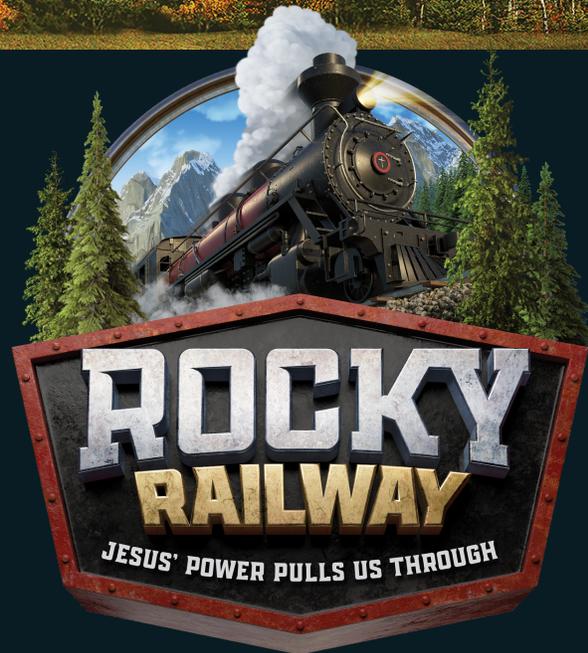




Preschool
Exploration Stations
DAY 4



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.

SUPPLY STATION

- ▶ children's train set with buildable track and multiple trains



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 % On the Track

On the track today, the trains can keep going around and around and never get to the end. That's what forever is like. It never has an end. Today we'll learn that **Jesus' power lets us live forever.** (*Trust Jesus!*)

Chug it Out!

Invite your preschooler to create a circular track that never ends.. Remind them that the trains can keep going on the track forever.

Alternate Track

Make your own circular track outside with sidewalk chalk and drive any toy with wheels around it. Pretend you are the train and walk around the track circle. Or set up chairs in a line. Walk around the chairs in a circle and chug like a train.



OPTION % Hop Around

In a circle track we could keep going and going and never get to the end. This kind of track goes on forever! Today we are learning that **Jesus' power lets us live forever.** (*Trust Jesus!*)

Chug it Out!

Use tape or sidewalk chalk to create a circular train track on the ground. Make the spaces between "railroad ties" just right for a preschooler to stand in. Have your little conductor pretend he or she is a train running along a track. Play music for your preschooler to move to. If you have the VBS Music CD play "This Train is Bound for Glory" (track 5). Stop the music periodically. When you do, encourage your child to freeze in whatever position they are in.

Alternate Track

Create a designated circular path to follow instead of one marked on the ground. Play musical chairs using the same concept of following a circular path around the chairs and stopping to sit when the music stops. If you don't have the VBS CD you can find the music on our VBS website.

SUPPLY STATION

- ▶ sidewalk chalk or painter's tape
- ▶ music and player

