

City SG - 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)

1. Duck, Duck, Goose

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- As kids arrive, encourage them to place their offerings in the container and then sit in a circle.
- Choose a “ducker” and begin to play “Duck, Duck, Goose.”
- After each ducker runs around the circle, encourage them to answer the question: If you were going to run a long race, what would you want to bring with you?
- Continue until each kid has had a chance to be the ducker and answer the question.

2. Keep Going

What You Need: Jenga® game (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Encourage your group to sit in a circle around the Jenga game.
- Invite one kid at a time to attempt to pull out a block just as the Jenga instructions suggest.
- Play until the tower falls.
- Play again as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“Well, that was a lot of fun, but I was SO nervous that I would be the one to make the tower fall! Did anyone else think it was hard to keep playing when you knew the tower was close to falling over? (Allow time for comments and responses.) **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we learned why we can always keep going no matter what obstacles lay in front of us! Because God is with us!**”

3. Spread the News

What You Need: “Spread the News” Activity Page (1 per child), markers

What You Do:

- Talk with your group about what it means to persevere.
 - Ask if anyone knows how to tie their shoes. (If not, ask about other things that are difficult for kids that age to learn, such as writing their name or reading a short sentence.)
 - Ask if learning those skills was hard, and what kids had to do in order to be successful.
 - Did they have to practice and do that skill over and over again? Did it take a long time? Did they have someone who helped them?

- Lead kids to think about something they need to persevere in right now. Maybe it's tying their shoes if they haven't learned that yet. Maybe it's getting along with a sibling. Maybe it's doing a chore or task until it's finished, instead of stopping before the task is finished.
- Give every kid an Activity Page and markers.
- Encourage them to decorate their "newspaper" and to draw in one way they are going to keep going and persevere this week!
- If you have kids who haven't identified where they need perseverance, continue the conversation with those kids as the rest of the group works on their newspapers.

What You Say:

"Who wants to share a way you are going to persevere this week with our group? (*Allow time for kids to share.*) What AMAZING ideas! Now, who wants to share one of the obstacles or things that may get in the way of you finishing? (*Allow time for kids to share.*) You know, no matter what comes up this week, our story reminded us today that we can **[Bottom Line] keep going because God is with you.** Each of the ideas you wrote down can be finished because God will help us! I can't wait to hear next week about how you finished things strong this week!"

4. Pass the Pie

What You Need: Black Foam Ball (1 per group), *optional: music on smartphone*

What You Do:

- Instruct your group to stand in a line so they're looking at the back of the person in front of them.
- Explain that you are going to give the first person in line the "mud pie" (black ball), and they are going to pass the pie over their head to the person behind them.
- That person will then pass it between their legs to the person standing behind them.
- Encourage everyone to keep passing over/under until the mud pie reaches the end of the line.
- Do a practice round before beginning the game so kids can understand the over/under concept.
- *Optional:* Tell kids that you will play music as they pass the pie, and when the music is paused, the person holding the pie must answer a question about today's story.
 - **NOTE: If you do not have music, simply say stop at your discretion.**
- The goal is to pass the pie fast enough so that you're not holding it when the leader says "Stop!", or when the music stops!
- Continue as time and interest allow, or until all review questions are answered.
- Try not to stop on the same kid twice.

Review questions:

1. What gift did Jesus say His followers were going to receive? (*the Holy Spirit*)
2. What command did Jesus give His followers? (*go and make disciples; tell everyone else about Him*)
3. What happened to Jesus after He gave them the command? (*He went up into the sky*)
4. Did anybody show up with the followers after Jesus went into the sky? (*two angels*)
5. What did the angels say? (*Jesus will go to heaven, but He will come back the same way He left*)
6. When Jesus' followers left the mountain and went back to their house, what did they experience? (*the Holy Spirit came*)
7. What happened when the Holy Spirit came? (*they started speaking in languages they had never spoken before*)
8. What did Peter and the others do after this? (*taught people about Jesus*)

What You Say:

“Okay! Who never had to answer a question? *(Allow time for kids to raise hands.)* Wow! Then you, my friends, are some seriously fast passers of pie. You know, in today’s story we learned that God has asked us to pass on something way more awesome than a mud pie. He asked us to pass on the greatest story ever told: the gospel—the story of Jesus! There may be obstacles that we face or times when we get into sticky situations, but today we learned that we can always **[Bottom Line] keep going because God is with you.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share a personal example of how you persevered and told someone about Jesus even though there were obstacles that made it difficult or awkward.)

EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY: Memory Verse Scramble

What You Need: Bibles, Memory Verse Cards (3 sets of 10 per group)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up Isaiah 40:31 using the following tips.

Finding verses with 1st-3rd graders: Guide them 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 Isaiah in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Isaiah, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Isaiah. Help the kids find the page. When they find Isaiah, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 40. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 31 in chapter 40.

- Say the verse together several times.
- Divide your group into 2 or 3 teams (depending on the size of your group)
- Give each team a set of “Memory Verse Scramble” pages.
- Tell the kids to spread the sheets out, face down, and scramble them up on the floor.
- On your “Go!” the first team to put the verse in order wins.
 - Have a team member read the verse to you to complete the round.
- Play a few rounds as time allows.

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!