



Half-Day to Four Day VBS/CAMP

Logistics & Information

Includes Synopsis

Wrangler Church Ministries©2014
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www.wranglerchurch.com

Code of the West: Settin' Things Right VBS/Camp 2014



Ron and Francine Singleterry/ Wrangler Church Ministries©2014

Key Verse:

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Objective:

To lead souls to Christ.

To equip the young saint in Bible principles concerning integrity & character in daily living.

Method:

- *Use Selected Familiar Codes of the West while applying Sound Biblical Principle.*
- *Four Segments or Days are offered. Any segment can be taken as a stand-alone with very little adjustment for presentation in a onetime half-day setting. Use all or any piece of the package to fit your needs.*
- *One principle or theme is emphasized per Day with all 4 days coordinating together.*
- *Three levels of Message/Lessons available; Adaptable to your age group's needs.*
- *Devotionals or Worksheets offered on three levels:*
 - *Code of the West Manual [ages 9 and older]*
 - *Individual Lesson Worksheets attached to Lessons [ages 6-8]*
 - *Individual Lesson Worksheets attached to Lessons [ages 4-5]*
- *Structured to fit a Cowboy Style VBS/Camp*
- *Salvation is emphasized throughout the material. Character & Integrity emphasized in the People Melodrama Skit, Puppet Scripts, & Messages/Lessons.*

Logistics & More

A few of the Topics in Logistics & More:

Suggested Use of Available Materials Chart VBS/Camp

- Covers four days.
- Choose what best applies for your situation..... ½ one day or up to 4 days.

Half-Day or One Day/Saturday VBS/Camp

- VBS/CAMP targets ages **4s through 15s**.
- Includes suggested Individual Worksheets ages 4s-8s
- Student's Manual//Devotionals targets ages 9 and up.
- "Stations" & Organization—HOW TO

Two Days-Four Days VBS/Camp

- Targets ages 4s **through 15s**.
- Includes suggested Individual Worksheets ages 4s-8s
- Student's Manual//Devotionals targets ages 9 and up.
- "Stations" & Organization—HOW TO

Additional Information

- Suggestions on where to find Cowboy Kids Music
- Suggestions on "folks" to talk to that have "been down this trail."
- Contact Information & References

Additionally we offer a free workshop explaining in detail how to setup and implement a cowboy style VBS/CAMP. We can also refer you to folks that have already been down this road.

The Free Materials, a couple of folks with a Vision to win Families via the Kids Ministry, & pre-planning along, with the most important ingredient of prayer will get you started on a successful outreach for the small church that runs from 5 children all the way through the larger church running 500.

Code of the West VBS/Camp 2014 Suggested Outline

Of available materials.

	<u>Day One</u>	<u>Day Two</u>	<u>Day Three</u>	<u>Day Four</u>
<u>Worksheets/Manuals:</u> Suggest using in Small Group Settings like with Counselors.	<u>3 Levels:</u> Worksheets-4s- 5s Worksheets-6s-8s Code/West Manual 9s-up	<u>3 Levels :</u> Worksheets-4s-5s Worksheets-6s-8s Code/West Manual 9s-up	<u>3 Levels:</u> Worksheets-4s- 5s Worksheets-6s-8s Code/West Manual 9s-up	<u>3 Levels:</u> Worksheets-4s-5s Worksheets-6s-8s Code/West Manual 9s-up
<u>Puppet Scripts:</u>	<u>Puppet Script:</u> <i>Friends & Texts</i>	<u>Puppet Script:</u> <i>Not for Sale</i>	<u>Puppet Script:</u> <i>Your Word is your Bond</i>	<u>Puppet Script:</u> <i>Finish what you Start</i>
<u>CODE of the WEST/Day:</u> Day's Theme built around a Code of the West.	<u>Know your Friends (& know your Enemy)</u>	<u>Remember: Some things aren't for Sale.</u>	<u>Your Word is Your Bond</u>	<u>Finish what you Start.</u>
<u>Cowboy People Skits:</u> Suggest as part of Opening. Can be combined into fewer segments as needed.	<u>Cowboy Skit:</u> <i>Code of the West: Justice Served -Scene One</i>	<u>Cowboy Skit:</u> <i>Code of the West: Justice Served -Scene Two</i>	<u>Cowboy Skit:</u> <i>Code of the West: Justice Served -Scene Three</i>	<u>Cowboy Skit:</u> <i>Code of the West: Justice Served -Scene Four</i>
<u>Main Messages/Lessons:</u> Brought by the Bible Teacher/Preacher as age appropriate. Usable in an Arena Setting or Chapel Type setup. Illustrated.	<u>3 Levels Available:</u> <u>Camping with Sandburs, Scorpions, & Snakes</u>	<u>3 Levels Available:</u> <u>Buzzards</u>	<u>3 Levels Available:</u> <u>One more Night with the Frogs</u>	<u>3 Levels Available:</u> <u>Settin' Things Right</u>

HALF-DAY or ONE Day/Saturday:

For a smaller church or even a larger church that has never tackled a VBS/CAMP we suggest a Saturday half-day for your first few times at this kind of ministry outreach or event.

The newer cowboy churches especially find they are short on needed personnel and help for a longer or larger VBS/CAMP. Your help is less likely to “give out” on you and end with a happier experience if you learn some of the ropes with a half-day experience the first year.

For several years we assisted with a VBS half-day at a young Cowboy Church in Southwest Oklahoma that had an ideal setup. Also, at our Cowboy Church in Texas we organized mini-events for “big” days and so we share some of that experience with you here in the Half-Day Camp scenario.

Ron & I customarily do the “Bible Round-Up” portions of the program while other Children’s Church leaders organized the day including everything from the advertisements in the local newspaper to the personnel to the facility and everything else that is involved logistically.

For a young church the first year is a learning experience. Each year builds upon the previous. Each year the theme needs to be a little different, but always Cowboy/Western if you are a Cowboy Church.

We ALWAYS say: We know more what NOT to do than what TO DO so in order to “learn” from our experiences we suggest the following do’s and don’ts and then we follow with the logistics:

- **Prepare at least 6 to 8 weeks in advance.**
- **KEEP IT SIMPLE.**
- **Gather a CORE team of helpers of 2 or 3 people you can depend on.** [More help you get later.]
 - Order anything you plan to “give-away” as prizes, awards, ribbons, etc no later than 6 weeks in advance. If you plan to have T-Shirts or something along that line we suggest 8 weeks advance order.
 - But you do NOT have to be that elaborate to make this work well. Ribbons, maybe ONE big earned prize of a Buckle and a couple of kids’ ropes will do the job.
 - BE SURE your facility is reserved. **One essential location** is needed for Bible Time that can be isolated from the rest of the noise and commotion going on at the Camp.
 - An area outside is fine for food preparation; areas outside are best for “stations” that you will have set up. An arena and surrounding area is great! Open areas around the church facility are super. A rented arena and surrounding area work just as well.
- **Advertise** in the church bulletin; church mail outs [both snail mail and email]; local newspaper; the church’s Facebook page; Church Website, text a reminder a few days in advance.
 - Advertise with a THEME and a logo or icon and **KEEP IT SIMPLE.**
 - Advertise at least a minimum of three weeks in advance to your congregation.
 - Advertise to your congregation **exactly** what you are looking for in volunteers **and** when your FIRST volunteer organizational meeting will be.

EXAMPLE: Cowboy Church ½ day Camp/VBS Saturday, June 1; Volunteers needed for the following positions:

- Food Helpers [Chuck Wagon Burgers/Hot Dogs] need 4 people.
- Registration Folks to check-in/out the Campers [need 3 people]
- Teacher ASSISTANTS [need 5 people]; will not need to teach but will guide kids in your age group from station to station.
- Need a wagon for wagon ride; need tractor to pull & driver at Wagon Ride Station.
- Need ropers to instruct young ropers at Dummy Roping Station.
- Need horse people for Grand Entry Assistance.
- **Get specific about what “station” you might want to set up. This will open up some opportunities for Stations you might want to consider and some you will want to avoid doing as well.**
- At your organizational meeting for this group of volunteers have ready a quick synopsis and outlined plan to work from. Do **NOT** ask them for ideas at the meeting; welcome them to come to you with those, but at this meeting don’t waste anyone’s time.
 - Have a handout with the logo printed on it.
 - The morning’s tentative ½ day schedule on the handout.
 - Specific “jobs” listed and ask them to write in beside the blanks what they are willing to volunteer for.
 - Have a second meeting planned the NEXT SUNDAY after church at which time you have a quick lunch planned and while they eat you finalize all plans.

Suggested TIME SCHEDULE for the Half-Day VBS/CAMP

8:45am VBS/Camp Check-in Tables for arm-bands/registration 15 to 20 minutes prior to begin time. If you plan to begin at 9:00 then registration begins about 8:45 [earlier if a long line is forming.]

Begin early with Registration and check-in in advance of 9 AM Grand Entry.

Late attendees should be handled at the check-in desk and escorted to the appropriate “station” that is in progress for their age groups.

Campers can be escorted to a Pre-Program area until time to go into the opening rally/or grand entry. Placing age groups with a GROUP leader and helper as they check in is the VERY BEST way to make this easy.

The program timing needs to move-along therefore don’t waste time at the beginning; if you do, then you will never gain the campers attention or respect needed in order to convey the Gospel Message in a non-chaotic atmosphere in a half-day.

If you are able to use a Grand Entry in an Arena this is an excellent way to begin the day. Your adults in the church can setup and run this time. Some children will want to participate with their horses.

Grand Entry: Music, Flags, Typical Grand entry into the arena; Opening Prayer and opening Thank you for coming to the Cowboy Church from your Pastor or a Leader in the Church gives credibility to this being a Bible Based Event. Remember the goal today is to reach Souls for Christ, not just an activity.

NON-Grand Entry: Simply place the tagged ages with the Group Leader & Helper while they are waiting to go to an assembly in the Bible Lesson area.

9AM **START ON TIME.** Appropriate high energy music plays either in the Arena or in the Bible Lesson Room. Gather in the Campers for a brief 5 to 10 minute maximum announcement and opening. Make this very exciting. This sets the TONE for the day.

SUGGESTIONS:

If you are doing Grand Entry complete with horses, flags, prayer, and general announcement then follow this with an Opening SKIT not more than 3 minutes long or a Demonstration of a Skill they may be learning today. Dismiss groups to appropriate STATIONS.

If you are not doing Grand Entry but are gathering in the Assembly Style we suggest you begin with the opening of a Welcome from the Pastor; then brief last minute announcements. Follow this with a Puppet Show or an Opening Skit not more than 3 minutes long OR perhaps a Demonstration of a Skill they may be learning today.

Dismiss groups to appropriate STATIONS.

9:15 Transitions/Settle In

9:20-9:50 Age Groups A, B, C, & D [Give them a name like Buckaroos or Wranglers or Rangers etc.]

Group A [Oldest 12-15] goes to a SKILLS STATION

Group B [9-11] goes to a DEMONSTRATION STATION

Group C [6-8] goes to ACTIVITIES STATION

Group D [4-5] stays in Bible Room or Area for Bible Lesson/Preaching-Teaching Time on appropriate age level...Suggest: One of the Mini-Messages in an abbreviated form.

Highly suggest that the youngest age group gets Bible Room Time FIRST Segment. It is the shortest time segment & also their attention span is to be considered. The "spare" time you may or may not have left is then useful for bathroom breaks needed for this age group before next Station Change.

9:50 SWITCH STATIONS

9:55-10:25 Group A goes to DEMONSTRATION STATION.

Group B goes to ACTIVITIES STATION.

Group C goes to BIBLE TIME Area.... Pick a Message Age Appropriate but also offer a Salvation Presentation and Opportunity for this age group with counselors that have been “trained” to handle this age group’s salvation inquiries.

Group D goes to SKILLS STATION.

10:30-11:00 Group A goes to ACTIVITIES STATION.

Group B goes to BIBLE TIME Area.Pick a Message Age Appropriate but also offer a Salvation Presentation and Opportunity for this age group with counselors that have been “trained” to handle this age group’s salvation inquiries. This age group should be taught by an adult male if at all possible as the older boys will validate the message in a whole different manner with a male teacher. Just speaking from experience!

Group C goes to SKILLS STATION.

Group D goes to DEMONSTRATION STATION.

11:05-11:35 Group A goes to Bible STATION....Suggest No Other Name or one of the evening messages followed by salvation presentation & opportunity to respond; This age group should be taught by an adult male if at all possible as the older boys will validate the message in a whole different manner with a male teacher. Just speaking from experience!

Group B goes to SKILLS STATION.

Group C goes to DEMONSTATION STATION.

Group D goes to ACTIVITIES STATION.

11:35 Groups B,C,D all Finish at Last Stations prepare to go to Chuck Wagon at 11:30 but ONLY if the Group A is in a situation that the commotion will not disturb what is transpiring in Bible Station for Group A.

Group A dismisses to Chuck Wagon last to allow for a more thorough Bible Time.

11:50 CLOSING ASSEMBLY for BRIEF invite to Cowboy Church; Thanks for coming; & Award Ribbons/Buckles.AWARDS ,etc can be done at the Chuck Wagon area.

Suggestions for STATIONS:

- **SKILLS STATION**----Cowboy related skills taught with casual applications made to ages appropriate concerning the Christian Life &/or Salvation. Easy suggestions: Branding, Dummy Roping, Horse Shoes, Tack Proper Maintenance, etc.
- **DEMONSTRATION**---Shoe a Horse for the right ages; Barrel Racing Setup—Had the Children’s Leader in SW Oklahoma setup barrels & she walked kids around the barrels talking about the Run and applied Bible principles to same.
- **ACTIVITIES**---Again age appropriate activities like wagon rides; pony rides.
- **BIBLE STATION**.....Choose one of the messages and adapt to appropriate age level. Salvation to be presented to ages 6 and older in appropriate age level manner.

Suggestions for Take-Home:

- Printed Manual/Devotionals or Worksheets for appropriate age groups.
- CHILDREN’S CHURCH FLYER with invitation to visit your church!
- A T-shirt; a ball-cap; pencils; something with the CAMP THEME/LOGO/or CHURCH on it.

SUMMATION of HALF-Day Concept:

If you have 10 or 50 Campers the first year; remember you will double next year if you have an orderly fun positive experience the first time. Your Campers need to leave wanting more.

Your Team needs to leave appreciated not stressed as well.

The MAIN thing is always the BIBLE TIME. KEEP it the MAIN THING. That area should be protected from interruptions and from comings and goings. This is what you came for.

The Bible Time needs to be exciting...highly illustrated and the plan of salvation presented clearly for the age appropriate groups.

Go to the Salvation Button on our website to download the Salvation Flash Cards. Have someone present salvations clearly; offer the opportunity for the kids to sit down with someone that can lead them to Christ if they are interested.

Use the TAKE HOME FOLLOW-UP SALVATION TRI-FOLD from the website to give to parents of children that make a profession of faith. Make sure you get names so the appropriate staff can follow-up with families.

Above all: Bathe this event in PRAYER. If the Holy Spirit does not show up, you might as well just go to the house. It’s a waste of time.

Feel free to ask us questions! We are an email away at wranglerchurch@gmail.com

If we don’t know an answer we will point you to someone that has done more than a few of these ½ day events and we’ll get you in touch with them.

Let’s win some souls!

Two or up to Four Days VBS/Camp :

Please refer to *Code of the West Suggested Schedule* for suggested puppet scripts; people skits; lessons/messages to choose from. They are arranged in a logical sequence. Feel free to choose what works for your setup.

Your day may range from as little as 2 hours every morning to a lengthier time frame.

A typical four day VBS/Camp should at least include:

- Consistent Opening Assembly including Prayer; Announcements including any Contest results; the optional People Skit and/or Puppet Show. **START & END THE DAY ON A FUN NOTE.**
- Bible Time divided into appropriate age groupings.
- Snack/break Time.
- Cowboy Skill/Demonstration/or Activity Times as time allows.
- Brief Time to use Manual/Devotionals OR worksheets per age group.

Refer back to the **ONE-DAY notes above for particulars of Stations and so forth.**

Don't take on more hours than you have personnel and facilities for. If you do, and kids get bored or TOO HOT for afternoon activities, then they won't be back the next day. Plan wisely.

Additional Notes:

Let me say right up front: We are not experts. We are just conveying our experiences. A couple of additional things to take note of:

- Have someone take care of security issues at any event. That simply means, be diligent about who works with your children. Be SAFETY cautious in every aspect.
- Keep the focus of what you are doing on the Gospel. This will quickly get away from you before you know what's happened. Good people want to do good things & the focus will quickly turn away from reaching the lost for Christ.
- Salvation Flash Cards under the Salvation Button on www.wranglerchurch.com are downloadable as is the excellent tri-fold: *Take Home Follow-Up* which is used to explain to parents or older children the concepts of Salvation; Assurance; Baptism.
- **MUSIC** suggestions: There are three EXCELLENT KIDS cd and song book recommendations we have used for cowboy kids ages 4-11. Email us and we will send you the links.
- Everything we have to offer is free; we have one goal; get them to Jesus.
- Email us with questions at wranglerchurch@gmail.com

Prayerfully we hope to be a blessing to you but more importantly, we pray folks accept Jesus,

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