



Time for Vacation Bible School— for Older Adults!

By Mary Lou Serratt

Did you look twice at the title above? Here's an opportunity to share God's love with another age group!

Fall is a special time for many people. School, sports, jobs, and family take lots of time. It seems there are not enough hours in the day!

However, older adults may be wishing for activities. They may miss those years when every day seemed full of important things. As life gets busier for their children and grandchildren, it may mean less time for older adults to enjoy being with family members. They may be thinking, *What can I do today?*

You can help answer that! Your missions organization can invite these older people to a time of fun, friendship, and sharing God's love.

There are things to decide as you plan an adult Vacation Bible School. Talk and pray with others about starting something new. Each church or group should discover needs and then plan to meet them. Think about these questions:

- Where? Local nursing homes°, senior citizen° meetings, your church building?
- When? Once a month, once a week, near holidays, before or after church activities?
- Why? To share the gospel; to share God's love; to share memories and make new ones; to enjoy fun,



fellowship, friends.

- What? Bible study, games, singing, crafts°, missions projects.
- How? Talk with church leaders. What fits best with what your church's members can do well? What is in your church budget (spending plan)? Listen to church members' ideas.

Plan with purpose. Gather a team of leaders who love older adults. The leaders will need time, patience, and energy. Talk together about the questions above. Help church leaders and members understand this new way to share the message of hope and joy in Christ. Ask for prayer partners.

Here are ideas from groups who have this ministry. Choose things older adults enjoy!

- *Bingo*. Prepare bingo cards using the names of famous people in the

Bible. Work in teams. The winners tell who their favorite Bible heroes are.

- *Finish the Story*. The leader begins by telling part of a Bible story. He or she will stop after a few sentences and say, "And then?" A volunteer can finish telling the story.
- *Old or New?* Leader says a verse and asks "Old or New Testament?" Play in teams or as individuals.
- Plan *other activities* around crafts, songs, time in prayer, Bible study, and a missions project. You could even include simple exercises or stretches.
- *Most of all*, plan how to give participants° the opportunity to receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

mission action: meeting a need for someone outside the church and giving him or her the opportunity to hear about Jesus and receive Him as Lord and Savior