

City LG—April 24th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: All I Ask (Jesus Appears to Thomas) • *John 20:19-29*

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

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

REMINDER: Kids will need to be grouped into Small Groups to begin Service

WORSHIP: Hands Toward Heaven and Alive

CG: Camp Manitoqua Slide

"Camp Manitoqua is a great opportunity for you to meet new friends and learn more about Jesus! You don't want to miss it! Also, Parkview Kids, Camp is just for our 2nd and 3rd Grade friends here in the City. Don't worry 1st Graders! We'll still have Summer Jam coming up and all kinds of other fun things for you too! You can look forward to going to Camp next year. All of the information is on this card (*show postcard*). Make sure you grab one before you leave today!"

"Hey everyone! So good to see you all here today. I hope you all had a great Easter! Today, we'll talk about someone who had a bit of a hard time trusting God. But before we get to that, let's have some fun! I've got some very PUZZLING questions to ask you, and I want to see how you answer them. Normally, I dismiss you for 3 minutes to answer a question in your Small Groups, but we're going to all play this game together today..."

"These are all 'Would you rather' questions. There are no right or wrong answers. Just move to this side of the room if you'd rather choose the first answer. (*Indicate the left side the room, from the audience's perspective.*) Or move to this side of the room if you'd rather choose the second answer. (*Indicate the right side the room, from the audience's perspective.*) If you're REALLY sure, go all the way to that side. If you just can't decide, you can stand in the middle of the room. Make sense? (*Pause for response.*) Cool! I'll play, too!

Read the questions from the printed script. Feel free to edit them or add your own questions that you think will get a big reaction from your kids (i.e. local sports teams, etc.).

For each of the questions, point to the side of the room that corresponds with each choice.

"Would you rather . . . eat M&M'S® (*point to one side*) or Sour Patch Kids® (*point to the other side*)?"

Move to one side of the room to show your own preference. Comment on the preferences of the kids around you (if there's a strong preference overall, if they just can't decide, etc.) Have some fun by asking kids why they chose their answers.

“Would you rather . . . always be dressed up or always wear your pajamas?”

“Would you rather . . . swim in the ocean or play in the snow?”

“Would you rather . . . have all toes or all fingers?”

“Would you rather . . . have a flying carpet or your own personal robot?”

“Would you rather . . . be invisible or have the ability to fly?”

“Would you rather . . . be a bird or a horse?”

“Would you rather . . . swim in a pool or jump on a trampoline?”

“Would you rather . . . eat a cheeseburger or a taco?”

“Would you rather . . . see a giant ant or a tiny giraffe?”

“Would you rather . . . be a superhero or a cartoon character?”

“Would you rather . . . drink sour milk or eat rotten eggs?”

“Would you rather . . . be the smartest person in the world or the strongest person in the world?”

“Would you rather . . . have a water balloon fight or play laser tag?”

“Would you rather . . . have really small hands or really big feet?”

Go back to the front of the room after the last question.

“That was fun! Some of those were really tough questions. I wasn’t sure WHAT to pick! Thanks for playing along, everyone! Let’s get into today’s Bible Story...”

For today’s story, we’re looking at what happened after Jesus died on the cross then came back to life. When Jesus died, His followers were really scared. They didn’t know what would happen next—or if the religious leaders might come after them because they were friends with Jesus. So they gathered together in a room with the door locked. I wonder what happened next? Let’s find out with the help of this week’s video!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:30)

“Thomas now knew for SURE that Jesus was alive. And Jesus wasn’t upset or angry with Thomas for having doubts or questions. Instead, Jesus lovingly answered Thomas and showed that no question is too big for Him. Let’s learn this week’s Bottom Line!”

CG: Bottom Line Video (Runtime: 1:00)

SLIDE: Bottom Line

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

“All of us will have times when we have questions. Maybe we’re just not sure why things are happening the way they are, or maybe we’re having a hard time finding hope. In those times, it helps to remember how BIG God is and to trust that God always sees the bigger picture in our lives. Let’s pray.”

PRAY: “Dear God, thank You for this story that reminds us that we can have hope in You. We know that we can be like Thomas sometimes. We have questions because we don’t understand what’s happening around us, or maybe things in our lives just aren’t going the way we want. In those moments, please Help us remember that You are so much bigger than our doubts and questions. Thank You for being there with us, through anything we might face in life. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“We can’t see everything that God can see, but we can trust that God can help us with our questions—or even be okay when we have questions that might not have an answer at all. God knows how many stars are in the sky. God knows how many hairs are on your head. And while there are definitely things we don’t know, we DO know that God is with us, no matter what!

“So if you’re not sure about something and you’re feeling PUZZLED, you don’t have to keep that inside. You can pray and talk to God about it. You can read the Bible or ask an adult to help. You can ask the people God has put in your life—like your family members or your Small Group Leader.

“In fact, right now it’s time for you to hang out with your small group and talk more about this *(point to the screen)*. **[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.**”

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here’s a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering, you can bring it up now! Have fun in Small Groups!”

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri // New Lenox: Daniel // Homer Glen: Victor