

CITY SG Guide – October 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.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray for your kids to become aware of what their “story” is. Ask God to reveal to them how He might use their stories to make a difference in others’ lives.

1. Baby, Look at You Go! (Story Review)

What You Need: Bible story pictures

What You Do:

- Lead the kids to pretend to “grow” from a baby to a toddler.
- As you direct them through the developmental milestones, be sure to ham it up to add to the fun! (Use baby talk; ask the “babies” if they need a bottle or need to be burped, etc.)
- Begin with kids lying on their stomachs like helpless babies.
- Possible milestones:
 - o Raising head and turning it side to side
 - o Smiling; copying facial expressions (make silly faces and guide kids to copy you); lifting head and chest; opening and closing hands
 - o Rolling tummy to back and back to tummy; turning and looking when name is called (call kids’ names and baby talk to them); babbling; raking grasp
 - o Crawling; first words (mama, dada); pincer grasping to grab food
 - o First steps; throwing a ball (kids can pretend)

What You Say:

“Wow! You guys have come a LONG way since you were babies. You’ve changed a lot since you were born, and boy am I glad! Otherwise, I’d be changing a lot of diapers around here! In Large Group, we heard the story of a man who changed a lot in ONE day! Let’s review our story...”

Review the Story:

Show kids the Bible story pictures and read the back of each one as a quick review of the story.

2. My Story (application activity)

What You Need: Paper with a blank face (one per child), “My Story” labels, crayons or markers

What You Do:

- Give each child a face paper and encourage her to draw a picture of him/herself
- Give each child a “My Story” label
- Lead kids to put the label on the front of their page and write their name on it
- Have kids draw or write things about themselves on the back of the page. (*Examples: family, where they live, likes and dislikes, etc.*)

What You Say:

“If Paul had a picture that told his story, what are some things you might find on his picture?”

“Did God use Paul’s story to make a difference? Yes! God used Paul’s story to make a *big* difference in the life of Timothy and in the lives of many, many people since. ***(Briefly share a child-appropriate story from your own life that God used to make a difference in the lives of others.)***”

“Did you know that you have a story, too? Your story is how God made you unique—your personality, your family, your gifts, your experiences ... everything about you. You may not feel like your story is special, but God loves you and He has a special plan for you! And if you follow Him, Jesus can use your story to make a big difference in the world! So remember: ***[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference.***”

3. Way to Grow! (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- OPTIONAL: Lead kids to look up the verse using the Bible navigation tips below.

Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find 1 Timothy in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that 1 Timothy starts with the number 1 followed by the letters T-I. When the kids find 1 Timothy, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Timothy. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 12 in chapter 4.

- Read the monthly verse
- Unpack the concept that to “look down” on someone means to think that they’re not important or that they’re less important. Emphasize that everyone is important to God, no matter how young or how old they are.
- Lead kids to mimic you as you teach them the following motions to the verse:
 - o *Don’t let anyone*: shake your head and repeatedly cross your hands in front of you, palms down
 - o *look down on you*: look down
 - o *because you are young*: squat down
 - o *but set an example for the believers*: position your hands by your ears, palms in and fingers straight, then arc your hands forward until your hands are straight in front of you

- Repeat a few times, increasing speed on each repetition. Add variety by leading the kids to say the verse with different voices: baby voice, mother voice, father voice, and grandparent voice. Be sure to end when interest is still high.

What You Say:

“Paul told Timothy not to let anyone look down on him because he was young. Paul knew that even though Timothy was young, he was important. Paul knew that God wanted to use Timothy to make a difference in the world.

“God can use ANYONE to make a difference in the world, no matter how young or old they are. Can God use YOU to make a difference? Yes! So remember: **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference.**”

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids if they have stories they like to share with others.
- Invite a few kids to briefly tell their stories.

What You Say:

“In our story today, what story did Paul tell Timothy? *(Pause.)* Yes, Paul told his story to Timothy. Why do you think Paul told his story to Timothy? *(Pause. Kids may struggle on this one. That’s okay. Their brains will be working hard!)* Paul told his story because he wanted Timothy to know that if God could use someone who had been as mean and awful as he had been, then he could use anyone to make a difference.

“Can God use YOU to make a difference? You bet He can! Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank You for giving each of us a story. Thank You that even though we are young, You can use our stories to make a difference in the world. We love you SO much, Lord. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”