

City LG - November 25 & 26, 2017

Bible Story: Gratitude Is with You . . . Always (Give thanks no matter what) •

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Bottom Line: Always be grateful.

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*

NOTE: During pre-service, be sure each Small Group Leader receives some paper on a clip board and a pen for the Opening Activity (see below)

WORSHIP: Turn it Up and Higher than the Sky (NO RAP EDIT)

“Hey City! I’m so glad you’re here today! My name is (your name and the names of those on your team), and we are excited to worship with you today! One of the best ways we can show gratitude to God is by worshipping Him. Let’s all stand and worship God!”

(Worship Team leads each song, then exits)

LARGE GROUP WELCOME:

“Hey, heeeeyyyy, party people! Welcome to the biggest party of the week, [your environment’s name]! My name is [Host’s name], and today is a special day. Why? First, because you’re here and you’re pretty cool. Give your neighbor a fist bump and say, ‘Takes cool to know cool!’”

KIDS: *(Air fist bump)* “Takes cool to know cool.”

“And the other reason today is special is because we’re finishing up our month talking about gratitude! Who can tell me what gratitude is? Let’s look at it and say it together!”

CG: Gratitude Slide

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

“That’s right! And this time of year is the perfect time to not only let people know how much you appreciate the way they’ve helped you, but also to let God know how thankful we are for all He’s done for us!”

“Would you listen to that? It’s our game time music. Which means we’re about to have our final *(snap fingers)* ‘OH, SNAP!’ challenge! Today’s *(snap)* ‘OH, SNAP!’ challenge is a tricky one. When you walked in, your Small Group Leader received a slip of paper and pen, which you will need for this challenge.

“Here’s how it works. When I say go, you’ll see an image on these screens that’s divided into two similar pictures. But they’re not going to be exactly the same! There are several differences between the pictures. You’ll have one minute to write down as many differences between the images as you can. The small group who notices the most differences before the buzzer is the winner, and they will get to leave Large Group time first.

“Any questions? Are you ready to play (*snap*) ‘OH, SNAP!’? Let’s do it!

CG: Oh Snap Picture Challenge Slide

Keep time (5 minutes) with a smart phone timer. Walk around to check on everyone. Extend the time if it looks like the groups need more time.

“All right, everyone, time’s up! Pens down. Let’s see who found the most differences between the two images. Raise your hand if you found at least five differences. Now keep those hands up if you found six. Now seven.

Continue until only one group remains. The image has 15 differences between the left and right image. At the end, you can review the differences if you have time. If there’s a tie, allow both groups to exit at the same time.

CG: Oh Snap Picture Challenge Reveal Slide

“Wow! Amazing! You guys have some awesome refocusing skills to spot all those differences! How about we re-refocus our attention now to one of my favorite things, the Bible Story. Watch this...”

CG: Week 4 Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:23)

“Wow! What an awesome Bible Story. As you can see, sometimes it’s easy to say thank you and have a good attitude. And sometimes . . . sometimes it’s hard. So let’s take one more look at our memory verse.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus, 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIRV). This verse is a lot like our Bottom Line.

“All month we’ve been looking at that important truth: *Give thanks no matter what happens*. That means you can be thankful when everything is great. But it also means you can be thankful when things aren’t so great.

“So when you win a game or get a good grade on a test, be thankful! Or when your team loses and you’re struggling in school, be thankful too! You might just need to refocus what you’re looking at. Be thankful you got to play or that God is giving you a chance to learn something new.

“No matter what happens in your life, find some way to be grateful to God, because He deserves your gratitude for more reasons than you can count! Let’s take a look at our Bottom Line for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “**Always be grateful.** Do it no matter what—not because it makes people feel good, and not because it makes US feel good, even though it does both of those things. But always be grateful because God wants you to give thanks. You can always find a way to be grateful. Let’s pray and ask God for help with that.”

Pray: “God, what an amazing month we’ve had together learning about gratitude. It’s not always easy to show that we’re thankful, so we pray that You will help us remember what You want, and that’s for us to always be grateful. We love You. We pray this in Jesus’ name, Amen!”

Dismiss children to their small groups.