Online VBS Guide

Adapting Rocky Railway into a VBS-at-home experience

ROCKY RAILWAY
JESUS' POWER PULLS US THROUGH

Group
Real Bold Love
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.

Day 3

Follow the opening “Give a Bold Welcome.”

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.”

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.”