

## Categories of Children

### **Children who attend your church regularly:**

These children know all the ins-and-outs of our church and are probably well-known by most of our staff. These are the children who will be bringing the bulk of visitors. To these children, VBS is like a super-fun, extended Sunday School. They've probably heard the Bible stories before, know the Bible memory verses and can give the "correct" answer to most questions (which can be quite helpful at times). Do the following to keep them from getting bored:

1. capture their attention during story time by relating new, interesting facts;
2. explain why you believe the story is worth hearing again;
3. remind them of the importance of their testimony;
4. encourage them to bring unchurched friends and to pray for those who don't know Christ; and
5. help them to make others feel welcome.

### **Children who have never attended church:**

These are the children who make our VBS a wonderful and exciting outreach experience. Usually they are hungry, or at least curious, to hear the Word of God for the first time. For many the whole package of playing games and making crafts and snacks is a brand new experience. Fortunately, Lifeway designs their curriculum with these children in mind. However, these children often require special attention to feel loved and welcomed. You will have only a few days to build relationships with them. Make the most of this opportunity, as you can have a tremendous, life-long impact on them and their families.

### **Children who attend your church infrequently:**

These children are often grouped with "church kids" because their faces are familiar. However, these children may know little about what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Bible stories and verses will probably still be interesting to them. VBS may be just the thing they and their families need to feel comfortable in our church. Make an effort to get to know these children to form friendships with them.

### **Children who attend other churches:**

While many of the new faces you see might be considered unchurched children, several of our VBS students may come from local churches. Some families send their children to all the VBS programs in our area as an inexpensive day-care program. Some have even been to the same VBS program at another church and already know all the songs. In addition, these children may come from many different religious persuasions with varied interpretations of who God is and what the Bible says. Respect these differences and be available to answer any conflicting questions. Make their experience at our church a positive one.