

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a city skyline at night. The buildings are dark blue and black with yellow and pink windows. A large, colorful sneaker with yellow, green, and pink stripes is positioned in the foreground, as if it's about to take a step. The background is white with blue dashed lines forming a path or orbit around the text.

READY, SET, **MOVE!**

**FOLLOW JESUS HERE,
THERE, AND EVERYWHERE**

DECOR GUIDE

Ready or not, here it comes. Let's talk about DÉCOR! There are SO many different ways you can decorate for this theme. We've included some broad categories with specific decorating ideas under each. You can go all in on one theme, select a different one for each rotation station, or choose elements from all of them for every space!

And don't forget the biggest bonus of all. If you're already a weekly Orange Curriculum user, you can decorate at the beginning of the summer and leave the décor up in your children's ministry spaces for all of June and July. NOTE: If you're NOT an Orange user, we've included our weekly curriculum for June and July in your VBS product, so now is the perfect time to try it out!



GENERAL THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is the thought of decorating overwhelming to you? There are likely people in your church that do not serve in kids' ministry who would LOVE to help you transform your space. Pull a team of excited volunteers together and let them go crazy (within budget). Draw a map of the areas you want to decorate, and make a space plan before you buy a single item.
2. Use inexpensive items in non-traditional ways. Inflatable items, balloons, colored tape, large rolls of craft paper, paper lanterns, and plastic tablecloths can be used in so many ways. We've listed a few specific ideas in the theming categories below.
3. Decide where you want to focus your decorating energy. We suggest high-traffic areas like your lobby, your registration/drop-off areas, the lawn outside your church, the hallways, and your stage. Once those spaces are covered, you can move on to classroom or rotation spaces. You'll find some ideas for those specific locations in the theming categories below.
4. Bigger is actually better. Enlist a builder to create some large-scale props for your high traffic areas for the biggest impact. And whatever you do, remember to go BIG for your stage or large group space. If you cannot see something from the back of the room, it's too small in scale. We offer backdrops and props that are designed specifically for this at OrangeVBS.com.
5. If you can't go big, repeat. Hanging items from the ceiling down a narrow hallway is not only visually appealing but can also lead your kids where you want them to go in terms of classroom space.
6. Don't forget a photo backdrop in your lobby. Designate a corner of the registration space where parents drop off their kids as a photo booth, and be sure to include the name of your church somewhere in the background so parents can take pictures!
7. This theme screams for some giant footprints! Incorporate a pathway of large footprints from your parking lot into the front door or down a main hallway. Yes, we are providing some fun decals that can be used in this way at OrangeVBS.com. Or consider offering some kind of "Guess the Footwear" game for kids to play in your lobby with different shaped footprints like tennis shoes, sandals, flip-flops, snowshoes, flippers etc.

ROAD TRIP

Grab a map (do kids even know what those are?), load up the station wagon, and let's head for the open road as we learn to follow Jesus.

- Draw out an RV on craft paper and paint it, or find a camper or convertible car photo cutout online to place in your lobby, registration area, or on your Large Group stage.
- Create a big family station wagon piled high with suitcases. Search online for a royalty-free image you could project onto craft paper, trace, and paint to look like the real thing.
- Magnify some road maps for an instant backdrop and splatter them with paint in colors from the Ready, Set, Move! logo. Find a map of the US with unique icons highlighted within each state like the Golden Gate Bridge, Mt. Rushmore, St. Louis Arch, Statue of Liberty, etc., or other more obscure roadside attractions like Cadillac Ranch in Texas or the world's largest ball of twine in Kansas. Make sure you put a BIG PIN to mark the location of your church on the map!
- Hang up road or highway signs (think I-80 or Route 66), put a rest stop sign near the bathrooms, and post exit signs near the doors. Or consider incorporating landmarks from your own community as "stops" along the route, particularly if you have any state parks or other famous landmarks nearby.
- Cut out roads from black paper or plastic tablecloths and add yellow lane lines to hang on walls vertically or as a backdrop. You can also cover the tables in your craft or snack areas with black tablecloths and create road patterns with hashmarks along the table.
- Create national park signs or brown park icon signs like picnic, fire, tent, hiking, and so on. Use the park sign shape to create signs for your rotation stations like crafts, games, small groups, etc.
- Find a volunteer to build a wooden directional sign post (like you'd find at a summer camp) to post in your lobby and direct kids to their rotation stations. Speaking of rotation stations, why not create a "fuel station" sign for your snack area?
- Create a large national park welcome sign as your photo backdrop with a fun title like, "Welcome to our adventure with [Church's name] 2023." Search for "national park signs" on Google® images for ideas.
- What can you do with license plates? Can you come up with a creative way to display the five key words (DO, BELIEVE, LOVE, SHARE, GO) from each day's Bottom Line on separate license plates in your Large Group space?

CAMPING TRIP

Head to the great outdoors to experience God's glorious creation, but don't forget to pack the bug spray.

- Borrow tents from people in your church and pop them in every corner of your building!
- Create a whole scene complete with artificial turf on the ground, a big tent, a campfire (you can purchase a "blow up" version, create one with a steel bucket, paper towel tubes for logs, colored tissue paper for the flames or set up a fire grate complete with marshmallow forks), a couple of camping chairs, an extra-large backpack or two with sleeping bags rolled up at the top, and a cooler. Draw a tree out of craft paper to cover the wall behind your camping scene and hang a food pack from it or create a food "bear barrel" for a real camping experience.
- Cut trees or mountains out of cardboard and paint them to add detail. Use these to line a hallway or classroom wall. Create rock formations in corners with craft paper and paint.



- Create a waterfall with blue cellophane strips hanging like flowing water. Or cut blue plastic tablecloths into strips, grasp along both sides of the edges and pull slightly to ripple and repeat all the way down each strip. For more dimension, add a blue shimmery curtain from a party supply store. You could also create a “rock” pillar entry made with blocks of foam and the “water” ideas above hanging from the top.
- Set up a canoe or two, a few fishing poles, your “catch of the day” hanging nearby, and a tackle box in a corner of your lobby or on your Large Group stage.
- RV or station wagon cutouts / standees would also work for this theme.
- Create a “forest” scene along the walls with evergreen trees—but just the trunks so the kids feel like they’re walking through an actual forest. Hang borrowed camping lanterns from the ceiling down a hallway.
- Borrow some picnic tables, cover with red gingham tablecloths, and hang a “Don’t Feed the Bears” sign on the wall of your snack rotation area.
- Provide camping stools or tree stumps for Small Group Leaders to sit on in your Small Group rooms. Put all your Small Group materials in backpacks for your leaders.

AIRPORT

Let’s go up, up, and away with this fun theming direction!

- Create a check-in station like a ticket counter at the airport. Use blue craft paper to create the sky behind the counter complete with puffy white clouds and planes taking off in the distance.
- Do you have a high ceiling in your lobby? Draw an air traffic control tower out of craft paper, paint it to add detail and place it so that it’s looking down over the kids as they enter your space.
- Use that same craft paper to draw airplanes or plane shapes to run down a hallway.
- Create a flight path with a globe and an airplane on one side with hash marks and arrows to your final destination.
- Set up a passport backdrop with giant passport stamps. Draw plane silhouettes on black paper to display all around your space.
- Tack up travel posters of famous destinations.
- What about a baggage claim area? Stack up “unclaimed” luggage, suitcases, and roller bags all around the space. Create fun signs that show what flight is arriving / departing. If you have an intercom, ask someone to make announcements about delayed flights or gate changes during drop off or pick up.
- Make a “paper airplane station” in your lobby with simple directions taped to the table and plenty of paper. To keep the “crazy” of tossing paper airplanes under control, provide a place for kids to tape their paper airplanes to the wall to create a fun display. Or make some kind of contained target kids can throw their airplanes into but can’t reclaim them (like the last hole in mini golf that keeps your golf ball). Speaking of paper airplanes, you could create several out of large pieces of craft paper to hang along the walls or from the ceiling in a hallway or classroom.
- Create a TSA security line complete with volunteers to interact with kids, perhaps at the entrance to your Large





Group space. Be silly and call out kids for wearing certain colors of clothing. ("Excuse me, son. I see you're wearing blue. I'm going to need you to step over here for a moment.") Then pull them aside for an extra "security check" where you challenge them NOT to smile. Make this silly and fun—remember, creating an environment isn't just about the décor.

- Use the same Arrival / Departure or Now Boarding sign ideas to name your rotation stations. For example: "NOW BOARDING: Flight 101 to SNACK ROTATION" or "ARRIVAL: SNACKS!"
- For your photo booth, draw the side of a plane with cutouts at the windows for kids to stick their faces through for a fun picture. Make sure you write the name of your church as the name of the airline on the side of the plane. (Example: "Cornerstone Airlines")
- Offer boarding passes or vouchers for parents as their drop off / pick up tags.

CITY TOUR

New York? Chicago? Los Angeles? Where would you like to visit? The possibilities are endless as we travel to the big city.

- Set up bikes and skateboards in fun configurations. Suspend bikes, hang skateboards, or stack them on top of each other in your high-traffic areas.
- Draw building silhouettes cut from black butcher paper like you'd find in a Spider-Man comic. You could also enlist a volunteer to build this from plywood, cut out holes for windows, paint the whole thing black, and light from behind.
- Trace action silhouettes on black paper and tape to bright-colored tablecloths to hang around your space, like a kid on a skateboard, bike, or rollerblades going up for a jump. You could also draw silhouettes of a giant skateboard, a pair of skates or shoes, or even a city bus.
- Black paper or black plastic tablecloth roads hung vertically or side ramps for bikes or skateboards would add interest in a hallway. Fill empty spaces with traffic cones, orange barrels, or A-frame barricades.
- Set up Little Tikes® cars or ride-on toys in your lobby or preschool area.
- For rotation signage, create green street signs to hang at each station. You could also include stoplights, U-turn, One Way, Yield or other signs around your space.
- Consider creating a "food cart" or even a food truck from craft paper to hang on the walls of your snack rotation.

AMAZING ADVENTURE

Challenge kids to race around the world as you follow Jesus here, there, and everywhere!

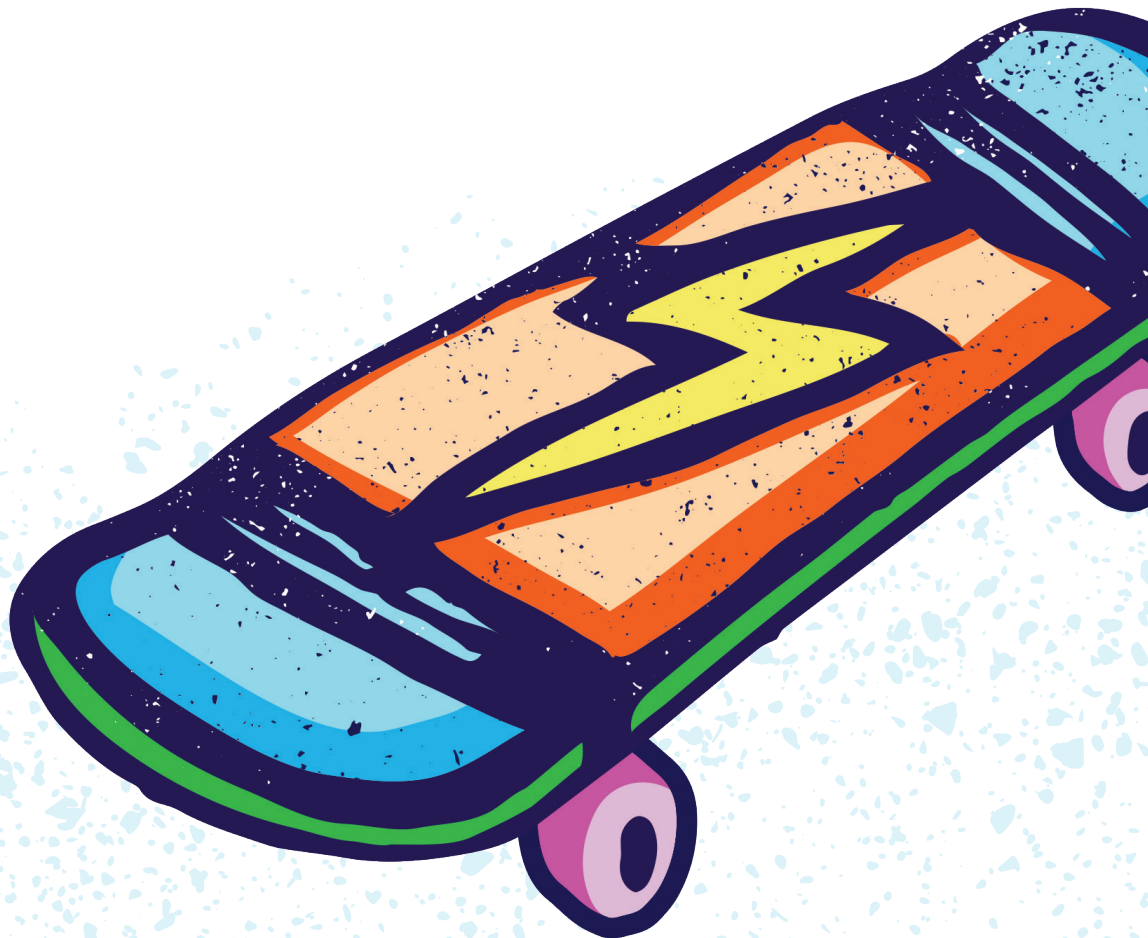
- Create giant yellow cue cards like the clues you find on "The Amazing Race."
- Hang earth beach balls from the ceiling. Create a pit stop map like the contestants land on at the end of each leg of the race.
- Create detour signs and hang world maps with different country icons for an international, mission themed VBS.
- Consider using this theming idea for your Family Experience. Create "challenges" for families to complete to find their next clue. You could start people out in different locations around the church, making sure the final clue leads everyone to the final Pit Stop in your Large Group space where you can celebrate and share all you've learned over the week.

- For the Athens lesson on Day 5, consider incorporating the Bible story into your stage design. You could create pillars that look like the ruins in Athens or an “altar to an unknown God” for the storyteller to reference like Paul did when he spoke to the Athenians.

TACKY TOURIST

What could be better than dressing up like a tacky tourist for a week of fun?

- Create giant scrapbook pages for the walls full of pictures, fun postcards, or other attractions with silly poses in front of famous landmarks. Create a Polaroid®-style backdrop along with various tacky tourist props for a fun photo booth. Write “Wish you were here at VBS 2023” and include your church’s name on the bottom.
- Pull out those Hawaiian shirts and leis from Make Waves or select a tourist tee (think I “HEART” New York) if you don’t offer VBS T-shirts for volunteers. Throw on some tube socks and sandals and get ready to welcome kids to your wacky, campy vacation destination!
- Encourage leaders to wear a camera, a pair binoculars, or a passport in a pouch around their necks. They may want to cover their nose with zinc sunscreen, don those fanny packs, and sport a straw hat, some Mickey ears, or other silly travel headwear.



GROUP / GRADE NAMES:

Consider naming each grade or group with a fun title and color. Create signage with these names in your Large Group space so parents can easily find drop off and pick up spots.

Consider offering colored nametags for each grade. That way, if you see a kiddo with a purple tag among a sea of yellow tags, you know they're in the wrong place! If you have multiple groups in each grade, you can designate them with a letter of the alphabet.

Below are some suggestions. Feel free to use any name / color combo for any grade!

- K – (Red) Explorers (Explorers A, Explorers B)
- 1st – (Green) Navigators
- 2nd – (Yellow) Pathfinders
- 3rd – (Orange) Trailblazers
- 4th – (Blue) Voyagers
- 5th – (Purple) Rangers
- 6th – (Brown) Ramblers

For other group name ideas, consider US landmarks, international destinations, or modes of travel.

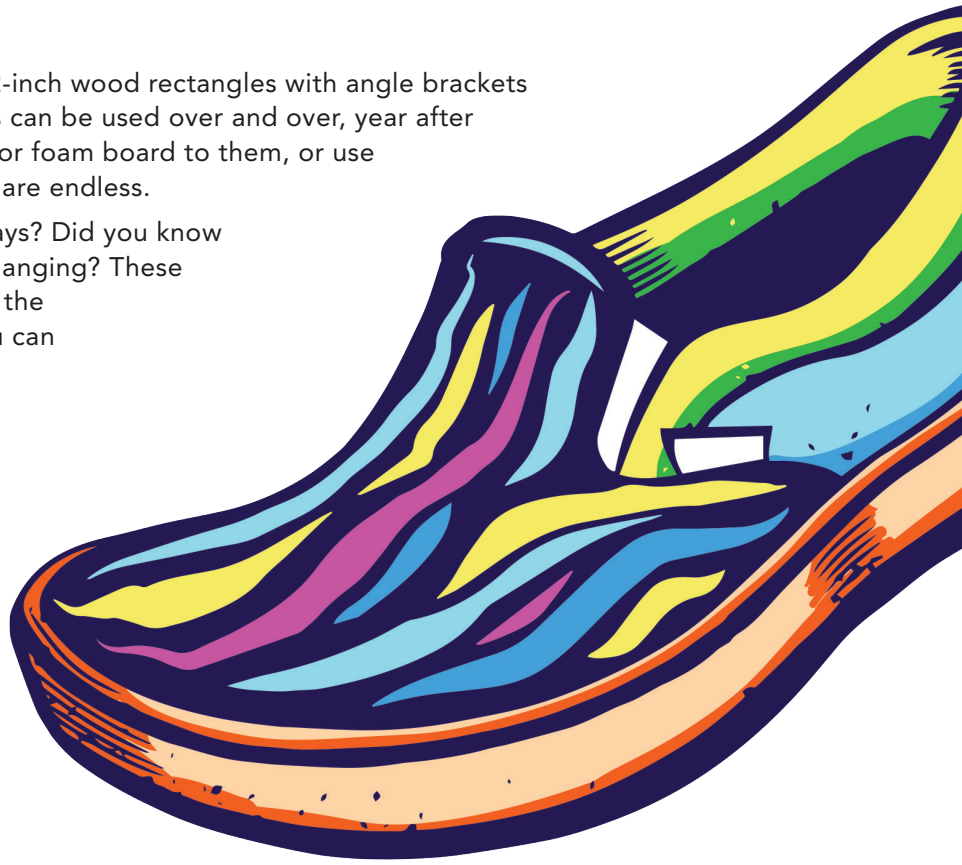


PRACTICAL TIPS

Make sure you join our Orange VBS Facebook page for a TON of pictures and ideas from fellow churches! On this page, we get a LOT of questions about how to create big items or display or hang them.

Here are a few ideas that might help:

- Consider creating 3x6-foot flats from 1x2-inch wood rectangles with angle brackets the bottom to stand them up. These flats can be used over and over, year after year. You can staple posters, backdrops, or foam board to them, or use them to block off areas. The possibilities are endless.
- Do you have a drop ceiling in your hallways? Did you know you can purchase ceiling grip hooks for hanging? These are basically metal hooks that go around the ceiling grid. And if you're old school, you can open a paper clip to achieve the same function.
- You can create just about anything out of craft paper rolls (36 or 40 inch) in various colors. Black and white paper is the most versatile. Use this paper to create your action silhouettes or cityscape buildings.
- You can also purchase builders' paper rolls, also called contractor paper rolls, from a home improvement store. This heavy weight brown paper usually comes in 35 inch by 140 foot rolls. Create backdrops, cover off limit areas, paint graphics, use paint or markers to create fake wood, papier mâché a canoe, or create a log cabin or clubhouse.
- Plastic tablecloths are inexpensive, come in every color of the rainbow, and can be used to cover or create just about anything! You can use them to color block; create waterfalls, rippled water, seaweed or vines; for banners; to cover large items; or to create mountains or even large 3-D letters. The possibilities are endless with these. And if you're careful, you can use them over and over again.
- Looking for a way to hang heavy posters or large signage but don't want to damage your walls? Consider hanging these items from the ceiling! Create a ceiling hanger out of a wood section (1x2x20—the standard length of most ceiling tiles). Drill a hole through both ends and run a piece of wire through the holes to attach to the ceiling grid. Staple, tie, or tape larger items to the front that need more support than just a single hook.
- Have you heard of Mavalus® tape? It's a bit stronger than painter's tape and won't damage your walls. Another must have for hanging is fishing line—the thicker the better!
- And last but not least, consider using a projector hooked up to your laptop! Project images onto walls to create graphics. Borrow one from a friend, call your local library to see if they have any to loan, or look for one to purchase.
- Mural hanging (see Orange Store items listed below): If you choose to purchase a Ready, Set, Move! Wall Mural, there are several ways you can hang or mount these:
 - o Buy foam insulation boards from a hardware store, cut to size with a hot knife, and adhere with spray adhesive.
 - o Build frames to staple them to and use these frames year after year.
 - o Poke holes in the top and hang with Command® hooks.



DÉCOR ITEMS AVAILABLE AT ORANGEVBS.COM:

POSTER SET: Decorate your rotation rooms, line up the posters in the hallway, or hang together on a focal wall in the lobby to add a fun pop of color AND inform parents and families about what you'll be learning all throughout the week! Posters are available for your preschool and children's areas and include the Bottom Lines for each day and the Memory Verse for the week. *NOTE: Posters are sold as a set with 10 posters per set.*

WALL MURAL: Looking for a backdrop for your stage or a way to cover a large wall in your hallway? Our Ready, Set, Move! 2023 mural comes in three pieces that, when hung together, create a 6x9-foot mural. This is a quick, colorful and easy way to fill a large space! *This three-panel mural is sold as one set.*

MURAL EXTENDER: But wait, there's more! If a 6x 9-foot mural isn't quite big enough to fill your stage or lobby, consider adding this extender set which contains four 6x3-foot panels. When added to the wall mural above (*sold separately*), you'll have an impressive 6x21-foot backdrop, perfect for filling a large space. *Sold as a set of four panels.*

OUTDOOR BANNER: Want a way to draw people into your building that might not know about your VBS? This 6x3-foot banner is the perfect way to get the word out and grab the attention of those who drive by your building.

GOBOS: What's a gobo? We're glad you asked. A gobo is a small disc used in front of a spotlight to project a shape onto any surface. Add these discs to your existing lighting system to shine on your stage, wall or backdrop.

GIANT INFLATABLE GLOBES: That's right, we're offering a giant SIX-foot inflatable globe beach ball with our logo on the front. This item will make a HUGE impact in your lobby or on your stage!

FLOOR CLINGS: We have an exciting addition to décor this year! We have two sets of large floor clings – logos and large shoe steps. These clings will allow you to add a pop of color and excitement to your floor as you lead groups from station to station.

TEAR DROP BANNERS: These are a fun new addition to our Orange VBS products. These tall banners can be used indoors or out. They are double sided and stand 8 feet tall. They come with their own stand and case. Use them on the sides of your stage, out at the entrance to your church or to mark the entry doors for VBS. The possibilities are endless for these fun banners! You may want to order 2 or more.

