

CITY SG Guide Oct 31st/Nov 1st

Bible Story: Soul Server (Servant of All/Jesus Came to Serve) • *Mark 10:32-45*

Bottom Line: Serve others because of what Jesus did for us.

Memory Verse: “Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.” *Matthew 5:16, NIV*

Life App: Service—lending a hand to help someone else.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time, especially the kids who haven't taken a step of faith or who haven't really heard the Gospel yet. Pray that kids would begin to understand the weight of what Jesus did for us and that it would encourage them to do everything they can to serve others.

Special Seat (review the Bible story)

What You Need: 20 pieces of cardstock per bin; 1 piece of cardstock with a big STAR printed on it per bin

What You Do:

- Shuffle the papers and then lay them out in a large circle around your Small Group area, making sure the star is NOT showing.
- Play musical chairs by singing a familiar tune (Like “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”) or playing instrumental, upbeat music on your smartphone. Have the kids walk on the outside of the papers, not on top of them!
- When you stop the music, the kids must quickly sit on a piece of paper. (*Note: Unlike “Musical Chairs,” everyone will have a paper to sit on!*)
- Ask the kids to pick up their papers and reveal the “special seat” (the one with the star).
- Mix up the pages, put them down in a circle and repeat a few times.

What You Say:

“Great job trying to find the ‘special seat’! In our story today, two of the disciples REALLY wanted to sit in the “special seat” next to Jesus.

ASK: What were the names of the two disciples that wanted to sit in the special seat next to Jesus? (*James and John*)

That's right. James and John were arguing about something that wasn't really all that important in the first place. Jesus reminded them that being great has nothing to do with who your friends are or where you sit or what toys or games you have. Greatness comes from serving others and putting others first. Jesus showed us this in a big way by giving His life for you and for me. So we should **[Bottom Line]** **serve others because of what Jesus did for us.”**

Whose Hand Is It Anyway? (Application Activity)

What You Need: Blank paper (one for every child) and crayons

What You Do:

- Give a piece of paper to each kid and place the crayons in the center of your Small Group area.
- Ask the kids to trace one of their hands.
- When finished, give them two minutes to quickly “decorate” their hands.
- When the two minutes are up, collect all the papers, mix them up, and then lay them out in the center of your area.

SAY: This month, we'll be talking a LOT about using your hands for something really important...serving others!

- Hold up each hand and ask kids to try to guess who it belongs to. Make sure to tell the kids ahead of time not to give away which hand is theirs.

ASK: After the child's hand is revealed, **ASK** him or her to tell the group one way they can serve someone else with their hands.

What You Say:

“Was that little exercise easy or hard? You had some great ideas of how you can serve others. Is serving someone else always easy? God asks us to serve others but doesn't say it will always be easy. Our bottom line today is, **serve others because of what Jesus did for us**. Jesus sent his son to die for us. Do you think that was easy for him??? No way! But he wants us to follow his example and serve others no matter how hard it is for us.

Flashlight Verse (memory verse activity)

***1st – 2nd grade groups:** There are 3 sentences in the verse this month. We will add a section each week so we will focus on section one only today.

What You Need: A flashlight (for ALL City bins), memory verse card (please print the FIRST SECTION ONLY of the memory verse, *{let your light shine so others can see it}*, as big as you can fit it on a piece of cardstock...2 per bin for the 1st and 2nd grade bins only)

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to lie on their tummies (3rd graders should have Bibles in front of them). They should all be facing the center of your Small Group area.
- Turn on the flashlight and talk about what a light does. Why is it important? What happens if you don't have light in a dark place?

3rd GRADE:

- Help kids find Matthew 5:16 in their Bibles by using the tip below.

Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Matthew in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Matthew starts with the letters M-A. When the kids find Matthew, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Matthew. Help the kids find the page. When they find Matthew, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 5. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 16 in chapter 5.

- Read the verse together a few times
- Pass around the flashlight to each child as they say one word of the verse.

1st -2nd GRADE:

- Hold up the memory verse card and READ THE 1st PART OF THE VERSE TO THE CHILDREN (1st graders are not usually very good at reading yet😊)
- Go through the verse a few times together.
- Have the kids pass the flashlight around the circle as you read the verse
- Once you have done that a few times, have the kids say one word of the verse while shining the flashlight, then pass it to the next child to say the second word, etc.

What You Say:

"When you serve others, when you do GOOD things to help others around you, it's like shining a light in a dark room. You show others that you believe in and trust Jesus when you act the way He did.

Because He served, because He gave his life for us, we can serve others too. You should always

[Bottom Line] serve others because of what Jesus did for us. When you do, you will be light to others that might not know about Jesus." **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you served others, maybe when you didn't really feel like it. What happened? How did your act of service shine a light for others to see Jesus in you?)**

Pray

What You Need:

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to think of one person they can serve this week.
- Tell them to pray silently and ask God to help them to be able to serve them
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

"Today we talked about how James and John were focused more on themselves than on serving others. My prayer is that you will use this tool to lend a hand to help someone else this week.

Remember to **[Bottom Line] serve others because of what Jesus did for us.** Let's pray.

"Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to show us the best way to live. We know that He came to serve and that we can help others and lend a hand because of what He did for us. Help us to complete our "Wheel of Service" challenge this week with a good attitude and loving heart. In Jesus' name, amen."