



Dear Families,

We know that this has been a challenging & difficult season for you and your kids. I don't think anyone could have anticipated how much Covid-19 would take our lives and turn them upside-down. We are having to rethink everything – from how we go to the grocery store to find toilet paper to creatively structuring our homes so our kids are not only busy but also growing academically, emotionally and spiritually.

Included in that list of rethinking is how we connect with people. Vacation Bible School has been a staple of our kids' ministry summer events, and a place where so many great memories and friendships have been formed. It is heart-breaking that, this year, VBS will not be the same as it's been. Still, we are committed to making it the highlight of your family's summer (within our safety guidelines) and an opportunity for your kids' faith to deepen and strengthen in the midst of our current circumstances.

We are excited to open up registration for our 2020 modified VBS – Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through! Here's what that will look like this year:

- We understand the health concerns of many families. If you still want your kids to experience VBS but would prefer for them to stay home, we will provide them with a VBS box, which will be stocked with all the supplies needed to have a fun VBS experience at home! All you need to do is register online for the Completely Virtual VBS.
- OR 2-Day Mini Sessions of VBS at Christ Venice – sessions will be limited to no more than 25 kids each in order to follow social gathering guidelines
 - Session 1: July 20-21
 - Session 2: July 23-24 (Pre-K only)
 - Session 3: July 27-28
 - Session 4: July 30-31

Make sure to register early to ensure a spot for your kids and complete only 1 registration form per child. Unfortunately, this year, due to restrictions, we will be very strict about our maximum number of participants in order to ensure the health & safety of all.

- At the end of Day 2, kids will have a take-home VBS box with instructions and materials to continue the VBS fun at home!
 - Families can complete the rest of the days' activities at their own pace.

- We will be posting videos of the Bible stories, our Sing n' Play time & more so there's minimal extra energy needed for parents to continue VBS-at-home!
- AND each mini-session of VBS becomes a team! So as session 1 kids' take their VBS home, we will be encouraging them to earn points for their team by continuing to participate & staying connected (which we'll be recognizing at the big finale...keep reading!)
- Big Finale Celebration! – The date for this is still to be decided, but just know that it will happen whenever schools are ready to return. This is a safe way for us to ensure we're following guidelines for social gatherings as we want everyone to be together, if possible, for our Final VBS Celebration. It will be a great time for us to reconnect, share what we've learned and, of course, sing and dance to the VBS music!

In all of this, please know that our heart is to minister to you all and your kids while being responsible with your health & safety by following social guidelines. As we continue to be reminded that these are uncertain times, keep in mind that this is our current plan. Our plans may shift as needed (although we hope that they don't!), but we are committed to offer some kind of VBS experience for your kids, even if it is virtually from home. If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to ask!

In Christ,

Becky Diefenbach
 Children's Ministry Director
 Christ Venice

Here's a peek at what we'll be learning!



Jesus' power helps us do hard things.



Jesus' power gives us hope.



Jesus' power helps us be bold.



Jesus' power lets us live forever.



Jesus' power helps us be good friends.

