

Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends—April 26, Wk. 2

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

1. Countdown

2. Announcements

3. CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)

- Host
- 6 kid volunteers for every round you do (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- 30-50 party hats (You may not need this many, but make sure you have enough hats to last for the whole 2 minutes of the game. Recommended: 15 party hats minimum for each team.)
- Place each team's pile of party hats on opposite ends of the room.

Media

- Upbeat music to play as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to play during the game
- Theme Slide
- "Party Hat Stack Attack Title" Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

4. Praise and Worship (10 Minutes) – End with CG: Transition Slide

5. CG: Word Video and CG: Transition Slide

6. Bible Story (15 Minutes)

- Storyteller
- Host
- Bible
- Table
- 2 kid volunteers
- 2 small whiteboards
- 2 dry-erase markers

Media

- Upbeat music to play as kids exit the room
- Theme Background Slide
- Theme Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group

7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)

Bible Story Outline Week 2

On the Road to Emmaus • Luke 24:13-35

SETTING UP THE STORY

- Today's story happened on the same day Jesus rose from the dead.
- Sometimes we only see part of what's going on, and it feels confusing or sad. What if there's something bigger happening that we just can't see yet?
- That's what today's story is about. Two of Jesus' friends were confused and disappointed. They thought they knew the whole story, but they were only seeing tiny pieces.
- (Select two volunteers to be "artists" and draw parts of a picture on whiteboards as the story is told).

CONFUSION ON THE ROAD

- The story begins on Easter Sunday. Two of Jesus' followers, one named Cleopas, were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were sad and confused because Jesus had died on the cross.
- (Artists draw the first step: a big square at the bottom of the whiteboard). This square doesn't look like much, just like the friends could only see one small part of the story.
- As they walked, a man came up and started walking with them. It was Jesus, but they didn't recognize Him.
- Read: Luke 24:13-19a (NirV).
- They couldn't see the whole picture yet; all they could see were the sad parts.
- (Artists draw the second step: a small rectangle standing up in the middle of the square). This picture is still confusing, just like it was for the friends.
- This is what they told Jesus:
- Read: Luke 24:19b-24 (NirV).
- They were trying so hard to make sense of everything. They thought the story was over and their hope was gone.

JESUS REVEALS THE BIGGER STORY

- As they kept walking, Jesus began to explain something amazing. He helped them understand the bigger story.
- Read: Luke 24:25-27 (NirV).
- Jesus opened their eyes to see God's plan in a new way, showing them how all of Scripture pointed to Him. But they still didn't realize they were talking to Jesus.
- As they reached Emmaus, it was getting late.
- Read: Luke 24:29 (NirV).
- They sat down to eat together, and something amazing happened.
- (Artists draw the final step: a triangle on top of the square). Now we can see the picture is a house! Suddenly, everything came together.
- That's exactly what happened to the two friends.
- Read: Luke 24:30-32 (NirV).
- Suddenly, they saw the bigger story. Jesus wasn't gone. He was alive! Everything He had promised was true. Their sadness turned to joy.
- Read: Luke 24:33-34 (NirV).
- They ran all the way back to Jerusalem to share the good news.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

- The two friends started their day sad and confused because they only saw a few pieces, just like our drawings at the beginning.
- When all the pieces came together, the whole picture became clear.
- That's what Jesus did for them. He helped them understand the bigger picture. When they realized Jesus was alive and part of God's bigger story, their confusion turned to excitement and their sadness turned to joy.
- When you only see one little part, things can feel confusing. But when you remember that there is a bigger story, it can help you find joy.
- **BL: You can have joy because there's a bigger story.**

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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

1. Countdown
2. Announcements
3. **CG: Transition Slide then Host Opener (5 minutes)**

SLIDE: Theme

(Host enters with energy and excitement.) (Things to have ready: 2 piles of party hats set up on opposite sides of the room. Game slide. Bottom Line slide.)

HOST: “Hey, everybody! Welcome to church! I’m so excited you’re here today because we’re in the middle of our Block Party theme! That means every week, we’re celebrating the joy Jesus gives us, and honestly, you all bring the party with you. Just look around ... this room is full of energy already!

“I hope you came ready to laugh, cheer, and maybe get a little silly, because today is all about discovering the kind of joy that never runs out. Not the kind of joy you get from candy or winning a game ... but the kind of joy that comes from knowing Jesus. And trust me, He has some awesome things to show us today.

“But before we jump into anything else, we need to warm up with a game. And not just any game. This one just might be one of the silliest Block Party games ever!

SLIDE: Party Hat Stack Attack Title

AUDIO: Upbeat music

“This game is called ‘Party Hat Stack Attack’! Right in the middle of the room is where our Hat Wearers will stand. And on both ends of the room, we’ve got a stack of party hats waiting for our Hat Runners.

“Here’s how it works. We’re going to split six kids into two teams, Team One and Team Two. Each team will choose one person to be the Hat Wearer. Hat Wearers, once you step into the middle of the room, we will put one hat on your head. Then you must stay still—no walking around, no using your hands, and no using the little string on the hat.

“The other two kids on the team will be the two Hat Runners. Hat Runners will start at your team’s hat pile. When I say go, the runners will grab one hat from their team’s pile, run it to the Hat Wearer, and carefully stack it on top of the hat they’re already wearing. Then the two Hat Runners will run back to the pile of hats and do it again.

“And this is very important—if the stack of hats falls off the Hat Wearer’s head, your team has to start over! We’ll keep going until the timer runs out, and whichever team stacks the most hats wins!

“All right, I’m going to need six volunteers. Raise your hand if you’d like to play!

(Choose six volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and divide them into two teams of three.)

“Awesome, we have our volunteers! Okay, one of you on each team will be the Hat Wearer. If you’re a Hat Wearer, come stand right here in the middle of the room. Let’s get a hat and put it on you. The other two

kids on each team will be Hat Runners. If you're a Hat Runner, go ahead and line up next to your hat piles. Everybody else, get ready to cheer them on!

"Hat Wearers, ready? Hat Runners, ready?"

"On your mark ... get set ... GO!"

AUDIO: Upbeat music
2-Minute Countdown

(Play the game. Make sure the Hat Runners are only grabbing one hat at a time, that the Hat Wearers aren't touching their hats or moving around, and that if the stack of hats falls off the Hat Wearer, the Hat Runners are to start stacking the hats over again.)

(Cheer on the teams as they play and involve the audience.)

(Once the two-minute timer is up ...)

"Five, four, three, two, one ... STOP!"

"Freeze! No more stacking! Looks like our winner today is [Team Name]! Great job! You can all take a seat.

(Repeat for as many rounds as time allows. Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round.)

"You all worked together so well today! This month, we're continuing to learn about joy. And guess what? Today we're talking about something really important: how God has a bigger story, even when we can't see the whole picture. And that even if we don't know all the details, we can still have joy. That's our Bottom Line for today!"

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "You can have joy because there's a bigger story!"

"Say that with me!"

KIDS AND HOST: [Bottom Line] "You can have joy because there's a bigger story!"

HOST: "Great job today, everyone! Let's learn more about what that means!"

(Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.)

4. Praise and Worship (10 Minutes) – End with CG:Transition Slide

5. CG: Word Video and CG:Transition Slide

6. Bible Story (15 Minutes)

SLIDE: Theme Background

(Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.)

(Things to have ready: Make sure the table is set on stage so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. 2 small whiteboards and 2 dry-erase markers on the table.)

STORYTELLER: “Hey everyone, it’s good to see you today! I love to learn about God with you! This month, we’re talking about ‘Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends.’ Sometimes life doesn’t feel joyful. But today we’ll see that we can still have joy because God is working on a good story.

Before our Bible story, here’s something important. This year we’re learning the key stories of the Bible from beginning to end. Why? Because God gave us the Bible so we can know Him. He wants to be our close friend. We’re going through God’s Big Story together so we can learn about Him! *(Gesture to slide.)*

SLIDE: God’s Big Story

“Let me catch you up on where we’ve been in God’s Big Story so far! In the beginning, God made everything. He made people to be His friends. But people sinned and turned away. Pain and death came into the world. But God made a rescue plan.

He chose Abraham and promised his family would bless the world. His family grew. They were saved, then later enslaved, and God rescued them again and gave them the Promised Land. But they kept disobeying. The nation split. Prophets told them to come back to God. Still, they didn’t listen. Some were taken away, and some returned later.

During that time, God promised a Rescuer. Then Jesus came! He showed us who God is. He lived a perfect life and died for our sins so we could be close to God again. Then Jesus rose from the dead! He beat death and is alive forever. And that’s where we are in God’s Big Story!”

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Today’s story happens on the same day Jesus rose from the dead. Sometimes we don’t understand what’s going on. Maybe something happens at school or with a friend, and you think, ‘Why is this happening?’ Sometimes we only see part of the story. Two of Jesus’ friends felt confused too. They thought they understood, but they only saw a small part.

“And to help us understand how they felt, I need a couple of artists to help me today. Raise your hand if you’d like to come onstage and do some drawing!

(Pick two kids from the ones who have their hands raised and invite them onstage. Hand them one small whiteboard and one dry-erase marker each.)

“Okay, here’s what’s going to happen. You guys are going to draw for us during the Bible Story today. But you won’t know what you’re drawing until the very end. And everyone watching won’t know either. We’ll see your pictures one step at a time, just like the two friends in our Bible Story who understood things one step at a time. Let’s get ready to step into the story together.

CONFUSION ON THE ROAD

““Our story begins on Easter Sunday. Two followers of Jesus were walking to Emmaus. One was named Cleopas. They were feeling sad, confused, and disappointed. Everything they thought was going to happen ... didn’t.

“Artists, it’s time for your first step. Draw one BIG square at the bottom of your whiteboard. And when you’re done, hold it up for everyone to see.

(Kids hold up the whiteboards.)

“Look at that. What do you think? Does that square look like much of a picture yet? Not really. That’s exactly how Cleopas and his friend felt. They could only see one small part of the story, and it didn’t make sense yet.

“As the two friends walked, they talked about everything that had happened to Jesus. Suddenly, a man came up and started walking with them. Spoiler alert: it was Jesus! But they didn’t recognize Him yet.

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?”

“What things?” Jesus asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied.

“So they began to tell Jesus everything. They thought Jesus didn’t know what had happened ... but really, Jesus knew more than anyone.

“Okay, artists, let’s add step two. At the bottom of your square, draw a small rectangle standing up in the middle of the square. When you’re finished, hold up your whiteboards again for everyone to see.

(Kids hold up whiteboards.)

“This picture is still pretty confusing, right? Just like it was for Cleopas and his friend. They had more pieces of the story now, but they still didn’t understand what God was doing. Their picture still didn’t make sense. This is what Cleopas and his friend told Jesus.

(Open the Bible and read Luke 24:19b-24 NIV.)

“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. 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. 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.”

“These two friends were trying so hard to make sense of everything. They thought the story was over. But they were only seeing a small part.”

JESUS REVEALS THE BIGGER STORY

STORYTELLER: “As the three of them kept walking, Jesus began to explain something amazing. He didn’t just listen to Cleopas and his friend, He helped them understand the bigger story. Jesus showed them how everything written in Scripture, everything God had promised, pointed to Him.

Jesus opened their eyes to see God’s plan in a new way. He showed them that God had been writing a bigger story from the very beginning. But even then ... the two friends still didn’t realize they were talking to Jesus Himself. As they reached the town of Emmaus, Jesus acted like He was going to keep walking, but the two friends didn’t want Him to leave. They begged Him to stay.

They sat down to eat together. Jesus took the bread, thanked God for it, and broke it. And in that moment ... everything changed.

“Artists, it’s time for your final step. Now draw a triangle on top of your square that is pointing up. When you’re finished, hold it up for everyone to see.

(Kids hold up whiteboards.)

“Now we can see what the picture is! It’s a house! At the beginning, it didn’t make sense. A square didn’t show the whole picture. A square with a rectangle still wasn’t clear. But once you added the triangle ... suddenly everything came together. Now the picture makes sense. And that’s exactly what happened to the two friends.

(Open the Bible and read Luke 24:30-32 NIV.)

He joined them at the table. Then he took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But then he disappeared from their sight. 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?”

“Suddenly, they saw the bigger story. Jesus wasn’t gone. He was alive! Everything He had promised was true. Their sadness turned to joy. Their confusion turned to understanding. They ran back to tell others. The story was bigger than they thought.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “They started sad and confused because they only saw part of the story. Just like the drawing—it didn’t make sense until the last piece. Jesus helped them see the whole picture. God had been working all along. We don’t always understand our lives either. But we can trust God is working on a good story.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can have joy because there’s a bigger story. Say that with me.”

KIDS and STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line] “You can have joy because there’s a bigger story.”

“Let’s take a look at the progress we made in God’s Big Story this week!

SLIDE: God’s Big Story

Today we’re at the Resurrection. Jesus rose from the dead! The two friends didn’t understand at first, but Jesus showed them the bigger story—just like we’ve been learning all year. God loves us so much. He sent Jesus to rescue us so we can be His friends forever. One day, He will make everything right.

SLIDE: Week 2 Timeline Image

No matter what’s going on, you can have joy because there’s a bigger story! Sometimes we focus on small problems—like a bad test or a hard day. But God shows us the bigger story.

And the bigger story is this: God made us to be His friends. He sent Jesus to rescue us. Jesus defeated sin and death. When we believe in Him, we are forgiven and can be close to God.

“And God has promised to make everything right in the end! God is going to end pain, sickness, and death—forever! It’s the best story that’s ever been told. And it’s all true. We’re living in God’s Big Story right now! God is so good and He loves you so much!

“This doesn’t mean that you won’t face hard times or that you can’t be sad and angry sometimes. But it does mean that you go through it all with Him.

At the end the Storyteller should pray for the group and dismiss kids to Small Group

7. Small Group (20-30 Minutes)

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

SLIDE: Theme