

## CITY SG – February 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** The Most Important Commandment • *Matthew 22:34-40*

**Bottom Line:** Love God. Love others.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."* • John 13:34 NIV

### **PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY** "People Picture" Activity Page (1 set per group)

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

- Welcome kids by name with a high-five or fist bump!
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Explain to your group of kids that you're going to play a guessing game.
- Choose one kid to start.
- Tell the kid to pick a picture and hold it up to their forehead, facing out, so everyone else in the circle can see it, but they cannot.
- Instruct the kid to ask "yes" or "no" questions to figure out who is on their picture. (e.g., "Do I wear a uniform?" "Do I work in a school?")
- Share that the other kids can only answer "yes" or "no."
- Help the kids guess and then let the next kid have a turn with a new picture.
- **Say, "In our true story from the Bible today, Jesus is going to talk about something that's important for ALL people to do. Let's go find out what it is!"**

### **SMALL GROUP TIME**

#### **1. Most Important Relay**

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** "Most Important" Activity Page (2 sets per group), Drinking straws (one per kid), Large hearts (2 laminated per bin)

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

- Divide the group into two teams and have them line up on one side of the room.
- Place the two large heart shapes on the other side of the room.
- Give each team a set of the small tablet cards from the "Most Important" Activity Page.
- Give each kid a straw.
- Show the kids how to pick up one of the cards by placing the straw on it and sucking in.
- Explain the relay: On "Go," the first kid on each team will use their straw to pick up one card and carry it over to the heart.
- After they drop their card on the heart, they are to run back and tag the next kid in line.
- Continue until all the cards have been moved to the heart.

- When they're done, ask: "Jesus was asked about all the commandments. Which one did He say was the first and most important?" (*Love God.*)
- Ask: "Which commandment did Jesus say was also very important?" (*Love others.*)
- Ask: "What two commandments did Jesus say all of God's Law was based on?" (*Love God and love others!*)
- Say, "Jesus took all those laws and said they were based on two. He said the most important thing we can do is to: '*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind*' (Matthew 22:37). And then He said to: '*Love your neighbor as you love yourself*' (Matthew 22:39). Out of all the commandments, Jesus said the most important things we can do are to **Love God. Love others.**"

## 2. Like and Subscribe

### *Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Nothing

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

- Explain that you are going to say some things people might do.
- If it's something that shows love to God or others, the kids are to hold up their "Like" (thumbs up)
- If it's not a loving choice, instruct the kids to hold up their "don't like" (thumbs down).
- Read the following scenarios:
  - "This week, I will help my mom unload the groceries." (*Like/Subscribe*)
  - "This week, I'm going to fight with my brother over the remote." (*Don't Like*)
  - "This week, I will share my snack with a friend." (*Like/Subscribe*)
  - "This week, I will say 'thank you' to God for my food." (*Like/Subscribe*)
  - "This week, I'm going to leave my toys out for someone else to clean up." (*Don't Like*)
- Let the kids come up with some scenarios.
- Talk about why each choice is loving or not.
- Say, "Great job! It's easy to see which choices show love. Jesus made it simple for us. He said that if we focus on loving God and loving others, then we'll be living how He wants us to live. The best way to live is to **Love God. Love others.** When we follow Jesus, God sends His Holy Spirit to live inside of us, and the Spirit can nudge us with ways to show love to others. Let's try to 'Like and Subscribe' to that idea all week!"

## 3. Backpack Tag

### *Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Bibles, "Backpack Tag" Activity Page (one tag per kid), Plastic bag tags (one per kid), Coloring supplies

#### **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 to the group.

- *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."* • John 13:34 NIV
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Encourage the kids to set aside the Bibles.
- Say: "Jesus wants us to love one another! In fact, as we learned in our Bible Story today, that is one of the most important things we can do! Let's make something to help us remember that."
- Give every kid a "Backpack Tag" Activity Page.
- Set out the coloring supplies and invite the kids to decorate their "Backpack Tag" Activity Page.
- Read the words together as kids insert their tag into the plastic sleeve.
- Show kids how to thread the plastic loop through the hole and the other part of the same loop to secure.
- Encourage the kids to hang these on a backpack or somewhere where they will see it to remind you to love God and to Love others.

## 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 loving us. Help us to love You back with everything we are. And help us to love the people around us, especially [name a few people the kids mentioned]. Show us how to be kind and loving this week. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back to the City for a PRIZE!

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one way they can show someone they love them this week.