

# CITY SG – Feb 20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup>

**Bible Story:** A Series of Fortunate Events (John the Baptist in jail) • *Luke 7:18-22 (Supporting: Matthew 11; Mark 6:17-20; Luke 3:1-21; 6; 7:1-16)*

**Bottom Line:** When I hear what Jesus has done, it helps me believe who Jesus is.

**Memory Verse:** “Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see.” *Hebrews 11:1, NIV*

**Life App:** Faith—believing in what you can’t see because of what you can see.

*Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for actively working in our lives. Pray that each kid in your group will hear stories of how God impacts friends and family members. Ask God to allow Himself to be seen consistently working in their lives.*

## **Hear It!** (review the Bible story)

**What You Need:** “Hear It!”, beanbag, Bible

### **What You Do:**

Set the pictures face down on the floor in a grid pattern. Be sure the pictures are sequential from top to bottom and from left to right. Guide the kids to line up shoulder to shoulder about five feet from the grid. Give a child the beanbag and challenge her to toss it onto a picture. If it lands on a picture, turn that picture face up. When every picture is face up, “read” the story with the kids. If time allows, read the story directly from Luke 7.

### **What You Say:**

“John was in jail and wondering if Jesus really was who He said He was. But John couldn’t go out and see for himself. So John sent his disciples to ask Jesus, ‘Are you the one who was supposed to come? Or should we look for someone else?’ Jesus didn’t answer right away, but instead He continued to heal people. He showed John’s disciples His power so that they would KNOW He was God’s Son. And then Jesus said, ‘Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard.’ John listened to what his friends had seen and heard Jesus do—and that helped him believe that Jesus was really the Promised One.

“The same is true for us: **[Apply]** when we listen to other people tell their stories of how Jesus has changed their lives, it can help us have faith in Him, too. Because **[Impress]** when I hear what Jesus has done, it helps me believe who Jesus is.

“Are there any stories you have heard of how Jesus has changed people’s lives? **[Personalize]** (Share a story you have heard of how Jesus has changed someone’s life. Also tell the kids how hearing this story has helped your faith in Jesus.)”

## **Where Can I Go? (application activity)**

**What You Need:** A piece of butcher paper OR a poster board - one per service, markers

### **What You Do:**

Have kids circle around the paper and have them draw different places or people that kids can go to in order to hear what Jesus has done: church, parents, grandparents, friends, and the Bible. Point to the drawings one at a time and have the kids guess what it is that person drew.

### **What You Say:**

"There are many places we can go to hear stories about Jesus. We can hear stories about Jesus at church, from our moms and dads, from our grandparents, from our friends, and from the Bible. Can you think of other places where you can hear stories about Jesus? (Pause.) **[Apply] When we hear stories of how Jesus has changed people's lives, it can help us have faith in Him, too.** Because **[Impress] when I hear what Jesus has done, it helps me believe who Jesus is.**"

## **Race to Recite (memory verse activity)**

**What You Need:** Memory verse sheet, bandana

### **What You Do:**

Show the kids the memory verse sheet and read the verse a few times. Review that Hebrews is a letter written to new Christians after Jesus lived.

Ask for a volunteer to recite the memory verse. (For the younger groups, you may only want to include the first half of the verse) But here's the catch: you will throw the bandana in the air and they have to recite the verse before the floating bandana touches the floor. Continue asking for volunteers until everyone who wants a turn has had a chance to race the bandana.

### **What You Say:**

"Looks like you are really getting the hang of this memory verse. Some of you could have recited the verse two or three times before the bandana hit the ground! Next week will be our last week with this memory verse but let's not forget to practice this verse. **[Apply] It is a great reminder that we don't necessarily have to see or experience something ourselves to believe it. Sometimes all we have to do is hear about it! And [Impress] when I hear what Jesus has done, it helps me believe who Jesus is.**"

## **Pray**

**What You Need:** No materials needed

### **What You Do:**

Sit in a circle and ask if anyone has had a prayer answered. Ask if they have heard a story from a friend or acquaintance of God answering a prayer. Spend some time sharing stories of God hearing our prayers. Make sure to **[Personalize] share any stories or examples from your own life, or the life of a friend, of God answering a prayer in a memorable way.**

### **What You Say:**

“Maybe you haven’t felt like God has answered one of your prayers. Maybe you feel like God has answered every one of your prayers. **[Apply] Either way, it’s easier to believe God answers our prayers when we hear from and share with each other. Let’s take a minute to ask God for the encouragement we need during tough times.**

“Dear God, thank You for being exactly who You promised to be. Help us to always remember and believe how powerful You are. When we start to doubt or question, please send people our way who can help remind us of all the awesome things You have done. We love You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.