

City LG - April 27-28, 2019

Bible Story: All I Ask of You (Jesus Appears to Thomas) • *John 20:19-29*

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

Memory Verse: *"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."* John 16:33b, NIV

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: "Give My All" and "All My Days"

NOTE: Take some time to teach a few of the dance moves to your group.

(Worship Leader Prays)

WELCOME:

"Hi, everyone! Before we pick up our story today, check this out. I need two volunteers.

Choose a small kid and an adult Leader (both the same gender) and bring them up on stage.

"How many of you have ever heard of a trust fall? A trust fall is when one person (*move the Leader to be standing in front*) stands in front of another person (*move the kid to be standing a few feet behind the adult*). Then the person in front closes their eyes and falls backward. It's called a 'trust fall' because the person in front has to trust that the person behind them will catch them and not let them fall.

(To the two volunteers) "Okay, are you both ready to do this? We'll do it on the count of three. One . . . two . . . *(to the kid)* wait. [Kid's name], why do you look so worried? *(To audience)* What's the problem here? *(Pause for response.)* OH! Right. Silly me. *(Switch the Leader and the kid.)* Is this better? Okay, now let's give it a go. [Kid's name], cross your arms over your chest, and lock your legs so they won't bend. Then, on the count of three, I want you to fall backward with your body straight as a board. Ready? One . . . two . . . three!

Let the kid "trust fall" into the Leader's arms.

"Yes! Perfect. *(To the two volunteers)* Thank you both. You can head back to your seats.

Dismiss the two volunteers to their seats.

"Now let's pick up our story. This happened just after Jesus died on the cross and came back to life. Can you imagine being one of Jesus' friends and followers when that was happening? After Jesus had died, they must have thought all hope was lost. The news that Jesus was ALIVE must have seemed almost unbelievable!"

"Jesus was buried in a tomb that would have looked something like this—with a big stone covering the entrance. Mary was the first one to discover that the stone had been rolled away! She ran to tell the disciples that the tomb was empty.

“When Peter and John heard the news, they went straight there to see for themselves. They were amazed to find that that tomb was empty, just like Mary had said.

“Peter and John were so excited that they ran back to tell the other disciples. We’ll let our Bible Story video pick up the story from here. Watch this!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:30)

“If you think about it, Jesus wasn’t scared of Thomas’s doubts. He answered Thomas’s questions and proved to him that He was really alive. And you know what? Jesus is big enough and strong enough to handle YOUR doubts and questions too.

Walk over to where the kid and Leader from the trust fall are sitting.

“It’s kind of like that trust fall we did a few minutes ago. When [Leader’s name] was standing in front of [kid’s name], he didn’t want to fall backward because he didn’t want to hurt [kid’s name]. It just wasn’t going to work. But when we switched it around and had [Leader’s name] ready to catch [kid’s name], it totally worked. Do you know why? It’s because [Leader’s name] is big enough and strong enough to catch [kid’s name]. [Kid’s name] can trust that [Leader’s name] is big enough and strong enough to handle it.

“Sometimes there are things that happen that we don’t understand. Sometimes we feel like we’re in the dark. We feel confused or hurt or scared. But here’s the thing. God has a plan. **[Basic Truth] We can trust Him no matter what.** We can talk to Him anytime. We might not always be able to understand His plan, but even when we have questions, we can choose to trust Him.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

“Let’s talk to God right now.”

Pray: “Dear God, thank You for the story of Thomas. Thank You for this great reminder that it’s okay for us to ask You questions. We know You have a bigger plan and Your plan is good. Help us to trust You even when there are things in life that we don’t understand. We love You, and we ask these things In Jesus’ name, amen.”

“It’s true. God is okay with our questions. His plan is so much bigger than we can imagine. When there are things that are hard for us to believe or even just hard for us to understand, we don’t have to hide those feelings. We can talk to God and be honest about our questions and doubts.

“Sometimes God doesn’t answer your prayers the way you want Him to. And sometimes bad things happen to people we love. It’s hard to understand why those things happened. But even in those times, we can trust God. We can find hope when we remember how much He loves us. We can remember that He has a bigger plan. We can trust Him and believe that He is our light in the darkness.

“So, when you’re feeling scared, sad, or worried, you should talk to God about it. God already knows how you feel and He’s right there with you. You can also talk to the people God has put in your life who love you. God gave you parents and a Small Group Leader who love you and want to help you.

“I’m so glad that we can have hope even when things seem the darkest. You’ll get to talk about that some more back in Small Group. Before we head there, let’s worship God with our offering!”

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

“(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya. Here’s a picture of some cool facts about Nairobi!”

CG: Kenyan Facts JPEG

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! (*show offering container*).”

CG: Offering Video “MC Haggis” (Runtime: 2:45)

Dismiss to Small Groups