

CITY LG – July 22-24, 2023

Today's Bible Story: We Belong Together (The Church) • *Hebrews 10:23-25*

Today's Bottom Line: Our faith is stronger together.

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 (NirV)*

WORSHIP:

One in a Million
As the World Shakes

SLIDE: Theme

What's up, everybody? I'm so pumped to be here today because this is one of my very favorite places to be. We've got lots of fun things planned for today!

This whole summer, we've been talking about faith.

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

We can put our faith in Jesus and FOLLOW Jesus by living the way He taught us to live. We know that Jesus is always with us, even if we can't see Him.

"Speaking of what we can see, I can SEE you're already wondering what kind of fun is coming your way today. Today we are going to Ready, Set, Move by playing a game of Would You Rather? Okay, a slide will go up and you will decide which side of the room to go, based on what you would rather do. Listen carefully!

Go through each slide. Read it and tell kids what side of the room to run to based on their answer.

Let's get this game started!

SLIDES 1-10: Would You Rather

SLIDE: Theme

Over the past year, we've been moving together through God's Big Story in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) We're here in the story after Jesus died on the cross, came back to life, then returned to heaven. We've seen how the early church grew quickly as more and more people put their faith in Jesus as their Savior.

During this time, though, some of the believers became confused or distracted by other things. They started to forget their faith in Jesus. So people like Paul wrote letters to the believers in various churches to encourage them to keep following Jesus with the way they lived each day.

One of these letters is what we call the book of Hebrews. (*Hold up Bible.*) This letter was written to a group of Jesus-followers to encourage them to keep their faith strong. Most experts believe it was likely written by a friend or follower of Paul. Let's check out the Story Lab...

VIDEO: Bible Story

I think it's so cool how God designed the church to work!

When we all meet together, we learn a lot about God. That's super-important. But it's not the only reason we come here. We also show up because we can spend time with each other and do what we just read about in the book of Hebrews: stir each other up to good works. We can encourage each other and help each other to live like Jesus, every single day. It's like our bottom line says today...

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Our faith is stronger together.

You see, our faith in Jesus isn't just something we talk about at [your environment's name]. Our faith in Jesus makes us want to MOVE and show His love here, there, and everywhere! And God made us to do that together.

You know, church is a great place to get to know other friends who follow Jesus. As you do fun activities and talk about God together, you're actually helping each other grow in your faith! The fact that God has given us friendships with each other is really just one more way we can be certain that we can trust God no matter what.

Let's learn our memory verse for this month, Ephesians 2:8. 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 ask God to help us grow stronger in our faith as we follow Jesus together.

"Dear God, thank You for putting people in our lives who can stir us up to follow You. Help us do that for others, too! Help us all stir up each other to show Your love to everyone we see. Thank You for giving us people in our lives who can help us because You knew that our faith would be stronger together. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

Where has our offering money been going this summer? To families in Kenya! We are collecting money for food baskets for families who live in Turkana. They have a food shortage there because of a drought, so the food they do have is really expensive. 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.**