

## City LG-September 23 & 24, 2017

**Bible Story:** We'll Be There for You (Encourage one another) • 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Job 2:11-13 (Supporting: Job 1-2)

**Bottom Line:** Friends encourage one another.

**Memory Verse:** "A friend loves at all times. He is there to help when trouble comes." Proverbs 17:17, NIV

### Worship: Praise Goes On and Won't Let Go

#### Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- 2 Small Group Leaders
- 2 kids (do not need to be preselected)
- Prop box containing:
  - 2 large plastic bowls (will serve as "Candy Dishes")
  - 2 bowls of Starburst (wrapped)
  - Phone with timer or stopwatch

**Opener:** "Hey, everyone! Welcome back to The City! It's been a great month hanging out here in the *(air quotes)* 'lunchroom' and talking about friendship. Can anyone tell me what we mean by friendship? *(Pause for response.)* That's right!

#### CG: Friendship Slide

"Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care. When you use your words and actions to show others you care, it's like you're filling them up. Some people have described it like a bucket or a tank that we all have, and when it's full—when we feel loved and cared for—we feel great!

"You know what also makes me feel great? Filling up some candy dishes! How about we fill up some candy dishes today? For this game, I need two Small Group Leaders and two kids!

*Bring up 2 Small Group Leaders. Have each leader bring up one of his kids. This will be easier for second or third graders, but it would still be fun for first.*

"Here's how this works. Kids, your goal is to fill up your leader's Candy Dishes with Starburst. Leaders, you will hold the bowls as the kids THROW the Starburst in your direction. That's right, kids, you get to throw Candy! Leaders, try and catch as much of the candy as you can in your bowl, because when the timer goes off, the team with the most candy in their bowl is the winner.

"Ready? Three, two, one, GO!

*Set a timer on your phone for 30 seconds, and encourage the contestants as they play the game.*

"Time's up! It's time to see who won our challenge!

*Line the bowls up and determine a winner.*

“[SGL and kid’s names] were our winners, but let’s be honest: we’re all winners when we fill up each other’s buckets—especially when candy is involved, right?!”

“This month we’ve been talking about a lot of the things that God has to say about friendship in His Word. Listen to what the apostle Paul had to say about friendship in his letter to the church at Thessalonica. *(Open your Bible and read 1 Thessalonians 5:11) So encourage one another with the hope you have. Build each other up. In fact, that’s what you are doing (NirV).* What Paul is saying here is this:

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “**Friends encourage one another.**” That’s what this Week’s Bible Story is all about. Let’s watch!

**CG: Week 4 Lesson Video**

“Job’s friends seemed to know a really important part of friendship:

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “**Friends encourage one another.** In the case of Job, listening to his problems and being sad with him was the best way his friends could encourage him.”

“Sometimes, a friend just needs someone to be there without saying anything—just to listen. Like, if your friend is happy, be happy with your friend. Or if your friend is miserable, be sad with your friend. There is a time and a place to tell jokes and sing silly songs, or even to share advice with a friend. Those can all be great ways to encourage someone. But before you can know if that would help your friend, first you have to be with them and listen.”

“And there’s something else really important that you can do that will help you figure out HOW to encourage your friend. Any ideas? *(Pause to let them respond.)* That’s right! You can ask God for help. God knows what your friend is going through better than anyone else. You can pray and ask God to help you know how to best help your friend.

“Let’s go ahead and ask God right now to help us encourage one another.”

**PRAY:** “Dear God, I think all of us in here WANT to be a good friend. And we know that friends encourage one another. But sometimes it can be hard to know how to encourage someone who needs our help. Please give us wisdom to choose what will truly encourage our friends, and help us to remember that many times that might just mean listening and not talking. Thank You for giving us friends who can encourage us too. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

**(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)**