

CITY LG – April 11th- 12th, 2026

Bible Story: On the Road to Emmaus • *Luke 24:13-35*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because there's a bigger story.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIV

WORSHIP

My God is Bigger

Standing in Your Light

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, friends! Welcome to The City! I'm so happy you're here today. Every time you walk into this room, it feels like a party because we get to be together, learn together, and celebrate Jesus together. All month long, we're having a big block party because we're learning that Jesus gives us JOY that never, ever ends. That's our theme for this month: 'Block Party—Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!'

You know what's really cool about joy? Joy is something God gives us on the inside. It's bigger than being happy. Joy lasts even on days when things feel confusing or a little tricky. And speaking of joy, I've got a question for you to talk about. Circle up with your small group and discuss this question: **How does knowing that Jesus is alive bring you joy?** 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.

All month long, we're learning that Jesus gives us joy that never ends. And the Bible has a verse that reminds us where that joy comes from. This verse helps us remember that we belong to Jesus, and because of that, we can have joy every single day, no matter what's happening around us.

Our Memory Verse is found in Philippians 4:4. I'll read it first, and then we'll all say it together!

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4

SLIDE: Theme Background

As we'll see in our true story from the Bible today, we can always find joy because our good God is working on a good story that we're living in the middle of.

But before we get into our true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about something amazing that we've been doing all year.

We're going through the key stories of the Bible! By the end of the school year, we'll have looked at the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

Why are we doing that? Well, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we could know Him! He wants to be our close, close friend. So, as we go through the Bible this year, we hope to learn more about God!

We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

Today, we're continuing right on through the Bible. We're going to talk about a story that happened on the same day Jesus rose from the dead. It happened on that first Easter.

So as we start our story, let me ask you this: Have you ever had a day when you weren't sure what was going on? Maybe something happened that didn't make sense, or you felt confused, or you didn't know what was going to happen next. That can feel uncomfortable, right? When we only see one tiny part of a situation, it can be hard to understand the whole picture.

That's exactly what happened to the two friends in our Bible Story today. Let's check it out.

VIDEO: Bible Story

When all you see is one little part, things can feel confusing. But when you remember that there is a bigger story, it can help you find joy! And that's what Jesus helped His friends do. He showed them that God had been working out His bigger story all along, and that gave them JOY. Let's review our Bottom Line for today!

SLIDE: Bottom Line

You can have joy because there's a bigger story!

One day, Jesus is coming back, and He is going to make everything right again. God is going to end pain, sickness, and death—forever! And you will live with Him forever in a place where there is no more crying, or sadness, or pain!

That is the bigger story that you are living in every single day of your life! It's the best story, and it's all true!

So when things get hard, and they will, remember that there is a bigger story. Ask Jesus to remind you that He is with you every step of the way, and ask Him to help you trust that the hard that you are going through right now,

God is always working on His bigger story. He is working for good—a forever good. And let that bring you joy!"

Let's talk to the God who is with you through every hard thing and who is working to make everything right in the end! Let's talk to the God who is writing the best story.

Jesus, thank You for writing the best story of all, and that we are living in it! When things get hard or confusing, help us remember that You are good and are working for good. Help us be encouraged by the bigger story You are writing. Help us find joy as we turn our hearts to Your presence with us. We want to go through all of life aware of You and of Your bigger story! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

In Parkview Kids, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. This year we are collecting our offering money to help kids all the way on the other side of the world in a country in Africa called Malawi. Did you know that in this area many communities don't have access to clean water?

Slides: 5-8

We are helping a ministry called E3 which helps put in freshwater wells. Having a well with clean water right in their village means women and children don't have to travel far away to other villages to get clean water, and they don't have to walk with heavy containers of water like you see in these pictures. Children help carry water too! They have to travel so far that they have to miss school sometimes. And if they used the dirty water that is in their village, they would get very sick.

Help us raise money to provide clean water wells in the communities in Malawi who need them. We want you to go home and ask what YOU can do to raise money for these families in Africa!

SLIDE: Theme Background