

**WBBS**  
@ROCK BRIDGE

**CREW LEADER  
TRAINING**







## **\*\*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!

### **Hey Crew Leaders!**

Please take some time to go through this guide on your own before VBS.

Pray for the kids you will lead.

Pray for your fellow Crew Leaders!

Pray for kids to hear the Gospel and experience life change!

### **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.

- a. The good news of Jesus is clearly presented in ways that are age-appropriate and engaging.
- b. Leaders help kids connect the gospel to their own lives, emphasizing Jesus' love and invitation to follow Him.
- c. Conversations about faith are encouraged, allowing kids to ask questions and respond to the gospel message.

### 1. Every kid is seen, known and loved.

- a. Kids build meaningful connections as leaders call them by name and encourage participation.
- b. Leaders model Christ's love through intentional conversations with kids and their families.
- c. We create an environment where every child feels welcomed, safe, and loved by our team as we encourage discipleship.

### 1. Every kid experiences Biblical truth in a fun, engaging, and gospel-centered atmosphere.

- a. We create exciting environments where kids from all walks of life can learn, worship, and play in ways that bring biblical truths to life.
- b. Activities are designed to be interactive, immersive, and age-appropriate, helping kids connect with God's Word in a memorable way.
- c. Large Group is high-energy while remaining gospel-focused, guiding kids to worship the One True God with joy and excitement.

## WHAT'S YOUR "WHY?"

*What is the most important lesson or truth you hope they will take away from VBS?  
Write down the name of 1 kid you can personally invite to VBS.*



## **"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)

### **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

### **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)

### **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)

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

# VBS 2025

## Schedule At-a-Glance

### **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

# CREW LEADER MISSIONS



- On Sunday: Prayer Huddle: Time \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_
  
- On Monday-Wednesday: Dinner - Time \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_  
Prayer - Time \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_
  - Your presence matters! This leader connection time is for prayer and food!
- **Crew Connection (5:45–6:00)**
  - Connect with early arrivers
  - Greet kids by name and take attendance
  - Note allergies or special needs
  - Create a welcoming, safe crew culture
  - Play name games and ask questions to engage your crew
- **Jump Start (6:00–6:10)**
  - Observe who needs extra attention or help integrating
  - Invite every kid into the fun
- **Opening Assembly (6:10–6:40)**
  - Model participation: stand, sing, pray
  - Use tokens to reward positive behavior
  - Help kids engage meaningfully
- **Rotations (6:45–7:50)**
  - Sit with your crew, not behind or apart from them
  - Help them listen and participate
  - Quiet them when Station Leaders speak
  - Step in to manage energy or tension
  - Help with supplies and encourage participation
- **Closing Assembly (7:50–8:15)**
  - Worship with your crew
  - Reinforce the day's lesson and joyfully wrap up the night
- **Dismissal (8:15)**
  - Check tags before releasing kids
  - Affirm something specific about each kid's night
    - "Lilly is a great listener! See ya'll tomorrow!"
    - "You should ask Nathan about the obstacle course that he rocked today!"
- **After Dismissal**
  - Tell your coach/Children's Minister about anything that needs follow up. Include your first and last name and crew number! Text \_\_\_\_\_
  - Clean up your area and prepare your Crew Leader bag for the next day



**Whether you're a middle schooler, high schooler, or adult - you've accepted the role of a Crew Leader. That means:**

- **YOU** are an authority figure for your crew.
- You are responsible for your kids' focus, safety, and participation.
- You are a support to Station Leaders.
- Adults and kids alike will look to you as a leader.

## **OWN YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:**

- Redirect behavior with kindness and clarity.
- Set expectations and be consistent.
- Keep your crew together and engaged.
- Celebrate wins and gospel conversations.

## **Set Expectations**

- Preview transitions: "We're heading to Activities next. Let's line up quietly."
- Give clear, positive instructions: "Let's walk in a straight line."

## **Redirect with Grace**

- Use eye contact and proximity first
- Speak calmly at eye level
- Separate kids only when necessary

## **Build Trust**

- Learn names quickly and use them
- Talk to your crew often in a curious and encouraging way
- Share age-appropriate stories of your own God-stories to build connection

## **Celebrate the Good**

- Use tokens for positive behavior and participation
- Offer specific praise: "Great job listening during the story, Judah!"

## **Pray often!**

- For your kids, their families, and our leaders
- For God to teach you through the lessons, too!

# SAFETY TIPS



- **1:2 Rule:** Always have at least 3 people together at a time. (adults or kids)
  - You should never be alone with a kid.
- **Name Tags:** Wear yours and ask if you don't see someone else's name tag on.
- **First Aid:** Know what medical needs and allergies are in your crew. I will ask \_\_\_\_\_ if I need something!
  - Make a note of any allergies or special needs your kids have. (on the back of their tag)
  - Ask questions if you need to know how to keep a kid safe based on their allergies.
- **Know Every Kid Assigned to Your Crew:** Take attendance daily and give kids a sticker with their Crew Number on it.
  - If a kid is with your crew and not assigned to your crew, please let a coach know immediately! All crew changes must be recorded by a registration leader.
- **Head Count Frequently:** Whenever you switch rooms, check to be sure you have all your kids with you!
- **Pick Up Tags:** A matching pick-up tag must be provided before kids are released during dismissal. Pictures of the tag on a phone are accepted.
- **Share Your Concerns:** As a mandated reporter, you are required to tell your Children's Minister about any concerns you have for the safety or well-being of a kid. If you have a suspicion, let her know what made you wonder and she will handle it from there. Please do not discuss your concerns with anyone else.



## Fun & Lighthearted

- If you could visit any planet, which one would you pick and why?
- What's the weirdest food you've ever eaten (or would want to try)?
- If you had a pet alien, what would you name it?
- If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
- What's your favorite snack of all time?

## Imaginative & Curious

- If you made your own space mission, where would you go and what would you do?
- If you could invent something to help astronauts, what would it be?
- What would your astronaut name be if you were part of a space crew?
- If you found a moon pie on the moon, what flavor would it be?

## Personal & Relational

- What's something you're really good at?
- Tell me about a time you felt really happy.
- What's your favorite thing to do after school?
- Who's someone in your life that makes you feel special?

## Faith & Feelings

- What do you think it means to "shine Jesus' light"?
- What's something you've learned about God this week?
- If you could ask Jesus one question, what would it be?
- What's something you'd like to pray for this week?

## Inclusive & Relational

- What's your favorite thing about being part of this crew?
- Is there someone new here you've talked to today?
- What's a way you like to help other people?
- Can you show me your best idea for including someone who's shy?

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **1. What do I do if a kid won't listen or disrupts the group?**

Try gentle redirection with eye contact, calm voice, or by sitting near them. If behavior continues, ask your Coach for help. (*Hey Lucy, let's show respect by listening right now. I want to hear what you think after this.*)

## **2. What if a kid in my group won't participate in an activity?**

Encourage without forcing. Give low-pressure options to stay engaged. (*You can sit by me and watch. If you change your mind, I'll help you jump in.*)

## **3. What if I don't know the answer to a Bible question a kid asks?**

Be honest and curious. The Bible is worth getting right. (*That's a great question! I don't know but let's write it down and ask [Coach/Station Leader] together.*)

## **4. What should I do if I need to step away or use the restroom?**

Always tell another adult. Never leave your crew alone. (*Can you cover my group for a few minutes?*)

## **5. What if a kid gets hurt or feels sick?**

Notify your Coach right away. They have access to a First Aid kit. If you discern it's an excuse to not participate, try to get to the root. (*Your head started hurting during Large Group yesterday, too. Want to try wearing some headphones for the next 10 minutes so it's not as loud?*)

## **6. How do I handle a child who is homesick or crying?**

Stay calm and offer comfort. Sometimes a task or distraction helps. (*You'll leave at 8:15pm. Want to help pass out the supplies to help the time feel like it's going faster? or Let's listen to this story and you can tell your parent all about it later.* or *I'm really glad you're here. Want to hold my special pen until it's time to go? I know it will be safe with you just like you're safe with us.*)

## **7. What do I do if a kid says something that worries me or seems unsafe?**

Tell the Children's Minister. Do not investigate or promise to keep it secret. (*Thank you for telling me. I'm going to share this with someone who can help.*)

## **8. What if I don't know where to go next or lose track of time?**

Check the schedule, ask the other Crew Leader who rotates with you, or ask your Coach. (*Hey, where are we heading next? I want to stay on track.*)

## **9. How do I keep my group together during transitions?**

Give clear directions and move with them. Count heads! (*Crew 5, line up behind me. We're heading to Small Group! Let's count heads real quick.*)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## 10. What if I feel overwhelmed or unsure what to do?

**That's okay! ASK for help. We're here for you.** ("I need a little support right now. Can you help me with my crew?" or "Will you come tell me what to do about \_\_\_\_\_?")

## 11. What if someone tries to pick up a kid without a matching tag (a picture of it is okay!)?

Do not release the kid, even if the person is familiar, we must follow our safety process. Kindly, direct them to the check-in team. If anything feels uncomfortable, call your Coach immediately and let them step in. (*"For your kid's safety, I need to see a matching tag before release. A photo works next time, but today, please take your ID to the check-in team and they'll confirm using our pick-up list."* or *"I'm sure you're on the approved list, but we have to double-check through the registration team. They'll take care of it quickly!"*)

## 12. My kids are forming cliques and leaving others out. What do I do?

Step in early. Kindness is the expectation. Use buddy roles, mix up partners, and get help if a kid is crying or being left out despite your best efforts (*"Let's make sure everyone's included. We're one crew, and everyone matters here."*)

## 13. Remember that kid who wouldn't listen and kept disrupting? Well, they're still acting out repeatedly. Now what?!

Stay calm and consistent. Choose your battles based on safety and distraction, not personal preferences. Praise good choices immediately. Use gentle redirection (eye contact, hand on shoulder), tokens, or change their seat. Call a coach or Children's Minister if their behavior is distracting you from the rest of your crew. Give them a clean slate each day. (*"I see you're trying to share, but it's someone else's turn."* or *"I can't let you scream, so I'm going to let Coach be with you until you're ready to quietly rejoin us."* or *"You threw this twice so I'm going to hold it until we leave."* or *"I'm going to sit between you two so you can focus better on listening to the Bible story."*)

**\*\*Note:** Your coach will always follow up with you. We know that participating in VBS @ Rock Bridge is a privilege and while we strive to keep every kid with us for the entire event, we also have to make choices that are best for all involved.

## 14. My kids want to talk about everything BUT Jesus! What if they say, "This is boring!" or "I don't want to be here"?

Avoid power struggles. Validate their feelings but keep them engaged. Look for ways to give them leadership roles or small responsibilities. Point things back to Jesus often. (*"I get it, sometimes things feel slow. Want to help me lead the next activity?"* or *"Thanks for being honest. Let's see if you like the next part better!"* or *"That reminds me of what we learned about Jesus!"* or *"That's a great example of how Jesus \_\_\_\_\_!"*)



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](http://rockbridge.cc/vbsresources) please watch videos before the first night of VBS.**

