

CITY LG – April 1-3, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Rise Again (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18:12–20:23 (John 16; Matthew 26)*

Today's Bottom Line: Celebrate because Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)

WORSHIP

At the Top of My Lungs

Won't Let Go

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups

SLIDE: Theme

OPENER

HOST: “Hello, everyone! It's EASTER next week and I'm so happy we get to celebrate together! Did you know that Easter is about more than just candy and flowers and baby bunnies? It's true! I mean, I love candy and flowers and bunnies as much as anyone. But the REAL reason we're celebrating is because of what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross then came back to life! It's the biggest, most amazing thing that has ever happened—EVER!

There are a lot of things we do to celebrate Easter. Let's circle up in our groups and talk about this. I want you to answer this question.... **what do you do to celebrate Easter?**

(Give the groups a couple minutes to discuss)

I heard a lot of fun things that you do to celebrate that Jesus is alive!

“All this month we are going to be talking about Humility. Jesus gave us the ultimate example of humility because humility is all about putting others first. It's like this.

SLIDE: Virtue

“Humility is putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

SLIDE: Theme

“I know it's usually not easy to be humble. Humility can be difficult for all of us, but it's something we can learn . . . as we grow from the ground up!

“Everything we’ve talked about in God’s Big Story led up to what Jesus did for us on the cross. You might remember how prophets spoke about the Savior who was to come. Sure enough, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. When Jesus grew up, He traveled around and healed people who were sick.

“Jesus also taught people a new way to live, by loving God and loving others. People followed Jesus everywhere, because they wanted to be near Him and hear what He had to say.

“But when Jesus came to Jerusalem for the Passover festival, the religious leaders made plans to get rid of Him. They didn’t like what Jesus was teaching, and they didn’t like how so many people were following Him. At a special meal, Jesus showed His friends what it meant to be humble by washing their feet. He told them that the way others would know they were His followers was by their LOVE.

“Jesus said . . .

Open the Bible to John 13:35 and read.

“If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples.”

Let’s go to the Story Lab to find out what happened after they ate the Passover meal...

Bible Story Video

“Jesus’ return to life didn’t JUST mean that He was alive again. It means that Jesus really is the Son of God and the Savior of the world. It means that everything wrong will one day be made right again. It means that anyone who believes in and follows Jesus can have life forever with God!

“Let’s watch Greg for our bottom line today

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “Celebrate because Jesus is alive.

“Say that with me.”

KIDS and STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line] “Celebrate because Jesus is alive.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

“Now THAT’S why we celebrate Easter! The tomb is empty, and Jesus is alive!

“Jesus is the Son of God. He is all-powerful. But He chose to set aside that power to become human. Even as a human, Jesus never did anything wrong. But He died on the cross for our sins so that we

could have a relationship with God that will last forever. Then Jesus came back to life and proved that He really is the Savior God promised.

“There are so many fun things to love about Easter—like egg hunts, candy, and time with family. As we share this special day with each other and the people we love, let’s make sure to remember the reason we’re celebrating: Jesus, God’s Son, is alive!

Let’s pray....

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, You are amazing! You knew that we would need a Savior. You knew that we would need Jesus! Thank You for sending Your Son to be our Rescuer. Thank You for the way Jesus put us first—in the biggest way imaginable! We are so thankful that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

OFFERING:

As some of you may already know, we are highlighting some of our Parkview Global Missionaries from the beautiful country of Mexico. Here is a picture of our Missionary Friends Eli and Mandy Garcia!

CG: Eli and Mandy

Parkview has spent many years developing a very important partnership with an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries in Mexico. This group has been working in many of the under-resourced areas to plant churches, start schools, and care for the amazing people of Mexico. Here’s a picture of some of the kids at the school down in Mexico.

SLIDE: Kids at School (Image 6620)

So if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now knowing that it is going to help a lot of people just like you in the great country of Mexico!

“Happy Easter next week everyone! I sure have enjoyed hanging out with all of you today. Have fun in Small Group!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.