



ROCK ON



A weekend camp program that explores the concept of God being our ROCK.



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ISBN 1 920935 87 8

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Bible verses taken from:
Contemporary English Version (CEV) © American Bible Society 1991

Rock On is one of the *kids@club* resources that forms part of the *kids@church* Bible-based curriculum designed by CEP especially for use in church-based children's ministry.

Rock On is a revision of an earlier version written by Robyn McKinney as the editor of *Clubs Down Under* also produced by CEP.

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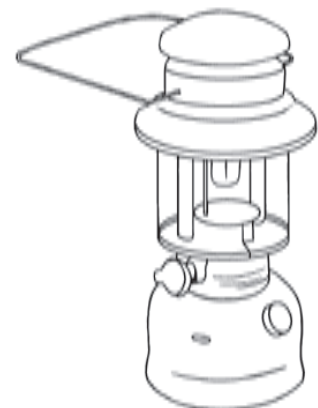
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Kids in camp – intro

'Help! I have to speak at my church's kids camp! What can I use?'

'Have you got some children's talks I can use in a camp setting? I've been asked to lead the kids' program at a house party.'

This *kids@club* pack is a response to requests such as these – three or four Bible talks that can be given in a relaxed atmosphere of bush, beach, farm or mountain. The pack comes under the banner of *kids@club* and has many of the features of that series – Bible talks, visual aids, related craft, games and music ... all the ideas you will need for a weekend away with primary-aged children.

As with our other *kids@club* programs we give permission for you to photocopy any of the material in this pack for use only in camp programs that you are leading.

Start planning

About your role

Find out exactly what the leaders of the camp/houseparty expect of you.

Are you to ... teach? ... provide a program of fun, leisure activities ... both?

If you are to teach, is there a theme you are to follow or can you choose your own?

How many sessions are you to have the children?

At what time of day are these sessions?

How long is each one?

Is one session to be a camp worship service? If so, what is your role in this?

What will the children be doing at other times of the day?

About the kids

Find out about the children for whom you will be responsible.

How many will there be?

What is the age range and where does the largest group lie within that age range?

Will there be any children with special needs that may require you to call in an extra helper, eg attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)?

What exposure have the children had to Christian teaching?

If they are church kids, what have they been learning in their regular groups?

About the place

Find out about the camp site.

What area will be available to you for your teaching sessions?

Will it meet your requirements, eg tables for craft, blank wall to project an OHT, able to make a noise? What facilities does the site provide in the way of sporting equipment, recreational facilities, play areas, adventure/discovery areas?

And a few things about ...

How many leaders will you need to help you?

- Aim for a ratio of 1:6 leaders to kids.
- A wide age range needs more leaders.
- Do you have to recruit your own leaders?
- Are the usual kids ministry leaders available?

Remember that the kids have come away for a fun weekend.

- Avoid long sessions of listening for the kids.
- Include lots of active games and crafts.
- Kids may not want as many formal teaching sessions as adults.

Remember the weather may be lousy!

- Always have contingency plans!

Be really flexible in your planning.

- Remember a weekend away can be very 'laid back'.
- Be flexible if plans change at the last minute.
- Always have a couple of extra activities 'up your sleeve' in case you unexpectedly have extra time. So be prepared! Work out the essential elements of your program that will fit well within your time allocation then add lots of related activities that can be used if time permits.

Dialogue with the camp organiser.

- Share with the organiser what you plan to do with the children. Maybe some of your ideas could be incorporated into the overall program. For example, in a Saturday family fun night – or a camp worship service.



HANDY HINT:

Take lots of photos during the camp, making sure you get shots of each child. After the camp, mount these photos on folded cards. Print the Memory verse inside the card. Post a card to each child (make sure he or she is in the photo on the front).



Leader's notes

The aim of the Bible teaching in this camp program is to explore the Bible metaphor of God being like a rock.

This program is based on three Bible sessions (two on Saturday and one on Sunday) and a camp service. This would be the maximum for a group of primary kids – any more and you're into information overload.

Many campsites are in beach or bush settings – so this theme is perfect! The activities are practical and hands-on, encouraging maximum involvement by the kids.

There are many ways in which our mighty God is 'rock-like'.

Session 1:

- Finding rocks, exploring their characteristics and sharing discoveries
- Introduction to God being like a rock
- Group discussion.

Session 2:

- Beach or bush wilderness drama
- Our God is like a safe and secure rock for his people
- Thinking about trusting God in hard times.

Session 3:

- Jesus is our solid and eternal rock
- We are invited to build our lives on Jesus
- An optional Session 3 - A rock that lasts forever is also provided (see page 25)

Detailed teaching notes for all the sessions begin on page 9.

The Bible verses for this pack are taken from the New International Version (NIV) and the Contemporary English Version (CEV).

Camp Service talk

For this you will need:

- a thunder egg (both halves of the stone, preferably, held together)
- Or, a piece of opal rock and a highly polished opal
- Or, a photo of a rocky hillside and one of spectacular limestone cave formations

Show the exterior of the thunder egg (opal, hillside). Get the kids to tell you everything they see.

Reveal the beautiful interior. Who would have thought?!

Talk about the fact that God is rather like this thunder egg rock (or ...) in that he is a God of surprises. There are so many beautiful things about God that we don't know yet; we still have to discover them. We might think we know all there is to know – like when we looked at the outside of the thunder egg rock, but there are always more wonderful things to discover. Learning about God can be like walking through a series of beautiful caves. Each new one takes our breath away and we think 'This must be the best one!' but the next one is always better.

God is like a thunder egg rock – full of surprise. All of them good!

Saturday night fun

How about having a Rock 'n' Roll night?

You could have the **Solid Rock Milkbar** (instead of the Hard Rock Café) providing chips, drinks and so on.

Have some dance competitions, eg best twister, best pair.

Play some dance games eg Musical chairs; the Limbo; last over the broom when the music stops is out; Spin the Bottle (divide the hall into four sections. When the music stops, spin the bottle in the centre of the hall. Everyone standing in the section the bottle points to is eliminated.)

Do the Conga line. Try some line dancing!

Prizes could be small bags of Edinburgh Rock sweets (available from speciality lolly shops).

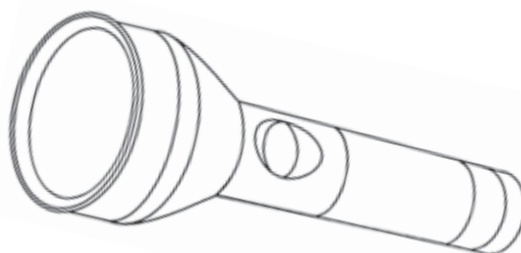


And a few extra ideas for those who are using this program in a setting other than a week-end camp ...

Other talks:

**Hannah – ‘There is no rock like our God – 1 Samuel 2:2
David’s song of praise – 2 Samuel 22.**

Words or phrases to get the creative juices flowing: on the rocks; Ayers Rock; the Rock of Gibraltar; rock the boat; rock bottom; rockbound; off one’s rocker; rockery; rocket; rockfest; rockhop; rocking chair; rockmelon.



Bible time 1

God is our rock

Psalm 18:31; Psalm 62:7; Psalm 71:3; Isaiah 26:4

Aim

To help the children explore together the biblical concept of God being like a rock.

Outcomes

The children will:

- explore a large rock and share the discoveries they have made OR
- share their thoughts on some pictures of rocks
- read some Bible words about God being a 'rock'
- talk together about why Bible writers might have used the word 'rock' to describe God
- help to make a banner or collage as an expression of this concept.

Key verse

You alone are God! Only you are a mighty rock. **Psalm 18:31 (CEV)**

You will need

- Some big rocks to explore or big pictures of rocks
- Two large sheets of paper or cardboard and pens for writing up words and ideas
- Marker pens
- Five Bible verses written out on rock-shaped pieces of cardboard, see page 12
- Five pieces of dowel, see **Way to go**
- All the materials for the rock collage or patchwork banner, see **Way to go**
- CEP's *Promises, promises* CD and CD player (see **Music suggestions** page 41)
- Materials for extra **Crafts** or **Games** activities you choose to do

Leader's notes

These verses use rock imagery about God's relationship with his people. In the book of Psalms there is a wonderful diversity of images used for God and his care for his people. He is

called a shepherd, a father, a mother, a warrior, a king, builder and many other descriptions.

The metaphors we focus on in this session all refer to God as a rock. This image conjures up the idea of strength, faithfulness, protection, refuge, greatness and safety.

In the history of God's people he has shown himself time and time again to be a God who can be trusted and should be obeyed. In Psalm 71 the Psalmist shares how much he is committed to running to God for refuge, deliverance and protection. He addresses God as his refuge, 'the place to which I can always go'. The Psalmist shares how his strong image of God gives him hope and he responds with praise and trust.

We encourage the children to respond to God in the same way. Pray that the children will be encouraged to deepen their understanding of God and to put their trust in him more and more.

Way to go

Draw a big rock on each of the two large sheets of paper or cardboard. Label the first OUR ROCK and the second GOD OUR ROCK. If you clip the sheets to a cut-off side of a cardboard box you'll have a firm base for writing outdoors.

Tape the Bible verses written on rock-shaped cards to the pieces of dowel so they can stand up in the sand or soil.

Before the session begins, set up the materials you need for making the banner or collage, see details in **Craft suggestions** on page 34.

This first session introduces the concept of our God being like a rock. The children should explore a big rock or cliff face before any teaching takes place. You will need to spy out the land beforehand – to find a suitable rock to explore and a place nearby where you can sit and share your thoughts.

The rock, ideally, will be of a size the kids can clamber over, but smaller rocks will do – especially if they have interesting crevices,

textures, lichen and so on. Safety is a very important issue. Keep away from precipices.

If you know that your campsite is devoid of rocks – or if it's likely to rain, you'll need to bring some rocks to the camp. As a last resort use pictures of rocks. Go for big posters from National Parks or travel agents. It would be worth having these on display in your teaching area even if you use option 1!

The session is basically in three parts:

1. Exploring the rock and sharing discoveries
2. Talking together about why Bible writers called God their 'rock'
3. Making a banner or a big rock collage.

Introduction

Welcome the children, introduce yourself and the other leaders.

Open with prayer



Song

Whoop whoop doodeedoo, track 6 of CEP's *Promises, promises* CD.

Let's go for a walk.

If it is at all possible, take the kids to a big rock or cliff face. Climb all over it (as much as safety permits).



Explore its size, texture, layers, colours, caves, nooks and crannies where tiny animals live and so on. Get excited about what you discover.

Find a spot where you can all sit together and share your discoveries. Make sure the little kids have their say. Compile on your first sheet of paper a long list of words to describe your rock (ask another leader to record them).

Game

The wishing rock (see **Games suggestions**, page 31). This game can help the kids get to know each other and settle them down ready for your discussion. You may wish to collect the small rocks the children have collected to hold and use them again later in prayer time.

Bible time

Point out to the children that when Bible writers wanted God's people to understand what God is like they used lots of picture words to describe him. One picture word they used over and over again was the word 'rock'.

Give to several children the Bible verses you've written out on rock-shaped cards. Older children can read theirs to the group. Younger ones can hold theirs up for the group to read. Plant them in the sand/soil or otherwise display them.

What picture of God do you think the Bible writers wanted people to see when they wrote these things? What did the Bible writers want people to understand about God? (Some answers could be: he is very powerful, strong, big, immovable, safe, always there, unchanging, mysterious, solid; he can't be destroyed.)

Write up all the suggestions the children give on the second large sheet of paper or cardboard you have labelled – GOD OUR ROCK.

Refer to the Bible verse card with the rock fortress reference (Psalm 71:3b). Talk about how safe and secure people would feel in there. Write up these words if they're not already there.

HANDY HINT: Children are very imaginative. Don't dismiss an answer that may seem 'off the track' or wrong. Probe a little deeper – there may be a profound thought there, something you may not have considered yourself. A thoughtful child, struck by the mystery of a cave, may say that God is mysterious. Find out what's in the child's mind.

A child who says that God is 'very old' doesn't necessarily mean he is 'decrepit'. He may be expressing wonder at just how long God has been around.

Craft

Spend the rest of your time making a big rock collage or a patchwork banner. Instructions are in the **Craft suggestions** on pages 34–35.

Use this valuable activity time to talk together about the rock-like qualities you most appreciate in God.



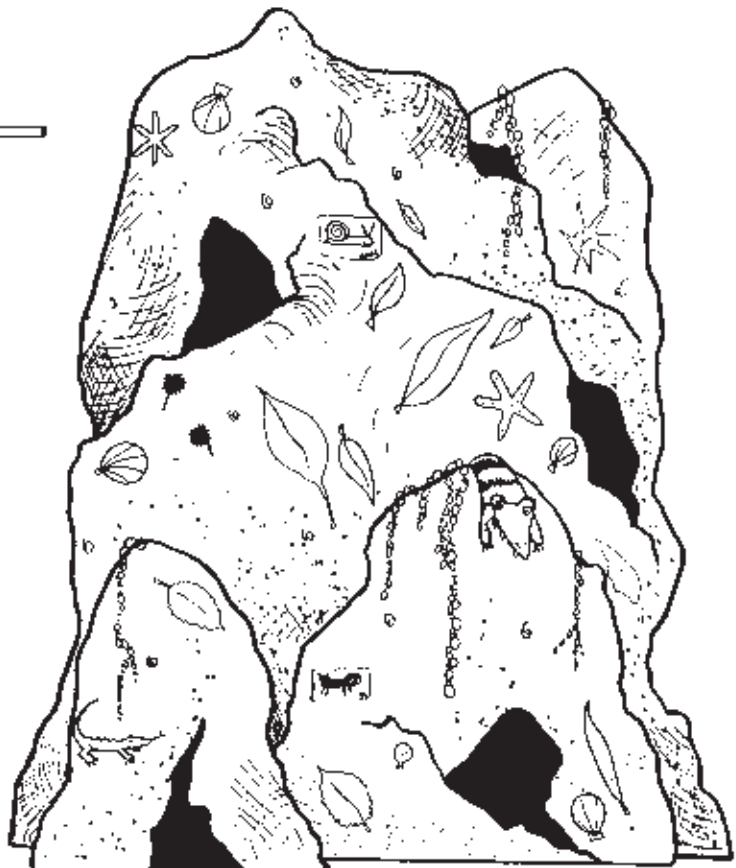
Song

In God's hands, track 19 of CEP's *Promises, promises* CD.

Closing prayer

Finish your session with some 'I'm glad' prayers. The children and leaders should select God qualities from their banner or the lists of words compiled earlier and thank him for being like that. For example, 'I'm glad that you're stronger than anything, God', or 'I'm glad that I'm safe with you, God'.

You may wish to hand out the small rocks used earlier in **The wishing rock** game for the children to hold as they pray. Collect them again at the end of prayer time.



God, be my mighty **ROCK**,
the place where I can always
run for **PROTECTION**.

Psalm 71:3a (CEV)

**Y
O
U**

alone
are
GOD!

Only you
are a
mighty **ROCK**.

Psalm 18:31 (CEV)

YOU
are my
mighty
ROCK
and my
FORTRESS.

Psalm 71:3b (CEV)

So always
trust the
LORD

because He is for ever
our mighty **ROCK**.

Isaiah 26:4 (CEV)

GOD is
that mighty
ROCK
where I find safety.

Psalm 62:7b (CEV)