Online VBS Guide
Adapting Rocky Railway into a VBS-at-home experience

ROCKY RAILWAY
JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH

Group
Real Bold Love
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-Starters 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-Starters 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.