

City SG - April 6-7, 2019

Bible Story: You Raise Me Up (Lazarus Raised) • *John 11:1-45*

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

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

1. Overreaction

What You Need: "Overreaction" Activity Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Read the situations listed on the Activity Page one at a time.
- After each scenario, pause and ask kids to silently act out the reactions they might have in each situation.
- Do this for as long as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

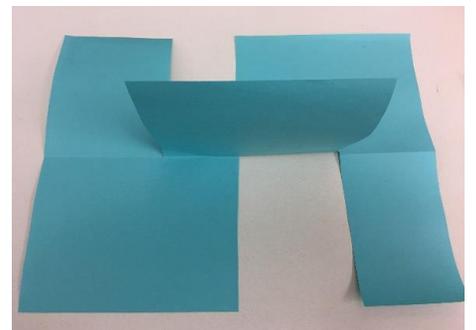
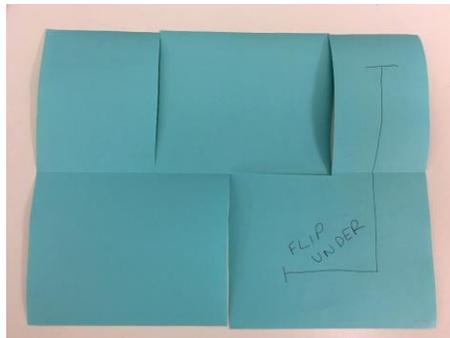
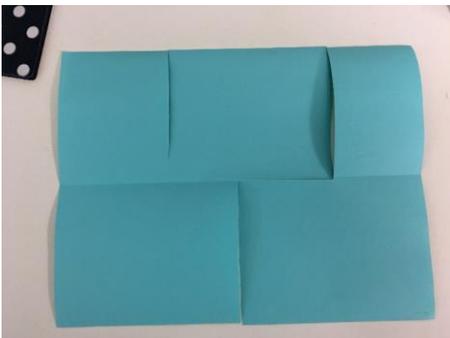
"Each day is full of situations that cause big reactions and strong emotions in us. Some are normal, regular reactions, and some are over the top! **[Transition] In Large Group today, we heard about a situation that caused a pretty big reaction. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus back to life!**"

2. It Can't Be Done

What You Need: Paper (1 sheet per child), scissors (*there are YouTube video instructions, too*)

What You Do:

- Guide the kids to review the story, letting them provide as many details as they can.
- Ask a few questions to get them started, if needed:
 - Who were the main people in our story today? (*Jesus, Lazarus, Mary, and Martha*)
 - Why did Lazarus's sisters feel sad and hopeless? (*Their brother, Lazarus, was dead*)
 - What did Jesus do to help? (*He rose Lazarus from the dead*)
 - What did today's story prove? (*How powerful God is*)
- Give each kid a piece of paper and scissors and challenge them to the "Impossible Paper Challenge."
- The steps are as follows:
 - Fold the paper in half lengthwise, then open it up.
 - Cut one side of the paper in half, the other in thirds.
 - With the half-cut side facing bottom, flip the right side of the paper under.
 - You should now be able to flip the center flap back and forth to reveal the seemingly impossible extra flap that doesn't fit on either side.



What You Say:

“Lazarus’s sisters must have felt helpless watching him struggle when he was sick and even more so after he died. It must have felt like there was no possibility of everything being okay again. They were in an impossible situation. **[Make It Personal]** (Talk about a kid-appropriate time when you thought all hope was lost, like when you were lost, your dog was lost, etc.) There are often times in our lives when we feel like nothing is going right and like nothing will ever be okay again, but **[Bottom Line]** whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.”

3. If You Build It

What You Need: Plastic cups (40 cups per group)

What You Do:

- Arrange kids into groups of three or four and hand out about ten cups to each group.
- Challenge groups to use the cups to create a structure that goes as high as possible without it falling down.
- If the structures fall down, encourage them to try again.
- Then challenge kids to try to build the tower using only one hand per person or with their eyes closed.

What You Say:

“Great job building those structures with just a few slippery cups! You were really creative with that. It was hard enough to build a tower out of cups, but can you imagine if someone asked you to build a whole house? You’d have to start by digging a foundation and then figure out how much wood and other materials you would need and how to move those materials. It would be a big job! Even bigger than that would be building the Great Pyramids in Egypt. The biggest one of those is about 455 feet high—that’s as tall as 15 two-story houses stacked on top of each other! Plus, they didn’t have cranes and trucks like we have. They had to move the bricks on their own, and each brick weighed as much as a big car! Whew!

“And you know what’s even bigger and taller and heavier than those pyramids? The mountains and the ocean and the desert! And who built those? God did—by himself. If He can do that, He must be pretty powerful! **[Bottom Line]** Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is. Because if God is powerful enough to build the mountains by Himself, He is powerful enough for anything we might need Him for.”

4. Jesus Can!

What You Need: Bibles, stress globe (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a memory verse mash-up of “Hot Potato” and “Duck, Duck, Goose.”
- Help kids look up and “read” the verse using the navigation tips below.

Finding verses with 1st Graders: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *John* at the top of the page as you say “John” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 16 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 16 for the little 33; this is the verse number. Tell them to put their finger on the words “in this world” as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 2nd-3rd graders: Guide children to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find John in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that John starts with the letters J-O. When the kids find John, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find John. Help the kids find the page. When they find John, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 16. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 33 in chapter 16. Tell them to put their finger on the words “in this world” as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- Next, guide kids to name some troubles we might have, whether it's sickness, moving to a new place, losing a pet, or being sad.
- Emphasize that no matter what happens, we can have hope because God is bigger and stronger than anything.
- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one child the globe and guide her to quickly pass it to her right.
- As kids continue to pass the ball "Hot Potato"-style and methodically say the first sentence of the memory verse: *"In . . . this . . . world . . . you . . . will . . . have . . . trouble."*
- When you say, "trouble," the child holding the globe names a trouble someone might have.
 - He might say: getting sick, losing a toy, having a pet die, a friend moving away, or feeling sad.
 - After he names a trouble, compassionately say (to all the kids), "Jesus said: *"But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."*
- *NOTE: As kids learn the words of Jesus' promise, invite them to say it with you, too.*
- Continue the game for several rounds, heightening kids' anticipation by varying the length of time you pause before saying, "Trouble!"
- *NOTE: If a child is too shy or uncomfortable to say a trouble aloud, invite him to whisper it in your ear or choose someone to say one for him.*

What You Say:

"Jesus knows that we'll have troubles in this world. Bad things and sad things WILL happen to us. But Jesus also promised that He's won the battle over the world. That means that no matter what bad things happen, Jesus is more powerful and He'll work everything out for good. That's why we can always have hope!"

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Picture of a mountain (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Ask kids to close their eyes and think of the biggest thing they can imagine in nature—a mountain, the ocean, a desert, the biggest bear they've ever seen, etc. Take the picture of a mountain, and show it to the kids.
- Pray together and thank God for creating those things.

What You Say:

"Father, we thank You that You have given us so many instructions and directions about how to live. Help us to always remember to turn to You when we need to know what to do, and remind us what You have told us through the Bible and through the people around us. Thank You that You are powerful enough to protect us. This week, remind us of Your power when we feel uncertain. Amen. ***[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.***"

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT "COMMUNION CALL"

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" CARDS TO EACH CHILD AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!