

# CITY SG – April 22-24, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** Stand by Me (On the Road to Emmaus) • *Luke 24:13-35*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Put others first by helping them understand.

**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)

## 1. Road Trip

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** "Jerusalem and Emmaus Road Signs" and "Emmaus Review Sheet", tape, and one die

### What You Do:

- Tape the "Jerusalem" sign in one area of your small group area and the "Emmaus" sign in an opposite area of the area
- Gather the kids in "Jerusalem."
- Explain that they will travel to "Emmaus."
- In order to travel, lead the kids to take turns answering a review question from the "Emmaus Review Sheet."
- If a kid gets the answer right, he or she will roll the die and pick a kid in the group to move forward the number of steps shown on the die.
- The goal is for everyone to arrive at Emmaus at the same time, **so kids should be challenged to pay attention to their peers and adjust their step size accordingly.**
- Explain that some questions can have more than one answer, so more than one kid can provide an answer then roll the die.
- Once the group gets to "Emmaus," ask them:
  - Did Cleopas and his friend stay in Emmaus? (*No*)
  - Why didn't they stay there? (*They had to get back to Jerusalem to tell the others about Jesus.*)
  - What is something you know about Jesus (*Let kids answer*)

### What You Say:

"Jesus took the time to help Cleopas and his friend understand what had happened in Jerusalem. Jesus walked with them and explained the Messiah would come and save God's people. Jesus explained the Messiah would die but would come back to life. As Jesus broke bread and gave thanks, Cleopas and his friend understood who Jesus was. Jesus died and came back to life to save God's people. How did Cleopas and his friend respond once they understood? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! They ran back to Jerusalem to help others understand Jesus is alive!

"One way to grow in humility is to **put others first by helping them understand.** This week, look for opportunities to help others understand how much Jesus loves them by treating them like Jesus would."

## 2. Toss Across

### *Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Bibles, ball

#### **What You Do:**

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
  - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse (Philippians 2:3) together.
  - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
- Recite the verse together a few times.
- Have the kids sit in a circle and give one child the ball.
- Ask that child to say the first word of the verse then throw the ball across to another child who says the second word.
- Continue tossing the ball to each other until you have finished the verse.
- Play a few times and, if possible, time how long it takes the group to complete the verse.
- Try to get quicker each time.

#### **What You Say:**

“One way we can grow in humility is to memorize Scripture. The stories and principles in the Bible help us make wise choices and understand how to put others first. Our verse this month reminds us that humility isn’t about getting ahead and being the best. To ‘grow in humility’ means we look for ways to put others first. ‘Being humble’ means we value others and we **put others first by helping them understand** how important they are to us and to God.”

## 3. Side by Side

### *Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Floor tape

#### **What You Do:**

- Direct the kids to gather at one end of your area.
- Tape a finish line at the opposite end of your Small Group area.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Instruct the kids to link arms with their teammates and stand in a line.
- Direct the teams to race to the other end of the environment.
- The catch is, teams must stay in a line as they travel across the environment and all the kids on the team must cross the finish line at the same time. (To do this, kids must stay side-by-side as they race to the finish line.)
- The first team to cross the finish line exactly together, wins.
- For subsequent races, switch up teams and the way kids will move. For example,
  - for round one, direct kids to walk.
  - for round two, direct them to hop.
  - for round three, direct them to walk backwards, etc.

**What You Say:**

“In our story today, we learned about friends who traveled side by side like we did in this game. You also had to work together and put others before yourself so you can get to the finish line together. Jesus helped Cleopas and his friend understand who He was. Jesus put others first by helping them understand the big picture of what God was doing and that when you believe in Jesus you can be friends with God now and forever. Just like Jesus, you can **put others first by helping them understand** how much Jesus loves them.

\*One way to help others understand that Jesus loves them is to show them. When we treat others the way we want to be treated, we show them Jesus’ love.

- **What are some ways we can show others that Jesus loves them?**

**4. Pray and Dismiss**

*Prayer Activity*

**What You Need:** Nothing

**What You Do:**

- Pray as a group using our memory verse (Philippians 2:3) as a model. Ask the kids to repeat each line after you.

**What You Say:**

- “God, thank You for giving us the Bible to help us understand how much You love us.
- Help us *not do things just to get ahead or because we are proud.*
- God, we want to *instead, be humble.*
- God, help us to *value others more than ourselves.*
- God, show us how we can **put others first by helping them understand** how much You love them.
- We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”