

CITY LG – June 1- 2, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Lost and Found (The Story of the Lost Sheep) • *Luke 15:1-7*

Today's Bottom Line: We can have joy because of Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.*
Proverbs 17:22 (NirV)

Monthly Virtue: Joy—Choosing to celebrate what God is doing

LG SUPPLIES NEEDED: one doggy ear headband and one pool noodle

WORSHIP:

My God

Wake

SLIDE: Theme

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups.

NOTE: This is the first week for our brand new first graders so please make sure they know where to sit for groups.

"Hey, everybody! I'm [your name], and I'm so glad we're all here together in the CITY! We have some very special people in here with us today! Where are our brand new first graders?? Make some noise first graders!! We are so glad you are in the City now! Second and third graders...what are some things we should make sure our first graders know? *(Give kids time to answer. They may need prompting but make sure they cover:*

- *Bathroom procedures*
- *What they can do each week when they first come in*
- *What rugs are for first graders*
- *Parent Discussion Guides...show them and what happens when they return each week*
- *Schedule: worship, LG (Story Lab videos), SG*
- *Offering*

Well, now that we have officially welcomed our awesome first graders, let's get to it. It's summer, and it's time to celebrate. It's time to Start the Party!

We're celebrating the good news that God sent Jesus to be our Savior. That's always a reason we can have joy!

SLIDE: Virtue

Joy is **choosing to celebrate what God is doing.**

SLIDE: Theme

God is always working in our lives and in the lives of the people around us. When we notice what God has done in the past . . . what God is doing today . . . and what God will do in the future, that will help us find true joy that nothing can take away.

Right now I have the JOY of teaching you how to play a fun party game! This is one of my favorites. It's called 'Doggie, Doggie, Where's Your Bone?' I'll need one Small Group Leader to be our first contestant.

Choose one leader to go first.

For the first round, [leader's name] will be the doggie.

Give the dog ears headband to the leader to put on.

He'll stand with his back to the rest of you, and we'll put this bone (*hold up the pool noodle*) on the floor behind him. Once he's not looking, I'll quietly choose someone to go and grab the bone, then go back to their seat and hide it behind their back. Then we'll all say, 'Doggie, doggie, where's your bone? Somebody stole it from your home.'

[Leader's name] will then turn around, and he'll have three guesses to figure out who took it! Are you ready to give it a try? (*To the leader*) Okay, [leader's name]. You can now turn and face backward. (*To audience*) Raise your hand if you want to hide the bone!

Silently point to a kid to come up, pick up the pool noodle, and hide it behind their back.

Ready, everyone?

HOST and KIDS: "Doggie, doggie, where's your bone? Somebody stole it from your home."

Give the leader three guesses to try to figure out who took their bone. Then let someone else wear the headband and be the "doggie." Play as many rounds as time allows.

That was so fun! Our leaders were good at finding the bone because they knew WHERE to look. They just had to look at your faces! Joy is kind of like that too. We can find true joy if we know where it comes from in the first place—from our relationship with God.

Before we get into today's story, I've got a question for you. If you had a dollar, and you lost it, how long do you think you'd look for it? (*Pause for response.*)

Okay—but what if it was five dollars?

What if it was 20 dollars? What if it was a HUNDRED dollars? (*Pause for response.*)

Do you think you'd keep looking longer for a lost 100-dollar bill than you would for a lost one-dollar bill? (*Pause for response.*) I think I would too. Why? Because a 100-dollar bill is a lot more valuable, right?

Jesus once told a series of stories about important things that were lost. He told these stories because He wanted people to understand something important about God. And it also happens to be something that can bring a lot of JOY to our lives as well.

We can find these stories that Jesus told in the book of Luke. (*Hold up Bible.*) Luke, the man who wrote this book, was a doctor who wrote about the things Jesus did and said. He wrote about how Jesus loved and cared for everyone—even people who had done wrong things.

Check this out...

VIDEO: Bible Story

I just love the story Jesus told about the lost sheep! It reminds me just how much God loves us. God loved us enough to send Jesus to be our Savior!

Here's what we need to remember today. Stand up and check this out:

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

We can have joy because of Jesus.

In all the ups and downs of life, there's one thing that is always true—and that's our faith in Jesus. We know that Jesus came to show us the best way to live. And we know Jesus gave His life FOR us on the cross so that we can be forgiven. God sent Jesus to this world to rescue us . . . and to bring us home.

Each one of us can experience God's love and forgiveness for ourselves. If you've never put your trust in Jesus, you can talk to your parents or family members or your Small Group Leader about what it means to put your faith in Him and follow Him.

There is nothing we could ever do to make God love us any less. There's no trouble we can get into that is beyond God's reach. God loves us and is always there for us. When we think about the things God has rescued us from, and the things God has rescued others from, we can find so much joy!

I think it's pretty amazing how God created us to live with joy—as we read in our Memory Verse for this month, Proverbs 17:22.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

A cheerful heart makes you healthy.

But a broken spirit dries you up. (Proverbs 17:22, NIV)

I know I have a cheerful heart when I come to the City because I get to hang out with all of you! And in a few minutes you will get to talk some more about the joy we have in Jesus.

Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Dear God, You bring us joy every day. You've shown us over and over again that we can trust You no matter what. Thank You so much for the joy we have in Jesus! This story Jesus told about the lost sheep shows us how valuable each person is to You. You sent Jesus to rescue us, because You LOVE us. Help us to remember that always—and to find joy in knowing how much we matter to You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

What mission are we supporting this year? Yes, Morning Star Mission! Morning Star Helps People who are struggling financially. They help them with their basic necessities AND they help them with whatever it is they need to do, to be able to get in a better place and support their families. One of the things the kids need are supplies to help them succeed in school. One of the programs they have to help kids get the school supplies they need is called Jump on the Bus. If you have your offering, bring it up as we watch this video...

VIDEO: Jump on the Bus

So, let's help the kids be ready to jump on the bus this year! Missions of Hope prepares all year to be able to help kids in need start their school year off right. So, we have a few months before school starts again to give to Morning Star for these supplies – think about what you can do to raise some money for kids in need in our area.

SLIDE: Theme

CG: Summer JAM Slide

It's almost time for Summer Jam! It's coming up very soon and we're so excited to invite you to these 3 nights jam-packed with FUN and Adventure! You won't want to miss it. Tell whoever brought you that you need to visit the Summer Jam Tent after our time together today to sign up and get your t shirt!

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