

I LOVE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It is time for our annual Vacation Bible School! Just one more week remains until we start our VBS. We hope that each of you are planning to be here each night July 22nd through the 26th, and that you are working hard to invite and bring others with you. We will have classes for all ages, including adults, so there is no excuse for not being here for VBS. From the outset, I would like to thank Clay and Ally Custred and Amy Latham for being the driving force behind our VBS. Without them, this would not be possible. Thanks also to the many who have helped with the props, decorations, refreshments, readying classrooms, and those who will teach and assist our teachers throughout the course of Vacation Bible School. We love and appreciate each of you! What does VBS mean to you? Below are some things that come to mind as I think about what VBS is.

V.ital B.ible S.tudy. Of all the good things that are accomplished during the course of VBS, nothing is more important than the teaching of the Bible. Often times the children who visit with us during the course of VBS have little or no upbringing in the teachings of the Bible. It is such a joy to see the look on the faces of those who maybe have never heard the Bible stories that are being taught to them. VBS is a wonderful opportunity to introduce a child to God and His word (1 Tim.1:5; 1 Tim.3:15). With adult classes as well, it is also a great environment for the parents.

V.ery B.right S.tudents. Never underestimate what a child can learn! The children who come to VBS eagerly devour the teachings they receive. They are being filled with the truth of God. They can learn so much in such a short time. It is so important that we give our children every opportunity to hear the word of God. As parents and grandparents, we have been given a charge to teach them (Deut.6:6-9).

A V.ariety of B.eloved S.ongs. I recall with great fondness singing "I'm in the Lord's Army," "The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock," "Jesus Loves Me," and so many more VBS songs. I still love to sing them, and now my children are growing to love these grand old songs as well. Truly, "out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise" (Matt.21:16).

A V.aluable B.ounty of S.ouls. Each child who attends our VBS represents a soul that we might be able to reach for Christ. There have been many throughout the years who have been converted to the Lord as a result of being introduced to God, Jesus, the Bible, and the church through VBS. Many children have been so excited about VBS that they ask their parents to start bringing them to Sunday School. Those parents then hear the gospel, and obey it, and now a family that was once lost is working in the kingdom of the Lord. Don't forget the value of each soul present (Matt.16:26)!

V.arious B.eautiful S.cenes. Much hard work goes into producing the scenes from the Bible stories, the visual aids for the classrooms, the craftwork that the children will take home each night, etc. It is amazing to see the talent

at work that helps bring the Bible stories to life before our children's eyes. You will see the end product of that hard work during our VBS. Hopefully all of the hard work will make our children desire to "buy the truth, and sell it not" (Prov.23:23).

I love Vacation Bible School, and I hope you do, too. We look forward to seeing you there!

Patrick Morrison