

CITY LG – Feb 27th/28th

Bible Story: In the Nic of Time (Jesus teaches Nicodemus) • *John 3:1-21 (Supporting: John 7:49-51; 19:38-40)*

Bottom Line: When I believe who Jesus is, I'll live with God forever.

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.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Host walks in dressed as a scientist (lab coat, goggles on head, clipboard). There are bins for each small group that contain the materials for this week's experiment.

Opener

HOST: "Hello, everybody! Welcome to the CITY. I am Professor [Host's name], and I have a question to ask you—how many of you like science? Yes! Solids and liquids, magnets and sound waves ... all very fascinating. But let's be honest—the best part about science is the experiments! Mixing things, pouring things, exploding things. What I love about experiments is that sometimes we get to see something happen right before our eyes that we never would have believed could happen. And that is perfect because all month long we have been talking about faith. Faith is believing what you can't see because of what you can see. Circle up with your groups and we are going to do this week's Seeing Is Believing experiment in your groups.

CG: Faith Slide

NOTE: You can watch this experiment using this address
<https://sciencebob.com/blobs-in-a-bottle-2/>

NOTE: Pass out one bin of supplies to each small group leader
(You will walk the groups through the experiment as they do it together)

"Now, on to the experiment! Let's see. Take out the bottle that is filled with $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of water. Have you ever seen a lava lamp?? We are going to create one from this bottle right here! You may just have to have a little faith that will actually happen, okay? Let's get started.

- Leaders, take out the bottle of vegetable oil and the funnel. Put the funnel in the bottle and SLOWLY pour the oil into the bottle so it is almost full. Now if you let that sit a while the oil will settle at the top of the bottle....does anyone know why that happens? (*Because the oil is lighter or less dense than the water*)
- Now, leaders take out the red food coloring and place 10 drops into the bottle
- Next, take an alka seltzer tablet and break it in half. Drop it in until it sinks and watch the blobby greatness begin!!

- As it dies down you can add another tablet to keep it going.

“There you have it! You can’t see it, but when you dropped the tablet in, it created a gas. The invisible gas bubbles rose up to the top of the bottle bringing the colored water with it. Then the gas escaped out of the top of the bottle and the colored bubbles fell back down.” How cool is that????

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Well, all month long we are talking about faith. Faith is believing in what you can see because of what you can’t see. Just like this experiment! Could you SEE the gas in the bottle?? Well then how did you know it was there??

CG: Faith Slide

“I know that the word faith can be a little confusing, so that’s why all month we have been looking at examples of what faith is and learning what it means for us to show faith in our own lives, too.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Our story today is about a guy who thought he had it figured out, that is, until he met Jesus. His name is Nicodemus. Check this out....

Bible Story: 252 Story Week 4

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “You know, I don’t think Nicodemus understood everything completely that night he met with Jesus, but I do think Jesus turned his world upside down. I wonder if, after Jesus died, Nicodemus remembered Jesus’ words: *(read directly from John 3:15)* ‘Everyone who believes in him can live with God forever.’ *(NirV)*

“Jesus went on to say this to Nicodemus: *(read directly from John 3:16)* ‘God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.’ *(NirV)*

“It’s like our Bottom Line for this week: **When I believe who Jesus is, I’ll live with God forever.**

Say that with me, “When I believe who Jesus is, I’ll live with God forever.”

I’m going to say the first part and I want you to yell the second part, I’ll live with God forever!” Let’s try it....

ST: When I believe who Jesus is...

KIDS: I’ll live with God forever!”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“You want to know something really cool? It seems like Nicodemus actually listened to Jesus that night. Later, when the Pharisees tried to make fun of Jesus, Nicodemus actually stood up for Him! And after Jesus died, Nicodemus was there to help bury Jesus’ body.

Salvation Message: “Nicodemus had seen the truth—that God sent His one and only Son, and anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. Another way to say it is this—God loved, so God gave. When we believe, then we receive. You will talk more about that in your small groups today.”

Prayer

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You that eternal life doesn’t depend on where we were born or who our parents are or what we do or how perfect we are, but that eternal life depends on what was done for us. Thank you for sending Jesus to live the perfect life that we could never live, and to pay a debt that we could never pay. Thank You that He lives again, and that we can trust Him and know that we also have eternal life. We love You so much and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.