

CITY LG – May 3 - 4, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Living Hope (God So Loved the World) • *John 3:16-17*

Today's Bottom Line: God took care of our greatest need.

Monthly Memory Verse: *None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.* Philippians 2:4 (NIRV)

Monthly Virtue: Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

WORSHIP

Movin' Me
Dance

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everybody! My name is [your name] and I'm so glad you're here with us today in The City!

As you can see, we've got a pretty cool spy theme going on this month: 'Eye Spy.' You've probably played the game 'I Spy' before. It's all about keeping an eye out so you notice your surroundings. That's important for us to do as followers of Jesus . . . because first we have to see what the people around us need, and then we can choose to do something to help!

The apostle Paul had something to say about that in his letter to the Philippians. This is our Memory Verse for this month, Philippians 2:4.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. (Philippians 2:4, NIRV)

I think that's something we can do with God's help. How about you? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes—we can keep a lookout for ways to show God's love.

SLIDE: Theme

I have a question and I want you to circle up in your small group and spend a few minutes answering this: **When has God given you something that you needed?** 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.

Today we're taking a look at some REALLY famous verses from the Bible right here in the book of John. *(Hold up Bible.)* The book of John is one of the four books called the Gospels that tell stories about the life of Jesus.

John, the man who wrote this book, was a fisherman . . . and so was his brother James. John and James were two of the first disciples who Jesus called to follow Him. Because John spent so much time with Jesus, he had an up-close look at everything Jesus said and did. John wrote about miracles, or 'signs,' that show us Who Jesus truly is. Let's take a look at the Story Lab...

VIDEO: Bible Story 11:54

As Jesus explained to Nicodemus, we can be 'born again' by believing in Jesus and trusting Him as our Savior. We all have a big need—a big problem—because of our sin. Let's check out our bottom line for today.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

God took care of our greatest need.

I think it's so cool how Nicodemus came to Jesus to find out Who Jesus was for himself! And Nicodemus found that Jesus really is the One God sent to save us.

You see, God's love for us is deeper than we can ever completely understand. Our greatest need is to have a close relationship with God . . . without sin being in the way. And that's why God sent Jesus.

Because of what Jesus did on the cross for us, we can put our faith in Him as our Savior. And when we choose to believe in and follow Jesus, we have the promise of eternal life with God.

We also have the chance to grow in our relationship with Jesus here and now. We can show Who God is to the world around us. And part of that is showing initiative.

Have you ever heard that word before—*initiative*?"

SLIDE: Virtue

Initiative is about **seeing what needs to be done and doing it.**

SLIDE: Theme

That starts with keeping our eyes open to see what the people around us need . . . and then taking the extra step to do something about it."

It means looking for ways to share the love God has given us with the people around us.

Let's pray and thank God for loving us and sending Jesus for us.

Dear God, thank You for loving us so much You sent Jesus to be our Rescuer. Thank You for proving over and over and over again that we can trust You no matter what. God, please help us to keep our eyes open so that we can see what people need around us. And please show us how we can take a step to help. We want to share Your love with the people You've put in our loves. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHECK THE TIME: There should be at least 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.

Each week in the City we collect money to support a Parkview mission that helps people in need. Who remembers the name of the church we are collecting for? (*La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay)*).

Who remembers where the church is located? (*In the Congo in Africa*)

Here is a video of the kids at the church singing praise to Jesus.

VIDEO: Kids Singing

Remember: where they live, 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