

CITY SG – 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

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: No Supplies

What You Do:

- Welcome each kid by name as they arrive.
- Introduce yourself to any kids visiting your group for the first time!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Explain to the group that kids will take turns acting out various actions while the rest of the group guesses what they're doing.
 - For example:
 - drawing
 - singing
 - baking
 - throwing a football
 - making people laugh
 - kicking a soccer ball
 - sewing
 - building, etc.
- Select a kid to go first.
- Quietly share an action with the kid going first that the rest of the group can't hear.
- Give that kid about 30 seconds to act out their action without using words or sounds.
- Invite the group to call out their guesses.
- Once the action is guessed, invite the kid who guessed correctly to go next.
- Continue as time and interest allow.
- *NOTE: Consider allowing the kids to come up with their own actions to perform.*
- **Before Large Group say, "Today, we're going to hear a parable from the Bible about people using the gifts God gives them."**

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Eye Spy Story

Bible Story Review

What You Need: “Story Snapshot” Activity Page (three sets on cardstock per group), and “Story Snapshot Leader Guide” Activity Page (one per group)

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into groups of two or three.
- Explain to the kids that there are nine pieces of today’s Bible Story hidden around your group space.
- The goal is for kids to seek and find the story images from the “Story Snapshot” Activity Page and help place them in order together as a group.
- Instruct the kids to search the room with their group.
- As kids find story images, stand at the front of your group space.
- Instruct the kids to place the cards from the “Story Snapshot” Activity Page in front of you.
- Once all nine cards have been found, encourage the entire group to put the images in order.
- As you work together to gather the story images, frequently ask:
 - What happens next?
- Refer to the “Story Snapshot Leader Guide” Activity Page to make sure the cards are in order.
- Read the cards out loud when they are put in the correct order.
- Say, “The story wasn’t just about money—God has given each one of us different gifts, whether it’s our talents, time, life experiences, or even our stuff. God wants us to make good use of those things, but that takes initiative!”

2. Talents that Stick

Application Activity

What You Need: Sticky notes (3 per kid), pens, large paper (one per group), and markers

What You Do:

- *NOTE: Before you begin the activity, write this week’s Bottom Line across the top of the poster board.*
- Gather the kids together in your group space.
- Give each kid 2-3 sticky notes.
- Set out the markers and pencils.
- Invite the kids to use the markers and pens to write or draw two or three gifts or talents they think they’re good at on each sticky note!
 - Examples: playing soccer, singing, playing an instrument, baking, drawing, encouraging others, math, learning languages, gift giving, caring for their pets, crafting, etc.
- Display the poster board and point out the Bottom Line on it.
- Read the Bottom Line aloud for the kids and invite them to repeat it together.
 - **Look for ways to use what you’ve been given.**
- As kids finish drawing or writing on each sticky note, invite them to stick their notes onto the poster board.
- Point out all the different gifts, talents, and things kids mentioned.

3. Secret Codes

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, “Secret Decoder” Activity Page (one per kid), and pens

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together in your group space.
- Give each kid a “Secret Decoder” Activity Page and a pen.
- 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.
 - *“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*
- Direct the kids to repeat the verse several times together.
- Explain to the kids that they will work together to decode this month’s Memory Verse.
- Instruct the kids to begin decoding the Memory Verse, filling in the missing letters by matching the images with the letters in the word bank.
- *NOTE: Encourage the kids to fill in one letter at a time. For example, if the spy goggles represent the letter “A,” instruct the kids to write an “A” in each space where they see spy goggles.*
- Once the kids finish, recite the verse together once more.

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*)”
- “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to take care of our greatest need. Thank You for the Holy Spirit, who helps us take the initiative to use our gifts and talents to make a difference in the world around us. Sometimes, it’s hard to focus on others because we get caught up thinking about ourselves. Please forgive us for those moments and help us to see what You are doing when You make a way for us to use what we’ve been given. Show us how to use the gifts You’ve given us—big or small—to share Your love with others. Help us to see the needs right in front of us clearly and to take action to make a difference. 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, encourage kids to share the “secret code” that they decoded in the Secret Code Activity (the Memory Verse). Encourage the kids to use the “secret code” to pray this week and ask God to help them use what they’ve been given.