

WBNS
@ROCK BRIDGE



**STATION LEADER
HUDDLE**



****NEW!! 2025: VBS @Rock Bridge**



Welcome to Stellar VBS—the summer event that helps kids discover what it means to shine Jesus' light! At Stellar VBS, kids will explore how the light of Jesus shines with power over all of Creation - even the stars in the galaxies! Even more, that same light shines through us too!

MISSION OPENER



You're stranded on the moon! What's one Bible verse that would encourage you while waiting for rescue?

OUR "WHY"



MISSION

VBS @Rock Bridge exists to make the gospel known to kids from all walks of life, equipping them to live a life rooted in Christ by exploring biblical truths in engaging and meaningful environments.

GOALS

Everything we do flows from achieving these goals:

1. Every kid hears the gospel.

- The good news of Jesus is shared clearly, in age-appropriate and engaging ways. Leaders guide kids to connect the gospel to their own lives, encouraging questions and conversations that help them understand Jesus' love and respond to His invitation to follow Him.

2. Every kid is seen, known, and loved.

- Kids experience meaningful connections as leaders call them by name, invite participation, and engage in intentional conversations. We cultivate a welcoming, safe environment where every child feels valued and cared for—reflecting the love of Christ to them and their families.

3. Every kid experiences Biblical truth in a fun and gospel-centered atmosphere.

- Through worship, play, and hands-on activities, kids learn God's Word in exciting, memorable ways.
- Stations are always rooted in Scripture, helping kids from all walks of life engage deeply with biblical truth.

WHAT'S YOUR "WHY?"

Share with those around you:

How long have you been serving at VBS?

What Bible story can you confidently tell a room full of kids right now?

Share the name of 1 kid you have (or will!) personally invite to attend VBS.



VBS 2025

Large Group Schedule

OPENING SESSION:

5:45 - 6:00 Crew Leader Connection
6:00 - 6:10 Jump Start
6:10 - 6:40 Opening Assembly

6:08 Countdown

6:10 Host Welcome

6:15 Worship (2 songs)

6:25 Bible Story- Host(s)

6:30 Worship (1 song)

6:35 Preschool Dismissal

6:35 Missions Highlight

6:40 Prayer/Dismissal

6:45-7:50 Rotations

CLOSING SESSION:

7:50-8:00 Mini Jumpstart
8:00-8:15 Closing Session

8:00-8:05 Recap

8:05-8:10 Offering Update

8:10-8:15 Worship (1 song)

8:15 Prayer/Dismissal

STATION LEADER SCHEDULE

- Arrive at _____ for Prayer and Dinner in the _____
(time) (location)
- **5:30 - 6:10 Crew Leader Connection (30 mins) and Jump Start (10 mins)**
 - While kids and Crew Leaders are preparing for large group, spend this time preparing your own environments.
 - Are all of my supplies readily available?
 - Walk through the setup and verify that supplies are operating as intended.
 - Know how many crews and kids you'll have.
 - Are supplies split up so that Crew Leaders can easily distribute to kids?
 - Is my space welcoming and inviting?
 - What part of the lesson do I need to run-through with the supplies?
 - What do my co-leader and I need to practice together?
 - What part of my testimony am I going to share based on the lesson today?
 - Who do I go to if I have questions today?
 - Which counselors are available for next step conversations with kids today?
 - Pray intentionally over how you want the lesson to impact kids, their leaders, their families and all of our volunteers today!
- **6:10 - 6:40 Opening Session (30 mins)**
 - Join the kids in large group!
 - Spend time with crews who are in your rotation and catch kids being awesome!
Use kids' names as you hand out tokens and create memories to share later.
 - Listen in on the kids' experiences
 - Hear how they experience the Bible Story during large group
 - Worship alongside them!
 - Let them see your love for Christ - and them - on display outside of your Station environment
- **6:35 Preschool Dismissal (optional)**
 - Encouraged especially for nights 1 and 2 to help minimize dismissal congestion (hallway traffic, noise and confusion), to give time for potty breaks, and to get preschoolers moving sooner to minimize distractions for older kids
 - How will your campus dismiss preschoolers? (Early @ 6:35 or with elementary?)
 - Day 1, Sunday: _____
 - Day 2, Monday: _____
 - Day 3, Tuesday: _____
 - Day 4, Wednesday: _____
 - On early dismissal days, first rotation leaders, be prepared to briefly share the mission and collect offering when kids arrive to your station

STATION LEADER SCHEDULE CONTINUED

- **6:35 Missions Introduction**
 - Samaritan's Purse - The Greatest Journey! (See the Missions page for more info)
- **6:40 Prayer/Dismissal**
 - Be at your doors ready to welcome crews as they are dismissed from large group!
 - Remember, greeting crews at the door creates a smoother transition to your environment and allows you to set expectations for how they enter
- **6:45-7:50 Rotations**
 - Kids are split into Preschool and Elementary for stations
 - Small Group
 - Lead through the Bible story to connect kids to God's love and Gospel truth.
 - Designed for: Calm, reflection, intentional conversation, understanding of the Bible Story
 - Activities
 - Create FUN experiences that help kids remember the theme verse!
 - Designed for: Organized chaos, movement, Memory Verse practice, connection
- **7:50 - 8:15 Closing Assembly (30 mins)**
 - Crews will return to large group. Use this time to clean up and reset your environment for the next day.
 - What materials can you throw away?
 - What supplies need to be reused for a different day of VBS?
 - What supplies can be put away to be used for the future?
 - What needs to be returned to someone?
 - What notes or feedback do you need to offer your coach or Children's Minister to make improvements for the following day?

SAFETY TIPS

1:2 Rule: Always have at least 3 people together at a time.

Name Tags: Wear yours and ask if you don't see someone else's name tag on

First Aid: I will ask _____ if I need something during my rotation!

Pick Up Tags: A matching pick up tag must be provided before kids are released during dismissal



MAXIMIZE ENGAGEMENT



- **Your Presence Matters!**

YOU set the tone. Help kids stay focused and connected by being:

- Be **Personable**: Build real connections with smiles, names, and positive energy.
 - Use your own name and call others by their name or Crew Number often
 - Shout out new kids or mention interactions with crews during Large Group
- Be **Purposeful**: Give clear, quick instructions to guide crews.
 - Lead through the Crew Leaders to keep things moving well
 - Preview what's next as you set expectations: "First we'll open the Bible and learn more about Zacchaeus, then we'll talk with our crews!"
- Be **Prepared**: Pray more than you prepare, but be prepared and kids will engage!
 - Strive for excellence, not perfection!
 - Have a full picture of the flow of service so you're able to remain flexible.
- Be **Playful**: Watch for early signs of disengagement and re-engage kids in fun and controlled ways
 - Use playful directions: "Take one giant moon step back and sit!"
 - Pick a couple of favorite callbacks, teach them early and use them often. Ex:
 - Leader: "Eyes on the mission..." → Kids: "Hearts on the Light!"
 - Leader: "Space crew—status check!" → Kids: "All systems go!"
 - Leader: "Who lights our way?" → Kids: "JESUS!"
 - Leader: "Look alive, crew!" → Kids: "Mission ready!"
 - Leader: "Galaxy team!" → Kids: "Shine bright!"
 - Leader: "Sound check - engines?" → Kids: (Soft "vroom" sound fading to silence.)

- **Preschool Small Group Leaders**

- Use very simple words.
- Allow movement before quiet times.
- Expect short attention spans—keep activities brief and flexible.

- **Elementary Small Group Leaders**

- Praise kids who ask thoughtful questions.
- Share parts of your testimony in short, relevant ways to help them see the goodness of God in your life!



STATION LEADER BEST PRACTICES

- **Pray often and lead with reverence, energy, enthusiasm, and authenticity.**
 - Spend time personally reflecting on what God is teaching you through the lessons
 - Be ready to share with your kids, in an age-appropriate way, parts of your own story to show how God has moved in your life.
 - Ex: I remember the first person who asked me if I wanted to follow Jesus was Mr. Worthley, my teacher from school. I'm so glad I said yes!
 - I still sin but I ask the Holy Spirit to lead me to better choices and I always take time to tell Jesus I'm sorry.
- **Tips for Success During Activities:**
 - Greet Crews with big smiles! Your energy is contagious!
 - Explain Simply: Use short sentences. Demonstrate when possible!
 - Lead THROUGH the Crew Leaders
 - Ex: Crew Leaders 1 and 2, bring your kids to the left, 3 and 4 go to the right!
 - Keep things moving: eliminate dead space where kids fill in the time themselves
 - Cheer participation: Celebrate teamwork and kindness over winning
 - Play music from the VBS playlist during games to keep energy high
 - Modify games for kids with physical challenges (ask for help when needed!)
 - Ask questions based on your observations and make tweaks daily as needed
 - Reward positive behavior immediately with tokens
 - Stay flexible — you may adjust for time, energy, weather or kids' interest!
- **Tips for Success During Small Group:**
 - Review the Bible story and Gospel steps (God Rules We Sinned God Provided Jesus Gives We Respond)
 - Set up visual elements at the kids' level
 - Gather kids outside the room to build excitement and set expectations
 - Create a safe atmosphere: calm, caring, and inclusive
 - Lead THROUGH Crew Leaders
 - Ex: Crew Leaders, look at each of your kids and say, "Jesus loves you, (name)"
 - Say the daily Main Point often, have kids repeat it and say it exactly as written
 - Share the Gospel: Low-pressure, clear, and invitational. Plant seeds!
 - Celebrate Questions: Praise kids who wonder or seek
 - Keep a slow, thoughtful pace during story moments
 - Reward respect, listening, and reflection with tokens
 - Trust that God is working, even when you can't see it immediately!
 - Handling Response Cards (Day 3 Gospel Response):
 - Know how best to connect kids who are ready to talk about following Jesus with a counselor
 - Know who to give all Next Step response cards to for follow up



SMALL GROUP LEADER SUCCESS TIPS

Study the Guide

- Know the flow, schedule, and guide well enough that you aren't reliant on it.
 - Use our RBKids Cue Cards to make your own notes/cues so you aren't reading the script
- Know the lesson and materials well enough to make eye contact with kids and use a warm, dynamic voice as you lead.

Practice Your Presence

- Use your voice, movement and body language to command the room.
- Practice talking in front of a mirror or video yourself. This will help with timing, voice inflection, and facial expressions!
- Read the Bible story with the awe and wonder of a child! These stories are AMAZING and they are true!

Work as a Team

- Know how you and your co-leader (if applicable) will work together to lead well. Divvy up the script and practice transitions.
 - Make time to practice together before kids arrive
- Know how your Children's Minister or coach wants you to store your supplies each night

Keep Attention Spans in Mind

- The average attention span for our youngest VBS kids is 3-5 minutes
- Speak clearly and confidently to keep things moving!
- Don't lose the moment with extra words - PRACTICE making your point in as few sentences as possible.
 - Shorter = clearer, more engaging, and easier for kids to follow.
 - Avoid asking questions unnecessarily - it riles kids up and wastes time
 - "What was our main point today?" vs "We've had a different main point every day. I hope you remember what it was today. Let's find out!"
 - "It's time for our Bible Story!" vs "Who's ready for our Bible Story?"
 - "Crew leaders, take your kids to their next station!" vs "Okay, now we're all finished here, and it's time for everyone to go to their next part of VBS. Crew leaders, are you ready? Go ahead and take your kids now!"

Keep it Fun and Engaging

- VBS is meant to be FUN! Use voice inflection, humor, and funny voices to bring the amazing stories from the Bible to life for our kids!
- Clear expectations increases engagement!
 - Give expectations for each transition. For example: Sit quietly, don't touch your neighbor, and listen to this very important True Story from the Bible!

Be Sensitive to our First Time Guests

- We are praying that kids will experience church for the first time with us!
- Give simple definitions and explanations without assuming any prior knowledge
- Avoid "churchy" words/phrases that are unfamiliar to kids who haven't read the Bible or been to church





"JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!"

Theme Verse:

"He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life." John 8:12b

Day 1 - The Light of Jesus Changes Hearts

Bible Story: Jesus accepts Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-9)

Main Point: The Light of Jesus Changes Hearts

Key Verse: "The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them." (Luke 19:10)

Skit: Host 1 and 2 are on the moon. Host 2 is studying to be a starfleet captain and Host 1 is searching the moon for "moon pies". Host 2 has recently chosen to follow Jesus and his heart was changed from pursuing being a captain for money, glory and fame.

Day 2 - The Light of Jesus Brings Joy

Bible Story: Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king (Luke 19:28-40)

Main Point: The Light of Jesus Brings Joy

Key Verse: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Luke 19:38)

Skit: Host 2 received word that he passed his written exam, but he won't know if he makes captain until he finishes the simulation exercise he's doing on the moon. Host 1 can't understand how Host 2 can still be joyful even though neither of them have achieved their goals (becoming captain, finding moon pies).





Day 3 - The Light of Jesus Rescues Us

Bible Story: Jesus died on the cross and rose again (John 19-20)

Main Point: The Light of Jesus Rescues Us

Key Verse: "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God." (John 14:1)

Skit: Host 1 leads Host 2 to the dark side of the moon as a last effort to find the moon pies and they get lost. Host 1 is consumed with panic and fear while Host 2 is at peace. Host 2 uses a flashlight to shine light in the darkness and lead them back safely. This sparks curiosity in Host 1 about following Jesus. Host 1 ends up choosing life in Christ.

Day 4 - The Light of Jesus Shines Through Us!

Bible Story: Philip helps the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-39)

Main Point: The light of Jesus shines through us!

Key Verse: "He told him the good news about Jesus." (Acts 8:35b)

Skit: Host 2 needs Host 1 to help read a message from his home base. The message reveals that they have to dig for the moon pies. When they find them Host 1 reveals that he never intended to share the moon pies with others. They draw a parallel between sharing Good News and how Host 2 has been consistently shining Jesus' light for him. It ends with them both agreeing to return home and continue sharing the Good News of Jesus - not moon pies.

What is the most important lesson or truth you hope kids will take away from VBS?



MISSIONS

This year, we are partnering with Samaritan's Purse to support The Greatest Journey - a powerful discipleship program for children around the world who have received Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts.

Many children who receive these shoeboxes live in difficult or even dangerous situations - whether due to poverty, conflict, or natural disasters. The Greatest Journey provides hope beyond the gift, introducing children to the greatest gift of all: a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Through a 12-lesson Bible study, children learn how to follow Jesus and share His love with others. The course is taught by local volunteers, many of whom were once shoebox recipients themselves. This program doesn't just impact one child—it often transforms entire families and communities as children bring the Gospel home with them.

It costs just \$6 to enroll one child in The Greatest Journey.

- That \$6 provides a student workbook, a New Testament in the child's own language, and training for a local teacher.

Your gifts this week will help equip and inspire children around the world to live a life rooted in Christ. Every dollar matters—and every child reached can make an eternal difference.

Giving Instructions:

Preschool Crew Leaders will be dismissed before the Missions videos are played. However, their Station Leaders will explain the project in a simple and meaningful way during their first rotation. Preschoolers will also have a chance to give as they transition from large group. As each crew is dismissed from large group, please have your ushers stationed at the doors with collection containers. The host will remind kids to place their offerings in the containers as they head to their next station

**Missions videos are found on the resource page at rockbridge.cc/vbsresources
please watch videos before the first night of VBS.**



COMMUNICATING OFFERING TO PRESCHOOL KIDS

As we give kids (and their leaders!) an opportunity to give financially each night, we want to be sure we have explained what it is and why we do it. Here are some basic truths to keep in mind as you set up offering each night that the Preschoolers come to you early:

Main Idea:

- We give to say "Thank You" to God.
- We give to help others.

Simple Bible Truths:

- "God made everything!" (Genesis 1:1)
- "God loves when we share." (Proverbs 22:9)

Example of What to Say:

"It's offering time! God gives us so many good things — food, family, friends, and fun! Now we get to say 'Thank You!' to God. When we give our offering, we are helping others around the world to get to have a Bible and to hear that Jesus loves them! Let's give with big smiles because God loves when we share!"

Reminders for Leaders:

- Keep it cheerful and short.
- Use very simple words.
- Praise every child's effort - there is no gift too small!
- Focus on joyful giving, not the amount.
- Smile, celebrate, and remind kids: "God loves a cheerful giver!"

TOKENS

This year, our kids will participate in a Token Challenge! Tokens will be used throughout VBS to reward kids for remarkable expressions of love, kindness, great listening, participation, memorizing our Main Points and Bible verse, and more!

- **Award Tokens from Stage:** Verbally announce the awarding of tokens and have someone record it to add to the total!
 - *"You all did a great job saying today's Main Point! But, I'll give 20 tokens if we can say YESTERDAY'S Main Point right now! 1-2-3- (insert kids saying it!). Yes! Ryan, did you write that down? +20 tokens!"* Use your physical tokens to award kids as you interact
 - with kids more personally throughout the night.
- **Play into the Hype:** Emphasize the excitement of earning tokens! Reward tokens to recognize and celebrate behaviors you want to see repeated.
 - Be specific as you award tokens so kids can confidently repeat their positive actions.
Ex: Great worship participation, getting silent immediately, attentively listening, repeating the Memory Verse, etc.
 - *"Did you hear the way they sang? What a powerful reminder. Let's add 10 tokens!"*
- **Overall Token Goal:** Kids will work together to reach an Overall Token Goal (please know your campus goal!) and receive a celebration on the last night of VBS!
 - Although the goal is collective, you can still award tokens by crews, to "this side of the room", to "all the preschool kids", etc.

Give Out Tokens Immediately: We want to help kids connect their positive attitudes, behaviors, and participation with the reward of the token, so as soon as you see a behavior to celebrate, pass out the reward!

Use short phrases like "Everybody say: Way to Go, Friends!" to help kids celebrate receiving tokens, but to also stay on track. We want to minimize the "screaming cheering" as we transition through elements of large group.

Pick Up Tokens: Replenish your stash of tokens by visiting the volunteer check-in area.

Token Collection: Kids can turn in their tokens during rotations, but they'll all be brought to the large group bucket at closing so we can update our goal progress each night!

There will be slides that will be updated nightly with the Token and Missions amounts. Please create this plan with your Production Team and communicate nightly on the plan for announcing progress.

Have a GREAT Week!

- **Have Fun and Lead with Joy:** Enjoy your time just as much as the kids as God fuels you!
- **Devotions:** Read the Leader Devotions to personally connect with the nightly lessons.
- **Fuel Yourself:** Let your "why" motivate you during challenging moments.
- **Pray:** Ask God for wisdom, energy, and the right heart as you lead. Pray that He will specifically use you - your time, effort and energy - for His glory!

