

WHAT IS NEIGHBORHOOD VBS?

Church-supported, one-week VBS program in host homes



A team of Activity Leaders at each home site



A small group of children at each home site



A gathering of 25 people. 

A whole lot of VBS fun in small groups! 

Sharing the love of Jesus within your neighborhood. 



THE IMPACT OF VBS 2020

In these times of hardship and uncertainty, so many across our region, across our nation and around the world are finding their everyday lives suddenly and without warning yanked up by the roots. Everything has been redefined. All are struggling, including the children.

It has been a hard conversation for everyone this spring. What do we do? How do we return to normal—what is normal? For the church: what to cancel, what to carry on, how to do things safely, what changes must be made? So many unknowns make planning difficult.

VBS is our largest outreach event each summer—a great collaborative effort by a team of over 150 people serving over 300 children in one week through Bible lessons, gospel truths, worship experiences and fun. But this year, our usual way of doing VBS will not be possible.

At the same time, this summer *more than ever*, families in our community need the hope, reassurance, and abundance of God's love found in Jesus Christ. The unique ministry of VBS points children and families to the One they can trust to see us through these times.

Here's what we do know at this time:

- Parents are overwhelmed.
- Kids and parents miss personal connection.
- Kids and parents miss gathering together to share experiences.
- Many communities are open for small-group gatherings.
- We've longed for ways to bring faith into the home—and God has opened the door.

This summer, our church has an opportunity to meet families where they are, *just like Jesus did*, through small groups.

We will be taking a new approach to VBS this year, called a Neighborhood VBS (similar to a "Backyard Bible Club"). Given the uncertain circumstances we are still living in, and the general longing of the community to begin to connect with others, though cautiously, we at Cross Creek feel this small-group home-based setting will be ideal!

The gesture of reaching out from your own home to others in your neighborhood will fill a great need. And as you gather in small groups, the opportunity will be there to minister to both children and families. This year's VBS has the potential to reach many more for Christ than we ever could at a traditional VBS inside the church building!

With the support of your church family, you'll be a warm, welcoming, encouraging neighbor for those you connect with in your own community.

Thank you for opening your heart (and for some, also your home), giving your time, talents and treasures to be a part of this much-needed ministry! Please keep reading to find out more about what this year's Neighborhood VBS will look like, and the impact you'll be making. All for Jesus, all for God's glory.

In His service, *Jen*



NEIGHBORHOOD VBS for VOLUNTEERS

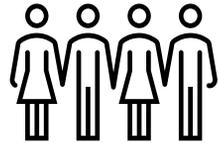
Is church-supported...

You won't be doing it alone!



Is team-empowered...

You'll work closely with others.



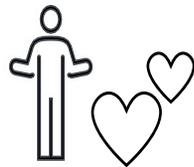
Is personally connected...

Connect with children and families in your group.



Is ministry-focused...

Create relationships in Jesus' name.



Is gospel-centered...

Each day's teaching centers on our need for Jesus, and God's provision for our needs.



What is needed?

This year, VBS will take place in homes around our community. We will first need volunteers to be Host Homes and Activity Leaders (assigned to a Host Home).

What does a Host Home Offer?



*Ample space for activities,
ideally outdoor space*

Rain plan alternate space

Welcoming atmosphere

Restroom facilities

*Drinks for participants;
snacks if desired*

Support activity leaders

*Assist children and
families*

Minister to parents

Lead sanitizing daily

What does an Activity Leader Do?



*Lead one of four areas:
Bible, Worship,
Games, Crafts*

*Meet children's needs if
not leading activity:
(drink, restroom)*

*Lead small-group discussions
with children*

*Supply materials as
needed*

*Be prepared to share the
gospel at any time*

Assist sanitizing daily

What does the church provide?

All curriculum and media

*Bible lessons and activity
scripts*

Game suggestions

Discussion guides

Crafts and props

Leader training

Background checks and ID

Team support

Central registration

Social media connections

