

CITY LG – September 30- October 2, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Just the Way You Are (A Tree and Its Fruit) • *Luke 6:43-45 (John 15:1-17)*

Today's Bottom Line: Be truthful with your whole life.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Anyone who lives without blame walks away safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught. Proverbs 10:9 (NIRV)*

SUPPLIES NEEDED: Carpet tape, Pizza Boxes (1 per group-reuse each service) and ball pit balls

WORSHIP

No Pressure
Shine a Light

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups

SLIDE: Theme

Hi, everybody! My name is [your name], and I'm so glad you're here today in the CITY! This month, we're talking about integrity.

SLIDE: Virtue

Integrity is choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.

SLIDE: Theme

It means that you're DRIVEN to live your life in a truthful way. It means telling the truth, and it also means being truthful on the inside—because what's inside matters most! God made us to live with integrity, and God can help us be who we are on the inside AND the outside.

To start our time together, I've got a fun racing game for us to play. I'll need some very DRIVEN volunteers who are ready to race toward the finish line. I'll pick one person from each small group. Raise your hand if you want to play.

Bring up one kid from each small group.

(to the contestants) Okay, friends, you can stand on this side of the room behind the tape line. I've got a ball for each of you . . . and a pizza box.

Have the kids line up along the starting tapeline. Give each of them a ball pit ball and an empty pizza box.

You'll use the pizza box to create wind that will move the ball, like this.

Demonstrate so the kids see what to do.

The first person to get their ball across the finish line—without touching it—wins. *(to audience)*
Everyone else, be sure to cheer for all of our contestants, and especially your friend from your group!

Racers, are you ready? Start your engines . . . and . . . GO!

AUDIO: “Life is a Highway” by Rascal Flatts)

If possible, let all of the contestants cross the finish line before you end the game. Collect the game supplies as you dismiss the contestants to their seats.

That was AMAZING! Let's give all of our volunteers a hand as they head back to their seats. Let's get to our story.

When Jesus lived on the earth, He traveled from town to town, teaching and healing people. And in everything He said and did, Jesus showed people what God is like. Over and over, Jesus reminded people that what matters most to God is what's on the inside.

Jesus had chosen 12 men to be His closest followers and help Him in His work. One time, when Jesus came down from the mountain with His disciples, a big crowd gathered. People had come from all over to hear Jesus teach and be healed. They listened closely as Jesus taught them many things.

Let's check it out...

VIDEO: Bible Story

Wow. I think the next time I pick up a piece of fruit, I'll remember what Jesus said. He said that we need to stay connected to Him. Then we'll be healthy on the inside so we can show His love on the outside—the way a tree grows good fruit on its branches!

If we choose to follow Jesus and stay connected to Him every day, then we can be truthful with EVERYTHING in our lives.

This is our challenge as we spend this month talking about integrity. Let's stand up and practice our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Be truthful with your whole life.

We know that if we want to live with integrity, we need to stay connected to Jesus. But how can we do that? Can anyone raise your hand and tell me one of the ways we can stay connected to Jesus?

Take a few answers from the kids.

One thing that helps ME to stay connected to Jesus is . . .

Share an example of a way you personally stay connected to Jesus.

The more you connect with Jesus, the more you'll be able to live truthfully—inside and out!

We have a memory verse this month that will help us remember what integrity is all about. It's Proverbs 10:9.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught. (Proverbs 10:9, NIV)

I know I don't want to take a crooked path. I want to be truthful with my whole life. How about you? Let's pray and ask God to help us live with integrity.

"Dear God, we want to be truthful with our whole lives. And we need Your help to do that. We are so thankful that we can trust You no matter what. Please work in our lives on the INSIDE so that we can show Your love to everyone on the OUTSIDE. Help us stay connected to You so that we can live each day with integrity. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING:

For the next three months, our offering money will go for food baskets to families in Turkana, Kenya. The food that is available costs a LOT of money and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

SLIDES: Kenya 1-4

The food baskets will be such a blessing to the children and families in this community. If you have any offering, you can bring it up now. And remember to pray for our partners there at Mission of Hope.