

CITY SG – January 24th- 25th, 2026

Bible Story: Jesus Chooses Matthew • *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

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: box of tissues (one tissue per kid)

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids with a high-five or fist bump.
- Invite kids who have brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a new, single tissue.
- Show them how to place the tissue on their head.
- Explain that you are going to call out some ninja warrior moves, and they have to try to do them without the tissue falling off their head.
- Call out simple moves one at a time:
 - “Ninja warrior, walk in a circle!”
 - “Ninja warrior, touch your toes!”
 - “Ninja warrior, turn around!”
 - “Ninja warrior, hop on one foot!”
- If a kid’s tissue falls, invite them to just pick it up and keep playing.
- Celebrate everyone for trying their best.

Say: “Great job, ninja warriors! It was tricky to follow the plan and keep that tissue on your head at the same time! **In our Bible Story today, we’re going to meet a man named Matthew who made a big move to follow Jesus’ plan for his life.**”

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Live for God Game Plan

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, Large piece of butcher paper (one per group), Markers

What You Do:

- Read Luke 5:27-32 out loud to everyone.
- Lay the butcher paper on the table and invite the kids to sit around it.
- Title the paper: “Our Game Plan for Living for God.”
- Ask the kids to share what they remember about Matthew from the story. (*He was a tax collector; he left everything to follow Jesus. He threw a banquet at his house so his friends could meet Jesus.*)

- Say, “Matthew chose to live for God! What are some ways we can live for God, just like Matthew?”
- As kids give ideas, have them draw a simple picture of the idea on the butcher paper.
 - If a kid says, “Be kind,” they can draw a smiley face.
 - If a kid says, “Share our toys,” they can draw a simple toy block.
 - If a kid says, “Help mom,” they can draw a heart.
- Keep drawing until you have a wonderful “Game Plan” full of pictures.

Say: “Look at our amazing game plan! These are all wonderful ways we can live for God. Matthew said ‘yes,’ to Jesus! When we are kind, when we share, when we help—we are saying yes to Jesus too! We are doing what Jesus would love, and we are showing everyone what God is like. We are living for God! And that’s something we can get better at when we practice. Let’s all **practice living for God** this week.”

2. Memory Verse Roll

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: a soft ball (room supplies)

- 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.
 - *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 NIRV Repeat the verse together several times.
- Guide kids to sit in a large circle.
- Invite a volunteer to recite the monthly memory verse, then say it a few times together.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass to ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

3. Using Our Gifts

Application Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to sit quietly for a moment.
- Challenge them to think about their unique gifts, talents, and personalities. What has God given *them* specifically? (e.g., Are they funny? A good listener? Athletic? Artistic? A leader?)
- After a moment of quiet thought, go around the circle and ask each person to “name it”—to name one way they can use their specific, God-given talents to live for God this week.
 - *Example: “I can use my sense of humor to cheer up my friend who is sad.”*

- *Example: "I can use my artistic skill to make a card for my teacher."*
 - *Example: "I can use my encouraging words on the soccer field with my teammates."*
- If a kid is stuck, let the group help by pointing out a strength they see in that kid.
- **Say:** "It's awesome to hear all the unique ways God has equipped each of you. God didn't make any mistakes. He gave you your personality and your talents for a reason. Let's pray and ask Him to help us use them for Him this week."

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*)"
- "God, thank You for making each of us unique. Thank You for the talents and gifts You've given us. Help us to see the opportunities You give us this week to use those gifts to show people what You are like. Help us to be brave like Matthew and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one way they can live for God.