

## CITY SG – March 21<sup>st</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** Mary and Martha • *Luke 10:38-42*

**Bottom Line:** Make time for Jesus first.

**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:** "Spot the Difference" Activity Page (one per kid), Coloring supplies

#### **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.
- Give each child a "Spot the Difference" Activity Page and a coloring tool.
- Explain that there are two pictures that look almost the same, but some things are different.
- Challenge them to work with their partner to find and circle all the differences.
- Walk around and help pairs that get stuck, giving them clues to help them find the differences.
- **Say: "In our true story from the Bible today, two sisters, Mary and Martha, made two different choices about what was most important when Jesus came to visit their home. Let's go find out what they chose!"**

### **SMALL GROUP TIME**

#### **1. Broom Relay**

Bible Story Review

**What You Need:** Bible, Brooms (two small brooms per cart), blank paper, Floor tape

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

- Read Luke 10:38-42 to the group.
- Use the floor tape to create two starting lines on one side of the room.
- Divide the group into two teams and instruct them to line up on one side of the room, behind a starting line.
- Give the first kid in each line a broom and a paper ball.
- Explain that they will have a relay race. One at a time, they are to use the broom to sweep their paper ball across the room and back.
- Then once the kid reaches their team, after sweeping the crumpled paper ball across the room and back, the next kid in line is to use the broom to do the same thing.
- The twist: When you call out, "Make time for Jesus first!," the kids are to freeze right where they are. They can only start again when you say, "Go!"
- Start the race. Shout the freeze command randomly.
- After a moment, say "Go!" and let them continue.
- Continue giving the command at random points.
- The first team to have all the kids on their team finish wins.

- **Say:** “It was hard to stop when you were in the middle of working hard, wasn’t it? You really wanted to keep going so you could get to the finish line! That’s kind of how Martha felt in our story. She was busy, busy, busy. She was busy trying to make the visit for Jesus and His friends wonderful. She was so busy that she got frustrated and upset. While it was good to try to make the visit special, Jesus taught Martha that there was something else that was more important—spending time with Him. Mary sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to everything Jesus had to say. She didn’t want to miss time with Jesus. It’s most important for all of us to **make time for Jesus first.**”

## 2. Upside Down Hearts

### *Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Plastic cups, (20 per cart), Heart sticker (3 per cart)

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

- Scatter all the cups upside down.
- Tell the kids that you’ve hidden a heart on the bottom of one of the cups.
- Instruct the kids to take turns flipping over one cup at a time, looking for the heart.
- When a kid finds the cup with the heart sticker, ask that kid to name one way they can show love to someone this week, especially someone who might be hard to love. (e.g., “I can share with my brother even when I don’t want to,” “I can say something nice to the kid who was mean to me.”)
- Hide the heart again, turn the cups over, and play another round.
- **Say:** “Loving your enemies is so hard, but God hasn’t left you to do it alone! When you become a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit will help you. Ask for His help! And then, do what you can do to show God’s love. Choose kindness instead of getting back at someone. It takes true humility to put others first and **love like Jesus even when it’s hard.**”

## 3. Quiet Line Up

### *Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Bibles

#### **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
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Tell the kids you have a challenge for them. They have to line up in different ways, but they have to do it without talking! They can only use hand signals and gestures.
- Give them the first challenge: “Line up from shortest to tallest, without talking!”
- Give them the next challenge: “Line up in alphabetical order by your first name, without talking!”

- Give them one more: “Line up in order of your birthdays, from January to December, without talking!” (You may need to help with this one.)
- Once they are in their final line, open a Bible and read the verse, Philippians 2:3, to the group.
- Say the Memory Verse together as a group.

## **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 and wanting to spend time with us. Help us to be like Mary and choose to listen to You and spend time with You. Help us to find quiet moments every day this week to **make time for Jesus first**. 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.