader guides, including
  - Preschool/Kindergarten Director
  - Bible Storyteller
  - Music Leader
  - Mission Leader
  - Craft Leader
  - Snack Leader
  - Discovery Time Leader
  - Reflection Time Leader
  - Assembly Leader
  - Decorating Guide
  - Recreation Leader
- Leader Music CD
- Bible Storyteller & Sound Effects CD
- Student Books — one for each age level
- Catalog with Preview Video
- Samples of other promotional items

CAMP E.D.G.E. *Starter Kit*  
Item #9780687655069 — \$69.99

## CAMP E.D.G.E. Smaller Church Pak

If you plan to use one of the streamlined plans outlined on pages 2 and 3 of this leaflet, then the CAMP E.D.G.E. *Smaller Church Pak* is the best choice. For \$49.99 you will receive

- Director's manual
- Eight Leader guides, including
  - Preschool/Kindergarten Director
  - Bible Storyteller
  - Music Leader
  - Mission Leader
  - Craft Leader
  - Snack Leader
  - Discovery Time Leader
  - Reflection Time Leader
- Leader Music CD
- Bible Storyteller & Sound Effects CD
- Preview Video
- Catalog
- 1 pack of 24 Nametags
- 1 pack of 25 Doorknob Hangers
- 1 pack of 25 Invitation Postcards

CAMP E.D.G.E. *Smaller Church Pak*  
Item #9780687653157 — \$49.99

Additional items may be purchased separately.  
Check out the CAMP E.D.G.E. catalog!

Cokesbury has several ordering options.  
Choose the one that is most convenient for you.

Online at [www.cokesburyvbs.com](http://www.cokesburyvbs.com)  
Call toll free at 1-800-672-1789  
Visit your Cokesbury store

