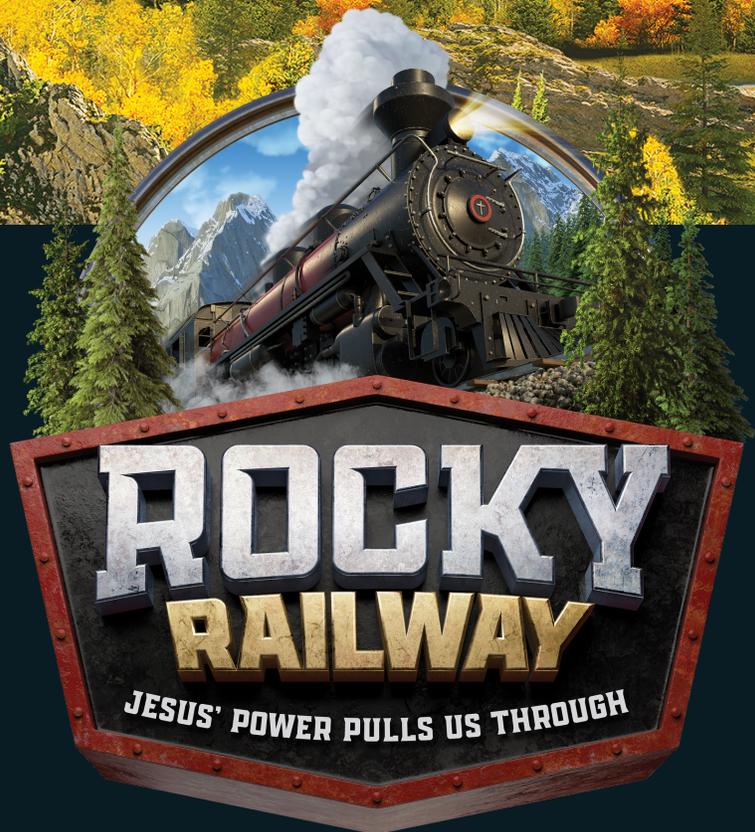




Preschool
Craft & Play
DAY 4



BIBLE POINT

Day 4

Jesus' power lets us live forever.

Bible Story: Jesus' death and resurrection. (Matthew 26:17–28:10)

Bible Verse: “The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you.”
(Romans 8:11)

Consider This...

- ▶ The Passover meal shared between Jesus and his disciples commemorated God's miraculous provision for his people centuries earlier. In this traditional celebration, Jews remembered the sacrificial lamb, whose blood (marked on their doorposts in Egypt) saved them. How appropriate that Jesus—*our* sacrificial lamb—completes his work on earth with such a symbolic event.
- ▶ In Jesus' culture—and in some Middle Eastern cultures today—eating together equaled friendship. Scholars equate sharing a meal with trust and intimacy, adding weight to Jesus' comment to Judas: “One of you who has just eaten from this bowl with me will betray me” (Matthew 26:23).
- ▶ The Roman government had deprived the Sanhedrin of the right to carry out most capital punishments. Therefore, even though the chief priests and elders found Jesus guilty, they had to turn him over to Pilate for execution.
- ▶ At Jesus' death, Matthew 27:51 records that “the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.” There were actually two curtains in the Temple. One divided the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place; the other separated the Holy Place from the court. Matthew doesn't specify *which* curtain tore, but a rending of either one would symbolize changes between God, ritual law, and humanity.
- ▶ Even Jesus' followers found his resurrection hard to believe! Matthew 28:17 tells us, “but some of them doubted!” Yet Jesus eased their doubts by appearing to them repeatedly over 40 days (Acts 1:3; 10:40-41).



Why It Matters...

Death is an uncomfortable—and even scary—topic for children *and* adults. Even though we don't like to talk or think about it, it's likely that most kids will experience the death of a pet, friend, or relative. That's why it's critical that we help children understand the hope we have through Jesus. Even though death may mean the end of *this* life, kids can celebrate the astonishing promise of eternal life with Jesus. Use today's lesson to help children understand their need for Jesus. Guide them as they discover that through Jesus' miraculous power, we can live forever in heaven.

DAY 4

SUPPLY STATION

- ▶ construction paper
- ▶ scissors
- ▶ stapler/tape

It's time to get chugging along with some fun crafts at *Rocky Railway!* **Craft and Play** is a hands-on way to put our Bible learning into action. All suggested activities can be modified to meet your at home materials. A few "Alternate Track" ideas are included below for this purpose. **All aboard to Craft and Play!**

OPTION 1: Forever Train Links

Trains are linked to the boxcars that they pull. We can make our own links to remind us that **Jesus' power lets us live in heaven forever. (Trust Jesus!)** A circle reminds us of forever because it never has an end. Let's make circle "train" links to help us think about being in heaven with Jesus forever.

Chug it Out!

Cut construction paper into 1 inch wide strips. Make the first link by stapling/taping a strip of paper to make a circle. Insert the next strip of paper inside of the circle and attaching together the ends to make a new link. Continue adding one strip of paper into the previous link and stapling until you have a complete "train" link. Hang your "train" link somewhere in your home or on a tree outside to remind you that **Jesus' power lets us live in heaven forever! (Trust Jesus!)**

Alternate Track

Get creative with your train and links. You can make a pattern of colors with your "train" link or use white paper and decorate with markers or stickers. You can also practice your numbers by counting the number of links in your train.



SUPPLY STATION

- ▶ two popsicle sticks
- ▶ yarn
- ▶ scissors

OPTION 2: A "Cross" the Track

When a train track meets a roadway, a Railroad Crossing sign is posted to tell people in cars that a train could cross the road. The sign is in the shape of the letter "X". This Railroad Crossing sign can remind us of the cross of Jesus. When you turn the Railroad Crossing sign another way it makes a cross! Jesus died on the cross and rose again so we could go to heaven and live forever with him. **Jesus' power lets us live forever. (Trust Jesus!)**

Chug it Out!

Take two popsicle sticks and place them so they make a cross. Wrap the yarn around the center to form an "X" like a Railroad Crossing sign. Continue to wrap the yarn around until the two popsicle sticks are secure. Make a knot to complete the cross. Place your cross somewhere to remind you of how much Jesus loved you on the cross or use your cross as a Railroad Crossing sign when you play.

Alternate Track

You can use any kinds of sticks to make this - maybe you can find some outside. Also, you can use string or ribbon instead of yarn to warp the sticks together.

