

The CITY (March 5th & 6th)

The Savior's Playbook

Bible Story: The Savior's Playbook (Jesus encourages the disciples) • *John 14–16 (Supporting: John 12–13)*

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised.

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.

WORSHIP:

1. Happy Day
2. Christ Arose
3. Forever

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

Opener

HOST: “What is up, you guys? Welcome back to the City, where we are talking about something so wonderful ... something that can change your day—or at least how you view your day. That’s right, I’m talking about hope!

CG: Hope Slide

“Hope is believing that something good can come out of something bad. For example, do any of you get scared of ... storms?! *(Pause for response.)*

“I know—me too! So I figured the best way for us to get over our fears is by making our OWN storm! Some of you might have already done this in Small Group. Trust me, this is gonna be awesome. Let’s divide into three groups *(the kids don’t need to move, but give them an imaginary line so they know which group they’re a part of)*. When I move in front of your group, you need to switch your movement to match mine. Then keep doing that movement until I give you a new one to do.

“Does everyone have their hands and feet all warmed up? Raise your hands up and give me some wiggly fingers. Nice. Now wiggle your toes. Okay, you should be good to go now. Let’s do this.

Standing in front of one of the groups, rub your hands together quickly. Gradually move on to the other two groups until everyone is doing the motion. Then move on to the next motions (snapping, clapping, patting their legs, then stomping on the ground a few times), starting the group in waves as you did with the first motion. Each time, encourage the group to get louder and faster. Then do the

motions in reverse until everyone is slowly rubbing their hands together and then becoming completely still.

“That was great fun, you guys! I wish all storms were like that. Then I'd never have a reason to be scared. But I think we can do EVEN better. Let's try that one more time and see if we can make it even more like a real storm.

Repeat everything as you did before, but this time, use the sound effects to add to the storm. Act as though you don't even notice the real sound effects. You'll only go through the first half of the storm (through the thunder booms) before the lights go out).

(SFX played a few seconds after the entire group of kids is creating that sound)

SFX: Light rain

SFX: Big drops of rain

SFX: Heavy downpour

SFX: Thunder booms

LIGHTS: As soon as the thunder booms, cut the lights

Host immediately turns on a flashlight.

“WOW! That was incredibly amazing, you guys! You just made a real storm.

LIGHTS: Lights back up

“Whew, glad we didn't have to stay in the dark for long! That was super cool, though. I HOPED it would be good, but it was even better than I expected! No need to fear storms anymore. I'll just remember how much fun we had making our own storm!

SETTING UP THE STORY

There is a table set on the stage with chairs, plates, cups, utensils, Hawaiian rolls, place cards, and cue cards for each of the disciples & Jesus. Make sure Jesus' place card is at the head of the table.

“Today we're going to talk about the encouraging words that Jesus had for His disciples during the last meal they shared together. *(Hold up the Bible.)* It's found in the book of John, chapters 14-16.

“For many months, the Jewish leaders had been troubled by Jesus. He performed miracles and taught large crowds, saying things that challenged the way they thought and lived. He said things like, ‘Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you.’ (Luke 6:27 *NIRV*) Jesus even raised His friend Lazarus from the dead, which made even more people take notice and started to follow Him. That's when the religious leaders got serious about their plans. They knew Jesus would soon be coming to Jerusalem, so they plotted to arrest Jesus and have Him killed.

“Jesus already knew these leaders were planning to kill Him. But He also knew God could use even

this scary moment for good. As He entered the city on a donkey, huge crowds waved palm branches to welcome Him, shouting ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel!’ (John 12:13 *Nlrv*) Once inside the city, Jesus explained to the crowd what was about to happen. (*Read from John 12:25, 32*) ‘Anyone who loves their life will lose it. But anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it and have eternal life. ... I am going to be lifted up from the earth. When I am, I will bring all people to myself.’”

PASSOVER

HOST: “The disciples were very confused by what Jesus meant. But that evening, Jesus and the disciples gathered to eat the Passover meal together. Remember when Moses led his people out of Egypt and protected the first born sons of the Israelites by instructing them to cover their doorways with the blood of a lamb, well that was why Jesus and his disciples were celebrating and having dinner! Jesus knew things were about to get bad—really bad.

Host should play the role of Jesus. When speaking as Jesus, sit down at the table with the disciples.

Choose 12 kids to come up and play the role of the disciples. (Choose [3] 3rd graders or Small Group Leaders for the 3 reading parts of Peter, Thomas, and John)

Encourage the students to partake in the Passover “meal.”

“That night during their Passover meal, Jesus said, ‘One of you is going to hand me over to my enemies.’ (John 13:21, *Nlrv*) You see, Jesus knew the rest of His friends would run away. He even told Peter: ‘Where I am going you can’t follow now. But you will follow me later.’” (John 13:36, *Nlrv*) And Peter said...

(On CUE CARD for student to read) PETER: “Lord ... why can’t I follow you now? I will give my life for you.” (John 13:37, *Nlrv*)

HOST: “Jesus told Peter, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don’t know me!’ (John 13:38, *Nlrv*)

“And it was true. Before another day passed, Jesus would be betrayed ... arrested ... left alone. He would be killed. He knew His friends would be devastated. But even in the midst of this terrible darkness, Jesus wanted to give them hope.”

JESUS SPEAKS

HOST: “‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. ... There are many rooms in my Father’s house,’ (John 14:1-2, *Nlrv*) Jesus encouraged them. ‘That’s where I’m going. And while I’m there, I’ll get a place ready for you. Then I’ll come back. And I’ll take you to be with me there. You know the way to the place where I am going,’ He said.” (John 14:4, *Nlrv*) And then Thomas spoke....

(On CUE CARD for student to read) THOMAS: (*Moving to Thomas’ seat*) “‘Lord, we don’t know where you are

going. So how can we know the way?" (*John 14:5, NIV*)

HOST: "Jesus told the disciples, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' (*John 14:6, NIV*) The disciples tried to keep up with what Jesus was saying, but they were still very confused." So John said...

(On CUE CARD for student to read) JOHN: (*Moving to John's seat*) (*Rubbing his forehead*) "Seriously, this is making my head hurt. It sounds like Jesus is telling us He's going to leave us?"

HOST: "That's exactly what Jesus was telling them. But it was also so much more than that. Jesus continued encouraging His disciples. Jesus said, 'If you love me, obey my commands ... I will ask the Father. And he will give you another friend to help you and to be with you forever. That friend is the Holy Spirit. He lives with you, and he will be in you.'" (*John 14:15-17, NIV*) And John spoke again...

(On CUE CARD for student to read) JOHN: "So ... God's Spirit will be with us?"

HOST: And Peter then said...

(On CUE CARD for student to read) PETER: "That's what it sounds like He's saying. Pretty cool!"

HOST: "Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them everything and remind them of all of the incredible things that He had said to them."

AFTER THE PASSOVER

HOST: "As Jesus continued to encourage His friends, they all left the upper room where they had shared the Passover meal and started toward the Garden of Gethsemane.

"Jesus continued to speak words of encouragement to His disciples. "In a little while, you will no longer see me. Then after a little while, you will see me. ...Now it's your time to be sad. But I will see you again. In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world." (*John 16:16, 22, 25, 33*)

The disciples didn't like the idea of having troubles, but they knew they didn't have to worry, because Jesus had already beat it! They had HOPE because of all the things Jesus had done and said to encourage them."

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Sadly, things got pretty dark after that. A few short hours later, Jesus was arrested. And in the middle of the darkness, Jesus' friends forgot to hold onto the hope He gave them.

"They forgot Jesus had promised to be with them again. But three days later, they would see everything He said begin to come true.

"The disciples forgot something that you and I must do if we want to have hope in the midst of hard times. And that is: ...

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised. Just like Jesus promised He would send His Holy Spirit to help His disciples, and just as He promised that they would never be alone, and just as He promised that He was preparing a place for them in heaven, He has promised the same things to you and me. So, **[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember what Jesus promised.**

“Let’s say that together nice and loud: **WHATEVER HAPPENS, REMEMBER WHAT JESUS PROMISED!**

“That was great!

“There are going to be times in your life when you’re going to be a bit overwhelmed. Things are going to happen that you won’t see coming. It could be an accident of some kind. It could be someone that you love getting sick. It could be a really hard time at school. It could be ... I don’t know what it could be, because I don’t see it coming either.

But remember, any storm you face, any problem you have, any kind of trouble you’re in, Jesus saw it coming. He knew it was going to happen even when you didn’t. And what’s even better is what Jesus said next.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“He said, ‘In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world,’ John 16:33b. (NIRV)

HOST: “Storms don’t last forever. And you don’t have to deal with them alone. That’s why we have some amazing Small Group Leaders who hang out with you every single week. They are there to help! So let’s pray so we can have fun and be encouraged in our small groups!

Pray

HOST: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. But also thank You for sending Him to earth to be our hope. When we’re going through hard times, help us to remember that You have promised to always be with us. We know that we can **[Basic Truth] trust You no matter what**, and that is how we can know that something good can come out of something bad. Thank You for loving us. We love You. And we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.