

## City SG - 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*

### 1. Not Always Fair

**What You Need:** Bag of Candy (Lunch Ziploc Size) (One per group)

- Create two teams. Divide them one on each side of your rug.
- Put your hand up to receive a high five.
- Explain that you will be asking a series of questions that they will have the opportunity to answer for a prize: a big bag of candy to share.
- Before each question, teams will choose one representative who will race to give you a high five and then answer the question. (If a team's representative doesn't know the answer to the question immediately, he/she can confer with his/her team.)
- Once the questions are completed, **instead of giving the entire bag of candy to the winning team, hand out a piece of candy to everyone in the group.**
- Questions:
  1. What is the top/first color in a rainbow? (red)
  2. Who fought alongside Batman? (Robin)
  3. What sweet substance do bees make from flowers and other plants? (honey)
  4. What kind of dog is normally white with black spots? (Dalmatian)
  5. If you mix red and yellow together, what color do you get? (orange)
  6. What is 5+5? (10)
  7. What is the name of the cowboy in *Toy Story*? (Woody)
  8. What color are the Smurfs? (blue)
  9. What color can grapes be? (green, black, or red)
  10. What is paper made out of? (trees)

### **What You Say:**

"Well! It is very clear who the winner is today! Awesome job, teams. But I'm going to throw you a little curveball. What if I told you that even though I know who won, I've decided that I want to split up the candy evenly between everyone? Winners, do you think that's fair?"

### 2. Diary of a Grateful Kid

**What You Need:** "Diary of a Grateful Kid" Activity Pages (one per child), markers

- Ask kids what kinds of things typically make them mad or upset. For example: when they don't get what they want for lunch, when a friend doesn't want to play what they want to play at recess, when they miss a goal in soccer, or when they mess up what they're playing on an instrument.
- Tell kids that when those kinds of things happen, they have an opportunity to adjust their attitudes and find something to be grateful for. These journals can help them do just that.
- Give each kid a journal and set out the markers in the middle of the group.

- Ask kids to pick one of the situations that was mentioned earlier and fill out the first page of the journal accordingly.
- Help give ideas to those who might be stuck thinking of something to be grateful for in a given situation.

### **What You Say:**

“You know, there are times when life isn’t fair and we end up having a bad attitude. This happens to everyone! The difference we can make is what we do once we realize we have a bad attitude. What I’ve learned is that gratitude and attitude totally work together! When I keep track of all of the things I have to be grateful for, it really adjusts my attitude. This week, when you feel a bad attitude coming on, use your journal to focus on what you are grateful for so you can **adjust your attitude.**”

***Note: The diary will take the place of the God Time Sheet this weekend. If the child brings back the completed diary next weekend, they can grab a sticky hand from the award box!***

### **3. Give Thanks Even When**

**What You Need:** Paper, pen

- Ask your few to think of bad things that could happen—big or small. For example: You are stuck in traffic and are late to your baseball game. Your dog gets out and runs down the street.
- Write down as many of the things they share as possible.
- After you have written down five to eight things, read the first sentence of the memory verse, but replace “no matter what” with each scenario. For example: Give thanks even when the dog gets out and runs down the street. Give thanks even when you’re stuck in traffic and late to your game.

### **What You Say:**

“It doesn’t matter what happens or what situation we find ourselves in, God’s Word tells us that we can give thanks no matter what.”

### **4. Pray and Dismiss**

- Ask your small group to give a few examples of things they don’t think are fair.
- Explain that God is our helper and we can ask Him to help us with our attitudes when we don’t think things are fair.

“God, thanks for loving us even when we don’t have great attitudes! Your love is not determined by what we do or how we act. You love us anyway! We do know that You desire for us to have a grateful heart. want to show everyone how awesome of a God You are and how grateful we are to belong to You! We love You! In Jesus name, amen.

***Remind them to bring back their completed Diary of a Grateful Kid for a sticky hand 😊***