



## GETTING READY

# More Than This

**Bible Story:** More Than This (On the Road to Emmaus) • *Luke 24:13-35*

**Bottom Line:** There's always more to discover about God's plan.

**Key Question:** What have you discovered about God that surprised you?

**Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3 (NirV)

**Life App:** Humility—Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

## **Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

**CG:** *Theme Slide*

*Host enters.*

## **Welcome**

*Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening (Trolls World Tour), a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.*

## **Opener**

**HOST:** "What's going on, my people! Such a good day in store for you. We are going to start off with one last upside down game to round out the month. How many of you think you can identify world landmarks pretty quickly? What if those landmarks were upside down?"

"Not so easy! An image will appear on the screen. If you think you know what it is, shout it out! I will throw a prize in the direction of the first right answer I hear. Got it? Okay, let's go!"

*Play several rounds, throwing candy (or alternate prizes) in the direction of the right answer. It might be a bit chaotic.*

**CG:** *Eiffel Tower*

**CG:** *Mount Rushmore*

**CG:** *The Great Wall of China*

**CG:** *The Space Needle*

**CG:** *St. Louis Arch*

**CG:** *Taj Mahal*

**CG:** *Big Ben*

**CG:** *Sydney Opera House*

**CG:** *Leaning Tower of Pisa*

**CG:** *The Colosseum in Rome*

**CG:** *Stonehenge*

**HOST:** *(After game)* “Nice job, everyone! You really know your world landmarks—even when they are upside down! Now let’s stand and worship together!”

*Worship Leader enters and Host exits.*

**Worship**

*Communicator enters Worship Leaders exit.*

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey everyone! Let’s start with a question: have you ever thought you understood something but then realized you actually didn’t understand it at all? Maybe you were learning a new game and thought you understood the rules, but as soon as everyone started to play the game, you realized you had no clue what you were doing. Ever been there? Or maybe the teacher walked you through how to solve a complicated math equation and you thought, ‘I’ve got this!’ but then when you got home and tried to do it on your own, you stared at the paper completely stumped.”

“Can anyone else think of an example of something you thought you understood at the time but then realized later you didn’t really understand it at all? *(Pause for responses.)*”

**NOTE:** *Communicator could also share a personal story of when he or she felt this way.*

“Those are great examples! Let me ask you now, how did you feel in those moments? *(Pause for responses.)*”

## TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As you can tell from some of our examples, there will be times when we think we understand something but in fact, we really don’t. We may feel embarrassed. We might feel clueless. We might wonder if we weren’t paying attention AT ALL to what was happening. And it may cause us to wonder if we’ll ever understand anything that’s happening. In those moments, it’s easy to get frustrated or lose hope—especially if the ‘thing we didn’t understand’ turns out to be a really big deal. When that happens, what should do we do? That’s actually a great question and one that many people who show up in the Bible had to figure out, especially when it came to what happened to Jesus.”

## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Today, let’s head back to the Book of Luke, one of the four gospels in the New Testament that tells us all about what Jesus said and did while He was on earth. As we jump into the story for today, let’s quickly recap.”

“Two weeks ago we celebrated Easter, the resurrection of Jesus. At the time, people didn’t know what to make of the stories they were hearing. The women came back from the tomb with a message from angels telling them Jesus was alive. Others thought someone had snuck in and stole Jesus’ body. Many wondered what was happening. We pick up this story later in the day that Jesus rose again. Check it out.”

*“(Read directly from Luke 24:13-14, NIRV) ‘That same day two of Jesus’ followers were going to a village called Emmaus. It was about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.’”*

“Now these disciples were not part of the ‘twelve’ disciples, but they followers of Jesus who were headed away from Jerusalem, where Jesus had died. Why away?”

*“(Read directly from Luke 24:15-16, NIRV) ‘As they talked about those things, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.’”*

“This was somewhat of a crazy moment. Jesus—the resurrected Jesus—showed up to walk with them, but they couldn’t recognize Him. Maybe He was wearing one of those glasses with the nose and mustache. Just kidding. It says that God kept them from recognizing Him. As they were walking, Jesus asked them what they were talking about. At this moment, the conversation took a turn.”

*“(Read directly from Luke 24:17-18, NIRV) ‘Jesus asked them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stood still, and their faces were sad. One of them was named Cleopas. He said to Jesus, “Are you the only person visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know? Don’t you know about the things that have happened there in the last few days?””*

“These guys were shocked that this man, whom they didn’t know was Jesus, was unaware of the events that had been taking place in Jerusalem. The events that brought sadness to the hearts of these followers of Jesus just thinking about them. Jesus played it like He was completely unaware of what was happening.”

*“(Read directly from Luke 24:19-20, NIRV) “What things?” Jesus asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet. He was powerful in what he said and did in the sight of God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death. They nailed him to a cross.””*

“And here it is . . . this is why they were so sad. *(Read directly from Luke 24:21a, NIRV) “But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free.””*

“Sure, these men were sad because they lost a leader and a teacher. What they witnessed was terrible. But the reason they were truly sad was because they had lost hope. You see, they believed what many Jewish people of their day believed about the Messiah. They were looking for . . .”

*Communicator reveals a sign that says “A Warrior King Who Would Destroy His Enemies”*

*“(Reading sign) ‘A Warrior King Who Would Destroy His Enemies.’ This was the hope of many of the Jewish people of Jesus’ day. They were tired of being oppressed by the Romans. They longed to relive a story where another Moses came and delivered them from their slavery. That was the Messiah they longed for—a warrior king who would destroy his enemies and set his people free.”*

“But then, Jesus died. And you can imagine these two guys, as well as many others. Warrior kings don’t die, right? Messiahs, Saviors don’t get killed, right? They must have guessed He wasn’t the One. And for them, all their hopes were wrapped up in Jesus, and now it was back to the drawing board.”

“But Jesus stepped in to correct their misguided thinking. *(Read directly from Luke 24:26-27, NIV)* “*Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and then receive his glory?*” Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures. He began with Moses and all the Prophets.”

“In the coolest Bible study of all time, Jesus took them back through the Old Testament and showed them that just because the Messiah suffered, it didn’t mean He wasn’t the Messiah!”

“As they kept walking, they invited Jesus in for a meal. As Jesus took bread, thanked God for it, and gave it to them, suddenly they were able to recognize Him. And, in one of the more surprising moments of the Bible, Jesus disappeared from their sight!”

“*(Read directly from Luke 24:32, NIV)* ‘They said to each other, “He explained to us what the Scriptures meant. Weren’t we excited as he talked with us on the road?”’”

“And the men got up and, even though it was already evening, they traveled the seven miles all the way back to Jerusalem to meet up with the other disciples to declare that Jesus is alive!”

“You see, these men had called it quits because they thought it was all over. But the truth was they had thought they understood exactly how the Messiah would come and it turned out, He didn’t come that way at all. And they weren’t the only ones. So many expected *(pointing to sign)* ‘A Warrior King Who Would Destroy His Enemies. But Jesus did not come as a warrior. Instead, He came as . . .’”

*Flip the word WARRIOR to SERVANT.*

“A Servant king. There is a big difference between a warrior and a servant—a big enough difference that many might miss this Servant is even a king. But that’s not all. He didn’t come as a “Servant King Who Would Destroy His Enemies.” Rather . . .”

*Flip DESTROY to DIE FOR.*

“He came as ‘A Servant King Who Would Die For His Enemies.’ No wonder so many failed to see Jesus for who He really was. This was truly upside down from what was expected!”

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “There are certainly times where we think we understand things only to realize that later on we didn’t quite have it right in the first place. This is a humbling moment, and it takes humility to realize that we don’t know everything . . . especially about God. At the same time, when it comes to God, we’ll never know everything about God. If we did, God wouldn’t be the awesome, huge, creator of the universe. For our entire lives, we’ll be learning things about God that will surprise us.”

“In fact, just like the people who encountered Jesus were shocked by some of the unexpected things He did, there may be times that we see God do things that are different than we expect. Or we may find His plan in our life is different than we would have planned. But we can trust Him because He knows best, and He is good!”

## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As we’re talking about how God surprises us, think about this question as you head to Small Group:

*CG: Key Question Slide*

“**What have you discovered about God that surprised you?** Maybe it was the way God took care of your family during a big move or maybe it was seeing something amazing in nature. God will keep surprising us all throughout our lives. We just have to be humble enough to be looking for it. When you get to Small Group, share some of your surprised with each other. I think some of those stories might surprise you, too! Before we head to groups, let’s pray and thank God for helping us understand the story of Jesus! Let’s pray.”

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.**