



+RENEW

a Take-Home VBS adapted and offered by

OVERBROOK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

WELCOME

— Contents —

Program Overview for parents.....3

- Thank You
- Leading this Camp
- Fine Print
- Set-Up Tips
- Daily Sequence
- Camp at a Glance
- Zoom Information
- Resources and Contacts

Welcome for children and parents.....6

- Why is this year different?
- What is ReNew VBS?
- What is a parable?
- Parable of the Sower

PROGRAM OVERVIEW FOR PARENTS

Thank You

Hey, you -- you're a rockstar parent. Thank you for having brilliantly guided your children through those rough spring months. You did an awesome job, even if you don't feel that way right now. We know how hard it is to think about the Fall months ahead, so we invite you to take your mind off of it for a few days, and join us for a week of learning and fun.

About this Camp

ReNew focuses on God's creation. It's a gift we all share. We all live in it together and depend on it together. Caring for it—together—is both a good work and collective act of faith. The Bible is filled with stories and teachings that reveal our dependence on God through the bounty of the earth (you'd be hard-pressed to find one of Jesus' parables without the water, trees, wilderness, animals, and weather which form a backdrop). ReNew weaves together rich natural imagery with engaging activities for kids. ReNew VBS focuses on one story, Jesus' Parable of the Sower, so kids can explore this parable in-depth, rather than trying to learn multiple non-consecutive stories over a short period of time.

Leading this Camp | We're honored you've chosen to deliver this program to your kids. We want to let you know that parents, teachers, and ministers designed this expression of ReNew with two concrete aims in mind:

1. Offer a fun, eye-opening faith development program for our children this summer.
2. Make our program easy and interesting for parents to lead.

Seriously, everything you need to run this camp like a pro is in this booklet, or in the box you've just picked up. The activities set themselves up in moments, and they can be tailored for your own duration and environmental constraints.

The Fine Print | Unlike other VBS', which reference a host of scriptural lessons throughout the week, ReNew focuses on just one short, special story. It's actually one of the reasons we chose this program -- the only "heavy lifting" we're asking parents to take-on is to learn one bible story really, really well. It's the Parable of the Sower, and a print version is included in this packet. We recommend watching the **Godly Play version**. It will show you the vibe we're going for as we teach this wisdom to our children, and will spark curiosity to learn more about it. We hope it moves something in you, too.

Set-Up Tips | Try to find a dedicated space or two for your camp to occur in. You and your children might want to look for a special indoor space, and a special outdoor space. Consider keeping our box of materials secure but visible to your child throughout the week. There is a special "Do Not Open" packet, which we will ask you to save until Friday's closing ceremony*

Daily Sequence | We're providing you and your kids with about two hours of programming each day, with optional virtual fellowship opportunities to join. There are also supplemental activity ideas included on our **VBS webpage** that can serve as great replacements for our appointed lessons, or as additional programming. Below we are including our suggested daily sequence of events:

- Time to gather and pray together (5 minutes)
- Time to read the parable, and ask daily wondering questions (10 minutes)
- Activity One (30 mins)
- -Snack and reflect- (15 mins)
- Activity Two (30 mins)
- Optional Lunchtime Fellowship with other VBSers (held over Zoom at 12:30 PM)
- Additional Activities as you like.

Camp at-a-Glance

Monday: 7:00 PM Zoom: Opening Ceremony, Unboxing

Tuesday: Daily Sequence on your own! Optional lunch fellowship.

Wednesday: Daily Sequence on your own! Optional lunch fellowship.

Thursday: Daily Sequence on your own! Optional lunch fellowship.

Friday: 12:00 PM Zoom: Closing Ceremony, Group Activity

Zoom Information

Yeah...Zoom is not our favorite thing right now. That's why we've made our program entirely self-led, and have made our remote gatherings optional. However, we strongly recommend you and your child attend the 30 minute opening and closing ceremonies if you are able. Hope to see you there!

Monday at 7:00 PM: Welcome, Opening Ceremony, and Unboxing.

<https://zoom.us/j/93367993038>

Tues, Weds, Thurs at 12:30 PM: Optional Lunch Fellowship.

<https://zoom.us/j/94492936518>

***Friday at 12:00 PM:** Closing Activity and Ceremony.

<https://zoom.us/j/94795066341>

On Friday, we are planning to lead your kids through one final activity: creating an oreo pudding dirt cup dessert together over Zoom. We've given you everything you need to participate in the special "do not open" section of your box. We hope to see you there!

Additional Resources

We know that not every program or activity will work for you or your child. That's why we're offering additional activity ideas, youtube videos, and recorded gatherings on our [VBS webpage](#).

Contact

It's everyone's first time doing this (even me!) and no one is going at it alone. If you need some assistance or suggestions feel free to call me:

Anthony Carrella, Director of Christian Education (732) 599-8114

HEY THERE, KIDS!

Why is this year's VBS different?

Just like the leaders at your school, our leaders don't think it's safe to be inside our church building right now. Even though it's VBS time, there are still a few people who are getting sick from the coronavirus. We think that the best way for you, your family, and friends to stay healthy is to stay at home for camp this summer. Don't worry too much, because one day, we will go back to the church building again. But until then, we have to wait patiently.

Can you help us,

Now, we're really sorry to ask you this: but would **you** mind hosting our camp at **your house** this summer? Don't worry if you've never led your own camp before -- we'll explain everything you need to do to make it memorable and special. To top it off, our Christian Education ministry team will be available every step of the way as you go through this week. Reach out if you need us! The best part is there are dozens of other families participating in this camp alongside you, and there are plenty of opportunities to connect with those folks if you'd like to.

What is ReNew VBS?

Great question! ReNew is all about the **environment** -- the things that surround us in our world -- like the air, water, soil, and even animals! God, and the people in our bible, tell us that it's **really important** to protect our environment and to care for it together. After all, God gave us the earth to **share** -- it's a special gift for everyone.

What is a parable?

For the whole week, we're going to be talking about a special type of story called a **parable** -- do you know what that is? Parables are stories told by Jesus himself, and sometimes have a surprising ending... like a plot twist! We're going to read a parable this week called: Parable of the Sower. A sower is kind of like a farmer. It's their job to plant seeds in the ground so they can grow into plants. We recommend seeing and listening to a children's version [here](#). There's also a version for your parent to read to you on the next page.

Parable of the Sower

adapted from Godly Play

Matthew 13

There once was someone who did such amazing things and said such wonderful things that people followed him. As they followed him, they heard him speaking about a kingdom. The kingdom was not like the one they were in. It was not like one that anyone had ever visited. It was not like any kingdom anyone had even heard about. So they had to ask him, “What is the kingdom of heaven like?” One day when they asked him that, he said, “The kingdom of heaven is like when a sower, someone who scatters seeds, goes out and scatters seeds along the path. As the sower sowed seeds along the path, the birds of the air came..... and ate the seeds. The sower also sowed seeds among the stones. When the seeds tried to put their little roots down among the stones, they could not push their way into the ground. When the sun came out, it scorched the seeds and they died. The sower also sowed seeds among the thorns. When the seeds tried to push their little roots down among the thorns, they could push them part way in, but the thorns choked them, and they died. The sower also sowed seeds in the good earth. When the seeds pushed their little roots down into the good earth, they could go all the way in. They grew and grew. When they were all grown up, they were ripe for the harvest. Then they were cut off and gathered up. The harvest was thirty, sixty, and one hundred bushels.”

Wondering about the Parable

I wonder if the sower has a name?

I wonder who the sower could really be?

I wonder if the sower was happy when the birds came and ate the seeds?

I wonder if the birds were happy when they saw the sower?

I wonder if the birds have names?

I wonder what the sower was doing when the little seeds could not get their roots among the stones?

I wonder what the sower was doing when the little seeds were choked by the thorns?

Wonder on Your Own Each Day

I wonder _____
_____?

I wonder _____
_____?

I wonder _____
_____?