

CITY SG Guide Oct 10-11

Bible Story: Oh, the Places We'll Go (Paul chooses Timothy) • Acts 16:1-5

Bottom Line: When you discover your gifts, you can make a difference.

Memory Verse: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live." 1 Timothy 4:12a, NIV

Life App: Individuality—discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to begin to reveal to your kids what their talents and gifts are, if He hasn't already. Pray that the younger kids would start to discover their gifts and older kids would discover opportunities to use their gifts to serve God.

Not Like Any Other (Bible Story Review)

What You Need: "Not Alike" Activity Pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Give each child a "Not Alike" Activity Page.
- Guide kids to look at each set of pictures and find things that are different about each set. Instruct them to find the one animal/person that is different in each set. Lead them to mark the differences they find.

What You Say:

"Did you know that no two zebras, turtles, pigeons, or people are exactly alike? Each one is different and unique! There aren't even any two humans who are exactly the same! Even identical twins have things that are different about them. In Large Group today, we heard about someone who learned that HE was unique. He also learned that God had a plan to use his unique talents to make a difference.

Review the Bible story by asking the following questions:

- Who was our story about today? (*Timothy*)
- Who was on a journey to tell lots of people about Jesus? (*Paul*)
- Why did Paul visit Timothy? (*To invite him on the journey to tell people about Jesus.*)
- How did Timothy learn to preach and teach? (*By watching Paul*)
- Remind kids that even though Timothy had the talents and gifts for teaching and preaching, he had to be trained by Paul in order to learn how to use his gifts. Timothy made a difference after he discovered his gifts and was trained to use them.

What You Say:

"EVERYONE has talents. God gave us our talents so we can make a difference. It's okay if you don't know what your talent is now. Some of God's gifts come later, and we only realize what they are after some time and training. The important thing to remember is this: **[Bottom Line] when you discover your gifts, you can make a difference.**"

Thumb Talent (application activity)

What You Need: Bible, paper, magnify glasses (a few per bin), water based inkpads (a few per bin), fine-tipped markers (one set per bin), wet wipes

What You Do:

- Give each child a piece of paper.
- Lead kids to press the pad of a finger onto the inkpad and then onto their papers. They can make several prints before they re-ink their fingertips.
- Invite kids to use the magnifying glasses to examine the prints. Does each fingerprint look the same? How are they different? How are they similar?
- Ask: Did you know that no two fingerprints are exactly alike? When you make a fingerprint, you are making a mark that no one else can make! You and your fingerprints are unique!
- Encourage kids to use the markers to turn their fingerprints into fun figures (human, animal or imaginary) **doing something they are good at** (soccer, art, music, reading, etc.).

What You Say:

"God gives everyone special talents and abilities. We call these talents and abilities **gifts**. What are some gifts God gives us? (*good at music, good at math, good at art, good at helping, good at sports, good at reading, good at working with others, good at working alone, good with animals, etc.*) What are some gifts God has given you? (Pause for kids to share. Affirm each child by naming a gift you see in them. If you don't know the child well, name something you've seen today, such as: helpfulness, a cheerful smile, a kind heart, etc.)

"This week, let your papers remind you that you are unique; you are one of a kind! And since God made you one of a kind, you can make a difference in the world that NO ONE ELSE can make. So remember, **[Bottom Line] when you discover your gifts, you can make a difference.**"

Memory Verse Motions (Memory verse activity)

What you need: Nothing

What You Do: Come up with motions to the memory verse as a group. Practice saying the verse with the motions a few times.

What You Say:

"You know, this verse reminds me of Timothy. Did Timothy know that God had given him the talent to preach and teach and lead a church? No, he didn't. But Paul recognized Timothy's gifts, and he took the time to train Timothy so that one day Timothy could lead a church on his own. And you know what? God has given YOU special talents so that you can make a difference in the world. It's okay if you don't know what your talents are now; some of your talents may come later or after some training. But no matter what, **[Bottom Line] when you discover your gifts, you can make a difference.**

Pray

What You Need: gift wrap bows (one per child)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Place a bow on each child.
- For some kids, place bows near their shoulders, as a nametag. For some of the funny, “class comedian” types, (you know the ones!) place the bows on the tops of their heads!
- As you do, bless each child as below.
- Encourage them to put this bow somewhere at home to remind them that they are a GIFT!

What You Say:

“You are a gift, [kid’s name]! And **when you discover your gifts, you can make a difference.** *(Repeat for each kid.)* God gives EVERYONE special talents and abilities. We call these talents and abilities *gifts*. What are some gifts God gives us? Some gifts you may have now; others you might not know about until you’re older and you’ve had some training.”

“But whatever gifts God gives you, you are unique—you are one of a kind! And since God made you one of a kind, you can make a difference in the world that NO ONE ELSE can make. So remember, **when you discover your gifts, you can make a difference.** Let’s pray.

“Dear God, thank you for giving each of special talents and abilities. Please help us know the talents you have given us, and please help us have the courage to use our gifts to make a difference. We love You, Lord. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”