

CITY LG – April 5 - 6, 2025

Today's Bible Story: When Love Comes to Town (Palm Sunday) • *John 12:12-16*

Today's Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember God is still working.

Monthly Memory Verse: *"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."* John 16:33b (NIRV)

Monthly Virtue: Hope—Believing that something good can come out of something bad

LG SUPPLIES: 10 paper plates (per service), 2 thick markers, one set of cards with these words written on them: apple, sun, glasses, flower, donkey

WORSHIP

Let it Be Known

He Has Won

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, friends! We're back and it's another great day here in The City! This whole month we're talking about The Big Picture. We're finding out how we can find hope in God . . . even when things happen in our lives that are tough or scary or confusing.

We can find true hope when we remember what Jesus did for us—how He died on the cross and then came back to life. That's what we celebrate at Easter, and it's getting SO close!

Now, if we want to find hope in God, we need to put our focus on God—even if we can't actually SEE God with our eyes. I've got a super-fun game for us to play that reminds me of that idea. First, I'll need two Small Group Leaders to come up to the front: one from this side of the room (*reference a side*), and one from this side (*reference the other side*).

Bring up two adult leaders and direct them to sit in the chairs—each of which has a stack of five paper plates and a thick marker.

(To the two leaders) Thanks for being our contestants. I'll show a card to both of you that has a word written on it. You'll draw whatever is on the card. Meanwhile, your friends out here (*reference the audience*) will try to guess what you're drawing.

Sounds easy enough, right? Well, here's the twist: you'll need to draw on a paper plate while you hold that plate on top of your head!

I'll give you some time to draw your picture, and then I'll shout 'Guess!' At that point, you can take your plate and show it to your teammates in the audience so they can guess what you've drawn. Are you ready to get started? (*Pause for responses.*) Let's go!

Show the first card to the leaders and cue them to start drawing on the paper plates on their heads. Let them draw for about 20 to 30 seconds. Then shout “Guess!” and allow the kids to guess what the leaders have drawn.

Play all five rounds, cue the leaders to use a new paper plate for each word. Make sure the last word is “donkey.” Collect the supplies as you thank the leaders and dismiss them to their seats.

That was so fun! Thanks for playing, everyone. It’s not so easy to draw when you can’t see what you’re drawing! But you did a great job of guessing what your leaders were trying to do.

We can have hope in life because we know God has a bigger plan—even if we can’t always see it!

As you know, Easter is coming up soon . . . and today, we’ll take a look at what happened in God’s story (*hold up Bible*) that led up to Jesus dying on the cross and then coming back to life.

We can go back to the very beginning and see how God made the whole world out of a deep, deep love. People turned away from God, and the world was broken. But God had a plan to make things right and bring people back into relationship. When the time was right, God sent Jesus to be our Savior.

When Jesus grew up, He traveled from town to town, teaching and healing people. Because of the amazing things Jesus did, some people wanted to crown Him king. They hoped He would defeat the Romans who were ruling over them at that time.

But some of the religious leaders didn’t like what Jesus was doing. They didn’t believe that Jesus was the Son of God. They all waited to see if Jesus would show up in Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish tradition of Passover.

Let’s check out The Story Lab to see what happened...

VIDEO: Bible Story 9:34

It was clear that God was working through Jesus in a powerful way. God had sent Jesus to be the Savior of the world! And the people celebrated, even if the WAY Jesus came was maybe a little different from what they expected...on a donkey!

Here’s what we need to think about today. It’s something we can remember when we face something tough or something that doesn’t happen the way we expect. Let’s all stand up for our bottom line,

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Whatever happens, remember God is still working.

Jesus had come to Jerusalem to do what He had come to this Earth to do.

To die on the cross for our sins AND come back to life! That’s what we’ll celebrate at Easter!

We can find hope when we remember that God can bring something good out of something bad. In fact, that's what hope really means.

SLIDE: Virtue

It's about **believing that something good can come out of something bad.**

SLIDE: Theme

We all experience difficult things in life. But when those hard things happen, we can remember that God is still at work.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

It's like our memory verse for this month says, "In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world." John 16:33b

Even when we don't understand everything that's going on, and even though we can't always see what God is doing, we can still trust that God is with us.

If you're ever feeling confused or unsure, you ask God to give you HOPE. You can trust that God can bring something good out of what you're going through.

Let's pray and thank God for that.

Dear God, thank You so much for helping us see today that You are always working. You sent Jesus to be our Rescuer, and He entered the city of Jerusalem on a young donkey—just like You planned long ago! No matter what happens today or this week or this month or ever, help us to remember that we can trust You no matter what. Help us to trust that You are always working for our good. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SLIDE: Theme

CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part, but remind kids who have offering to place it in the container.

SLIDES: Offering pics 5-8 (scroll through while describing the mission)

Each week in the City we collect money to support a Parkview mission that helps people in need. We are giving the money we collect to a church called La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay).

La Liberte' Church is in the Republic of Congo which is in Africa. Here are some pictures of the great work the church is doing to teach kids about Jesus. The kids at the church live in an area where they don't have a lot of money and sometimes don't have a lot of food for their family. When the kids come to church on Sunday, they feed them a hot meal. They feed around 700 children every weekend and each meal costs \$2.00. Our goal is to help feed as many kids as we can!

SLIDE: Theme