

CITY SG – October 28- 30, 2023

Today's Bible Story: All About Soul (Think About These Things) • *Philippians 4:8*

Today's Bottom Line: Focus on what's true.

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)

1. Fix That Engine

Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Fix that Engine" Page (1 per kid) Bible, markers

What You Do:

- Turn the Bible to Philippians 4:8.
- Read the verse out loud.
- Give each kid a "Fix that Engine" Activity Page and a marker.
- Read the verse again, pointing out the words on the Activity Page.
- Invite the kids to be the mechanic to "fix" the engine on the sheet by finding their way through the parts of Philippians 4:8.
- Instruct the kids to find their way through the maze, touching the words in order of the verse, so that they fix all the parts correctly.
- Say, "What we think about is so important. God wants us to think about things that are true, noble, pure, and right! The Bible tells us how much God loves us. The Bible tells us God sent Jesus to be our friend forever. God wants us to think about what is true so that we remember these things."

2. Exchanging Lies for the Truth

Application Activity

What You Need: Blank Paper and pens

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- One by one, read the scenarios below.
- For each scenario, ask:
 - Is this thought true?
 - Is it something we should focus on that is noble, right, pure, lovely, excellent, etc.?
 - Or is this thought something we shouldn't focus on?
- If the scenario is something the group decides shouldn't be focused on, ask how they can change that thought to line up with what God tells us is true in the Bible.
- Invite the kids to talk through possible ways to change the thoughts to line up with the truth.
- If they get stuck, there are some suggestions below to get the conversation going.
- Scenarios:
 - The kid who sits next to you keeps kicking your chair. He's SO annoying. (This is not a thought we should focus on. Instead, we can change it to, "The kid who sits next to you keeps kicking your chair. He probably needs to get out some energy! I hope we can go outside today for recess.")
 - There's a girl on the bus who always sits by herself. I'm going to see if she'll let me sit by her today. (This is a statement that lines up with God's truth.)
 - Math is my worst subject. I'm too confused to even try on today's test. (This is not a thought we should focus on. It doesn't line up with what God says is true about us. Instead, we can change it to, "Math is hard for me. I should probably ask the teacher for some extra help so I'm ready for the test.")

- This show has a lot of scary stuff in it. I'll probably be fine to watch it. (This is not a thought we should focus on. Instead, we can change it to, "This show has a lot of scary stuff in it. I should probably pick something else so I don't have scary images in my head.")
- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen.
- Instruct the kids to turn their paper horizontally (landscape-style) and draw a line down the center of the page.
- On the left side at the top of the page, direct the kids to write the word "FALSE" as the title of that section. *(Non- Readers: Help them write the words)*
- Direct the kids to write "TRUE" as the title on the top of the right-hand side of the page.
- Encourage the kids to come up with a thought of their own that's false about themselves and write it on the left side of the page under the "FALSE" heading. *(Non-readers: have them draw their thoughts instead of writing them.)*
- Then direct the kids to write what's true on the right side under the "TRUE" heading.
- If time allows, and there are some volunteers, invite the kids to share their thoughts with the group.
- Say, "This week, when you realize your thoughts aren't true or helpful, stop and ask God to help you change those thoughts."

Be sensitive to what kids might share during this time. If there are indications of hurt, let your coach or coordinator know.

3. Memory Verse Roll

What You Need: a soft ball (one per group)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a large circle.
- Invite a volunteer to recite the monthly memory verse, then say it a few times together. *Anyone who lives without blame walks away safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught. Proverbs 10:9 (NirV)*
- Give one kid the ball.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass to ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

4. Pray

- Dear God, we know You are a good God who wants good things for us. Help us this week to focus on what's TRUE and NOBLE and RIGHT and PURE and LOVELY and WORTHY OF RESPECT (*ADMIRABLE*) and EXCELLENT and WORTHY OF PRAISE (*PRAISEWORTHY*) so that we can live with integrity. When we get it right and when we get it wrong, thank You for reminding us that You love us, no matter what. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to recite this month's memory verse to their parents.