Online VBS Guide

Adapting Rocky Railway into a VBS-at-home experience
Director’s Notes

Stay on Track!

At Rocky Railway, kids explore Jesus’ power in them and how we can trust Jesus—not our own strength—to pull us through life’s challenges. COVID-19 has come through our lives like a freight train and derailed countless plans, routines, and expectations. This summer, more than ever, the kids in your community need the hope, reassurance, and abundance of God’s love through the unique ministry of VBS. The Bible Points for Rocky Railway are so relevant.

**Jesus’ Power Helps Us Do Hard Things.** Trust Jesus!

**Jesus’ Power Gives Us Hope.** Trust Jesus!

**Jesus’ Power Helps Us Be Bold.** Trust Jesus!

**Jesus’ Power Lets Us Live Forever.** Trust Jesus!

**Jesus’ Power Helps Us Be Good Friends.** Trust Jesus!

We all need to trust Jesus’ power to pull us through these unprecedented times! This summer, your church has an opportunity to meet families like never before through VBS.

Take a breath, pause, and pray. And don’t give up. With some planning, creativity, and faith, you can make VBS happen—no matter what. If physical distancing prevents you from having traditional VBS at your church, these adaptations can help you steam forward with an innovative, online experience. We’ll guide you to stay on track, using best practices for blending technology and hands-on learning to maximize the online VBS experience.

Here’s what we do know:

- Parents are overwhelmed.
- Kids and parents miss connection.
- Kids and parents miss the sense of community that comes from VBS.
- Online VBS needs to be simple for families yet also interactive, engaging, and relational.
- We’ve longed for ways to bring faith into the home—and God has opened the door for this opportunity.

That’s why we’ve modified these stations, allowing your smiling faces to be leading the station video segments. You’ll maintain relationships with your church and community, and you’ll be a warm, welcoming, encouraging neighbor for those you connect with. However, Imagination Station is the one exception: We’ve recorded Shannon, our field test Station Leader, to model how Sciency-Fun Gizmos transform into Jesus-style “parables” for kids to discover and experience tangible reminders of the day’s Bible Point.

Thank you for making an eternal difference by staying on track with VBS!

*Group’s VBS Team*
Planning

Begin praying for your church to embrace your online VBS. Ask God to open new ways to reach the hearts of children, families, and volunteers in your community.

Choose a format for your online VBS.

- Livestream or pre-record segments.
- Create VBS for families, backyard Bible club (groups of 10-20), or other gatherings that meet CDC guidelines.

- If your church is blessed with media resources to livestream or pre-record segments, consider reaching out to other churches in your community! Instead of sharing decorations, this year you can share technology!
- If you use pre-recorded segments, build daily excitement by posting the link on your website each day at your VBS start time.

Choose and publicize dates for online Rocky Railway. Remember that VBS doesn’t have to be five days in a row. You may want to connect with kids once a week for five weeks or divide the material into even shorter segments once a week all summer long! Get creative and keep your overarching ministry goals in mind as you plan.

Content

Plan the content and timeframe for your online VBS. We recommend planning content for no more than two hours. We’ve made sure the online experiences engage and involve participants, but realistically, kids are likeliest to tune in (and stay focused) for under two hours.

Online VBS Might Look Like This...

(student pack)

Parents drive-up and get a VBS student pack, or volunteers deliver them to families

On your VBS start date, kids and grown-ups gather online for no more than 2 hours. Your team livestreams or shows abbreviated, pre-recorded segments of the following stations: Sing & Play Express | Bible Adventures | KidVid Cinema | Imagination Station | Rocky Wrap-Up

*Modifications for online versions of Preschool Bible Adventures and Preschool KidVid Cinema are also available.
Decide if you want a preschool track. If families have preschoolers and elementary kids, the experiences in the elementary guides will work just fine. However, if you want to host a special time just for preschoolers to tune in, you’ll find modifications to the Little Kids Depot Preschool Bible Adventures and Preschool KidVid™ Cinema stations.

Choose and recruit the team that will lead and be videoed for each station. Remember, you may not need an Imagination Station Leader, if you opt to use the video found at groupsamples.com/ModifiedVBS.

Turn every living room into a classroom! Grab your Rocky Railway Starter Kit Leader Manuals, and download the modified Station Leader tips for the following stations:

- Sing & Play Express
- Bible Adventures
- Imagination Station
- KidVid™ Cinema
- Rocky Wrap-Up

Station Leaders can access the modifications, print them, and cross-reference them with the Leader Manuals from the Rocky Railway Starter Kit.

Each day during your VBS week, your team will livestream or show abbreviated, pre-recorded segments of the modified stations.

Provide a student pack for each child. Kids have had to forgo school trips, family vacations, birthday parties, and sports. This is your time to bless them with a bag of excitement that also fuels faith! By supplying surprise resources for each child, you’ll build daily anticipation (a little like Christmas!)—and make each child feel special! Plus, the Group team has consulted with child psychologists and experts to determine which resources will be most meaningful to families during such an anxious time.

Check out the “Resources” section for more info on how Group has made it easier (and more affordable) than ever to get this cool cargo into kids’ hands!

Assemble an assembly team. At your church, create student packs filled with resources such as Bible Memory Buddies, Sciency-Fun Gizmos, Tracking With Jesus Bible Books, God Sightings Wristbands, and Sing & Play Express Music CDs. You can simply put all the supplies for the week into one bag per child, or (to make each day a surprise) put each day’s supplies into separate resealable plastic bags labeled for each day. Then you’d put all of those into one bag per child. If you make daily “surprise” kits, you can wrap the supplies in tissue paper so kids can’t see them.
God Sightings are more important than ever! God Sightings give kids practice in looking for evidence of God all around them. Guiding kids to look for God and thank him is key in helping kids cope with the uncertainty and loss they've experienced recently. At Rocky Railway, you’ll celebrate God’s goodness every day!

Here are three simple ways for families to celebrate and display God Sightings:

- Use colorful sticky notes to write or draw an image to represent their daily God Sightings. Post the notes in a window in the shape of a heart.
- Use chalk to write or draw an image to represent their daily God Sightings on their driveway or sidewalk. Think of how this colorful image can be a conversation starter with neighbors!
- Provide each home with a Paper Pop-Up Boxcar. These colorful pop-up boxcars (available from Group or your Group VBS supplier) can make a cool, themey “blessing box.” Let families write their God Sightings and drop them into the open boxcar. In the weeks after VBS, they can continue to “train” themselves to see God’s overflowing goodness!

Media & Technology

Connect with the media experts at your church, or identify other “tech gurus” you may know. (Teenagers can be a great asset when it comes to technology.)

- Enlist help to successfully livestream your VBS. Do a test before your VBS week!
- Round up a team to help pre-record station segments. Remember, a smartphone can create a high-quality video! Decide if you’ll broadcast these at the scheduled time of your VBS or share a link with families. Be sure to publicize the dates so families know when and where to tune in.
A “Live” event on Facebook streams at the same time for everyone, but you can also record it in case people can’t watch it at the designated time.

There are two options to stream a pre-recorded video “Live” on Facebook:
- using a third-party software
- scheduling a “Premiere” through Facebook

Both options will allow you to schedule pre-recorded content, make announcements in advance, have viewers watch and comment in real-time, and interact with comments in real-time. The only difference is that your video will either show “Live” or “Premiere” in the top left corner—that’s it!

If you have a media team or are confident with your tech-savvy skills, either option will work for you. However, if you’re a little less confident, scheduling a Premiere will be the way to go. Scheduling a Premiere will allow you to upload your video directly to Facebook without the hassle of connecting a third-party software to Facebook. At Group, Premieres are our preferred method of choice when releasing pre-recorded videos.

Below are helpful “How-to Guides” to get started using either option:

- Basics: Going “LIVE” on Facebook:

- Going “Live” With Pre-recorded Content Using OBS:
  https://brightspark-consulting.com/live-stream-pre-recorded-video/

- Other Facebook Streaming Software Options:
  https://www.facebook.com/help/publisher/2771226942969318

- Going “Live” Using Premiere:
  https://www.socialmediaexaminer.com/how-to-use-facebook-premiere-what-marketers-need-know/
COVID-19 Protocol

Always follow the CDC guidelines for your state and local government restrictions. When prepping supplies that will be distributed to kids, like the student pack, have a packing party. Volunteers can maintain physical distancing and wear gloves and masks as they pack supply kits. Safety first! If volunteers will deliver supplies to families, remind them to respect the 6-foot rule.

If you’re using the online content with a small group (such as a backyard Bible club), consider having a pool noodle for each child to use as a reminder to keep physical distance. Have wipes or disinfectant spray to frequently clean items. For instance, if you choose to lead games, have multiple sets of the games supplies so each Crew gets its own clean set. Also supply multiple hand-washing stations.

If you decide to include snack or want to recommend a fun treat for families to provide for their kids, consider preparing the daily Chew Chew Snack only using store bought items. For instance, on Day 3, instead of making the “coal,” purchase the Kellogg’s Cocoa Krispies® Treats (https://www.kelloggs.com/en_US/products/rkt-squares-cocoa-krispies-product.html). Of course, you can also supply the list of ingredients and a picture of the finished result so families can purchase and prepare the recommended Chew Chew Snacks from Rocky Railway.

Adjusting how we do ministry will allow for ministry to keep happening! Your kids and families will thank you. You’ve got this!

Budget

Reprioritize your budget. We know budgets are tight and some have been decreased or frozen—but there’s good news. You need to decorate only one space for an online VBS, dramatically decreasing your decorating budget! You’ll also save by not preparing snack. Strategically invest your reallocated budget in what matters most: the relationships we establish with the kids and the resources we send into their homes. Meaningful resources may be the only Scripture or faith-related anything in a family’s home! We’ll show you what student resources we recommend a little farther down the track.

**Supplement your budget.** While it may seem that many are pinching pennies, people are looking for ways to make a difference. Oftentimes a modest financial donation gives individuals a chance to feel like they’ve helped out, when the gift of time is something they don’t have. Give your church members the opportunity to play a key role in your VBS through sponsorships or donations. By reallocating your budget toward in-home resources for each child, you’ll be sure to reach entire families with hope and the message of Jesus!

**Recruiting & Staff Training**

**You still need volunteers for an online VBS!** Just rethink how to use them. As you recruit, make sure your Station Leaders are comfortable being livestreamed or recorded. A bonus of pre-recording is the Station Leader can have a “take two” if necessary!

Crew Leaders are still important in establishing relationships with children. Consider having them pack the student pack with VBS essentials like Bible Buddies, Imagination Station Gizmos, and Tracking With Jesus Bible Book and then deliver them to their Crew members. Packing and delivering five packs is easy (and requires less time) for most volunteers, who would’ve been committing closer to 15 hours of their time during a traditional VBS. Just think how excited children will be to get a visit, even if it is 6 feet from the front door of their home, plus a cargo pack of fun. And how cool to know they have a Crew Leader praying for them every day of VBS. Next-level the relational aspect by having Crew Leaders reach out to kids after each day of VBS, checking in on the fun they had.

**Your decorating team has only one or two spaces to decorate!** One simple “set” will do, unless you want to also follow the decorating setup given in the Bible Adventures Leader Manual.

**Shift your staff training to online.** Utilize platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Meet for your volunteer meetings. These platforms allow you to share your screen easily with a PowerPoint or Keynote, so you can get everyone onboard. Be sure to address how station supplies will be gathered and content livestreamed or pre-recorded. We’ve included two blank Rocky Railway slide images at groupsamples.com for you to easily create slides for your staff training. Just add a text box and type in your content or add images.

**Keep your church safety protocols in mind.** If you’re planning a backyard Bible club, it’s important to maintain best practices when it comes to child safety.

- Remember that all volunteers working with children need to have up-to-date background checks. Additionally, a child should never be left alone with a noncustodial adult—even in a home.
Coaching your home-based volunteers about your church’s safety protocols protects them, you as the leader, and your church—and most important, it keeps kids safe.

Shepherd’s Watch provides easy, affordable, and thorough background checks for VBS volunteers. Learn more at shepherdswatchbackgroundchecks.com.

**Resources**

**Student resources reinforce Bible truths long after VBS.** Focus on the important things—student items are the core resources of the VBS experience. Reinforcing what kids experience in the livestream or pre-recorded station videos is key to making learning stick. As a VBS leader, you understand how kids learn best! When we teach like Jesus, we use something tangible (things we see, hear, taste, touch) to make spiritual connections that last.

Here are the student resources you’ll need with the modified stations. Most items come in packages of 10. You’ll need one of each item per child to include in the student packs you create. Crank up the Sing & Play Music CD and have a fun packing party!

### On-Track Student Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elementary</th>
<th>Preschool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bible Memory Buddies (pkg incudes 10 sets of Buddies, enough for 10 kids)</td>
<td>Bible Memory Buddies (pkg incudes 10 sets of Buddies, enough for 10 kids)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracking With Jesus Bible Book</td>
<td>Billy Boxcars (pkg of 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bold Blaster (pkg of 10)</td>
<td>Buddies Forever Game (pkg of 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope ’n’ Hover (pkg of 10)</td>
<td>Fun Friends Puzzles (pkg of 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off-Rail Roller (pkg of 10)</td>
<td>Little Kids Bible Pack (Student Book) (50 sheets, enough for 10 kids)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perpetual Paper (pkg of 10)</td>
<td>Bold Blaster (pkg of 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power Band (enough for 10 kids)</td>
<td>Hope ’n’ Hover (pkg of 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Try This at Home Sticker Sheets (pkg of 10 sheets)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Order from your Group VBS supplier.
Allocate the money you save on the things you aren’t doing (such as decorating and snacks) to supply important student items. Get your church involved in building a VBS student pack for each child at your VBS. You can even add other fun items like sidewalk chalk to record God Sightings!

Decide how families will get student resources.
- Crew Leaders or other volunteers deliver the VBS student packs to the homes.
- Families drive through and pick up the VBS student pack at church.

Station resources enhance online experiences. There are a few poster packs that will visually reinforce what Station Leaders are saying. If you’re pre-recording the video segments, you need only one set of them.

- Sing & Play Express & Rocky Wrap-Up: Bible Point Poster*
- KidVid™ Cinema: Bible Verse Posters*
- Little Kids Depot Bible Adventures: Bible Point Poster*, Bible Story Posters*
- Little Kids Depot KidVid™ Cinema: Bible Point Poster*

Decorating

Decorating for Rocky Railway has just gotten a lot easier! You have to decorate only two spaces for an online VBS—the main set and (optionally) one other room for Bible Adventures.

Sing & Play Express, Imagination Station, KidVid™ Cinema, and Rocky Wrap-Up will all happen in the same space—we recommend using the main set area. Bible Adventures will be in another room.

Have station supplies ready to go on a table that can be easily carried or rolled into camera view. You’ll livestream or pre-record all station segments in those two spaces.

Here’s how to do it in a fast-track way!

Main Set Simple as 1-2-3!
1. Use the Rocky Railway Fabric Wall Hanging* to create your backdrop.
2. Create a 15-foot no-stress express using the Giant Train Poster Pack* mounted on foam core.

Main Set Next Level
1. Mount the Giant Bible Memory Buddy Posters* on foam core or cardboard.
2. Cut orange and yellow crepe paper* leaves to create awesome aspen trees out of tree branches and painted carpet tubes.
3. Design a depot with the Giant Decorating Poster Pack*.

*available from Group or your Group VBS supplier
Bible Adventures
While it’s not required, you may want to follow the day-by-day setup in the Bible Adventures Leader Manual. A few items you may not have in your supply closet:
- Big Blue Sky Fabric Wall Hanging*
- Stone Wall Plastic Backdrop*
- Wooden Plastic Table Cover*

Little Kids Depot
If you’re offering recordings just for preschool, you may want to decorate a wall in a room with the Bible Buddy Posters*, Bible Story Posters*, and Bible Verse Posters*. This will create visual interest when you lead Preschool Bible Adventures and Preschool KidVid™ Cinema.

Bonus: Decorating At-Home
Encourage your families to dig into their closets and get on Pinterest to create their own Rocky Railway environment! Have families take pictures of themselves in their own Rocky Mountains and post on your church’s social media. What a fun way to build community when we can’t be together!

Registration
Have kids preregister for VBS just as usual. Even though kids won’t be coming to your church, you still need to know who is participating. Set a deadline, ideally a week from the first day of your VBS. This will allow time for your packing party to create the VBS student pack and deliver them or have parents pick them up.

Your VBS Starter Kit comes with a free easy-to-use online management tool called VBS PRO, which includes registration. You can upgrade to VBS PRO Premium and auto-assign kids into Crews, allowing you to quickly give Crew Leaders the addresses they need if they’re delivering VBS student packs.

Follow-Up
Take the opportunity at the end of your VBS to reach families of children who don’t regularly attend your church. Kids love getting mail, so here’s a great way to invite them to participate in your weekly children’s ministry, as restrictions are lifted. They’ll be eager to get out and come to your church!

Use the themed clip art on the Clip Art & Resources CD to create a personal invitation from all the Bible Memory Buddies at Rocky Railway.

Full steam ahead and stay on track for planning your VBS!
ROCKY RAILWAY VBS PERMISSIONS FOR ONLINE VBS USE

GRANTED PERMISSIONS FOR ONLINE VBS PRESENTATIONS

Who can use these permissions?
These permissions are granted solely to the church or organization that purchased the Rocky Railway VBS starter kit.

What specific items are the permissions granted for?
Rocky Railway Songs, music videos, and lyrics:
- We Can Trust Him (Psalm 33:4)
- Power Shuffle
- Power in the Blood
- Your Power Will Pull Us Through
- This Train Is Bound for Glory
- In You Alone
- The Old Rugged Cross

Other Rocky Railway Media:
- Bible Memory Buddy Videos
- Rocky Railway Skits Videos
  (sold separately)
- KidVid™ Stories Videos

What types of online events do I have permission to use these items in?
- **Livestream Events**—online public or private presentations that occur one time live at a specific time.
- **Recorded Events**—online presentations publicly or privately available for viewing on demand.

How long are these permissions in effect?
You may take advantage of these permissions until 9/1/2020. Specific timing stipulations for the type of event are as follows:
- **Livestream Events**—Permission for one-time use for the duration of the live event until 9/1/2020.
- **Recorded Events**—Permissions granted for a 30-day period from the time the event is first posted online or 9/1/2020, whichever occurs first.
DENIED PERMISSIONS FOR ONLINE VBS PRESENTATIONS

Copyrights for the following music items are not owned by Group and we cannot provide permission for these items to be used in any online application whether audio or video or lyrics. If your church has a CCLI license agreement, you can contact the copyright holder and inquire about online rights for your church use. That copyright information can be found in the packaging of your Rocky Railway Sing & Play Express Music CD.

Rocky Railway Songs, music videos, and lyrics:
(The) Same Power
Everywhere I Go
Lions

Can I use these items in a downloadable presentation?
No. Permission is not granted for download use.

Can I use the Rocky Railway VBS media items for online presentations that are not related to VBS?
No. Permissions are only granted for online VBS use.
Leading Sing & Play Express Online

During this time of social distancing and less-than-fashionable face masks, the kids you serve need to be reminded: It’s Jesus’ power that pulls them through! So thanks for praising God and celebrating with your kids. You’ll introduce them to life-changing Bible truths, carefully crafted to be engaging, memorable, and centered on the remarkable power of Jesus.

Because you’re reaching out through a screen rather than in person, we’ve provided some quick suggestions about how to crank up the fun meter even though you’re not in the room with kids and, hopefully, their parents.

And that’s important: Involve family members. You’re not just providing entertainment—you’re sharing a time of family spiritual growth. Having parents and siblings involved allows for discussion, and that’s where connections and deep discoveries are made.

Ready? Let’s help kids discover that Jesus’ power makes all the difference! Let’s trust Jesus!

General Guidelines

- You’re the face of your church to your community, so have fun!
- While the activities in the manual were created for a 25-minute station, keep things a bit shorter for an online, at-home version. The following modifications will shorten your program. You also won’t have the extra time required to quiet kids after songs or take “in person” responses. Additionally, God Sightings can go much more quickly than they would with a large group.
- Your VBS Director will be sending home a Rocky Railway VBS student pack for kids to use throughout VBS at home. You may want to include sticky notes or another fun item for families to write their God Sightings on. Connect with your VBS Director to see about adding something simple to celebrate the ways families are seeing evidence of God (especially during such a challenging time!).
- Create a simple “set” for your videos or livestream. You can use the Rocky Railway Fabric Wall Hanging (super simple), or decorations your church had already created for VBS. Another easy option is the Giant Train Poster Pack, which allows you to create a 3D train in a snap!
- Mount the Bible Point Posters on foam core so you can have them on your “set” every day. Kids will love seeing these giant Buddies!
- Use the materials in your Sing & Play Express Leader Manual, combined with the following tips and modifications as you livestream or pre-record your session. You’ll find that most of the curriculum you already have will work just perfectly for this innovative setting!
When kids would normally talk about a question with their Crew, simply have them talk about it with any family members joining them for VBS. To make discussion time even easier, put the question onscreen so kids remember what to talk about.

If you’re pre-recording your sessions, hold up a fun “Pause” sign and have kids pause the recording while they talk about the questions. Interactions and discussions keep VBS from being just a video that kids watch. Plus, it helps build relationships at home and cement the daily Point.

Connect with your VBS Director to see what ideas he or she has for celebrating and displaying God Sightings. You’ll model this in your presentation.

If you’d like, drop in the daily skit videos. This content is available for purchase as a DVD, or as a download. Just contact Group or your Group VBS supplier.

Due to copyright restrictions, replace the songs “Everywhere I Go,” “Lions,” and “The Same Power” with other Rocky Railway songs. (We’ve given suggestions in the following modifications.)

Day 1

- Begin on page 12 of your Sing & Play Express Leader Manual. Continue through the “Talk About Trains” section.

- During the “Explore Jesus’ Power” section, omit having kids call out superpowers. However, if you’re on Facebook Live or Zoom, where kids can interact, you can keep this short activity.

- After kids watch the Buddy video during “Meet Bible Buddy Ramsey,” omit singing “Everywhere I Go.”

- Omit the “Choose Crew Jobs” section. You can wrap up with prayer, or direct kids to which VBS “station” they’ll experience next.

Day 2

- Rather than hang the God Sightings Poster, as noted on page 29, prepare the innovative way you and your VBS Director have planned to display God Sightings.

- Prepare your balloons, as noted on page 29.

- During the “Getting Everyone Aboard” section, omit the Crew huddle activity.

- For the “Share God Sightings” section, instead of motioning to the poster, show kids how you’re marking your God Sightings. After sharing your own, direct kids to take any necessary items from their student packs. Have parents or older siblings help write the God Sightings on the item while you play “We Can Trust Him.”

- Continue through the rest of the activities, then close in prayer or by telling kids which “station” they’ll experience next.
Day 3

- In the “Welcome Everyone Aboard” section, have kids and families come up with their own train whistle pattern. (You may have them videotape their train whistle patterns later and send them to you!)
- During the “Share God Sightings” section, play the song “We Can Trust Him.” Continue adding to your God Sightings display you began yesterday.
- After kids “Meet Bible Memory Buddy Sierra,” omit the song “Lions.” You can either move directly into your next station or replace it with another Rocky Railway favorite!

Day 4

- Follow the directions in the “Before Crews Steam Your Way...” section. Make the Never-Ending Bottle, and be sure to practice with it. Make sure your camera is close enough so kids can see the glass of water filling up.
- In the “Welcome Everyone Aboard” section, omit the song “The Same Power.” Instead, share today’s Bible verse with kids. The passage connects to the teakettle object lesson and mirrors the lyrics of the song.
- Continue adding to your God Sightings display, and guide kids to do the same. Replace “Everywhere I Go” with the song “We Can Trust Him.”
- After kids “Meet Bible Memory Buddy Finn,” have them give the “fishy five” to one person in the room with them.

Day 5

- For the “Make an Intercontinental Railway” section, simply have kids hold one arm in front of them to represent one side of the U.S. (elbow out, fingers touching their chest). Then guide them in holding their other arm out in the same way, representing the other side of the U.S. Let kids link their index fingers together to be “The Golden Spike.”
- After kids “Make an Intercontinental Railway,” lead them in singing “This Train Is Bound for Glory” rather than “We Can Trust Him.”
- While kids share and note their God Sightings, play the song “We Can Trust Him.”
- Hold up the Bible Point Posters to “Do a Quick Review.”
- Omit the “Celebrate Crew Leaders” section.
During this time of social distancing and less-than-fashionable face masks, the kids you serve need to be reminded: It’s Jesus’ power that pulls them through! So thanks for sharing these Bible stories with your kids. You’ll introduce kids to adventures that are carefully crafted to be engaging, memorable, and centered on the remarkable power of Jesus.

Because you’re reaching out through a screen rather than in person, we’ve provided some quick suggestions about how to crank up the fun meter even though you’re not in the room with kids and, hopefully, their parents.

And that’s important: Involve family members. As you lead these adventures, remember that you’re not just providing entertainment—you’re providing a time of family spiritual growth. Having parents and siblings involved allows for discussion, and that’s where connections and deep discoveries are made.

Ready? Let’s help kids discover that Jesus’ power makes all the difference! Let’s trust Jesus!

**General Guidelines**

- You’re the face of your church to your community, so have fun!
- While the activities in the manual were created for a 20-minute station, keep things a bit shorter for an online, at-home version. The following modifications will shorten your program. With a little less moving around—and fewer kids to move around all at once—things should move more quickly.
- Your VBS Director will be sending home a Rocky Railway VBS student pack for kids to use throughout VBS at home. This includes the Tracking With Jesus Bible Book, which features each of the daily Bible stories with eye-catching illustrations.
- Create a simple “set” for your videos or livestream. You can use the Rocky Railway Fabric Wall Hanging (super simple) or decorations your church had already created for VBS. Another easy option is the Giant Train Poster Pack, which allows you to create a 3D train in a snap!
- As you present, it’s a good idea for kids to be able to see all of you, not just your head and shoulders. This will allow you to lead kids with more drama and action.
- Use the materials in your Bible Adventures Leader Manual, combined with the following tips and modifications as you livestream or pre-record your session. You’ll find that most of the curriculum you already have will work well for this innovative setting!
When kids would normally talk about a question with their Crew, simply have them talk about it with any family members joining them for VBS. To make discussion time even easier, put the question onscreen so kids remember what to talk about.

If you’re pre-recording your sessions, hold up a fun “Pause” sign and have kids pause the recording while they talk about the questions. Interactions and discussions keep VBS from being just a video that kids watch. Plus, it helps build relationships at home and cement the daily Point.

Day 1

You can create the Bible-times home for your backdrop, following the instructions on page 5, but since kids won’t be in the setting, it’s not necessary.

Ideally, try to find a willing friend to take part in the drama with you as Ananias. You may even have Ananias join you on a Zoom call! If not, your biggest modification will be playing the role of the leader and Ananias. Because of kids’ big imaginations, it’s easy! When the time comes, tape your paper mustache to a straw and raise it to cover your lips when you’re speaking for Ananias.

Begin with the “Welcome Kids” section, starting by saying “When people come to see me, I want them to be comfortable.” Remember, if you’re pre-recording your station, direct kids to pause the video while they talk about the questions with whoever is “doing VBS” with them.

During the “Surprise!” section, instead of Ananias hiding behind the leader, have him duck behind a chair or potted plant—anything that won’t cover him.

For “Try a Trust Fall,” kids can pause the video (or you can pause while they try this if you’re livestreaming) and try it with someone in the room. If kids are watching alone, have them replace the trust fall with standing on one foot with their eyes closed.

As kids “Talk About Hard Things,” omit the activity where they share about the hard things aloud. Instead, direct kids to pages 6-7 of their Tracking With Jesus Bible Books. Pause while kids draw the hard thing they think of on a small piece of paper, then tape it over the thought bubble of angry Saul. Having them draw the hard thing that happened to them will pull kids in and help them focus.

Omit the Crew prayer time, replacing it by praying for all kids.

Since Ananias makes a return in the Rocky Wrap-Up, have Ananias (or you) record his script so the Rocky Wrap-Up leader can play the message for kids later. (Check with your VBS Director to see if you’ll be including the Rocky Wrap-Up as part of your online VBS experience.)
Day 2

- In the “All Aboard” section, in place of hauling boxes on a gangplank, have kids walk heel-to-toe while carrying sofa or chair cushions across the room and back to where they’re gathered (at the computer or TV).
- Guide kids through the “Set Sail” experience, demonstrating the actions yourself.
- At the end of the “Talk About Feeling Powerless” section, you can turn on a fan so kids see your clothing or hair move. You may ask them to fan themselves to create “wind” where they are!
- Omit the second question about Paul’s punishment from the “Hear From Prisoner Paul” section.
- When the storm begins at the end of “Hear From Prisoner Paul,” you can have an off-camera assistant mist you, or omit the mist. Omit having Crews come up with a plan while you visit Paul. Instead, quickly duck off-camera to “talk with Paul” and come right back.
- As kids “Sail a Stormy Sea,” rather than creating a storm with a spray bottle, have kids go to the kitchen sink, wet their fingers, and flick water into the air above themselves.
- During “Swim for Shore,” ask kids to head to the kitchen and come back with their own “sea biscuits,” which can be rice cakes, cereal, saltines, or graham crackers—whatever is on hand.
- Later during “Swim for Shore,” omit the question to kids about letting Paul live.
- Omit the last Crew question on page 17. Instead, ask kids and their families to pull out their Tracking With Jesus Bible Book. Direct them to look at the expressions on the faces of the disciples on page 14. Then have kids and parents tell about a time they looked like that. When have they felt that afraid? And in what ways did Jesus’ power give them hope?

Day 3

- For your set, the Temple Gate can be any doorway in your home or where you’re filming.
- For “All Aboard,” ask older kids or parents to carry the youngest person across the room and back. If kids are watching alone, direct them to find the largest stuffed animal or pillow they can and carry it across the room and back.
- During “Set the Stage,” omit the use of the jingling coins, as well as the question about which gift was better.
- During the dance celebration in “Set the Stage,” turn up the music as you move and praise God. Be sure to give at-home viewers a soundtrack!
- When kids “Make a Jail,” ask kids and their families to make a jail out of easily tipped chairs and a blanket and then crawl inside.
Omit the Crew Leader question during “Make a Jail,” but have viewers imagine how Peter and John felt about being locked up.

Omit the “Share Faith Stories” section. (Kids may not be at home with someone who has a faith story. However, if you want to share your faith story, this would be a good place to do so.)

Before your closing prayer, direct kids to open their Tracking With Jesus Bible Books to pages 23-26, focusing on the people’s faces. Have viewers point to the faces and say out loud what they think those people are thinking. Ask kids to talk about these questions:

- How do you think those people felt about Jesus?
- How do you feel about Jesus, and why?

Day 4

For this experience today, omit any use of Velcro. You’ll have kids use tape instead.

- Before beginning, have kids pause the video while they round up some paper, scissors, a pencil, and some masking tape.

For “Celebrate God’s Creations,” ask kids to quickly cut a heart from paper and write on it. Then have kids tape the heart to their clothing. Omit the reference to the soft Velcro, and the part where you call kids by name. Instead, have them say their names out loud. Or if they’re watching with family members, they can say family members’ names aloud.

- During “Separate From God,” motion to the heart you taped to your clothes. Rather than tearing the heart from the Velcro, have kids pull the tape away from their clothes and put the heart as far across the room as they can.

Omit the question “What did you hear?”

- Before you begin “Gather at the Old Rugged Cross,” ask kids to create a paper cross to attach to a wall. It can be large or small, drawn with markers on a large window, or simply masking tape on a wall. Tell kids to have an adult do the attaching so no paint or wallpaper is injured in the making of this session.

- During “Gather at the Old Rugged Cross,” omit shining the light and feeling the rough Velcro.

For the “Experience Separation” experience, follow the curriculum as written, but omit the Crew Leader affirmation. Instead, affirm everyone and let them come back to your “meeting space.”

- During the “Lay Down Our Trophies” activity, have kids go collect any trophies they have and lay those at the foot of their cross. No trophies? How about framed college degrees, prize ribbons, or “A+” papers taped to the refrigerator door?

- At the end of “Celebrate the Hope of Heaven,” have kids bring the heart from the beginning of the session and put it on the cross.
Omit the activity with the gems in “Celebrate the Hope of Heaven.” (However, if your VBS Director wants to include a gem in each child’s student pack, this would be a powerful closing!)

- Close by directing kids to the Day 4 story in their Tracking With Jesus Bible Books. Point out that this is the greatest story ever told! Encourage kids to use their book to share the story with someone they love today.

**Day 5**

- As you begin the “Play a Party Game,” first invite kids to spend one minute decorating their area for a party. Kids can use whatever they have around—scarves can become streamers draped over chairs, aluminum foil can make shiny decorations, and cereal boxes can represent gift boxes!
- For “Play a Party Game,” rather than have kids squeeze into a circle, have one child try to get past another person in a doorway. It’s hard to do! Modify the question to:
  - How did it feel to be kept out?
  - Tell about a time you felt left out in real life.

Be sure you tell your story first, then have kids pause the video to talk with whomever they just played with.

- In the “Hear About the First Christians” section, after you read Acts 2:42, direct kids to open their Tracking With Jesus Bible Books and look at pages 42 and 43. Ask:
  - How would you describe what you heard and what you see in this picture?

- Modify the “Figure Out Clues” activity by opening the gift boxes on camera and asking kids to think what these might be clues about. If you’re livestreaming on a platform where kids can respond, let them reply with guesses.
- During the “Figure Out Clues” section, due to copyright limitations, replace “Everywhere I Go” with “Power Shuffle.”

- Omit the paper heart Crew affirmation in “Figure Out Clues” and instead ask kids to grab paper and pencil and write a short affirming note to someone in their house or neighborhood.

- Omit the “All Together Now” section, but lead kids in the theme song as you wrap up.
LEADING PRESCHOOL BIBLE ADVENTURES ONLINE

During this time of social distancing and less-than-fashionable face masks, the preschoolers you serve need to be reminded: It’s Jesus’ power that pulls them through! So thanks for sharing these Bible stories with your kids. You’ll introduce preschoolers to adventures that are carefully crafted to be engaging, memorable, and centered on the remarkable power of Jesus.

Because you’re reaching out through a screen rather than in person, we’ve provided some quick suggestions about how to crank up the fun meter even though you’re not in the room with preschooler and, hopefully, their parents.

And that’s important: Involve family members. As you lead these adventures, remember that you’re not just providing entertainment—you’re providing a time of family spiritual growth. Having parents and siblings involved allows for discussion, and that’s where connections and deep discoveries are made.

Ready? Let’s help kids discover that Jesus’ power makes all the difference! Let’s trust Jesus!

General Guidelines

➢ You’re the face of your church to your community, so have fun!

➢ While the activities in the manual were created for a 25-minute station, keep things a bit shorter for an online, at-home version. The following modifications will shorten your program. With a little less moving around—and fewer preschoolers to move around all at once—things should move more quickly.

➢ Your VBS Director will be sending home a Rocky Railway VBS student pack for kids to use throughout VBS at home. This includes the Little Kids Preschool Pack, which features an eye-catching poster of each daily Bible story.

➢ Create a simple “set” for your videos or livestream. You can use the Rocky Railway Fabric Wall Hanging (super simple) or decorations your church had already created for VBS. Another easy option is the Giant Train Poster Pack, which allows you to create a 3D train in a snap!

➢ As you present, it’s a good idea for preschoolers to be able to see all of you, not just your head and shoulders. This will allow you to lead kids with more drama and action.

➢ Use the materials in your Little Kids Preschool Bible Adventures & Missions Leader Manual combined with the following tips and modifications as you livestream or pre-record your session. You’ll find that most of the curriculum you already have will work well for this innovative setting!
Some questions are a “call-out” response, where preschoolers might chime in with short responses. It’s okay to ask these, even if you can’t hear and respond to preschoolers’ answers. Just pause to let them joyfully call out their answers to family members.

When preschoolers would normally talk about a question with their Crew, simply have them talk about it with any family members joining them for VBS. To make discussion time even easier, put the question onscreen so parents remember what to talk about.

If you’re pre-recording your sessions, hold up a fun “Pause” sign and have grown-ups pause the video while they talk about the questions. Interactions and discussions keep VBS from being just a video that kids watch. Plus, it helps build relationships at home and cement the daily Point.

Day 1

Omit setting out blankets.

Ideally, try to find a willing friend to take part in the drama with you as Saul. You may even have Saul join you on a Zoom call! If not, your biggest modification will be playing the roles of Saul and Ananias. Because of preschoolers’ big imaginations, it’s easy! Wear a Bible-times costume, and when the time comes, add an element that you can take off or cover up as you switch to Saul, such as a fabric belt or a paper mustache.

Begin with the “Talk About Trains” section, starting by saying “Welcome, travelers, to Little Kids Depot!” No need to point out mountain scenery. Also remember, if you’re pre-recording your station, direct grown-ups to pause the video while they talk about the questions together.

In the “Sing the Welcome Song” section, omit the explanation of Crews and just have everyone stand up and sing.

During the “Meet Billy and Sing a Song” section, zoom in on the poster of Billy to be sure it can be seen on kids’ screens.

Omit the reference to going to Sing & Play with the big kids.

Omit the “Meet Your Crew” section.

In the “Learn the Bible Point and Meet Ramsey” section, zoom in on the Bible Point Poster so it’s easy to see on a computer screen. (If you’ll have kids watch the Sing & Play Express session along with older kids today, you can omit the Buddy video, since they will already have seen it then.)

For “Begin the Bible Adventure,” kids can still shout out answers to your question about mean people they’ve seen on TV. No need to pause for this question. However, do pause the video and have kids share with their families for the other questions in this section.

Also in “Begin the Bible Adventure,” while walking around the room, have kids stop when you do. Have family members lead preschoolers with their eyes closed where it asks Crew Leaders to do so.

Omit the reference to snack time.
Day 2

- Omit the Operation Kid-to-Kid™ aspects of this lesson.
- Omit all setup except for hanging the posters and bookmarking your Bible.
- In “Sing the Welcome Song,” omit Crews greeting one another.
- In the “Climb Aboard” section, omit the question about changing your name.
- During “Climb Aboard,” when you say, “Let’s climb aboard our ships,” let preschoolers know they’ll need to quickly build a ship and find an ocean. A ship can be a couch cushion or large pillow, and the ocean can be a towel, sheet, or blanket. Give a moment for someone to run and grab the items before you guide families in the experience.
- As families “Sail Into a Storm,” let them get their fingers wet and flick water drops on preschoolers in place of spray bottles. Preschoolers can also grab nearby objects in the room, such as pillows, to toss out of the boat in place of the boxes.
- During “Share the Hope,” let a family member run and grab crackers or a handful of cereal for the “sailors.” Have family members discuss all questions directed toward Crews. Remember to pause the video if you’re pre-recording to allow time.
- Continue through the “Swim to Shore” section. During this activity, all family members can count those present together. As you talk about how frightened the sailors were, you may want to hold up the Day 2 mini-poster from the preschool student page since preschoolers will have this at home. Point out how scared the men were!
- Omit references to Exploration Stations and snack time.

Day 3

- Omit setting out blankets.
- In “Sing the Welcome Song,” omit Crews greeting one another.
- Omit the “Learn About Operation Kid-to-Kid” section.
- After you “Sing the Welcome Song,” go right into the “Dance and Celebrate!” section.
- Omit the questions in the “Dance and Celebrate!” section.
- Before you “Gather a Crowd,” hold up the mini-poster from the preschool student book. Point out how joyful and happy the people look when Peter and John helped the man!
- For “Gather a Crowd,” guide family members (rather than Crews) to rush to one side of the room and back. Small families may want individuals to take several turns. Have families pause the video if you’re pre-recording to allow time.
- During the “Put Peter and John in Jail” section, preschoolers can wrap their arms entirely around the person in jail. The oldest family member can take the role of Crew Leaders. (Or you can guide families to make a simple “jail” with chairs.)
During “Boldly Tell Others,” families make a circle when Crew members are directed to do so.

Rather than pointing to the Bible Poster, hold up the mini-poster from the preschool student pages, since preschoolers will have this at home.

Omit references to snack time.

Day 4

Omit setting out blankets.

Include supplies intended for preschoolers to interact with, but you won’t need one per child or Crew. You will need three dot stickers for yourself.

Begin with “Sing the Welcome Song.”

Omit the “Talk About Operation Kid-to-Kid” section.

Tell families they’ll need to grab a few simple supplies to help you explore today’s story. Families will need tape and something to make a cross. They can use masking tape or painter’s tape on a wall, make a large paper cross from wrapping paper, or even draw a cross with washable markers on a window. Have families pause the video while they get their supplies. You’ll need these supplies, too.

In the “Talk About Wrong Choices” section, omit reference to the part of the room decorated for a party. Guide families to put pieces of tape on their shirts rather than dot stickers.

During “Hide When Jesus Is Arrested,” preschoolers can hide somewhere in the room.

In “Put Jesus in the Tomb,” use a spike and piece of wood to demonstrate. Omit having kids wrap dolls and place them in the box. Instead, demonstrate this, and encourage preschoolers to pretend to do the same.

In “Celebrate That Jesus Saved Us!” let preschoolers and grown-ups remove their tape pieces and put them on whatever cross they made while you play the song.

Omit the party in heaven. (However, if you want families to celebrate with a snack, play the Sing & Play Express songs while they have their own party!)

Omit references to snack time.
Day 5

⚠️ Omit setting out blankets.

- Begin with “Sing the Welcome Song,” directing preschoolers and grown-ups to interact.

- For the “Add New Friends” section, have one person in each family stand, and have them add individuals instead of Crews. If only two are participating, have them name family or friends and pretend to add them to their group.

- During “Enjoy Being Together,” hold up the mini-poster from the preschool student page, rather than the Bible Story Poster. Let families take on Crew roles. Instead of having Crews pray, lead a prayer for everyone.

- In “Help Our Friends,” families can use blankets or towels to pull the oldest member of their family around the room. If families don’t have enough people to pull, they can put an object on the blanket or towel that would be hard for one person to pull alone. Remember to have families pause the video if you’re pre-recording to allow time.

⚠️ Omit the snack in the “Help Our Friends” section.

⚠️ Omit references to snack time.
LEADING KIDVID™ CINEMA ONLINE

During this time of social distancing and less-than-fashionable face masks, the kids you serve need to be reminded: It’s Jesus’ power that pulls them through! So thanks for sharing these true stories of real kids with your kids. You’ll cement Bible truths through video and experiences that are carefully crafted to be engaging, memorable, and centered on the remarkable power of Jesus.

Because you’re reaching out through a screen rather than in person, we’ve provided some quick suggestions about how to crank up the fun meter even though you’re not in the room with kids and, hopefully, their parents.

And that’s important: Involve family members. As you lead these experiences, remember that you’re not just providing entertainment—you’re providing a time of family spiritual growth. Having parents and siblings involved allows for discussion, and that’s where connections and deep discoveries are made.

Ready? Let’s help kids discover that Jesus’ power makes all the difference! Let’s trust Jesus!

General Guidelines

- You’re the face of your church to your community, so have fun!
- While the activities in the manual were created for a 20-minute station, keep things a bit shorter for an online, at-home version. The following modifications will shorten your program. With a little less moving around—and fewer kids to move around all at once—things should move more quickly.
- Your VBS Director will be sending home a Rocky Railway VBS student pack for kids to use throughout VBS at home. Check to see if this includes the Watch for God Wristband, a wearable reminder to look for evidence of God every day and everywhere.
- The student pack should also include daily Bible Memory Buddies. Kids will have “met” these fun characters during each day’s Sing & Play opening.
- Create a simple “set” for your videos or livestream. You can use the Rocky Railway Fabric Wall Hanging (super simple) or decorations your church had already created for VBS. Another easy option is the Giant Train Poster Pack, which allows you to create a 3D train in a snap!
- As you present, it’s a good idea for kids to be able to see all of you, not just your head and shoulders. This will allow you to lead kids with more drama and action.
- Use the materials in your KidVid™ Cinema Leader Manual, combined with the following tips and modifications as you livestream or pre-record your session. You’ll find that most of the curriculum you already have will work well for this innovative setting!
KidVid is where kids learn about God Sightings, and receive their Watch for God Wristband (include one in each student pack). Be sure to wear one yourself, too!

When kids would normally talk about a question with their Crew, simply have them talk about it with any family members joining them for VBS. To make discussion time even easier, put the question onscreen so kids remember what to talk about.

If you’re pre-recording your sessions, hold up a fun “Pause” sign and have kids pause the recording while they talk about the questions. Interactions and discussions keep VBS from being just a video that kids watch. Plus, it helps build relationships at home and cement the daily Point.

Day 1

Welcome kids in the “Welcome Crews” section, then skip down into the middle of the “Watch for God” section. Omit talking about the classroom setting, but pick up as you say, “We’re discovering that we can observe God…”

Omit the Crew distribution of wristbands. Instead, in the “Watch for God” section, have kids find the Watch for God wristband if you’ve included it in the VBS student pack and slip it on.

Continue through the “Watch the KidVid Stories DVD” segment, remembering to put the follow-up question onscreen and encouraging kids to pause the video if you’re pre-recorded.

Omit the lower half of page 8, beginning with the question. You’ll pick back up at the top of page 9.

Lead kids in “Explore the Bible Verse.” Give kids a chance to grab a Bible if they have one at home, look up the passage, then read it aloud (in case kids are non-readers or don’t have a Bible.)

Ask the question in “Explore the Bible Verse,” then share your story. Rather than the Crew affirmation at the end of page 9, direct kids to think about something hard they’d like to try. As they do, have them take the Ramsey Bible Memory Buddy from their student packs. Have kids hold Ramsey in their hands, as they think about that difficult thing they need Jesus’ help to try. Lead kids in personalizing the verse, saying out loud “[Name], you can do everything through Christ, who strengthens you.” If kids have siblings or parents at home, encourage them to speak the affirmation to each other.

Day 2

Begin with the first two sections as written, modifying for kids at home and not in Crews. If you play an instrument, you may want to have it on hand to show kids!

As kids talk about the follow-up questions after the video, be sure to put the two questions onscreen.
During “Explore the Bible Verse,” give kids a chance to grab a Bible and look up Psalm 31:24 with you. Be sure to read it aloud for non-readers or kids who don’t have Bibles at home.

Omit the first question after the verse but put the second one onscreen for kids to talk about at home.

After kids have shared, you’ll see the phrase “We all need Jesus.” After saying this, direct kids to take the Ava Bible Memory Buddy from their student packs.

Omit the paragraph after “We all need Jesus,” and instead remind kids that Ava’s wings take her high, where she has a new perspective. Point out that hope gives us a fresh perspective, too! Then continue with the paragraph that begins “I love that Jesus’ power can give us strength and courage.”

Have kids hold their Ava Bible Memory Buddies in their outstretched “wings” as you do the “Closing Prayer.”

Day 3

“Welcome Crews,” then move into “Create Cheers.” Give kids and families a chance to create a cheer with their family name in it. If your church has a private Facebook group, parents may want to post their family’s cheer there!

Begin the “Watch the KidVid Stories DVD,” but omit the paragraph that begins “I really liked Lauren’s story,” through the question about serving in a community kitchen.

Continue through the “Explore the Bible Verse” section. Allow kids time to get a Bible and look up Isaiah 40:29 with you.

Challenge kids to come up with a bold way they can serve Jesus. Instead of just sharing it in the activity on page 21, have kids pause the video while they write or draw it on a window or mirror in washable marker.

Before the “Closing Prayer,” direct kids to take the Sierra Bible Memory Buddy from their student packs and set it across the room from where they’re sitting. Challenge kids to make bold mountain lion leaps across the room, saying the Bible Point as they do. Once kids have retrieved their Sierra Buddies, they’ll join you for the “Closing Prayer.”

Day 4

During “Explore the Bible Verse,” allow time for kids to get a Bible and look up Romans 8:11 with you.

Continue through the “Watch the KidVid Stories DVD” segment, omitting the last question on page 25.

Before the “Closing Prayer,” have family members give each other a “grand old hug.” Family members can take out the Finn Bible Memory Buddy and hand it to kids (or siblings can hand it to each other), saying the verse that’s written on the back to each other.
Day 5

⚠️ Continue through the “Watch the KidVid Stories DVD” section, omitting the first two follow-up questions after the DVD.

- During “Explore the Bible Verse,” give kids time to get a Bible and look up John 15:12 with you.

- Before kids review during “Explore the Bible Verse,” ask them to grab a pencil and five index cards, small pieces of paper, or sticky notes. Ask kids to write or draw the answers to each of the review questions, then put the piece of paper into their Tracking With Jesus Bible Books. Challenge kids to do the things they wrote later in the summer.

⚠️ Omit the train activity before the “Closing Prayer.” Instead, have kids take all of their Bible Memory Buddies (including Lawrence Elk) from their student packs. Demonstrate how to connect the notches on each stand to make a loop that will fit over your fingertips, sort of like finger puppets. Have kids hold up their Buddies as you lead the “Closing Prayer.”
LEADING PRESCHOOL KIDVID™
CINEMA ONLINE

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Because you’re reaching out through a screen rather than in person, we’ve provided some quick suggestions about how to crank up the fun meter even though you’re not in the room with preschoolers and, hopefully, their parents.

And that’s important: Involve family members. As you lead these experiences, remember that you’re not just providing entertainment—you’re providing a time of family spiritual growth. Having parents and siblings involved allows for discussion, and that’s where connections and deep discoveries are made.

Ready? Let’s help preschoolers discover that Jesus’ power makes all the difference! Let’s trust Jesus!

General Guidelines

› You’re the face of your church to your community, so have fun!
› While the activities in the manual were created for a 20-minute station, keep things a bit shorter for an online, at-home version. The following modifications will shorten your program. With a little less moving around—and fewer kids to move around all at once—things should move more quickly.
› Your VBS Director will be sending home a Rocky Railway VBS student pack for preschoolers to use throughout VBS at home. The student packs should include daily Bible Memory Buddies. Kids will have “met” these fun characters during each day’s Sing & Play opening. Connect with your VBS Director to get a list of everything included in the student packs, such as carabiners for holding Bible Memory Buddies or Watch for God Wristbands.
› Create a simple “set” for your videos or livestream. You can use the Rocky Railway Fabric Wall Hanging (super simple) or decorations your church had already created for VBS. Another easy option is the Giant Train Poster Pack, which allows you to create a 3D train in a snap! It’s a great idea to have the Bible Memory Buddy Posters on your set, too.
› As you present, it’s a good idea for kids to be able to see all of you, not just your head and shoulders. This will allow you to lead kids with more drama and action.
Use the materials in your Preschool KidVid™ Cinema Leader Manual, combined with the following tips and modifications as you livestream or pre-record your session. You'll find that most of the curriculum you already have will work well for this innovative setting!

- Some questions are a “call-out” response, where preschoolers might chime in with short responses. It’s okay to ask these, even if you can’t hear and respond to preschoolers’ answers. Just pause to let them joyfully call out their answers to family members.
- When preschoolers would normally talk about a question with their Crew, simply have them talk about it with any family members joining them for VBS. To make discussion time even easier, put the question onscreen so parents remember what to talk about.
- If you’re pre-recording your sessions, hold up a fun “Pause” sign and have kids pause the recording while they talk about the questions. Interactions and discussions keep VBS from being just a video that kids watch. Plus, it helps build relationships at home and cement the daily Point.

Day 1
- Welcome kids in the “Welcome Kids” section. Pause while they tell a family member what makes them special.

  Before preschoolers “Watch the KidVid Stories DVD,” omit the question about sports and games. Simply share a few sports and games that preschoolers like to play.

  Omit the question about what hard things Dominic did. Direct parents to pause the video while they talk about the next question.

- Continue through the “Lead Bible Verse Actions,” and into “Lead Ram-bunctious Preschoolers.”

- In the “Receive a Bible Memory Buddy” section, it’s a great idea to have a helper demonstrate how you want parents to give their preschoolers the Bible Memory Buddy. Direct parents to find the Ramsey Bible Memory Buddy in the student packs, and give their child the buddy in the way you demonstrate.

- Wrap up with the “Close in Prayer” section.

Day 2

- Begin with the first two sections as written, modifying for kids at home and not in Crews. If you play an instrument, you may want to have it on hand to show kids!

  Omit the “Tell about that” part of the first question.

- As preschoolers talk with their parents after the video, be sure to put the two questions onscreen for parents.

- During the “Play Hawk-Eye Spy” activity, “spy” something on your set instead of something a child is wearing. Then allow a minute for families to play “I Spy” together.
Direct parents to take the Ava Bible Memory Buddy from the
student packs.
Have a helper demonstrate how parents will give the Bible Memory
Buddy to their child.
For the “Close With a Cheer” section, have family members
cheer together.

Day 3

Begin with the first two sections as written, pausing for a few
seconds for preschoolers to call out “ups” and “downs.”

⚠️ Omit the first question in the “Watch the KidVid Stories DVD” section.
Allow time for families to talk about the second set of questions.
“Lead Bible Verse Actions,” and then continue into “Lead
Jumping Cats.”

⚠️ Omit the question about cats. Instead, lead kids in simply acting like
cats for a minute. Omit the question about Sierra acting like a cat.

Direct parents to get the Sierra Bible Memory Buddy from the
student packs. Have a helper demonstrate how parents will give the
Sierra Buddy to their “leaping” preschoolers.
Have parents play the role of Crew Leader in the “Close With a
Cheer” section.

Day 4

Lead the first two sections as written, pausing so families can
discuss the question about heaven. (Remember, if you’re pre-
recorded, direct parents to pause your video so they can talk.)
Continue through “Lead the Bible Verse Actions” and “Introduce Finn.”
Direct parents to take the Finn Bible Memory Buddy from the
student packs.
Demonstrate how parents will give Finn to their preschoolers, as
directed in the “Introduce Finn” section.
Lead preschoolers in making fishy “hands” and praying, as directed
on page 25.

Day 5

Modify the question in “Talk About VBS Friends” to be “Who are
some friends you like to play with?” Pause while kids and parents say
the name of their friends.

⚠️ Continue through “Watch the KidVid Stories DVD,” but omit the
question about Renee and Alina. You may list some of the ways you
saw the girls being good friends.
In “Lead Bible Verse Actions,” have preschoolers hug any family
members who are nearby, rather than a Crew. Continue through
“Introduce Lawrence Elk.”
Omit the question about people who are in their “herd.”

- Direct parents to take the Lawrence Elk Bible Memory Buddy from the student packs. Demonstrate with a helper how parents will take the role of Crew Leaders, giving their child the Buddy in a special way.
- Have families “Close With a Herd Hug” while you pray.
LEADING IMAGINATION STATION ONLINE

General Guidelines

- You’re the face of your church to your community, so have fun!
- Imagination Station is a time for sciency-fun wows, discovery, and creation. As you lead these activities online, be sure to give time for kids to do and experience along with you as much as possible.
- Need inspiration? You can watch our dynamite Imagination Station Leader, Shannon, lead these activities. What an easy way to see just how fun they are! Just head to groupsamples.com/ModifiedVBS to download the video.
- Spark imagination by creating a simple “set” for your videos or livestream. You can use the Rocky Railway Fabric Wall Hanging (super simple), decorations your church had already created for VBS, or the Giant Decorating Poster Pack. (Your VBS Director may have already created a set for all your VBS videos.)
- Use the materials in your Imagination Station Leader Manual combined with the following tips and modifications as you livestream or pre-record your session. You’ll find that most of the curriculum you already have will work just perfectly for this innovative setting!
- When kids would normally talk about a question with their Crew, simply have them talk about it with any family members joining them for VBS.
- If you’re pre-recording your sessions, hold up a fun “Pause” sign and have kids pause the recording while they talk about the questions. Interactions and discussions keep VBS from being just a video that kids watch. Plus, it helps build relationships at home and cement the daily Point.
- While you won’t need the firebox posters, plan to hold up each day’s Talk-Starter Poster so kids can see the two options. You may want to add these to your set each day.
- Be sure to try each Imagination Station experiment and Sciency-Fun Gizmo ahead of time, as directed in your leader manual.

Day 1

- You will not need the following supplies:
  - cotton balls
  - bowls for holding cotton balls
  - Train Track Stampers
  - Giant Ink Pads
  - large sheet of craft paper
Begin with “Got Imagination?” and ask kids if they’ve brought their imaginations. Omit the activity where leaders throw cotton balls.

Omit “Talk About Talk-Starters.”

Begin with “Answer Talk- Starter Questions,” but omit the conversation about voting with the beads and fireboxes. Begin with “Ready for our first question.” Hold up the Day 1 Talk-Starter Poster so kids can see the two options. Ask kids to pause while they talk about their votes with others nearby. (If you’re doing this live, pause for about 30 seconds.)

Kids will simply talk about their answers, rather than vote. (If you’re using a platform such as Zoom or Facebook Live that allows kids to chime in, they can share their votes with the group each day!)

Continue to the end of the section, sharing the correct answer. Omit reference to the Power Beads at this point (even though kids will make the bracelets later in the week).

For the “Making Tracks” section, guide kids to make tracks on any sheet of paper at home. Direct kids to pause the video (if you’re recorded) while they run and grab paper and a pencil or marker. Let kids draw train tracks on the sheet of paper.

Guide kids through the “Off-Rail Rollers” section, then wrap up your session with “Take the Fun Home.”

Day 2

You will not need the following supplies:

- sheets of foam board or plastic lids
- small bottles of bubble solution for every Crew
- bubble machine (although this is fun if you have one!)

Begin with “Got Imagination?” but omit having leaders make a breeze over kids’ heads.

“Answer Talk-Starter Questions,” beginning with “Okay, here we go!” Hold up the Day 2 Talk-Starter Poster so kids can see the two options. Ask kids to pause the video while they talk about their votes with others nearby. (If you’re doing this live, pause for about 30 seconds.)

Continue to the end of the section, sharing the correct answer.

For the “Bubble Bonanza” blow bubbles or use a bubble machine, if you have one. Omit blowing bubbles over kids, but be sure your camera gets a close-up of some of the bubbles you’re blowing. Guide kids in the conversation about why bubbles are spheres.
Lead kids through the “Hope ‘n’ Hovers” section, guiding them in creating their Sciency-Fun Gizmos. Allow time for kids to decorate their own Hope ‘n’ Hovers with markers, crayons, or whatever craft supplies they have at home.

Continue through the “Take the Fun Home” section.

Day 3

You will not need the following supplies:
- Mardi Gras bead necklaces
- paper cups
- Glue Dots
- hula hoops

Lead kids through the “Got Imagination?” section, being sure to do the jumping along with kids. Continue all the way through the “Answer Talk-Starter Question” experience. Hold up the poster so kids can see the options. Be sure to direct kids to pause the video, or pause your livestream, to allow kids to talk about their answers.

Demonstrate the chain experiment in “A Matter of Momentum.” Omit having kids try the momentum experiment with the bead chain and cup. You may want to follow the instructions for a smaller version of the momentum experiment, using a piece of yarn, a cup, and beads (from page 23, just above the “Bold Blasters” section). Tell kids they can try this at home with similar items.

Lead kids through the “Bold Blaster” section, wrapping up with “Take the Fun Home.”

Day 4

Begin with “Got Imagination?” and go straight through the “Answer Talk-Starter Question” section. (When kids make their fishy faces, you might have them ask a parent to take a picture of their face to share with you—especially if your VBS has a private Facebook page or locked site for sharing fun photos! Or, if you’re streaming live on Facebook Live, parents can share the picture right away.)

Complete the “Never-Ending Bottle” section, but simply have kids think about hard things rather than shout them out.

Guide kids through the “Perpetual Papers” section. Have kids pause the video when it’s time to draw or share. If you’re livestreaming, play music for a minute or two while kids draw or share through the experience.

Omit the last paragraph of the “Perpetual Papers” section, and wrap up with “Take the Fun Home.”
Day 5

- You will not need green paper.

For the “Got Imagination?” section, rather than throwing the green paper, have kids run to touch a plant, fruit, or vegetable in their house. It might be a flower, a houseplant, or a bag of carrots. Then have them run back to the computer.

- Guide kids in “Answer the Talk-Starter Question,” having them pause the video, if necessary, to talk about their votes. Be sure you hold up the Day 5 poster so kids can see the options to choose from.

- Tell kids to pause the video, if necessary, and round up a pair of kid-friendly scissors and some tape. Let kids know they’ll also need a family member to lend a hand.

- Guide kids through the “Make Power Bands” and “Take the Fun Home” sections.
LEADING ROCKY WRAP-UP ONLINE

During this time of social distancing and less-than-fashionable face masks, the kids you serve need to be reminded: It’s Jesus’ power that pulls them through! So thanks for praising God and celebrating with your kids. You’ll introduce them to life-changing Bible truths, carefully crafted to be engaging, memorable, and centered on the remarkable power of Jesus.

Because you’re reaching out through a screen rather than in person, we’ve provided some quick suggestions about how to crank up the fun meter even though you’re not in the room with kids and, hopefully, their parents.

And that’s important: Involve family members. You’re not just providing entertainment—you’re sharing a time of family spiritual growth. Having parents and siblings involved allows for discussion, and that’s where connections and deep discoveries are made.

Ready? Let’s help kids discover that Jesus’ power makes all the difference! Let’s trust Jesus!

General Guidelines

› You’re the face of your church to your community, so have fun!

› While the activities in the manual were created for a 25-minute station, keep things a bit shorter for an online, at-home version. The following modifications will shorten your program. You also won’t have the extra time required to quiet kids after songs or take “in person” responses.

› Your VBS Director will be sending home a Rocky Railway VBS student pack for kids to use throughout VBS at home. Connect with your VBS Director to see how you can add in other supplies such as the train track challenge sheets for Day 1.

› To keep this wrap-up short, we’ve moved kids receiving Bible Memory Buddies into KidVid™ Cinema. So you’ll omit all activities related to Crew Leaders handing out Bible Memory Buddies.

› Create a simple “set” for your videos or livestream. You can use the Rocky Railway Fabric Wall Hanging (super simple) or decorations your church had already created for VBS. Another easy option is the Giant Train Poster Pack, which allows you to create a 3D train in a snap!

› Mount the Bible Point Posters on foam core so you can have them on your “set” every day. Kids will love seeing these giant Buddies!

› Use the materials in your Rocky Wrap-Up Leader Manual combined with the following tips and modifications as you livestream or pre-record your session. You’ll find that most of the curriculum you already have will work just perfectly for this innovative setting!

› If some of the “wow” closings seem daunting, have no fear! Check out our simple tutorials at group.com/vbsTools. You can do it!
When kids would normally talk about a question with their Crew, simply have them talk about it with any family members joining them for VBS. To make discussion time even easier, put the question onscreen so kids remember what to talk about.

If you’re pre-recording your sessions, hold up a fun “Pause” sign, and have kids pause the recording while they talk about the questions. Interactions and discussions keep VBS from being just a video that kids watch. Plus, it helps build relationships at home and cement the daily Point.

Due to copyright restrictions, replace the songs “Everywhere I Go,” “Lions,” and “The Same Power” with other Rocky Railway songs. (We’ve given suggestions in the following modifications.)

**Day 1**

- Be sure you’ve sent home the tricky train track handouts, with the pre-cut slits (see prep on page 17). Each household will need at least two sheets.
- Begin with “Welcome Travelers.”
- **Omit “Watch the Spotlight Show,” “Tell About Bible Memory Buddies,” and “Hand Out Bible Memory Buddies.”**
- Lead the “Train Track Ch-Ch-Ch-Challenge.” Direct kids to look in their student packs for the set of tracks. Let kids try the challenge, as written.
- **Omit the question at the top of page 20, but share your own story of a time something seemed easy but was actually hard. Direct kids to think of a time that was true for them.**
- **Let kids complete the challenge (with the “track tearing tip”), but omit the follow-up questions. Omit the Crew affirmation at the end of this section.**
- If your Bible Adventures Leader has recorded the message from Ananias, play it here. Or, a Bible character portraying Ananias could “Zoom” in on your livestream! If not, it’s okay to omit this part.
- Continue through the “Remind About God Sightings” section, then close with the first paragraph from “Come to the End of the Line.”

**Day 2**

- **You won’t need the Panning Packs, or the volunteer.**
- Lead the “Give a Powerful Welcome” section.
- **Omit “Highlight God Sightings and Operation Kid-to-Kid.”**
- Lead “Review and Sing.”
- **Omit “Bring Out the Buddies.”**
Use the first line of the “Hope Is Golden” skit. Then modify the experience to have kids race around and look for things that are shiny in their homes—aluminum foil, the refrigerator, the top of a soda can…anything! Demonstrate your silly “happy dance,” as written in the skit. Play “This Train Is Bound for Glory” while kids search.

Continue into the “Talk About It” section. Post the questions from this section and have kids and family members talk about them while they pause the video (or while you wait). End this section (and your station) with “In You Alone,” as written.

Omit “Come to the End of the Line.”

Day 3

- Follow the opening “Give a Bold Welcome.”
- Omit “Watch the Spotlight Show” and “Bring Out the Buddies.”
- Follow the activity in “Experience the Bridge Challenge.” If you’re livestreaming on a platform that allows kids to respond, ask kids the “back-and-forth” questions and have them reply. If you’re pre-recording yourself on video, you can omit these questions.
- Omit “Let Crews Build Bridges.” However, you may want to have kids pause your video and round up two cereal boxes, a sheet of paper, and a small ball or toy car (even a small ball of aluminum foil will work). Using these simple supplies, kids can try the Bridge Challenge at home!
- Close by singing “Power in the Blood.”
- Omit “Highlight God Sightings and Operation Kid-to-Kid” and “Come to the End of the Line.”

Day 4

- Prepare the buffer stop/cross and train tracks, as directed on page 61.
- Find a volunteer to portray Jesus, and practice the “Experience the Drama of the Cross” with him.
- Omit “Watch the Spotlight Show.”
- Lead the “Review and Sing” section.
- Omit “Give a Cheer” and “Bring Out the Bible Memory Buddies.”
- Use the “Step Toward the End of the Line” section. Skip the “call-outs” from Crew Leaders and kids, filling these in yourself.
- Follow the “Experience the Drama of the Cross” section. Rather than Crew Leaders drawing on kids’ hands, direct kids to mark on their own hands, or have another family member make the mark. During the prayer, direct kids to hold their hands in front of them.
- Omit “Remember Operation Kid-to-Kid” and “Come to the End of the Line.”
Day 5

- Begin with “Give a Rockin’ Welcome.”
- **Omit** “Watch the Spotlight Show,” “Share God Sightings,” “Sing & Celebrate,” and “Bring Out the Buddies.”
- Lead kids in “Make a Connection.” Kids can try this with their families at home.
- Continue through “Watch the Power of Jesus in Action.” Omit the “What did you see?” question, but let kids talk about the second question.
- **Omit** the “Celebrate Operation Kid-to-Kid” section.
- Close by singing “Your Power Will Pull Us Through.”