

CITY LG – July 1-3, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Salvation Is Here (Salvation Is God's Gift) • *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Today's Bottom Line: Jesus is a gift for everyone.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)*

***SUPPLIES: SOLO CUPS (one for every kid in Large Group. Use the same cups each service) ***

WORSHIP:

One in a Million
As the World Shakes

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everybody! I'm [your name], and I'm so glad you're here in the City. Who's excited about the Fourth of July Holiday coming up this week? We're going to play a game to celebrate that after large group today! All summer long, we're talking about faith.

SLIDE: Virtue

Faith is trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see.

SLIDE: Theme

Even if we can't see Jesus with our eyes, we can put faith in Jesus and believe that He is always with us. We can follow Jesus' example with the way we show love and kindness to others. We can share His love here, there, and everywhere!

Now, one thing I CAN see is that we've got a lot of fun planned for today. Our theme this summer is 'Ready, Set, Move.' So let's play a fun game that will get EVERYBODY moving! Actually, we are going to be FLIPPING!

This game is called 'Up or Down,' and it's pretty awesome! The first thing we need to do is to divide the room in half. Each half of the room is a team, so you'll need to work together with your team!

Hold up a stack of cups.

Before we begin, I need everyone to take one cup and set it on the floor in front of you.

Have leader(s) pass out cups

(Hold up a cup.) Now, you might have noticed that some of you put your cups right side up *(hold the cup upright)*, and some of you put them upside down. *(Hold the cup upside down.)*

If you're on this half of the room (*point to one side of the line*), you should have your cup right side up (*Demonstrate with the cup.*) But if you're on this half of the room (*point to the other side of the line*), you should start with your cups upside down. (*Demonstrate with the cup.*)

When I say 'Ready, Set, Move,' you'll try to flip your cup so it lands the SAME WAY you have it right now—either right side up or upside down. Keep trying to flip until you get it right. When time's up, we'll have one leader count the cups in the room that are right side up, and another leader count the cups that are upside down to see who wins.

Now, before we start, I want to let you know about a couple of rules we'll ALL need to follow. The first one is that you need to actually FLIP the cup to land the way it supposed to be. The other is that once you flip your cup, if someone on your team is having trouble and asks for your help, you can go help them. But only if they ask for help.

Okay, let's get this game started. We'll put one minute on the clock. Ready, set, move!

Video: Countdown (60-second version)

Once the time is up, say "Hands in the air!" and count the cups to see who wins. Try playing again, having the sides switch which way their cup should be (facing up or down).

SLIDE: Theme

Both teams did an awesome job. You were really MOVING! Now, let's see how quickly you can stack those cups and give them back to your leader. Ready? Go!

Collect the stacks of cups from the Small Group Leaders.

Well, we've been moving through God's Big Story for a while now. We've heard lots of amazing stories about God and God's people, the Israelites. (*Hold up Bible.*) In the New Testament, we've discovered how Jesus came to be our Savior.

After Jesus died, came back to life, then returned to heaven, the early church grew quickly. More and more people put their faith in Jesus and spent their lives following Him. An early follower of Jesus named Paul traveled thousands of miles to tell people about Jesus.

Let's see what happens with Paul in the Story Lab...

Video: Bible Story

That is such an amazing truth that Paul shared with the people in Ephesus: our salvation is a gift from God! We don't have to do enough good things to get God to love us. God already loved us enough to send Jesus FOR us.

Jesus came and showed love to everyone He met. He taught amazing things about God. He performed miracles and healed people. He died on the cross for our sins so that we could be forgiven. He did that for me, you, and everyone in the whole world! It's like our bottom line says. Let's watch...

VIDEO: Bottom Line
SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] Jesus is a gift for everyone.

Here's the really cool part. The way we receive that amazing gift is by putting our faith in Jesus. I've done that, and you can, too! Be sure to talk to your parent or one of us leaders if you want to know more about how you can put your faith in Jesus as your Savior.

Every day of your life, your faith can grow as you understand more and more about what Jesus has done for you. It's really cool to talk to people who have been following Jesus for a while—to hear how they've put their faith in Jesus and how their faith has grown and gotten stronger. You might talk to a parent, a grandparent, or your Small Group Leader. Be sure to ask them questions and listen to their story of faith!

Let's learn our memory verse for this month, Ephesians 2:8. This is the same part of Paul's letter to the Ephesians that we just read together. Say it with me.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift." (Ephesians 2:8, NIV)

Let's pray and thank God for that.

SLIDE: Theme

"Dear God, thank You so much for the gift of Jesus! Thank You for making a way for us to have a relationship with You that will last forever. It's so good to know that we don't have to try to earn Your love. You simply love us, and that's why You sent Jesus for us. Help us live each day with faith and remember that we can trust You no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

Where has our offering money been going this summer? Yep, to families in Kenya! They are experiencing a lack of food resources because of an on-going drought. We are collecting money for food baskets for the families who live in Turkana. If you have any offering, you can bring it up now while we watch this video of Turkana families receiving baskets.

Turkana video #2

****AT YOUR COORDINATOR'S DIRECTION, YOU WILL EITHER DIVIDE INTO SMALL GROUPS OR DO ACTIVITIES TOGETHER.**