

CITY LG – Oct 3rd-4th

Bible Story: And to Think That I Saw Him on the Road to Damascus (Paul shares his story with Timothy) • 1 Timothy 1:12-16 (Supporting: Acts 9:1-19, Acts 16:1)

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference.

Memory Verse: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live.” 1 Timothy 4:12a, NIV

Life App: Individuality—discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

Worship:

Host enters holding up a smart phone or digital camera.

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everyone! I am glad that everyone is finally here because I can’t wait to try out the camera on my new phone! I wanted the very first picture I took to be awesome and I couldn’t think of a better first picture than a group picture of all of you!”

Hold up the phone to take a picture of the kids.

“Everyone smile! I want to try and fit everyone in ... and ... hold that pose ... click! Got it! Let’s take a look at it.

Look at the photo on the phone.

“Hmmm, it looks like the phone has trouble keeping everyone in focus so some parts of the picture are kind of blurry. *(Cheerfully)* But you know what? I still like it. Even though it’s a little out of focus I still know what it is. *(Pause.)* Hey, that just gave me an idea for a game! We have some other blurry, out-of-focus photos and I want to see if you can guess what they are. Here’s how it will work. First, I will show you a very blurry photo and you raise your hand if you think you can guess what it is. If you guess right, you’ll move on to the next picture. But if no one can figure it out, we’ll show you the same picture but a little bit more in focus. Same thing: if you get it right, we’ll take a look at the next one. But, if no one can guess, you’ll get one more chance with a picture that’s just a little bit more in focus. After that, we’ll show you the picture all cleared up and in focus. Let’s get started with our first out-of-focus picture!

Note: Once the picture is on the screen take a few guesses and if no one is correct, move on to the next slide, and repeat this pattern until either someone guesses correctly or until you reach the fourth version: the in-focus picture. Continue playing as time allows through the following slides:

CG: Out-of-Focus Picture of a Rollercoaster Slide 1, Slide 2, Slide 3

CG: In-Focus Picture of a Rollercoaster Slide

CG: Out-of-Focus Picture of a Christmas Tree Slide 1, Slide 2, Slide 3

CG: In-Focus Picture of a Christmas Tree Slide

CG: Out-of-Focus Picture of a Soccer Game Slide 1, Slide 2, Slide 3

CG: In-Focus Picture of a Soccer Game Slide

CG: Out-of-Focus Picture of a Birthday Party Slide 1, Slide 2, Slide 3

CG: In-Focus Picture of a Birthday Party Slide

HOST: “Wow! You’re really good at figuring out those blurry pictures. And you know what? All of these pictures have in something in common. They all tell a story. When I see the picture of the rollercoaster I think about all times I’ve been on all those fun and scary roller coasters. Or how about the picture of the Christmas tree? When you see that, you might think about Christmas and about Jesus’ birth or spending time with family. The same is true about the soccer game and birthday party. All of these pictures tell a story, and each story is unique. The same is true about each of you. All of you are unique and you each have your own unique story. Another word for that is individuality.

CG: Individuality Slide

“Individuality is discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference. And believe me, God wants to use all of you to make a difference in this world. And as you grow older, you’ll discover who you are and what your story is all about.

SETTING UP THE STORY

“I have a question for all of you. Have you ever seen a picture of yourself and not liked the way you looked in the picture? *(Pause for responses.)* Yeah, me too. But even if the photos aren’t the best, you can still tell a lot about someone from their photo.

When we read the Bible, we’re learning about real people who we don’t have photos of. The only things we know about them are what we can read. In Acts 16:1-2, we are meet a very important young man named Timothy. But all the Bible really says about him is that he was a young man living in the city of Lystra. We also know that people thought he was a pretty great guy, but that’s really all we know about Timothy when he was young. But his life was about to change. An important man came to town; his name was Paul. Paul spent time with Timothy to show him how to teach people about Jesus. And to help tell you about Paul, I’m going to need some help from one of you.” *(Chose one child to come up on the stage to be Paul)*

(LG Group Leader: *You also have the option showing the Bible story on video instead of this live teach. It will be loaded on the computer in case. Just let the tech team know.)*

PAUL WASN’T VERY NICE

Storyteller picks up a box and pulls out a robe and puts it on “Paul”.

STORYTELLER: “Here, put this on. It will be Paul’s costume.”

STORYTELLER: *Say to the child:* “I’m sorry about his, but the bad thing is that Paul was not a very nice guy. I’m sure you are MUCH nicer than him! See, Paul hadn’t always believed in Jesus. Paul believed that the people who believed in Jesus were criminals and deserved to be arrested, put on trial, and even killed!”

Storyteller pulls out a bag full of coats

STORYTELLER: “Yeah, there’s even a story about how some men were throwing rocks at someone who believed in God named Stephen so they could kill him. And Paul stood off to one side and helped those men by taking care of their coats while they threw the rocks! Here, hold these, Paul.

Storyteller dumps the bag of coats onto “Paul”

STORYTELLER: “But guess what?? That’s not ALL that Paul did that was bad!”

Storyteller picks up the chains out of the box and puts them on the outstretched the arms of “Paul”.

STORYTELLER: “You are probably wondering, Paul....why do you need these chains?? Well, I’ll tell you. Paul was angry about all of the people who were following Jesus. REMEMBER, he did NOT believe in him! He was yelling threats and insults at them!! He even went to Damascus, another city, and arrested the followers of Jesus that lived there. When he caught them, he planned to put them in chains and take them ALL back to Jerusalem where they would be put on trial and killed. So start walking, Paul.”

“Paul” walks in place still holding the chains.

PAUL’S CONVERSION

Storyteller pulls the flashlight out of the box and circles around “Paul” shining the light into his eyes.

STORYTELLER: “Paul, you are probably wondering why I am shining a flashlight in your eyes? Well, the Bible tells us that while Paul was walking on the road to Damascus, a bright light shone down on him from heaven. And he heard a voice speaking to him.”

STORYTELLER: *Turns to the audience...* “Anyone want to guess who’s voice that was??? RIGHT! That voice was Jesus speaking to Paul. He wanted Paul to know that He was REAL, and He was ALIVE just like all His followers had been saying! He wanted Paul to stop trying to hurt the other believers and to become a follower of His. He told Paul He wanted him to even go around telling other people that Jesus is alive!!”

PAUL IS USED FOR GREAT THINGS

STORYTELLER: “And GUESS WHAT??? He DID! Paul was actually blind from the bright light for three days, but afterwards he spent time with other people who believed in Him and started telling others about Jesus. Paul went on to teach other leaders, write letters that became part of the Bible, and spread the message of Jesus to THOUSANDS and THOUSANDS of people. In one of the letters he wrote, Paul spoke about his story to Timothy so that Timothy would know something very important.”

STORYTELLER: “Paul said that if God can show mercy and use someone as mean and awful as Paul was, then God can use ANYONE no matter what their story is. Isn’t that GREAT news??”

I’m sure Timothy was encouraged by Paul’s words and we should be encouraged too. Paul’s story was important, and Timothy’s story is important, and OUR story is important too.”

“Lets all give a round of applause to our awesome actor who played Paul today!!

Dismiss child back to his/her seat

STORYTELLER: “God sure showed Paul a lot of mercy didn’t he???? And that’s what made Paul’s story so important. God used Paul’s story to make a huge difference in the lives of millions of people for years and years to come. And Jesus can use your story, too! That’s the one thing to remember today.”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference.

I am going to say, “Jesus wants to use your story.” And then you will say, “To make a difference!” Ready?

Jesus wants to use your story....., *(and kids say... To make a difference!)*

Say this a few times asking the kids to get louder each time

Let’s pray...

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to pay the price for our sins. Thank You for your forgiveness and your mercy. Thank you for giving us a story. Please help those here who have never asked for your forgiveness to have the courage to do so. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

OPTION 2:

***TECH please have this video loaded on both Alley and City computers in case lg group needs to use video option.**

VIDEO:Wk 1 Bible Story