

# City Small Group

## The Greatest Story Ever Told

**Bible Story:** The Greatest Story Ever Told (Crucifixion) • *John 18-19 (Supporting: Matthew 27; Luke 23)*

**Bottom Line:** Whatever happens, remember God is still at work.

**Memory Verse:** “In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” *John 16:33b, NIV*

**Life App:** Hope—believing that something good can come out of something bad.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

### Shadow Puppet Charades (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

**What You Need:** Bible, flashlight or other bright light

#### What You Do:

- Show kids how to use the flashlight and their hands to make shadow puppets on the wall.
- Let kids practice making shadow puppets for a minute or two.
- Challenge kids to work together to retell the Bible story using both words and shadow puppets. They can use the Bible as a guide. Make sure they hit on the following points:
  - Jesus and His friends went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.
  - Jesus was arrested.
  - Peter said He didn't know Jesus three times, and the rooster crowed.
  - False charges were brought against Jesus.
  - Pilate found that Jesus had done nothing wrong.
  - The Jews wanted Jesus dead anyway and Pilate went along with it.
  - Jesus had to carry His own cross.
  - Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross.
  - Many people mocked Jesus.
  - Jesus told the criminal next to Him that He would go to heaven.
  - The soldiers took Jesus' clothes.
  - Darkness covered the land.
  - Jesus died.

#### What You Say:

“Jesus went to the cross for us. It was painful, but He endured all of it so we can be with God forever. When Jesus died, His disciples must have thought it was over—that everything they had hoped for would never come true. BUT God wasn't finished yet. And He's not finished in our lives either. He's doing things none of us can see, which should give us hope. **[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember God is still at work.**”

**Good Out of Bad (*application activity*)**

**What You Need:** Paper, crayons or markers

**What You Do:**

- Before passing out the paper and crayons, brainstorm some ideas for bad situations. These could be someone pushing a friend, breaking something, or anything that would make them sad or angry.
- Pass out the paper and ask the kids to draw a bad situation. (Either something mentioned while brainstorming or an idea they had on their own.)
- When they're finished, have them find a partner.
- Once they're sitting together, ask them to show their drawings to each other and explain what's happening.
- The partners will switch their drawings, flip them over to the back, and draw something good that could happen as a result of this bad situation. (You may need to help give them some specific ideas if they're having trouble coming up with a way that something good can come out of something bad. This activity is attempting to take an abstract concept and make it more concrete.)

**What You Say:**

"Would anyone like to share their pictures and the outcomes today? (*Pause and allow a few kids to share.*) Sometimes when something bad happens, it's hard to believe that anything good can come out of it. **[Make It Personal] (Keeping it age-appropriate, tell kids about a time when something bad happened to you, but something good happened in the end. Remind them that even when bad things happen, they can always hope for something good in the end because God is still at work.)** That's why hope is so important. We can have hope and believe that something good can come out of something bad when we trust in Jesus. He loved us so much that He was willing to face the pain of the cross and take our punishment. I know things seem bad now because we've only heard the bad side of Jesus' story—like the front side of your pictures. But I promise that God is still at work. And something amazingly awesome is coming next! **[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember God is still at work.**"

**What's the Word? (*memory verse activity*)**

**What You Need:** Beach ball with Memory Verse (from Week 1), masking or painter's tape

**What You Do:**

- Cover three or four words on the beach ball with the tape.
- Give the ball to one kid. Tell him to read the verse until he gets to a covered word. Then he should say that word and pass the ball to the next kid, who reads until the next covered word, and so on.
- After the entire verse has been read, move the tape to cover different words and play again. Do this as long as there is interest.

**What You Say:**

“Jesus overcame the world. That is pretty amazing and incredible and seemingly impossible. But God can do the impossible even when we think He can’t. He is always at work behind the scenes to do something that we can’t see. **[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember God is still at work.**”

## Prayer

**What You Need:** Paper, pencils

**What You Do:**

- Give kids paper and a pencil.
- Tell them to each write a prayer, telling God they will trust Him and put their hope in Him.
- Give kids an opportunity to read their prayers if they’d like.
- Close with the prayer below.

**What You Say:**

“Dear God, we know You are powerful. We know You have promised us many things. And we know You are always at work, even when we can’t see it. We will trust You, God, because we know You are good. We will put our hope in You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

**PLEASE KEEP KIDS with YOU in SMALL GROUP until ALL Kids have been picked UP! Thank you!**