

CITY LG – May 17 - 18, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Use Somebody (Parable of the Talents) • *Matthew 25:14-30*

Today's Bottom Line: Look for ways to use what you've been given.

Monthly Memory Verse: *None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others.* Philippians 2:4 (NirV)

Monthly Virtue: Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

CAMPUS SUPPLY: Index cards and pens (one for each small group)

WORSHIP

Movin' Me

Dance

Hi, friends! It's great to see you. We've been doing a little spy training this month . . . which will help us SPY what other people need. (*Circle your hands around your eyes like binoculars.*) Then we can do something to help them. That's a great way to show God's love!

For today's game, I'd love to find out about your spy preferences. In other words, I want to know how you spy best! This is a game we can all play, so everyone jump up on your feet.

This game is kind of like a 'Would You Rather?' challenge . . . but with sneaky spy questions. For each round, I'll give you two choices. You can decide which of those two choices you like better . . . then turn to the side of the room that matches your answer.

Are you ready? (*Pause for responses.*) Let's get started!

SLIDE: Game Slide 1 (dog sidekick or cat sidekick)

First question: would you rather have a dog sidekick? Or a cat sidekick? Turn your body toward the direction of the answer you choose.

Give the kids a few seconds to turn toward their preference.

Look around and see what your friends picked. There are more kitty sidekick people out there than I expected! Why do you think a cat would make a good spy? (*Pause for responses.*)

Go through all the rounds of the game in the same way: ask "would you rather," instruct the kids to turn toward their preferred answer, then lock in their votes. Comment on the answers you see and ask the kids why they chose what they chose.

SLIDE: Game Slide 2 (use a magnifying glass or binoculars)

SLIDE: Game Slide 3 (wear a trench coat or cool spy hat/fedora)

SLIDE: Game Slide 4 (work in the big city or out in the wilderness)

SLIDE: Game Slide 5 (be invisible or be able to speak every language in the world)

SLIDE: Game Slide 6 (use cool gadgets or leap over objects)

SLIDE: Game Slide 7 (wear a fake mustache or wear dark sunglasses)

SLIDE: Theme

That was fun! Some of our answers were the same, but I'd say all of us spy a little differently. God has given each of us gifts and talents and preferences so that we're all unique in different ways. And we can use the unique ways God has made us to make a difference for the people around us. All we have to do is be on the lookout!

I'm excited to be here while we learn about story that Jesus Himself told. We can find it here in the book of Matthew. (*Hold up Bible.*)

This happened after Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. He told several stories, or parables, that explained what the kingdom of God is like. A parable is a kind of story that uses everyday objects and situations to help people understand something that's true.

Let's check out the Story Lab.

VIDEO: Bible Story 11:47

As we think about this story Jesus told, we should remember something important. God has given each of us unique gifts, talents, and experiences. We may have a lot or we may have a little. But with God's help, we can use what we've been given to make a difference in the world around us. Let's stand up for our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Look for ways to use what you've been given.

SLIDE: Theme

I don't know about you, but Jesus' story makes me want to make the most of what I've been given.

It takes initiative to make good use of the things God has given us—whether that's our talents, our time, our life experiences, or even our stuff.

If you want to use your gifts well, you can start by figuring out what those gifts might be. If you're not sure, you can ask a parent or friend or another adult who knows you well.

Maybe you can play piano, and you could use your gifts to cheer people up with your beautiful music. Or maybe you're really strong, and you can help your mom or dad or grandma carry the groceries.

Maybe you can use what you've learned at school to help a younger friend or sibling understand their homework.

No matter how much or how little you think you have, there's always a way to use it to share God's love with others.

Let's pray and ask God to help us find ways to use what we've been given.

Dear God, thank You so much for all the wonderful gifts and talents You've given to all of us. Help us to see the needs of the people around us and give us Your wisdom to figure out how we can lend a hand. We want to make the most of the opportunities You've given us so we can truly make a difference in this world. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part, but remind kids who have offering to place it in the container.

SLIDES: Offering pics 1-4 (scroll through while describing the mission)

One way we can all work together to help others in need is through our offering! Each week in the City we collect money to support a Parkview mission that helps people in need. Starting in 2025 we are giving the money we collect to a church called La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay).

La Liberte' Church is in the Republic of Congo which is in Africa. The kids at the church live in an area where they don't have a lot of money, and sometimes don't have a lot of food for their family. When the kids come to church on Sunday, they feed them a hot meal. They feed around 700 children every weekend and each meal costs \$2.00. Our goal is to help feed as many kids as we can!

SLIDE: Theme