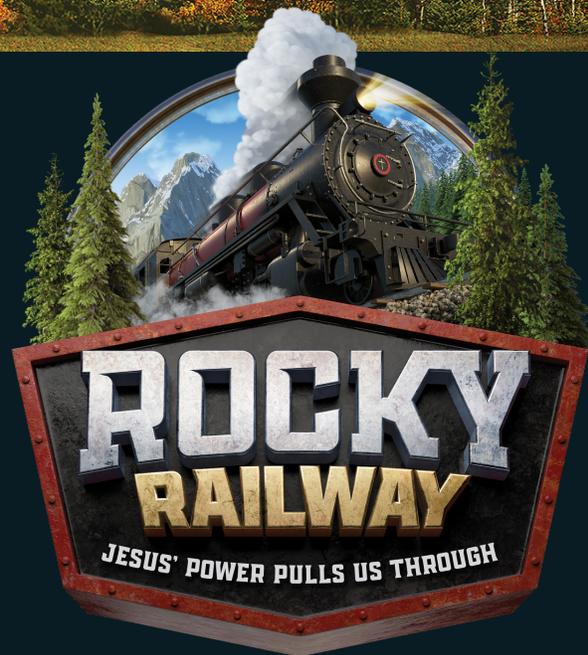




Preschool
Exploration Stations
DAY 2



BIBLE POINT

Day 2

Jesus' power gives us hope.

Bible Story: Paul encourages others in a storm and shipwreck. (Acts 27)

Bible Verse: “So be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the Lord!” (Psalm 31:24)

Consider This...

- ▶ After Paul became a follower of Jesus, he fervently shared the news of Jesus everywhere he went. In Jerusalem, Paul encountered a group of men who opposed his teachings. These men began a riot, accusing Paul of spreading false doctrine and of defiling the Temple. Guards arrested Paul and threw him in prison. The following years included trials, death threats, secret transfers to other prisons, and finally a trip to Rome where Paul could plead his case before Caesar.
- ▶ In Acts 27:9, Paul notes the sailing season in connection with Jewish observances. Sailors typically only sailed from Pentecost (May–June) through Tabernacles (after the Day of Atonement in late September or early October). Roman sailors resisted sailing in November, as it typically proved dangerous.
- ▶ The sailors battled the fierce storm for at least three days, using every trick they knew to secure the ship and survive hurricane-force winds and waves. Finally, the weary seamen lost hope of ever being saved. At this low point, Paul shares the hopeful news given by God.
- ▶ God’s message of hope, conveyed through Paul, rang true for the soldiers, the sailors, and the prisoners. God’s angel assured Paul that “none of you will lose your lives” (Acts 27:22). However, after the shipwreck, the soldiers planned to kill the prisoners so they wouldn’t escape. (Roman law mandated that a soldier who lost a prisoner had to take that prisoner’s place!) “But the commanding officer wanted to spare Paul, so he didn’t let them carry out their plan” (Acts 27:43). And, just as the angel said, not even a *prisoner* died.



Why It Matters...

In many ways, Paul was powerless in the stormy sea. He didn’t have experience as a sailor. Guards held him prisoner. And, of course, he couldn’t stop the crashing waves and howling winds. But Paul *did* have Jesus’ power on his side!

In the same way, kids may feel powerless through life’s storms. The world can seem turbulent, dark, and confusing. Bad news crashes over us. Fear blows relentlessly, leaving kids feeling hopeless. Yet God promises to strengthen us with *his* power! And we can trust that God’s promises are true. Like Paul, we have Jesus’ power on our side. Today, celebrate that truth and give kids the hope of victory and comfort during life’s uncertainties.

DAY 2

SUPPLY STATION

- ▶ children's train cars
- ▶ large piece of construction paper/cardstock
- ▶ painter's tape
- ▶ 2-inch-wide strips of construction paper
- ▶ tape/glue
- ▶ flashlight

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: On the Track

Trains often have to travel through dark tunnels. Sometimes we feel like we're going through dark times. It can be hard to see that there is light at the end of the tunnel. But Jesus is always with us, even in hard times. **Jesus' power gives us hope. (Trust Jesus!)** Let's make some tunnels for our trains to go through.

Chug it Out!

Help your child glue or tape ends of the construction paper strips in an arch to the large piece of construction paper. This will make a tunnel for trains to pass through. Shine a flashlight at one end of the tunnel. Move your train through the dark of the tunnel to the light!

Alternate Track

A little car or any toy with wheels can be used in place of a train. Use a paper towel tube as the tunnel and push a small car through to the other side. Need a different idea? Turn any table into a tunnel with a blanket. Push your train or toy car under the table or pretend you are the train and crawl through.



OPTION 2: Little Locomotive

Let's pretend we're on a train in a dark tunnel. People in a dark tunnel watch for light ahead. That gives them hope that the tunnel will end. **Jesus' power gives us hope (Trust Jesus!)**

Chug it Out!

Invite your child to pretend that he or she is driving a train engine in a tunnel with their precut wheel. If desired, draw a track outside with sidewalk chalk or create a designated track path in your home. Place a lit flashlight nearby and chug along to find the light. 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

Pretend that you are the train in a tunnel and chug around the house to find a shining hidden flashlight. 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. If you don't have a sand pail or shovel, use any household container and a spoon to move the "coal".

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
- ▶ flashlight



SUPPLY STATION

- ▶ wading pool or empty container
- ▶ water
- ▶ 6 inch piece of pool noodle
- ▶ drinking straw
- ▶ packing tape
- ▶ scissors
- ▶ spray bottle
- ▶ craft foam or small piece of construction paper

OPTION 3: *Sail Away*

In the Bible today we hear about some men who were stuck in a storm that pushed them where they didn't want to go. It would be scary to be out on a boat in a big storm. But Jesus gave the sailors hope that they would be okay. **Jesus' power gives us hope. (Trust Jesus!)** Let's make a storm for some boats and push them around.

Chug it Out!

Cut about 3 inches off the long end of the straw. Create a boat by sticking the cut end of a drinking straw through a section of the pool noodle, about 1 ½ inches from one end of the noodle. The bendable portion of the straw should be at a right angle, and the straw should stick up about 2 inches, with the remaining straw sticking out the bottom. You may need to try different positions to find the right balance. For the sail, tape a 2 inch triangle of craft foam or construction paper to the bended upper part of the straw. Fill a wading pool or container with water. Set your boat afloat in the water and use a spray bottle on the stream setting to move the boat around.

Alternate Track

Cut a section of an empty egg carton to use as your boat. Experiment with light objects to represent people and see if they can float in your boat. Instead of a spray bottle, create a gentle wave with your hand in the water or blow on the boat to create wind and make it move. Have a toy boat to play with? Get it out to Sail Away!

