

City LG - February 23-24, 2019

Bible Story: Secret Service (Give in Secret) • *Matthew 6:1-4*

Bottom Line: Serve others without looking for applause.

Memory Verse: “Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone.’”
Mark 9:35, NIV

CG: 2-Minute Countdown

WORSHIP: Movin' Me and Higher than the Sky

(Worship Leader prays...)

“Hi, everyone! Today I want to tell you something really important that Jesus said about service.”

Open the Bible to Matthew 6:1-4 (NIV) and read.

“Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people. Don’t do those deeds to be seen by others. . . . When you give to needy people, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. . . . Your Father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly.”

“We should serve others to SERVE them—not to get applause. Our goal shouldn’t be trying to get other people to see how great we are. Our goal should be to lend a hand and help! All of us love to get applause, right? All of us love to get high-fives. All of us like it when other people notice that we did something good. It’s very normal to feel that way. I mean, it feels really GOOD to be recognized. It feels good to get a reward when you get something right. It feels good to know that other people think you’re a kind person.”

“But that’s not the reason we serve. When we choose to serve, we’re not doing it to be noticed. We serve because we want to lend a hand to help someone else. We want to show God’s love to people by the way we treat them. We treat others the way we want to be treated so that we can make things BETTER for them, not to get attention or applause for ourselves.”

“That’s what Jesus was talking about in those verses. We shouldn’t do good things just to be seen by others. We should serve the people around us because it’s a great way to show them God’s love. Have you ever done something to help someone without getting any credit? Let’s say you noticed that the living room was really messy, so you cleaned it up without being asked. Now, how would you feel when your mom or dad came in and discovered that the room had been cleaned up? I bet you would be SO excited to see how happy they were—even if they never found out you were the one who did it!”

“How about this one? Say you’re walking through the grocery store with your parents and you notice some trash on the floor. What if you picked it up and threw it away, without even saying anything about it? Wouldn’t it feel so good to know that you had done something to help—even if no one ever saw you do it? That’s what our Bible Story is all about today. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:55)

"Here's the thing about serving. God sees what we do, even if others don't. Even if it feels like no one notices the good things you do, or the good choices you make, God ALWAYS does. You can always feel good inside knowing that you're doing something to help someone else. And you can be sure that God will always be proud of you when you do. We should serve to help people, not to be noticed. We serve others because we know God wants us to."

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] **"Serve others without looking for applause.** Let's pray and ask God to help us with that."

Pray: "God, thank You for loving us and for knowing exactly what we need. Thank You for teaching us how to serve others and for helping us to remember that we don't do it to be noticed. Help us to find secret ways to serve the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

"We should be happy to lend a hand, even if we don't get the credit. When we serve that way, we can feel good because we know deep inside that we've helped someone. Jesus also said that when we serve in secret, God will reward us—because even when no one else notices, He does!"

"This week, look for ways you can serve others in secret. Maybe you could help your mom by putting away the groceries while she's in another room. Maybe you could take out the trash instead of just piling one more thing on top of the can. Whatever you do, just know that God loves to see you serve others—even if you don't get the applause. Before we head to Small Group, let's worship God with our offering!"

Offering Time:

"Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else's life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called 'Missions of Hope' to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God's love for them. Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

"(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya. Here's a picture of some cool facts about Nairobi!"

CG: Kenyan Facts JPEG

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! (*show offering container*).

CG: Offering Video "Dear God" (Runtime: 1:30)

Dismiss to Small Groups