

CITY LG – January 24th- 25th, 2026

Bible Story: Jesus Chooses Levi • *Luke 5:27-32 (supporting: Romans 12:1)*

Bottom Line: Practice living for God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* • 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

WORSHIP

Undefeated
Soldier On

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, friends! Welcome to The City! This month, we're training with a Game Plan to grow stronger every day in our friendship with God. Doesn't that sound awesome?

This Game Plan has four parts—talk about God, pray to God, hear from God, and live for God!

This week we're looking at the fourth part of that Game Plan, living for God! Our Bottom Line for today is **Practice living for God.**

Now, in a game, a team has to follow its plays. If you don't follow the play, what happens? *(Pause for answers: 'You lose!' 'You get mixed up!')*

That's right, you get off track! And in our lives, God gives us His playbook in the Bible. He shows us how to live, and when we follow His plan, we grow stronger.

So today, we're going to start with a game of 'Follow the Leader.'

SLIDE: Follow the Leader

Have you ever played 'Follow the Leader' before? One person leads, and everybody else copies. The trick is, don't miss when the leader changes!

Round 1: Host Leads

Okay, I'll go first so you get the idea. You don't have to walk behind me, just stand where you are. But everybody spread out, so you've got space. *(Pause as the kids spread out.)*

Ready? Here we go, march in place! *(March in place as the kids copy you.)*

Nice marching, team! Now let's add some big arm circles. *(Make big arm circles as the kids copy you.)* Whoa, look at those arms go!

Okay, switch it up, let's hop like kangaroos. Boing, boing, boing! Freeze! *(Pause dramatically.)* Did you freeze when I froze? Let me see your best frozen statue.

Round 2: Kid Leaders

Great job following me! But guess what, it's your turn. I need a volunteer to come up front and be our leader. If you want to lead the group, raise your hand!

Choose a volunteer from someone who has their hand raised.

Okay, everyone, copy our new leader! *(Allow the kid to lead. If they're stumped, encourage an action like jumping jacks or silly spins.)* Wow, that's a good one. Let's give our leader a round of applause! If you want to lead the group, raise your hand!

*Choose a volunteer from someone who has their hand raised.
Play 2-3 more rounds with new leaders.*

Fantastic, those were some amazing moves!"

Lead Round 3.

Round 3: Think Fast

Okay, let's play one more round. This time, I'll start us off, but be careful, you've got to pay attention. I might change moves quickly, and you've got to follow! Ready?

Here we go, tiptoe walk! *(Everyone tiptoes.)* And switch, slow-motion run! *(Everyone runs slowly.)* Switch again, spin in a circle! *(Everyone spins.)* And, freeze! *(Dramatic pause.)* You did it! Give yourselves a round of applause.

Wow, you all were amazing at 'Follow the Leader!' Here's the thing: following a leader in a game is a lot like following Jesus in real life. We don't just do our own thing; we practice living the way He shows us. That's what our Bottom Line is all about: **Practice living for God.**

SLIDE: Bottom Line

When we practice living for God, we copy Jesus, like being kind, telling the truth, helping others, forgiving, and loving. And the more we practice, the stronger we get in following Him. Let's stand up and watch our bottom line video now so we don't forget!

VIDEO: Bottom Line

Great job, friends. I'm excited to learn more about that today as we follow Jesus! But before we get started looking at our true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about something amazing we're doing this year! We're journeying through the key stories of the Bible, cover to cover.

Why are we going to look at the story of the entire Bible? Well, part of the reason why God gave us the Bible is so we can know who He is and what He is like. He wants us to learn about Him! So hopefully, as we go through the story of the Bible, we'll learn about God.

We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! *(Gesture to slide.)*

SLIDE: God's Big Story

We're continuing right along on our journey through the Bible! We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on Earth. Jesus came to Earth to teach us about God and His Kingdom.

Today, we're going to hear a story from Jesus' life that involves a man named Levi. You might know Levi as another name, Matthew! Let's check out the Story Lab!

VIDEO: Bible Story

What an amazing story from Jesus' life today!

Jesus saw Matthew. Jesus called Matthew. And Matthew got up and followed Him. Our part in the story is to do the same, to follow Jesus with our whole lives.

That means sometimes we have to say NO to things that don't honor God, and YES to practicing living for Him.

If someone needs help cleaning up a mess, Jesus would say, 'yes' to helping them. If you are going through something where it would be easier to tell a lie, Jesus would say 'no' to lying. If someone needs to use your purple marker for coloring, Jesus would say 'yes' to sharing!

Throughout your day, say 'yes' to what Jesus would say yes to. And say 'no,' to what He would say no to.

Like our bottom line says, Practice living for God!

And kids, if you want to choose to follow Jesus today, if you want to say YES to Jesus, and you haven't done that before, talk to a leader or parent about this. They would love to help you take that step.

Let's pray together. Bow your heads and close your eyes. Take a moment and think to yourself. 'Do I follow Jesus?'

(Pause for 15-30 seconds.)

You can choose to follow Jesus today. Just like Matthew got up and left everything to follow Jesus, you can do the same. Maybe there are some things you need to leave behind. Let's pray.

Dear Jesus, thank You for seeing us, just like You saw Matthew. Thank You for saying, 'Follow Me.' We want to follow You with our lives. Help us say YES to You and the things You love and NO to the things that don't please You.

And Jesus, if there's someone here today who wants to follow You for the very first time, please give them the courage to talk to a leader or a parent. We know You love it when people take that step. You want to be their friend!

Thank You that You forgive us when we mess up, and You help us try again. We want to keep practicing living for You every day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SLIDE: Theme

OFFERING

In Parkview Kids, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. This year we are collecting our offering money to help kids all the way on the other side of the world in a country in Africa called Malawi. Did you know that in this area many communities don't have access to clean water?

Slides: 5-8

We are helping a ministry called E3 which helps put in freshwater wells. Having a well with clean water right in their village means women and children don't have to travel far away to other villages to get clean water, and they don't have to walk with heavy containers of water like you see in these pictures. Children help carry water too! They have to travel so far that they have to miss school sometimes. And if they used the dirty water that is in their village, they would get very sick.

Help us raise money to provide clean water wells in the communities in Malawi who need them. We want you to go home and ask what YOU can do to raise money for these families in Africa!