

Start the Party

Reviewed by Meg Jones

Start the Party: Snapshot



[Start the Party](#) is not one of Building Faith's top picks for VBS for 2024. Its theme focuses on celebrating the good news about Jesus, and it uses party elements to highlight this theme. It includes large and small group gatherings, worship, games, music, crafts, skits, videos, and service projects. We did not include this among our recommended curricula, however, because it focuses too much on the party concept and added elements at the expense of meaningful faith formation for children through Bible stories.

Start the Party: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Celebrate the Good News”
- **Publisher:** [Orange](#), 2023 (independent)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades pre-K – 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** large group, small group, videos, games, worship, skits, music, crafts, service
- **Starter kit cost:** \$249

Start the Party: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Matthew's Party**
Luke 5:27–32
- **Day 2: Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Feast**
Matthew 22:1–14
- **Day 3: Jesus' Parable of the Lost Son**
Luke 15:11–32
- **Day 4: The Woman at the Well**
John 4:1–26
- **Day 5: You Are the Light of the World**
Matthew 5:14–16

Start the Party: Where It Shines

Simple presentations of Bible stories

The curriculum spells out the Bible stories easily. This can make the stories accessible for participants who are new to Christianity or to the church.

Start the Party: What We Miss

Cohesiveness between theme and scriptures

The curriculum makes a loose connection between a party and Jesus. We would have liked to see more meaningful connections in its design.

Spiritual depth

There is little mention of God in the curriculum. The engagement with the Bible stories is pretty surface level. The heavy emphasis on the party overshadows spiritual formation.

More variety in selection of scriptures

The Bible stories are pretty typical and have been done a lot in other curricula. They only include New Testament stories. We would have liked to see Old Testament stories as well.

**Start the
Party: Overall
Assessment**

**Curriculum Not
Recommended
for 2024**

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