

Successful VBS on a Budget

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I know working with an event budget that has so many options is sometimes hard to do, especially if you are in a smaller church. However, I have some ideas that might help you stretch your budget. Here are some things you might be able to put in place now or for the future.

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1. Collaborate with another church in your area
 - a. Go half on all of the supplies that you may need
2. Reuse curriculum from another church
 - a. Share props
 - b. Any leftover craft materials
3. Plan easy crafts
 - a. The ones that come with the kits can be very expensive
 - b. Find someone who is a crafty person. They usually know when the sales of things are and know where to go.
4. Ask for donations
 - a. Food and drink
 - i. Ask your church body
 - ii. Signup sheet for different families to sign up
 - iii. Local grocery store
 - iv. Warehouse
 1. Wal-Mart
 2. Sam's Club
 3. Costco
 4. Sysco Food
 5. Lowe's
 - v. Local restaurants
 1. McDonalds
 2. Burger King
 3. Wendy's
 4. Taco Bell
 - b. Crafts
 - i. Dollar store
 - ii. JoAnn Fabrics
 - iii. Use last year's themed supplies
 - c. Backdrops and decorations
 - i. Local Jr. High or Sr. High drama department
 - ii. Local Drama center
 - iii. Nearby College
 - iv. Contractors in your church or area
 - v. Make your own
 - vi. Goodwill or Hotels for old sheets to use as backdrops
 - d. Game equipment

- i. Local Jr. High or Sr. High P.E. teacher
 - ii. Your kids' coach
 - iii. People in the church
 - iv. Shop yard sales and thrift stores
 - e. Promotion and Advertising
 - i. Make your signs generic enough so you can use them again
 - ii. Signage from another church
 - iii. Reuse last year's sign
 - iv. Ads in the news paper
 - v. Radio
 - vi. Church PowerPoint
 - vii. Church bulletin
 - viii. Bulletin boards
 - ix. Mailers/touch cards
- 5. Find Donors to help sponsor your VBS
 - a. Local Business owners
 - b. Have the church take a special offering
 - c. Give Sunday School classes a list of items to purchase
- 6. Start up kits show everything possible
 - a. Only buy things that are essential to your program
- 7. Ask for more budget next year
 - a. It may be too late this year, but wouldn't hurt to ask
 - b. VBS could be your flagship for your children's ministry
 - c. As soon as you are finished, huddle up with your team and draft a new budget for next year. Then take it to your pastor and financial board.
- 8. Follow-up/Thank-you cards
 - a. Who to send to
 - i. Attendees
 - ii. Coordinators
 - iii. Local businesses
 - iv. Helpers
 - b. What to send
 - i. Attendees – 5 cards, one a week with the bible point and the story they talked about on that specific day along with the verse
 - 1. Example from avalanche ranch 2008:
 - a. **Bible Point:** God is real.
Bible Story: Rahab protects the Israelite spies (Joshua 2).
Treasure Verse: "The Lord is the only true God" (Jer 10:10).
 - ii. Coordinators – number of students, how students' lives were touched
 - iii. Local businesses – number of students, how their support was used
 - iv. Helpers – number of students, how they impacted and helped with the week