

City LG - September 2-3, 2017

Worship: Higher than the Sky Never Gonna Stop Singing

Welcome: “Hey, everyone! Welcome back to The City! How many of you eat in a school cafeteria? (Pause for response.) Yeah, a bunch of you! If you go to school anywhere, chances are you’ve seen a lunch tray and whatever delightfully delicious food the lunch staff has cooked up for the students that day. On the count of three, everyone tell me their favorite school lunch. One, two, three! (Pause for response.) WOW! Those sound, um, delicious.

“Well, food is one thing that happens in the lunch room, but you know what else happens? Talking, sharing stories, and hopefully having fun, because the lunchroom is a place where you get a break from your school work and get to hang out with your friends! You can learn a ton about friendship when you’re in the lunchroom. And speaking of friendship, it’s what we’re talking about all month long! So what exactly is friendship? Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care. Maybe you’ve seen that sort of friendship in action in the lunchroom at your school. I’ve seen friends give up their place in line, share their favorite red JELL-O®, or welcome a new kid to sit next to them at the table.

“And you know what? Every good friendship I see has one thing in common—just one word . . . four little letters. This one word makes every friendship better. It’s the gravy to every mashed potato, the taco to every Tuesday, the ketchup to every fish stick. Any guesses what I’m talking about? (Pause to see if they can guess.)

“Yes, I’m talking about LOVE: L-O-V-E. That’s what our Bible Story is all about today! Before we get into our lesson today, let’s play a game. I need 3 boys and 3 girls as volunteers to play this game.

GAME: Serving Up Some LOVE

Supplies Needed: Bucket of Hearts (1 per team), Big Spoons (1 per team), Bucket for Catcher (1 per team)

CG: 1 Minute Countdown Video

HOW TO PLAY:

- Two Teams: Select 3 boys and 3 girls to play the game.
- On each team, one child will be the heart “loader”, one child will be the spoon “server”, and one child will be the bucket “catcher”.
- Teams compete to sling the foam hearts into the catcher’s bucket from a distance (no more than 10 feet).
- The most hearts in the bucket after the minute timer is complete, wins. Play a few rounds as time allows.

Great job teams! Now we may not sling foam hearts at someone to show them love, but it is important to share love with the people around us who need a friend. That’s what our story is all about today!

Let’s take a look...

CG: Lesson Video

“Jonathan was an incredible friend to David, wasn’t he? He stood up for David even though David was anointed to be king instead of Jonathan. And he protected David even though his own father wanted to kill him. And David made a promise of friendship to Jonathan too—a promise that he would have a chance to keep years later. David and Jonathan are great examples of what Jesus told his disciples to do. Let’s look at that again.

(Open your Bible and read John 13:34.) “I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you” (NIV).

“That’s exactly the sort of friendship that David and Jonathan had. It wasn’t easy, but that’s what happens sometimes when you want to show love to your friends. Let’s look at our Bottom Line for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Friends love one another. Can you say that with me?”

“Friends love one another.”

“It’s simple for us to say, but I have a feeling figuring out how to do it will take some hard work. Let’s ask God to help us show love to our friends.”

PRAY: “Dear God, thank You for showing us how to love by sending us Your Son to die for our sins. Jesus taught us so much about love while He was on the earth, and we want to obey His command to show that love to others. Please help us love each other well, just like David and Jonathan did. In Jesus’ name, we pray, Amen.”

“When you start looking for ways to show love to your friends, you’ll discover there are all sorts of things you can do. And you’ll get to think about all those ways during Small Group. So have a great time together discovering more about how you can love each other. We’ll see you next week!”

(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)