

CITY LG – April 26 - 27, 2025

Today's Bible Story: All I Ask (Jesus Appears to Thomas) • *John 20:19-29*

Today's Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

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

WORSHIP

Let it Be Known

He Has Won

SLIDE: Theme

What's up, everybody? This month we've been talking about how we can find hope when we look at the 'big picture.' Sometimes things happen that make us feel scared, worried, or confused. But we can keep hope alive when we remember that God is with us . . . God loves us . . . and God sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins and then defeated death by coming back to life. That's what we celebrated last week at Easter, and it's something that can change the way we live our lives every day!

Now, today we'll look at the story of someone who had some questions. Because of that, I have a question for you to talk about in your groups. Circle up with your small group and discuss this question: **What is one question you would ask God if you could?** Go ahead and discuss this in your group...

*Large group leader should walk around listening to groups as they answer this.
Give them a couple of minutes.*

We've been talking this month about the reason we can have hope no matter what's going on around us. We can have hope because Jesus is alive! Jesus died on the cross for our sins and then came back to life. But do you remember why Jesus had to pay the price for our sins?

(Hold up Bible.) Well, if we go back to the very beginning, we read how God made a perfect world. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. Still, God had a good plan to make things right. God promised to bless the whole world through the family of one man, Abraham. And God's promise came true when God sent Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

When Jesus grew up, He traveled from town to town, teaching and healing people. People could see that Jesus was special, and they began to follow Him wherever He went. They started to think He might really be the Savior God had promised to send. But not everyone believed that. The religious leaders didn't think that Jesus was the Son of God, and they didn't like that people were following Him instead of them. So when Jesus came to Jerusalem for the Passover festival, the religious leaders made plans to get rid of Him.

Last week we talked about what happened when Jesus came to Jerusalem. He was arrested, even though He hadn't done anything wrong. He was put on a cross to be punished like a criminal . . . and He died. This was so sad, but now we know that it was all part of God's good plan. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for the sins of anyone who would choose to follow Him. But that wasn't the end of the story, was it?

Let's check out what happened next.

VIDEO: Bible Story 10:08

Thomas had questions and doubts. It was hard for him to believe that the good news could possibly be true—that Jesus was alive.

And did you notice how Jesus treated Thomas when Thomas had those questions? Jesus wasn't frustrated or angry. Not at all! Jesus was kind to Thomas, and He helped Thomas understand that He really had come back to life.

We all have questions about things that happen in our lives. We might wonder why something went the way it did . . . or maybe why something DIDN'T happen like we wanted it to. Even in those difficult moments, we can trust that God sees the bigger picture. We can trust that God has a bigger plan.

It's like our bottom line says, let's all stand up and check it out.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

SLIDE: Theme

I know there have been times when I've felt confused or worried about things that have happened in my life. It's normal to have questions about things we don't understand. No matter what's going on in our lives, we can find hope when we remember that God is right there with us."

We won't always get to know why some difficult things happen . . . but we CAN know that God is always there in the midst of them. We can see just one tiny part . . . but God sees the whole story. No matter what questions or doubts you have, you can always talk to God about them.

Let's pray and thank God for helping us with our questions.

Dear God, thank You for this story of Jesus and Thomas. Thomas had doubts and questions about what really happened after Jesus died on the cross . . . and Jesus showed up to help Thomas believe. God, it's so good to know how big You are. You are bigger than our biggest questions. You understand things we don't understand. Remind us to bring our doubts and questions to You and talk to You about everything we're feeling inside. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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 1-4 (scroll through while describing the mission)

One way we can all work together to help others in need is through our offering! Each week in the City we collect money to support a Parkview mission that helps people in need. Starting in 2025 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. 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