

CITY LG – July 29-31, 2023

Today's Bible Story: The Other Side (Heaven) • *Revelation 21:3-5a*

Today's Bottom Line: God will make everything right in the end.

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

Hello, friends! It's so great to see your smiling faces today! All summer long, we've been talking about what it means to have faith. If you don't remember . . .

SLIDE: Virtue

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

SLIDE: Theme

I can look around and see that God is good. I can see that God has given me friends and family who I love. I can see that God made this amazing world all around me. And I can believe that God sent Jesus FOR me! I can put my faith in Jesus and choose to follow Him, even though I can't see Him with my own eyes.

Today's game is all about what you can see with YOUR eyes. In just a minute, we'll put an image on the screen. The image will start out really blurry, and it'll gradually get clearer. As soon as you can guess what the picture is, shout it out! We're all working as a team, so let's see how many we can guess correctly! Here we go!

AUDIO: Fun instrumental music

Tech note: As you put the slides up, leave each one on screen for about 5 to 7 seconds before you go on to the next one. The image will get progressively clearer. If someone guesses the correct answer, skip ahead to the fully clear version (D).

SLIDE: Game Image 1a (bicycle)

SLIDE: Game Image 1b

SLIDE: Game Image 1c

SLIDE: Game Image 1d

Repeat this process for the other six images.

SLIDE: Game Image 2a-d (skateboard)

SLIDE: Game Image 3a-d (speedboat)

SLIDE: Game Image 4a-d (hoverboard)

SLIDE: Game Image 5a-d (convertible car)

SLIDE: Game Image 6a-d (train)

SLIDE: Game Image 7a-d (cruise ship)

SLIDE: Theme

Wow! Some of those were really difficult to guess, but you did great!

Now I have a question for you. Have you ever been on a road trip? I mean like, a REALLY long road trip—more than just running errands with your family around town. Raise your hand if you have. *(Pause for response.)*

Okay, cool. There's a question that you might ask if you're riding in the car and it seems to be taking forever. Can anybody guess what question I'm talking about? *(Pause for response.)* That's right. Are we there yet? Let me hear you say it."

AUDIENCE: "Are we there yet?"

You got it! Well as you know, we've spent a lot of time over the last year moving through God's Big Story. We've gone through the Bible together and covered many of the stories along the way. *(Hold up Bible.)* It's a pretty long journey to go all the way from the beginning up until now. But I hope you've noticed something about God's Big Story as we've made our way through it. God's story is a story of LOVE for people across time—including us today!

(Open the Bible to somewhere in the middle.) If you're somewhere in the middle of the story, you might be tempted to ask . . . 'Are we there yet?'

The truth is . . . we're NOT there yet. We're on a journey of faith as we follow Jesus together. And because of what Jesus did for us, we can have HOPE for the future that nothing can take away. Let's go back and take a look at where we've been—all the way from the VERY beginning.

Check out the Story Lab...

VIDEO: Bible Story

Even though we have John's words about heaven, most of us still have a hard time imagining what that will be like. There's a lot we don't know. But we do know that life with God forever will be more incredible and amazing than we could ever imagine! We can believe this.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

God will make everything right in the end.

The promise of heaven is so important because it gives us hope . . . even when things in our lives might seem frustrating or disappointing. We can put our faith in Jesus and believe that everything WILL be right in the end. Jesus once said this.

Open the Bible to John 5:24 (NIRV) and read.

"What I'm about to tell you is true. Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.

Let me read that again. *"Anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life".*

We can have faith that Jesus is God's Son and that He died on the cross for us. If we put our trust in Him, we have the PROMISE of life with God forever!

It's like it says in 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, NIRV)

Let's pray.

"Dear God, what an amazing story You've written! Through it all, You have always had a plan. And Your plan is good. Thank You for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for helping us know that everything will be right in the end and that we can trust You no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

All summer, our offering money will go to families in Kenya. They have a food shortage because of a drought. And the food that is available is expensive! As you can see in these pictures, this is an area in Kenya called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

SLIDES: Kenya 1-4

We are working with an organization called Missions of Hope. Our money will help them make food baskets for the families who live in Turkana. The food baskets will be such a blessing to the children and families in this community! If you have any offering you can bring it up now.

****AT YOUR COORDINATOR'S DIRECTION, YOU WILL EITHER DISMISS TO SMALL GROUP OR DO ACTIVITIES TOGETHER.**