

CITY SG – March 7th- 8th, 2026

Bible Story: A Roman Commander Has Faith • *Matthew 8:5-13*

Bottom Line: Remember God is most important.

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 Nlrv*

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: No supplies

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a “Disciple Decoder” Activity Page and something to write with.
- Explain to the kids that you are going to be the leader, and they need to copy your rhythm.
- Start a simple pattern, like patting your knees twice and then clapping once. (*pat, pat, clap*)
- Encourage the whole group to do the rhythm with you several times.
- Then, point to one kid to be the new leader. Encourage them to make up a new, simple pattern.
- Instruct the rest of the group to copy the new leader’s pattern.
- Give every kid who wants a turn a chance to be the leader.

- **Say:** “In our true story from the Bible today, we’re going to meet a Roman commander, a leader of many soldiers, but he knew who the most important leader of all was—the One with the most authority.”

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Puppet Show Retell

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Four prepared craft-stick puppets from the “Puppet Show” Activity Page (1 set per cart)

What You Do:

- Give the puppets to different kids.
- Tell the story of the Roman commander again and instruct the kids to act it out with the puppets.
- Use simple prompts:
 - “The commander came to Jesus in the town of Capernaum.”
 - “The commander was sad because his servant was suffering terribly. Can the sick person puppet lie down on the blanket?”
 - “The commander had strong faith. He said, ‘*Just say the word, and my servant will be healed*’” (*Matthew 8:8 Nlrv*).
 - “And Jesus did! The servant was healed at that very moment!” (*Direct the sick puppet to jump up.*)
- As time allows, switch the puppets and tell the story again so more kids get a turn.

- **Say:** “The Roman commander knew that Jesus was way more than a humble Jewish teacher. The commander knew that Jesus is most important. Everything answers to Him. And Jesus helped right away! Jesus was amazed by the commander’s faith. The Roman commander showed us that we should always **remember God is most important.**”

2. Application Roll

Application Activity

What You Need: Large die (1-2 per cart)

What You Do:

- Explain that the kids will take turns rolling the die. The number they roll will match a question you ask.
- Let the first kid roll the die. If they roll a 3, ask them question #3 from the list.
- Continue rolling the die and asking questions until everyone who wants a turn has had one.

Application Questions:

1. Name one person who is important to you.
 2. Name one thing that is important in our room.
 3. Who made the whole world? *(God!)*
 4. Who is more powerful than a superhero? *(God/Jesus!)*
 5. Who is a very important person in the world?
 6. Who is the most important person in the whole universe? *(God/Jesus!)*
- **Say:** “Let’s remember what the Roman commander knew—God is more important and more powerful than anything. God is in charge! If there is something that you’re scared of at nighttime, you can ask God for help. If there is something bothering you at school, ask God for His help. If you are having a hard time with a friend, ask God for help. God is the King of everything! **Remember God is most important.**”

3. Memory Verse Roll

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: a soft ball

- 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.* • Philipians 2:3
- 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.

***For younger kids, you may need to break the verse down into sections, and just practice on section at a 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.

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 all my friends. Thank You for being bigger and more important than anything. Help us to remember that You have all the authority over everything and that we can trust You no matter what. 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 that God is important.