

CITY SG – March 14th- 15th, 2026

Bible Story: Be Humble/Love Your Enemies • *Matthew 5:38-48*

Bottom Line: Love like Jesus even when it's hard.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Hula Hoops (one per cart)

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids by name with a high five or fist bump!
- Invite the kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle, holding hands.
- Place a Hula Hoop over one pair of clasped hands.
- Challenge the group to move the Hula Hoop all the way around the circle without anyone letting go of their friends' hands. (The kids will have to step through the Hula Hoop and move their bodies to pass it along.)
- Let kids join the circle as they arrive.
- Cheer them on as they work together to get the Hula Hoop all the way around the circle.
- **Say:** "That was a real challenge, but you worked together! Sometimes, being friends and loving each other can be a little tricky! **Today, in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is going to teach us a brand-new way to do something that can feel upside-down: how to love people who are unkind to us.**"

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Bible Story Telephone

Bible Story Review

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Explain the game of Telephone. You'll whisper a short sentence from the story into one kid's ear, and they'll whisper it to the next, and so on.
- Use these simple sentences from the story:
 - "Jesus said, 'Love your enemies.'"
 - "Be kind to people who are mean."
 - "Pray for people who hurt you."
 - "This shows you are children of your Father in heaven."
 - "**Love like Jesus even when it's hard.**"
- Whisper the first sentence to the first kid.
- When the sentence gets to the end of the circle, encourage the last kid to say it out loud.
- Talk about whether the message stayed the same. Play again with the next sentence.

- **Say:** “Great job! It can be tricky to get the message right. The message Jesus gave us in our story is so important, we want to get it right! Jesus said: *‘Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you. Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven. He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who don’t’* (Matthew 5:44-45).

2. Rhythm Repeat

Application Activity

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Explain that you are going to build a rhythm together.
- Start by doing one simple action, like clapping twice.
- The kid to your right is to repeat your action (clapping twice) and add their own simple action (like snapping once).
- The next kid in the circle is to do both actions in order (clapping twice, snapping once) and add a new one (like patting their knees twice).
- Continue around the group, with each kid repeating the whole pattern and adding one new move.
- See how long you can keep the pattern going!
- **Say:** “That got really hard to remember the whole pattern! It can also be hard to remember to be kind when someone is not kind to us. Showing love to someone you don’t get along with feels upside-down. But that’s why it’s so important and so powerful. God loves everyone. When people see you choosing to love when it’s hard, they’ll know that you’re different. They’ll see that you’re a follower of Jesus.”

3. Tic Tac Memory Verse

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, “Tic Tac Memory Verse” Activity Page, Floor tape, Beanbags (10 bean bags per bin, 5 of each color)

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.
 - *Don’t do anything only to get ahead. Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • Philippians 2:3
- Divide the kids into two teams, “X” and “O.”
- Give both teams five beanbags (or markers).
- Encourage a kid from the first team to toss a beanbag onto the board.
- If the beanbag (or marker) lands on a square with part of the verse, instruct the whole group to read that part aloud.

- If the beanbag (or marker) lands on a blank square, encourage the team to leave their beanbag (or marker) there.
- Teams take turns trying to get three in a row.
- After the game, say the whole Memory Verse together. (Don't forget to add the verse reference—Philippians 2:3!)
- Play several rounds if desired.

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. Please help us to love others the way You do, sending sun and rain on everyone. Give us Your strength so we can **[Bottom Line] love like Jesus even when it's hard**. We need Your help! 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 love like Jesus.