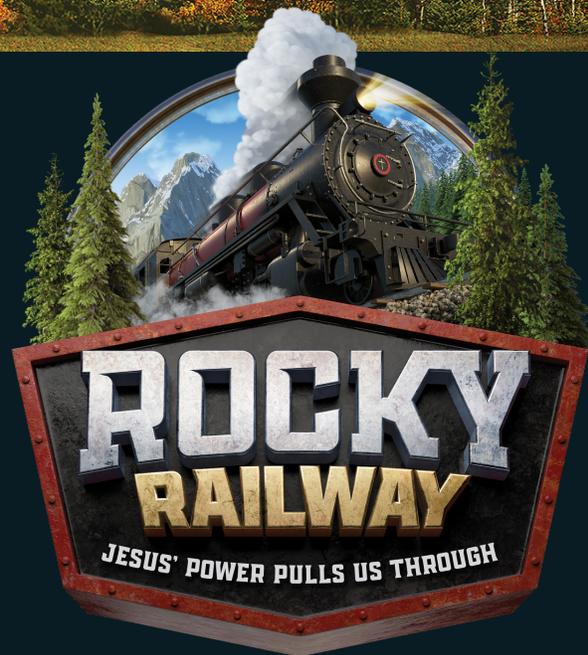




Preschool
Exploration Stations
DAY 1



BIBLE POINT

Day 1

Jesus' power helps us do hard things.

Bible Story: Ananias helps Saul. (Acts 9:1-19)

Bible Verse: “For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”
(Philippians 4:13)

Consider This...

- ▶ The Bible makes it evident that God often asks his followers to do hard things. Noah built an ark. Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son. Mary bore the Son of God. Ananias had the terrifying job of reaching out to Saul.
- ▶ To understand the difficulty of Ananias' job, it's important to realize just how much Saul hated the early church. He approved the stoning of Stephen, arrested Christians in Jerusalem, and set his sights on imprisoning Christians living in Damascus. Christians ran away from Saul—not toward him!
- ▶ Ananias' name means “protected by the Lord.” It's likely that his parents didn't know the importance of such protection during this important, history-altering mission.
- ▶ In Acts 9:15, God doesn't ease Ananias' misgivings with words of comfort or empowerment. He simply shares his life-changing plan for Saul and urges Ananias to go.
- ▶ Because of his selection and obedience, Ananias got to be the first person to welcome Saul as a Christian. In spite of any misgivings or fear, Ananias warmly greeted Saul with the phrase “Brother Saul.”



Why It Matters...

Jesus still asks his followers to do hard things. Kids know it's hard to forgive when someone hurts their feelings. Kids can tell you how tough it is to make new friends, do what's unpopular, learn a new skill in school, and reach out in friendship to someone who's lonely. That's why today's activities will encourage kids with the truth that Jesus' power can fortify them through life's challenges. Just as Ananias drew strength from God's reassurance and plan, kids will come away with renewed inspiration that *they* can trust in Jesus' power to tackle the hard things they face.

DAY 1

SUPPLY STATION

- ▶ one piece of construction paper or cardstock cut into the shape of a wheel
- ▶ blank index card
- ▶ hole punch
- ▶ sand pail and shovel
- ▶ light scoopable material such as rice, beans, pompoms, or crumpled/torn paper
- ▶ empty container or box
- ▶ sidewalk chalk

Welcome to **Exploration Stations** at *Rocky Railway*! Here your preschooler will use their imagination to bring the railway to life. As kids play, they will reinforce their Bible learning in a fun and memorable way. 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 Exploration Stations!*

OPTION 1: Little Locomotive

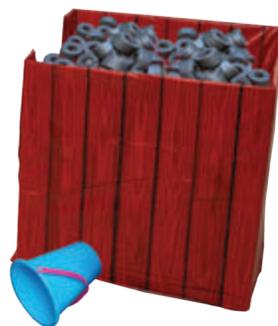
All this week we'll pretend we're riding a big, powerful train. We'll also be learning about Jesus' amazing power. Today we'll hear how **Jesus' power helps us do hard things.** (*Trust Jesus!*)

Chug it Out!

Invite your child to pretend he or she is driving a train engine with their precut wheel. If desired, draw a track outside with sidewalk chalk or create a designated track path in your home. Kids can pretend to shovel coal (light scoopable material) out of the coal car (empty container) into the bucket using a shovel. They can also pretend to be a conductor punching tickets with the index card. Use your imagination to bring Rocky Railway to life. All aboard the Little Locomotive!

Alternate Track

Cut the bottom out of a large empty box and allow your little conductor to wear it as a train. Decorate the box with markers or paints. Don't have a sand pail or shovel? Use any household container and a spoon. You can also make a train by putting chairs in a line. Pretend you are the conductor and have some family members climb aboard as you chug along.



OPTION 2: On the Track

Going up a steep hill might be hard, even for a powerful train. Sometimes a train engine might need help from another engine to pull a heavy train over a big mountain. We need help to do hard things too. **Jesus' power helps us do hard things. (Trust Jesus!)**

Chug it Out!

Attach two lines of track with masking tape from the top to the bottom of each piece of cardboard. Secure the cardboard with tape to two sides of a table or chair. Place the remaining track and trains nearby to play with. Let your preschooler drive the trains up the "hill" to the table.

Alternate Track

Don't have a train set? Use a little toy car or anything with wheels to represent the train. Set up a ramp with a piece of cardboard, books, pillows, or even a baking sheet. If you have a swing set, use a sliding board to represent the "hill". Drive your movable object uphill as you pretend you are climbing a big mountain.

SUPPLY STATION

- ▶ children's train set with buildable track and multiple train cars
- ▶ 2 large pieces of cardboard
- ▶ masking tape or painter's tape

