

## CITY SG – November 23 - 24, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** Show Me How to Live (Love in Action) • 1 John 3:16-18

**Today's Bottom Line:** Jesus showed us how to give.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Every good and perfect gift is from God.* James 1:17a (NIV)

**Monthly Virtue:** Generosity—Making someone's day by giving something away

### PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

**What You Need:** Bop It!® game

**What You Do:**

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Welcome kids and ask about their week!
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Invite kids to sit or stand in a circle.
- Show kids the Bop It!®, and briefly explain how to use it:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOaCA3sldpQ&t=98s>
- Start the game, directing kids to keep passing the Bop It!® to their left after each round.
- Let kids jump in as they arrive.
  - If kids miss out on a command, instruct them to sit out and cheer on the remaining kids until the next round.

### SMALL GROUP TIME

#### 1. If You Help a Kid See Jesus . . .

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** Bible (marked at 1 John 3:16-18); heart (pillow, stress ball, or foam)

**What You Do:**

- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle or around the table.
- Hold the Bible, and the heart.
- Open the marked Bible to 1 John 3:16-18 and read it out loud to the group.
- Ask: "What are some ways we can show God's love to others by giving to them or helping them?"
- Tell the kids we are going to talk about ways we can help a kid see Jesus by adding onto a story which I will start.
- Hold the heart out in front of you, say: "You can help a kid see Jesus, by tying their shoes when their arms are full of books."
- Pass the heart to the kid on your right.

- Encourage the kid to add an idea of what could happen next to show how helping that kid could lead to them to help others.
  - Repeat the opening phrase: “You can help a kid see Jesus, by tying their shoes when their arms are full of books.”
  - Then, for example, the kid with the heart might say: “Then the kid who’s holding books might go read one of the books to a younger kid.”
- Direct the second kid in the circle to pass the heart to the kid to their right.
- Repeat the opening phrase, instruct the second kid to repeat what they added, then prompt the third kid to add something to continue the chain of giving/helping. For example, the dialog could go like:
  - Leader: “You can help a kid see Jesus, by tying their shoes when their arms are full of books.”
  - Second kid: “Then the kid who’s holding books might go read one of the books to a younger kid.”
  - Third kid: “Then the little kid who got to hear a book could go share a new fun fact with his older brother.”
- Keep the story going in this way.
  - *NOTE: If the story gets too complicated to add to, feel free to start a new one after a few additions.*
- Sum the story up when the heart comes back to you by going through what everyone added and noting all the ways we heard about people being generous and helping others along the way.
- After you are done say, “**Jesus showed us how to give.** Jesus’ life is full of examples of how we can give our time, words, energy, and actions to show God’s love to others. Jesus even washed the disciples’ feet to help them see what it looks like to serve others. When we pay attention to what people around us need, we can make a difference in their lives and share Jesus’ love with them!”

## 2. Love in Action

### *Application Activity*

**What You Need:** “Love in Action” Strips (one set per group)

#### **What You Do:**

- Set out the baggie of love in action strips.
- Choose a kid to pull a strip of paper from the baggie
- Invite the kid to read the scenario on the strip of paper to the group. (Be prepared to help if needed.)
- Instruct the kid who read the scenario to choose a few kids to act out what could be done to put love into action by helping in that scenario.
  - Re-read the scenario as needed.
  - Encourage the kids chosen to jump right in—improv style.
  - Provide ideas or get them started with dialogue as needed.
- Continue with different kids reading a scenario and choosing a few kids to act out the response to the scenario as time and interest allow.

- Say, “There are so many ways we can love like Jesus and give to others. **Jesus showed us how to give.** Jesus gave up His life for us in a big way. Giving your life to show God’s love doesn’t have to be dramatic. In fact, most of the time, giving your life is a lot of small, ordinary moments. It starts with paying attention to the people around you. We know that the small things can have a BIG impact when we ask God to help us become more like Jesus.”

### 3. Letter Together

#### *Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Bibles, dry erase set

#### **What You Do:**

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
  - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
  - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
  - *Every good and perfect gift is from God. James 1:17a*
- Write the first letter of each word from the Memory Verse on a dry-erase board or poster board.
- Instruct the kids to close their Bibles.
- Invite kids to take turns recalling one word from the Memory Verse one word at a time by looking at the first letter of each word.
  - Go around the circle, prompting each kid to recite a word.
  - Repeat the verse several times to review it.

### AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

“Dear God, thank You for the gift of Jesus so we can see how You want us to show compassion and generosity to everyone. Thank You for the greatest act of love ever when Jesus gave up His life. Help us pay attention to the people around us so we can love others and be generous. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guide to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home to bring back next week for a prize.

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to tell them a way that they can give to others.