

CITY SG – 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

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Four sandwich sized baggies of mini-marshmallows and toothpicks (per group)

What You Do:

- Greet each kid as they arrive and help them feel welcome!
 - Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Ask kids how they celebrated Easter?
- Divide kids into 4 groups. As kids arrive, add them to a group.
- Give each team a zip-lock bag of mini-marshmallows and toothpicks.
- Assign each team 1 letter in the word HOPE to create using mini-marshmallows and toothpicks without telling them the word it spells. For example:
 - Team 1 will build a "H"
 - Team 2 will build a "P"
 - Team 3 will build an "E"
 - Team 4 will build an "O"
- Ask kids:
 - "Can anyone guess what we might be spelling out?"
- Instruct each team to use the mini-marshmallows as connectors and the toothpicks to form their assigned letter.
- Encourage the kids to work together and use their creativity to make their letters sturdy.
- Once every team is finished, invite them to gently place their letters together to spell out the word "HOPE."
- When it's time for Large Group, say, **"When things get tough, having hope and seeing the bigger picture can be hard. Today, we'll hear about one of Jesus' friends who had some big questions about Jesus' big-picture story."**

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. No Doubt Charades

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Charades Cards" (one set per group)

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Explain to the kids that they will draw a card and act out a scene from today's Bible Story for their group.
- Direct one team to send one kid up to draw a card, and act out the scene.
- Remind kids that they can only use motions—no talking!
 - Allow the kid to invite a friend or two to act with them if they feel more comfortable.
- Encourage that kid's team to watch closely and guess the scene being acted out.
- Set a phone timer for 20 seconds.
- If the team guesses correctly within the 20 seconds, award them a point.

- If the team guesses incorrectly within the 20 seconds, don't award a point.
 - Reveal to the group what the scene was for each incorrect guess.
- Instruct the next kid from the other team to go to the baggie to grab a charade.
- Encourage both teams to take turns sending new kids to draw a new charades card until everyone has had a chance to act.
- Count the points earned by each team.
- Announce the winning team as the one with the most correct guesses!
- Ask:
 - "Were any of those scenarios tough to guess? (*Invite responses.*)
 - Can you think of a time in your life when it was tough to understand why something hard was happening? (*Invite responses.*)
- Say, "there will be times in our lives when we don't quite understand what's happening, and we might feel confused about what God is doing. It's normal to have questions, just like Thomas did. Remember that God knows the whole picture, and we can trust God even when we don't have all the answers. **Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.**"

2. I've Got Questions

Application Activity

What You Need: Colored paper strips, markers, glue sticks, and a large piece of paper with the word "GOD" on it

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of two.
- Give each group of kids 10 strips of paper, markers, and a glue stick.
- Explain to the kids that you will give them a few minutes to work together to think of as many questions for God as they can.
- After a few minutes, instruct the groups to write down their questions on the strips.
 - **You may need to have a volunteer write the questions for the younger kids**
- Offer prompts such as:
 - "Why does God let bad things happen?"
 - "What does Heaven look like?"
 - "Why is it hard for me to make friends?"
- Share with kids that there are no right or wrong questions. God really loves hearing all of our questions, no matter how big or small.
- Encourage kids to fold each strip of paper with the questions in half (or in thirds).
- Display the poster board for the kids to see.
- Then, explain to the kids that they will glue each of their folded questions onto the poster board by placing glue on the back.
 - Show kids how to place the glue on the blank side of their question strips so that once attached, kids can easily unfold the construction paper to reveal the question inside.
- Say, "Here's the amazing truth: God is big enough for all of our questions. We can always ask God anything because God loves us SO much! God wants us to ask and discover more about God."

3. Memory Verse Roll

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: a soft ball

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - o Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - o Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
 - o “In this world you will have trouble. But, be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.”
John 16:33b
- Guide kids to sit in a large circle.
- Give one kid the ball.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass the ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*”
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

“Dear God, thank You for bringing us together at church. Help us remember that You are bigger than any question we have. Let us feel Your love and comfort whenever we’re worried. Thank You for being a safe place we can always turn. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home to bring back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to recite this week’s bottom line: Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.