City LG - July 7-8, 2018

Bible Story: You've Got a Friend in Me (Philip and Nathanael) • *John 1:43-51*
Bottom Line: Find friends who help you trust Jesus.
Memory Verse: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." *Philippians 1:6, NIV*

CG: 2-Minute Countdown Video

CG: Future Force VBS Promo Video

(Point students to look for VBS Central at your Campus to sign up for Future Force VBS. Cost is $10)

CG: Welcome Video Loop with Backing Track

LARGE GROUP LEADER WELCOME:

"Hey City! I'm so excited to see you all today! We have another great talk for you about CONFIDENCE! I need one volunteer, really quick, who is really trusting.

Pick one child volunteer, introduce them, and have them do a trust fall, with you catching them.

We're talking about "Trust" today! Just like, (volunteer's name) trusted me, we can trust our friends to also help us trust Jesus! Ok, I TRUST you all are ready to worship! Let's sing!"

WORSHIP: Praise Goes On and Alive *(songs cued to play back-to-back)*

(Worship Leader Prays)

"Wow! Great singing everyone! My name is (your name) and I have to say, it was really fun to watch [kid volunteer's name from Opener] trust me earlier. [Kid volunteer's name] was trusting of me to catch him/her. I was a good friend that he/she could trust."

"Choosing our friends is important. Our friends influence what we do, what we say, and what we like. Have you ever tried something new because a friend said it was fun? Maybe you went down a big slide because your friend did it first. Maybe a friend played a song for you, and now it's your favorite song to sing. Friends can also encourage you to follow God and live fully alive. Let's look at a story in the Bible *(hold up Bible)* where someone helped a friend make a wise choice…"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 7:15)

"What a difference a good friend makes! It was all because they wanted to help each other ***[Basic Truth]*** **make the wise choice.** They encouraged each other to follow Jesus and do what HE would want them to do. Think about what Philip did for Nathanael, too. He pointed Nathanael to Jesus, and it changed Nathanael's life for the better. All of us need friends who will help us like that. All of us need to BE friends like that, too."

CG: Bottom Line Slide

***[Bottom Line]* "Find friends who help you trust Jesus.**

"God knows how important our friendships are. He knows that we all need people who encourage us to believe what He says is true. We need friends who will help us ***[Basic Truth]* make the wise choice**—even when it isn't easy. Let's pray and ask God to give us friends who will help us trust Him more."

Pray: "God, thank You for friends who encourage us to make the wise choice. Please surround us with friends like Philip who will help us to trust You more. Please give us the confidence to live the way You've asked us to and to help each other along the way. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name, amen."

"If you don't know where to start, look around your group! One friend who can help you make wise choices is your Small Group Leader. Your Leader is good friend to turn to—someone who will help you trust Jesus. Your friends in your small group can also encourage you to follow God and live fully alive. If you want to grow and learn, you need to have friends around you who also trust Jesus. Then, even when you're stuck or facing a problem, you won't be alone. Your friends will be there to help you and give you confidence in God."

"In our small groups, you'll talk all about how to find friends who can help you trust Jesus. Before we go though, let's worship God with our offering!"

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 an organization called 'Missions of Hope' to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God's love for them. Here's a picture of Kenya!"

CG: Picture of Kenya

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 and place it here *(show offering container)."*

"Thank you for your kindness and generosity City! Have fun in Small Groups!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.