

City LG - March 24-25, 2018

(Easter Lesson)

Bible Story: Mapped Out (Easter Story) • *The Bible*

Bottom Line: Jesus is alive!

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD!" *Psalms 27:14, NIV*

WORSHIP: "My Lighthouse" and "Won't Let Go"

"Hey City! It's time to worship Jesus! Our first song is called 'My Lighthouse', and it is about Jesus bringing us peace. Let's sing!"

"Great job everyone! Our next song is called 'Won't Let Go', and it's all about God giving us peace, and never letting us go! Let's sing!"

Begin Large Group... SET UP REQUIRED

Supplies Needed: 2 Google Maps of Your Campus Area taped up side by side (2 per campus, per service), Packages of Peeps (6 peeps for the game -3 each player) and 12 peeps for a prize.

"What's going on, everybody? My name is [your name], and I'm so excited to see you! Today is a super special day, because we get to celebrate a super special holiday **one week early!** Does anyone here in the City know what holiday I'm talking about?"

Hold hand to ear and allow kids to respond.

"Yes, it's Easter! On Easter, we celebrate because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is ALIVE.** Jesus is what?"

Hold hand to ear and allow kids to respond.

"That's right! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is ALIVE!**

"I've got an awesome way for us to celebrate Easter today. We're taking some of these Easter Peeps (*hold up a box of Peeps*) on a little road trip!

"Raise your hand if you've ever been on a road trip. (*Pause for response.*) Okay, cool! A road trip is when you drive to get somewhere you want to go. What's something that your parents might use on a road trip to help them know where to go? Any guesses? (*Pause for response.*) Yep, a map! Your parents probably use apps on their phones or a GPS in the car. It looks kind of like this. (*show the paper Google maps.*)

"Can I get two volunteers up here to play our game? Get excited, because you're about to be blindfolded! (*Pick up the blindfolds.*) You can go ahead and tie these on for me, please.

- *Choose two Small Group Leaders or kids and bring them up on stage. The contestants blindfold themselves.*

"Today's game is called, 'Pin the Peep on Parkview.' If you've played 'Pin the Tail on the Donkey,' you know how it works. Only, instead of pinning a tail, our friends here (*reference the two contestants*) will pin a PEEP on the place we call out and end up at our Parkview Campus.

"First, I'm going to let you look at your map for 5 seconds. Then I'll spin you around three times, and call out a place -you will stick your peep where you think that place is on your map. Oh, and the best part of all? You have to LICK your Peep to get it to stick!"

“Here are your Peeps.

Hand each contestant a package of 3 Peeps.

“Are you ready? Let’s play!

- *Call out two places on your map. Strategically make the places all over the map.*
- *Make your third location the Parkview Campus (you can remind the kids that next week they will be in the main church for Easter Service – and they can invite their “peeps” to the service)*
- *Let the audience help you decide who got their final peep closest to Parkview. If the Peep falls off the map, use the slimy residue to judge the location.*

“Way to go, [winner’s name]! You got your peep to Parkview! Because you won our game today, here is a package of Peeps for you to share with your Small Group (*hand winner a package of Peeps*)! Let’s give it up for both of our contestants today!

Lead applause and dismiss contestants to their seats.

I’m SO excited about today. Today isn’t just any day; today is the day we celebrate EASTER right here in The City!

“Let’s see . . . what’s on our schedule? (*Pretend to think.*) First, we’re going to party. Then, we’re going to party some more. And to wrap things up? You got it! More partying! We’re celebrating by partying all day long!

“‘Why all the celebrating?’ you may ask. It’s simple; we celebrate today because **[Bottom Line] JESUS is alive!**

“If we’re celebrating because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is alive . . .** does that mean . . . Jesus was dead? That’s a really good question! Before we take a look at our Bible Story today, it’s Offering Time!”

Offering Time: “Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them. And we can help make this happen, for as little as the cost of one candy bar a day! Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Rose

CG: Picture of Child

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now while this video plays and place it here (*show offering container*).”

“Let’s find out what Easter is really about in today’s Bible Story...”

CG: Easter Lesson Video (Runtime: 10:22)

“On the third day after Jesus’ death, that stone was moved out of the way. And instead of Jesus’ body inside the tomb, there was NO ONE there—because Jesus was no longer dead. Jesus was ALIVE!

“Jesus appeared to lots of people who actually saw Him before He went to heaven. Jesus proved He was alive. He proved He was stronger than death!

“Isn’t that the coolest thing you’ve ever heard? Isn’t that the best reason to celebrate? Jesus died, and then He came back to life. He did it so we could be forgiven and be in God’s family forever!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Jesus is alive. That’s our Bottom Line today. Say it with me!”

KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is alive!”

“On three, I want all of us to stand up and cheer. I want us to celebrate like WE were Jesus’ friends discovering His empty grave together. I want us to shout our Bottom Line at the top of our lungs! Are you ready? One, two, three, let’s hear it!

Cheer and applaud. Say things like, “YES! HE IS ALIVE! WE ARE FORGIVEN! JESUS IS ALIVE!”

“That was awesome, guys! Let’s pray together.”

“God, thank You for loving us enough to send us Jesus. Thank You that Jesus was stronger than death. Thank You for the amazing thing Jesus did for us by dying on the cross to take care of our sin problem so that if we believe, we can be in Your family forever. Thank You for the best news ever—that Jesus is ALIVE! We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

It’s hard for us to imagine it, but it REALLY happened. Jesus really lived and really died and really came back to life. God sent Jesus because He wanted to fix our sin problem. He wanted us to be able to be part of His family forever. Our sin no longer has to be in the way!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“That’s why we celebrate Easter. We celebrate because **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is alive!

“That’s the most important, most awesome, most amazing thing you could EVER know: **[Bottom Line]** Jesus is alive!

“All you need to do is BELIEVE—to decide for sure that Jesus died on the cross for YOUR sins and to tell God about it. If you haven’t done that yet, talk to your parents about it. Tell your Small Group Leader that you want to put your faith in Jesus. I know they’d love to talk about it with you!

“If you already DO believe, then you know how amazing it is to follow Jesus every day. You know how amazing it is that He’s alive! You know that’s such amazing news that you just can’t keep it to yourself. So don’t be afraid to celebrate Jesus today in a BIG way!

“Now it’s time for you to head back to Small Group and celebrate some more with your friends. Happy Easter!”

Dismiss children to their small groups.