



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.

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 welcomes the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everybody! How’s it going? My name is [your name], and I’d love to welcome you to [your environment’s name].”

“All month long we’re talking about what it means to turn things upside down . . . with humility!”

CG: Humility Slide

“Humility is putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.”

CG: Theme Slide

“It’s not always easy for us to choose to be humble. But remember, we know what humility looks like because of Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God, but He gave His life for us on the cross! We can follow His example by turning things upside down and putting others before ourselves.”

“I’ve got another fun, upside-down game for us to play today. Let me get three Small Group Leaders who are really good artists.”

Choose three Leaders. Have them stand on the stage, with each of them standing in front of their own easel pad.

(To Leaders) “All right, Leaders. In just a moment, we’ll put a picture on the screen, and you’ll have 60 seconds to do your very best to draw the picture. Sounds easy enough, right? *(Pause.)* Well, there’s a twist—an upside-down twist. Yes—you guessed it—you’ll need to draw the picture upside down. So on the screen, the picture will be right side up, but on your easel, you’ll draw it upside down.”

“After 60 seconds, we’ll reveal your artwork, and we’ll all vote to determine the winner. Artists, are you ready?
(Pause for response.) Here’s your picture.

CG: Game picture

“On your marks, get set, . . . draw!

Set a 60-second timer on your phone.

SFX: Fun music

Comment on the action and encourage the Leaders. Get the kids to cheer for them, too.

When time is up, have the Leaders turn their finished drawings upside down, and lead the audience to vote by applause.

Thank all three Leaders and dismiss them to their seats.

“Such talent! *(Looking at the drawings)* These are all masterpieces. I think we should leave them up here for the rest of the day.

“Now it’s time for us to stand up and sing to God together. Let’s praise Him and thank Him for the way He loves us!”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

Worship Leaders exit as Storyteller enters.

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Just after Jesus died on the cross and came back to life, two of His followers were traveling to a village called Emmaus. This journey would have been around seven miles long. And remember, there were no cars, bikes, scooters, skateboards, or Segways®. These two men were walking the whole way.

“As they walked, the men talked about everything that had happened. They had heard how Jesus had been arrested and how He had died on the cross, and now they were hearing rumors that Jesus had come back to life! They talked about everything they had heard, and they wondered if it could possibly be true.

“I could just TELL you what they said . . . but I think it would be more fun to get two volunteers to act out their parts for us today. Raise your hand if you’d like to help.

Bring up two kids who have their hands raised.

“All right. Here we have Cleopas . . .

Put the Cleopas nametag on one kid.

“ . . . and we have [kid’s name].

Use the marker to write the other kid's name on the other nametag, and then put the nametag on him.

(Hold up Bible.) "We don't know the other disciple's name from what Luke wrote in the Bible, so for today, we'll just call him [kid's name]."

"These two friends, Cleopas and [kid's name], were walking.

Pause and look at the two kids. Repeat the line, if necessary, to get them to walk in place.

(To the two kids) "That's great. Don't stop!"

WALKING AND TALKING

STORYTELLER: *"Now, get this—as the friends walked and talked, Jesus came up and walked alongside them!*

Walk over next to the two kids. Walk in place next to them for a few steps.

"But God kept the two men from recognizing Jesus.

"Jesus asked them:

Open the Bible to Luke 24:17 (NIRV) and read.

"What are you talking about as you walk along?"

"To be honest, Cleopas and [kid's name] couldn't believe that this stranger didn't know anything about the events of the last few days. They were shocked!"

Pause and look at the two kids. Repeat the line, if necessary, to get them to look surprised (hands on their cheeks).

"Cleopas said:

up. *Hand one of the speech bubbles to "Cleopas" and have him hold it*

Open the Bible to Luke 24:18 (NIRV) and read.

"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?"

"Jesus said: "What things?" (Luke 24:19, NIRV) And the two men went on to explain everything that had happened.

Hand the other speech bubble to the other kid, so that both of them are holding up a speech bubble.

Open the Bible to Luke 24:19-24 (NIRV) and read.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.

CG: Bible Story Image #1 (Jesus teaching)

“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.

CG: Bible Story Image #2 (Jesus on the cross)

“But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free. Also, it is the third day since all this happened. Some of our women amazed us too. Early this morning they went to the tomb.

CG: Bible Story Image #3 (Empty tomb)

“But they didn’t find his body. So they came and told us what they had seen. They saw angels, who said Jesus was alive. Then some of our friends went to the tomb. They saw it was empty, just as the women had said. They didn’t see Jesus’ body there.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“This was pretty wild. Cleopas and [kid’s name] were going on and on about Jesus, and they were actually talking TO Jesus, but they didn’t realize it!

(To the two kids) “You can put those speech bubbles down, but don’t forget to keep walking!”

The two kids put down the speech bubbles.

HELPING THEM UNDERSTAND

STORYTELLER: “Jesus took a minute to help them understand some things. Jesus reminded them of the Scriptures they had heard since they were children. *(Hold up Bible.)*”

CG: Bible Story Image #4 (Scriptures)

“He reminded them of the words that had been written thousands of years before that told how Jesus would be born, suffer, and die. He was trying to help them to understand that He—Jesus—was the Savior who had been promised so long ago.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SURPRISE! IT'S JESUS!

STORYTELLER: “Finally, they arrived at the village where they were going. *(To the two kids)* You two can stop walking now.”

“The men asked Jesus to stay, and He agreed. Of course, they still didn’t know it was Jesus . . . until He took the bread and gave thanks.”

Hold up the bread. Break it in half.

“He broke it and started to give it to them. Immediately, God opened their eyes, and they could see that it was Jesus! As soon as they recognized Him, He disappeared right in front of their eyes.”

Have the two kids hold up their speech bubbles again.

“The men said: *“He explained to us what the Scriptures meant. Weren’t we excited as he talked with us on the road?” (Luke 24:32, NIV)*”

“Basically, they were like, ‘How did we NOT know it was Jesus? He explained EVERYTHING!’ They were so excited to know that they had been with Jesus that they ran to tell everyone. *(To the two kids)* Let’s see you run in place. *(Pause.)* Good. Now you can head back to your seats. Everyone, give them a big hand!”

Dismiss the two kids to their seats.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Cleopas and [kid’s name] raced back to Jerusalem and told the disciples what had happened. They said they had seen Jesus and that now they knew for sure that it was true. Jesus was alive! They were amazed to discover how much bigger God’s Story was than they had ever imagined.

“That’s the thing, isn’t it?”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “There’s always more to discover about God’s plan.

“God’s plan is so much bigger than we can see. Sometimes things happen that we don’t understand. But we can trust that God is in control and that His plans for us are always good. Let’s pray and ask God to help us trust Him.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You so much for giving us the Bible so we can learn more about You and Your Big Story. Sometimes we feel like the two men in the story—like we’re trying to make sense of things that have happened that we don’t quite understand. Help us to remember that there is ALWAYS more to discover

about Your plan. Help us to **[Basic Truth]** trust You no matter what. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: "You know, sometimes humility means that you've got to admit when you DON'T know something. No one has it all figured out. We need God's help to be able to understand things that happen in our lives.

CG: Today's Story Image

Optional: Place Today's Story Image on your timeline.

"Think about the two men who were walking down the road together. They had heard about what had happened with Jesus, but they didn't understand it. They couldn't see the big picture. When Jesus came alongside them, He helped them connect the dots so they could see His bigger plan.

"We are never done learning . . .

CG: Bottom Line Slide

". . . because **[Bottom Line]** there's always more to discover about God's plan.

CG: Timeline

"It's fun to imagine what Jesus told the men on the road that day. Maybe He explained how God created the world and everything in it. Maybe He explained that all of us have done wrong things and our sin separates us from God. Maybe He talked about the prophets and how they had told everyone that the Savior was coming to rescue His people. Maybe Jesus explained that He had come to die on the cross and pay the price for our sin so that we can have a relationship with God that will last forever!

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

“We don’t really know. But we DO know that the two men were so excited because Jesus had helped them understand God’s Big Story. They couldn’t wait to tell everyone that He really was alive!

“There’s always more to learn about math, science, social studies, art, and definitely about God! So always be ready to learn more who God is and how much He loves you.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “There’s always more to discover about God’s plan, and learning more about Him is always **[Basic Truth]** the wise choice.

“You can head to Small Group now and talk about that some more. I’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide