

City LG - May 4-5, 2019

Bible Story: Runnin' Down a Dream (Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1-2*

Bottom Line: Keep going because God is with you.

Memory Verse: *But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NirV)

Supplies Needed: Skein of Yarn (it will need to be rewrapped into a ball by a leader for each class after large group)

CG: Countdown Video

WORSHIP: “We Are Royals” and “Every Beat”

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

(Worship Leader Prays)

WELCOME:

“Hey, everybody! Last month we talked about all the things that happened when Jesus died on the cross and then rose again. When Jesus died on the cross, His followers were devastated—especially Peter, James, and John. But when Jesus returned to life, they were overjoyed!

“Jesus appeared to His friends and followers a number of times over 40 days. One time He told them about the Holy Spirit.

“He said this.

Open the Bible to Acts 1:4, 5, 8 (NirV) and read.

“Wait for the gift my Father promised. . . . In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. . . . You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”

“But the disciples still weren't sure what this meant. Earlier, Jesus had asked His followers to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee. Let me read to you what happened.

Open the Bible to Matthew 28:18-20 (NirV) and read.

“Then Jesus came to them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.”

“Jesus was giving His followers a very important mission. He was giving them the plan: to tell EVERYONE about Him. “Later, when Jesus told the disciples about the Holy Spirit, He reminded them about their very important mission. He reminded them to tell people about Him from one end of the earth to the other. And then, right in front of their eyes, Jesus was lifted up into the sky.

“He rose higher and higher until a cloud hid Him and they couldn’t see Him anymore. The disciples just stood there looking at the sky, and then two angels appeared! The angels told the men that Jesus had been taken into heaven, but one day, He would come back.”

“The disciples couldn’t believe their eyes! Peter, James, and John tried to make sense of what had happened. Jesus wanted them to tell EVERYONE about Him. But how could they possibly do that? How could they share the good news about Jesus with every single person in the world? We’ll answer that question with the help of this week’s Bible Story video. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:45)

“Okay, so before we continue, I need your help.

Hold up yarn.

“Who can tell me what this is? *(Pause for response.)* Right. Yarn. What happens if I take a piece of this yarn. . . *(hold the end of the yarn)* . . . and then I hand the rest to [Leader’s name]?”

Hand the ball of yarn to a Leader up near the front while you continue to hold onto your end of the yarn.

“Now, wait a minute. What if [Leader’s name] held the yarn, then passed it to someone in his/her small group? And when everyone in the group had a hold of the yard, it passed on to another group and another? Eventually, EVERYONE in the room will be holding onto the strand of yarn, right? That’s so cool!

“I think all of us need to give this a try so you can see what I mean...”

Give the groups some time to pass the yarn ball around the room, making sure to keep holding onto the yarn after they have passed the ball along. Then get the kids’ attention again.

“Wow. Awesome! Keep holding onto the yarn! Isn’t that cool how the yarn spreads? It reminds me of what happened in our story. Peter shared the story of Jesus, and guess what happened? THREE THOUSAND people decided to follow Jesus that day and were baptized! The story of Jesus was starting to spread! The new believers studied what Peter and the other leaders taught about Jesus. They shared everything and gave to those in need. As others saw the joy and love of the new church, they also became followers of Jesus.”

“Think about it. When we passed the yarn around, we spread it through this room so quickly. It was kind of like that when people heard the truth about Jesus. They were so excited that they couldn’t wait to tell other people! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus’ followers could keep going to fulfill their huge mission of sharing Jesus with the entire world. Here’s what we need to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Keep going because God is with you.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us have perseverance when things get tough.”

Pray: “Dear God, thank You for this amazing story that reminds us how You can help us persevere. You helped the disciples by giving them the Holy Spirit so they could tell everyone about You. Please help us to trust You when things get tough and to remember that You’re always with us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“You know, when Jesus told the disciples to tell people about Him from one end of the earth to the other, it might have seemed impossible. But Jesus said that He would always be with them to the very end. And you know what? He is always with you, too. When life gets hard and you feel like giving up, remember that you’re not alone. Our memory verse this month is Isaiah 40:31. It reminds us how God can help us when we’re up against something tough. Check it out...”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak (NIV).”

“No matter what you’re afraid of, no matter what problems you might be having, God can help you keep going. He is always with you. It’s time now for you to head to Small Group. Before we head there, let’s worship God with our offering!”

Offering Time:

“Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called ‘Missions of Hope’ to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them. Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

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 “Dear God” (Runtime: 1:50)

Dismiss to Small Groups