

CITY LG – March 12th-13th

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.

WORSHIP:

1. Happy Day
2. Christ Arose
3. Forever

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

Host enters, full of energy and excitement.

Opener

HOST: I'm soooooo EGGcited to be with you guys today! We are just two weeks away from my favorite holiday of all: Easter! Woo-HOO! And I am EGGspecially EGGcited about today because we're also talking more about hope.

CG: Hope Slide

“If hope is believing that something good can come out of something bad, then Jesus gave us the very best example of hope that the world has ever known!

“But first, I'd like to kick things off with a little game where things may—or may not—go according to plan. I am going to face off against one (*air quotes*) ‘lucky’ contestant. I'm looking for someone with no fear and no allergies ... and a strong stomach. Any competitors up for the challenge?

Bring up one kid and a Small Group Leader.

“All right! [Contestants' names], thanks for playing. This game is very simple. You are going to taste-test three different pairs of drinks. With every two drinks, one is extremely delicious. One is extremely disgusting. But they LOOK the same ... so the choice is up to you! You will get to decide which one you want, and the other contestant will get the other one. You've got to stand behind this line (*point to the tape line on the floor*) so you can't use your sense of smell to make your decision. Make sense? (*To audience*) Audience, are you ready? (*Pause.*) All right! Let the taste test begin!

Bring out the cups with sparkling water and with Sprite. They set one on the "A" table and one on the "B" table, far away from the contestants.

"Taste test number one. Sparkling water ... or Sprite. [Contestant's name], when you're ready, choose either A or B.

Contestant chooses one and Host brings the cups.

"Okay, [contestant's name], you have chosen drink [A or B], which means [SGL leader] gets [A or B]. Take a big gulp and see who's the lucky Sprite drinker.

SGL and contestant take a drink. Have some fun with the reactions.

"Amazing! And now for taste test number two.

Bring out the cups of apple juice and pickle juice and set them on the tables.

"Apple juice ... or pickle juice. [Contestant's name], when you're ready, choose either A or B.

Contestant chooses one and Host brings the cups.

"Okay, [contestants' names], take a big drink and see which one is apple-licious or pickle-licious!

SGL and contestant take a drink. Have some fun with the reactions.

"All right! This is really disgusting. And now for the grand finale ... taste test number three!

Bring out the cups of chocolate syrup and dark beef gravy and set them on the tables.

"Will it be chocolate syrup ... or beef gravy? [Contestant's name], when you're ready, choose either A or B.

Contestant chooses one.

"All right, [contestants names], who has chocolate and who has the liquid meat?

SGL and contestant take a drink. Have some fun with the reactions.

"Ahhhhh! That was crazy! How about a big hand for our contestants, [contestants names]? *(Give them the ice cream gift card.)* You deserve some ice cream! See, something good CAN come out of something bad!

SETTING UP THE STORY

FX: *Lower the lights in the City*

HOST: “Last week we talked about Jesus and the disciples sharing one last meal together during Passover. After Jesus and His friends ate the Passover meal together, they walked toward the Garden of Gethsemane. Along the way, Jesus promised that even though things were about to get dark, God would make everything right in the end. In fact, what He told them is our memory verse this month.

CG: *Memory Verse Slide*

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

“Jesus and His friends entered the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, and this is where our story continues. Let’s watch what happens to Jesus next:

Video: *252 Night Light Wk 3 (Jesus walk to the cross)*

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

HOST: “Incredible! You know, I’ve been thinking. When Jesus got arrested, put on trial, and then sentenced to die, that had to be a really dark time. Most of His friends deserted Him. His good friend Peter even denied ever knowing Him. It must have been so hard for Jesus. And the disciples had to be feeling pretty bummed too. Things definitely did not go the way they wanted. They were scared. They were ashamed. If they had any hope left, it was only a flicker. But sometimes a flicker is just enough.

“Has there ever been a time where you felt like all hope was lost? Have you ever wondered why things weren’t going the way you wished they would? Maybe you’re having trouble making friends. Or maybe your family had to move to a new city just when you were starting to fit in. For whatever reason, it feels like things aren’t going to get any better.

“Well, here’s something you can hope for. God is still at work. He was still working when Jesus was arrested. He was still working when Jesus was put on trial. He was still working when Jesus was nailed to a cross. And He is still working no matter how hopeless it might seem for you and me.

“God is bigger than us. He’s smarter than us. He can see the end of the story when we can only see the part we’re in right now. And you can trust that He’s still working in your life, in good times and bad. The one thing to remember today is this.

CG: *Bottom Line Slide*

[Bottom Line] “Whatever happens, remember God is still at work. Say that with me.”

HOST and KIDS: **[Bottom Line]** “Whatever happens, remember God is still at work.”

HOST: “God is at work on something amazing, something that’s better than what we could ever wish

for.”

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. We know it must have been so hard to see Him die, but You still carried out Your plan to save the world. Sometimes we face things that are hard too. Help us to remember that whatever happens, You are still at work. We love You, and we trust You and Your plan, even when we don’t know what will happen next. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.