

City LG—May 1st, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Start Spreading the News (Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel) • *Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1-2*

Today's Bottom Line: God is always with you.

Monthly 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)

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

Supplies Needed: Bible and 5 unbroken Glow Sticks (per Service for Large Group Lesson) and 1 Glow Stick (per kid)

NOTE: You will be using Glow Sticks as an illustration. If you can, work with your Tech Team person to dim your room lights for your Large Group.

WORSHIP: Not the Same and Something Good

"Hello, friends! I'm so excited to see you all here today! This month we're talking about how God can help us live with resilience.

SLIDE: Resilience

"Resilience is getting back up when something gets you down.

"Today, we're looking at a time when some people REALLY needed resilience. (*Hold up Bible.*) Before we go too far though, I have a question for you...

SLIDE: Question (What's the best news you've ever received?)

"Ooooooh...that's a good one. Maybe you found out you made the team, or that you were going to have a perfect little baby sister, or that the McRib is back at McDonald's. It could be anything! Take a few minutes to talk with your group now!"

CG: Question Video (Runtime 3:00)

We're looking at what happened with Jesus' disciples in the very earliest days of the church. Remember, the disciples were some of Jesus' closest friends. Jesus had invited them to follow Him and learn from Him.

"Today, we'll represent Jesus' disciples with these glow sticks.

Hold up a few unbroken glow sticks, fanned out so they're all visible.

(*Hold up Bible.*) "In the book of Matthew, we can read about a time Jesus met His friends on a mountain in Galilee. When the disciples saw Jesus, they worshipped Him. Listen to what Jesus said to them. Can one of our leaders read it for me?"

Hand the Bible to a Small Group Leader and have them read Matthew 28:18-20 (NirV).

LEADER: *“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.”*

“Thanks, [leader’s name]! Wow. Make disciples of ALL nations! Basically, Jesus told His closest followers to help other people ALL AROUND THE WORLD to become followers of Jesus, too! That’s a big job, don’t you think? But Jesus told the disciples, ‘You can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end.’”

And Jesus went on to say this.”

Point to Acts 1:8 (NirV) and have the same leader read it.

LEADER: *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.”*

“There it is again—Jesus said that His friends would tell others about Him, from one end of the earth to the other! They would be able to do this with the help of the Holy Spirit. That’s what our video is all about today. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 7:15)

“Wow! God had given the Holy Spirit to the believers—just like Jesus had said!

One by one, break the glow sticks representing the disciples so they start to glow.

“God was preparing the people who believed in Jesus to go and tell the whole world about Him.”

“Jerusalem was filled with Jewish people from many different nations who had traveled there for the festival of Pentecost. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were able to speak in languages they had never learned before.

Hold up one glow stick above the others to represent Peter.

“Peter began to speak to the crowd. He told them how Jesus had died on the cross, then came back to life. He told the people . . .

Open the Bible to Acts 2:38 (NirV) and read.

“All of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then your sins will be forgiven. You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

“Because of Peter’s message, through the power of God’s Spirit, three THOUSAND people believed in Jesus and were baptized that day!

Pick up the bundles of glow sticks. Give a bundle to each Small Group Leader to hand out to their group.

“The believers shared their lives, studied, worshipped, and ate together. They knew that the power of God’s Spirit could carry them through anything!

“Here’s the really cool part. God is with US today, just like the early believers. God can help you bounce back when you have to face tough things. You can find that kind of resilience when you remember one simple thing. Before we do, everyone activate your Glow Sticks like this to get them to shine (**demonstrate how to break the Glow Sticks to get them to shine**). Good job! Let’s learn this week’s Bottom Line!”

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

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “God is always with you.

“It’s true! God is with you—through the good times and the tough times in life. Let’s pray.”

PRAY: “Dear God, thank You for never, ever leaving us alone. You gave us Jesus, and You gave us your Holy Spirit to be with us always. When we have to go through something tough, please help us remember that You are always with us. Help us trust You and find our strength in You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“Sometimes things in your life can seem almost impossible. You might be worried about school. Or maybe something tough is happening in your family. You might feel out of control, and you don’t know what’s going to happen next. You don’t have to face those hard things alone, because **[Bottom Line] God is always with you.**

“A great way to remember that is with our memory verse for this month, Isaiah 40:31:

SLIDE: 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)

“That’s SO good! God is always with us. Be sure to keep track of your glow stick!”

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