

City LG - November 11 & 12, 2017

Bible Story: Sour Grapes (Parable of the vineyard workers) • *Matthew 20:1-15*

Bottom Line: Adjust your attitude.

Memory Verse: “Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.” *1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV*

WORSHIP: Praise Goes On and Never Gonna Stop Singing

Hello friends! My name is (your name, and leaders with you) and we're so excited to be here with you today, and we love getting to spend some time worshipping God with music and singing. Everyone jump up to your feet, because we are going to sing our 2 songs for this month! The first is a song all about giving praise to God. Praise means we sing with excitement about who God is, and what He has done for us. This is “Praise Goes On”!

“Great job everyone! Our 2nd song, is a lot of fun too, and it has some silly dance moves. This song is all about singing to God, lifting His name up, and never stopping our love for Jesus. This is “Never Gonna Stop Singing”!

LARGE GROUP WELCOME:

“Hellllloooo! How is everybody doing out there? My name is [your name] and I want to say welcome to The City! We’re so excited that you’re here.

“If YOU'RE excited to be here, give me two thumbs up! (*Give two thumbs up.*) And if you’re not excited to be here, well, you should be! Because you guys are the coolest. And we have some cool stuff planned today, so let’s get started by reminding ourselves what we’re talking about this month. It’s gratitude. Who remembers what that big word means? (*Pause for response.*) Yeah, it means being thankful! And this month, this is how we’re talking about gratitude. Take a look.

CG: Gratitude Slide

“Gratitude is letting others know you see how they’ve helped you. What is gratitude?”

KIDS: “Gratitude is letting others know you see how they’ve helped you!”

“That’s right! Gratitude is simple. It’s simply saying or showing thanks for all the things that people do, like baking cookies to take to the fire station to show gratitude to all the firefighters who help others. Or maybe it’s writing your teacher a thank you note to show gratitude for all the things he or she has taught you.

“When you walked in, we gave your Small Group Leader a bag with a picture in it. Only the picture is in pieces—like a puzzle! Now, I know you’ve put together puzzles before, but there’s a little bit of an ‘OH, SNAP!’ catch to this one. Your puzzle is a zoomed-in

photo of something we'll hear more about later during the Bible story. So once you put the puzzle together, you're only halfway there. The next step of this game is to identify what's in the photo. Be the first small group to put together their puzzle AND raise your hand to tell me what it is, and you'll be today's winner of (*snap*) 'OH, SNAP!'

"Everyone understand? Are you ready? On your marks, get set, go!

Cheer on and encourage the small groups as they work to put the pieces together. When the first small group completes the puzzle and raises their hand . . .

"All right! [SGL's name]'s group, you think you know what it is?

Small group guesses. If they're right, continue with the remainder of the Opener. If they are incorrect, call on another small group until they get the correct answer.

"OH, SNAP! You're right. It's a . . .

CG: Puzzle Reveal Slide

" . . . bunch of grapes! Huh! I wonder what that has to do with today's Bible story. Well, I guess we'll just have to wait and find out. Congrats, [SGL's name]'s small group, you're today's 'OH, SNAP!' winner! Everyone give them a hand.

"This month we've been talking about gratitude. Most of the time, we can find all sorts of ways to put gratitude into practice. It can be as simple as a high-five or as NOT simple as big huge party with balloons and a rocking playlist.

"But what happens during those times when it's not so easy to be grateful? Maybe you didn't get the toy you wanted for your birthday, your mom cooked your least favorite meal, or something happened that feels totally unfair. What then? How can we find a way to have gratitude? That's a tough question, huh? But it's also a good question! And when you have questions like this, the first place we should look is the Bible. Let's take a look at this week's Story..."

CG: Week 2 Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:10)

"WOW! What a great story! Let's be honest for a second. If you think that story doesn't sound fair, you're right. It's not fair. But that's what the vineyard owner chose to do. He paid the people who only worked one hour the same amount as he paid the people who worked all day long.

"What the workers could have done instead is adjust their attitude. They could have been thankful they were chosen first, had a job, and got paid for their work. They could have been thankful that the owner of the vineyard kept his promise and paid them. They

could have refocused their attention on what they thought wasn't fair to what was good about the situation. And sometimes all of us need to do just that—adjust our attitudes. In fact, that's our Bottom Line for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Adjust your attitude. Say it with me.”

KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Adjust your attitude.”

“Instead of worrying about what other people have, Jesus wants us to show gratitude for what we've been given. But that isn't easy is it? I think we need God's help. How about we pray right now and talk to Him about it? Let's pray.”

Pray: “God, help us to adjust our attitudes. When things don't feel fair, when someone gets something that we don't, when we don't get what we think we deserve, help us remember all the things You've already given us and done for us. Help us to show gratitude even when it's super hard. We love You. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.”

“Adjust your attitude. Let's think about this for a minute. If Jesus' story had been something that happened to us, and we were all the FIRST set of workers, we might be really angry, huh? But if we were in the last group of workers—the ones who had only been working one hour—and we got paid as much as everyone else, we'd be super grateful, wouldn't we?

“And that's part of why Jesus told this story in the first place. God wants us to change how we see what's happening in our life. Let's look at our Bottom Line again.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“Adjust your attitude. We may wonder why other people get to do things that we feel like we should be able to do, like when our older brother or sister gets to stay up later. We get jealous of people who get things we feel like we should be able to have too. But instead of getting angry, we should adjust our attitude. When we refocus and flip how we're looking at what's happening, we may discover that God is up to something even better for our lives. We might just have to wait a bit longer to find out.

“In the meantime, we can be thankful for what God has given us. And I have a feeling that if you started listing all of those things, that list would be a mile long! You might just need to adjust your attitude to see them. It's time for Small Group, where you'll talk more about how you can **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.** Have a great time together in Small Groups!”

Dismiss children to their small groups.