

City SG - June 2-3, 2018

Bible Story: Thou Raise Me Up (Jesus is the Cornerstone) • *Ephesians 2:20-21a*

Bottom Line: Jesus matters most.

Memory Verse: "I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."
Psalms 27:13, NIV

1. What Matters Most

What You Need: White board (one per group), dry erase marker (one per group), paper (one sheet per kid), pens

What You Do:

- ASK: What are some things you want to do this summer?
- Write down kids' answers on a white board.
- Once you've filled up the board with their answers, pass out the paper to let the kids make their own lists of important things to do this summer.
- Instruct kids to number their lists in order of importance.
- After they've made their lists, ask kids to pair up and share their top five list with their partner.

What You Say:

"Wow! I'm not sure anyone could do ALL the things we've listed here. But you have identified what matters most on your own lists so maybe you can make those the priority this summer! **[Transition] In Large Group, we heard about something that matters EVEN MORE than all those great plans. JESUS!**"

2. What We Build On

What You Need: Jenga® blocks (one set per group)

What You Do:

- Set up the Jenga game in the center of the group.
- Encourage them to play the game as you discuss the following questions from today's Bible story.
- ASK:
 - What did you think about today's story?
 - Why do think we meet here each week?
 - What do we talk about in small group?
 - What is most important?
- Point bottom corner piece of the Jenga blocks.
 - Ask: What do you think would happen if I removed this piece or the pieces next to it?
- Remove the corner piece and the middle piece to make the blocks topple over.

What You Say:

"How important is this corner piece? Yes, it's VERY important! Without this, your foundation isn't solid and your structure won't stand. Paul wrote that everyone who follows Jesus is like a building, and the foundation of that building is made up of the apostle and prophets . . . all those who have gone before us. But Jesus is the most important stone in the building. He is what matters most and is where we should get our confidence. We can have confidence in what we believe because we know that what God says is true! He promised to send us a Savior and He did: Jesus! Without Jesus, our faith wouldn't stand up. **[Bottom Line] Jesus matters most.**"

3. This Is the Church

What You Need: Paper (one sheet per kid), markers, stamp pad (one per group), wipes

What You Do:

- Pass out a piece of paper to each kid and set the markers in the middle of the group.
- Encourage them to draw a picture of your church building.
- When they are wrapping up their drawings, place the stamp pads in the center of the small group space.
- Encourage each child to press his pointer finger onto the stamp pad and then place his fingerprint inside the church.
- Then let the kids pass their papers around the circle, placing their fingerprints on each other's drawings. When finished, they should have their own drawing of the church with their own and everyone else's fingerprints inside.
- Pass out the wipes for kids to clean their hands.

What You Say:

"You did a great job on your drawings. But a church isn't really a building. Well, it is, but the Church—or the 'body of Christ' as the Bible calls it—means people. We, as followers of Jesus, are the Church. Take a look at all your fingerprints. Are they the same or different? Yes, they're all different, just like each one of you is different. And that's a good thing! We can all be very different but have the same faith and the same confidence in what matters most: Jesus! That's what we have in common. We come here to worship Jesus because of what He's done for us. And that gives us confidence because **[Bottom Line] Jesus matters most.**

[Make It Personal] (Briefly tell the kids about your history in church. Did you grow up coming to church? Was your childhood church different than your current one? Were you taught about Jesus when you were growing up?) "I'm so glad I learned about Jesus. I can have confidence in knowing that **[Bottom Line] Jesus matters most.**"

4. Memory Verse Challenge

What You Need: Bible, "Verse Word Dots" Activity Page (one per group), floor tape (one roll per group)

What You Do:

- Pass out the Bibles to every two or three kids.
- Use the navigation tips below to guide kids as they find Psalm 27:13.

Finding verses with 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Psalms in the list under "Old Testament". You can also explain that if you try to open to the center of your Bible, you will likely find yourself in the book of Psalms! When the kids find Psalms, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Psalms. Help the kids find the page. When they find Psalms, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 27. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 13 in chapter 27.

- Once they've located the verse, read it together as a group.
- Set out the "Verse Word Dots" in verse order, placing each word about a foot apart. Use the tape to secure the dots to the floor.
- Encourage the kids to line up and then take turns hopping from one dot to the next as they repeat the verse.
- Then move the dots further apart so that it becomes a challenge to hop from one to the other.
- Encourage kids to hop from one dot to another as they repeat the verse again.

What You Say:

"Wow! What started out as a fairly easy activity became a bit more challenging, huh? I love this verse. What a great reminder to us that we can remain confident in our faith and know that God is with us and **[Bottom Line] Jesus matters most.** He sent Jesus to us to prove that He is our good, good Father. I'm so thankful for the confidence I have that God does what He says He will do."

5. Most Important!

What You Need: "Most important" Activity Pages (one per kid), pens, and markers

What You Do:

- Give each child a "Most Important" Activity Page and set out the markers.
- Instruct kids to draw a line from each picture to the item that's missing.
- As kids work, invite them to describe why each item is important.
- Finally, invite each kid to draw a picture of themselves with Jesus in the space provided. They can draw other people with Jesus, too.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to emphasize that when it comes to the Church, **[Bottom Line] Jesus matters most.**

What You Say:

"When it comes to parachuting, what do you HAVE to have? Yes! A parachute! When it comes to a skateboard, what does your skateboard HAVE to have? Yes! A deck! When it comes to a mountain bike, what does your bike HAVE to have? You got it: both wheels! When it comes to the Church, what do you have to have? What if we removed ourselves and we weren't here? *(Pause and let kids think about that for a moment.)* Yes! When it comes to the Church, you have to have people, and you have to have Jesus! **[Bottom Line] Jesus matters most.**"

"Jesus came to give us life to the full. And when we believe in His power to save us, we can have confidence that He'll help us through anything. He'll help us when we're sad, He'll help us when we're lonely, He'll help us when we're scared, He'll help us when we're angry, and He'll help us when we're confused. No matter what, Jesus will always help us. So remember: **[Bottom Line] Jesus matters most.**"

6. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Kids' drawings from the "This Is the Church" activity

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to hold onto their church drawings from earlier.
- As they hold their drawings, encourage them to individually and privately pray that they would always remember that what Jesus did for us (his death and resurrection) is what matters most.
- After giving kids a few moments to pray on their own, close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Heavenly Father, thank You for the confidence we have in knowing that what You say is true. You promised to send a Savior, and You did! You sent Jesus to this broken world that needed a Savior. Jesus died and rose again on the third day and is now in heaven with You. Of all the things we believe and celebrate here at church, this is the MOST important thing. It's what our faith is built on. Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus matters most.** Help us to confidently believe that and to trust in Jesus. It's in Jesus' mighty name we pray, amen."