

# CITY SG – July 11<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** The Parable of the Bags of Gold • *Matthew 25:14-30 NIV*

**Bottom Line:** God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

## PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

**What You Need:** Summer activity sheet (1 per kid)

### **What You Do:**

- Great each kid by name and with a high five as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Set out the summer fun sheets
- Ask kids about their Summer while they complete the activity sheets.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### **1. Add to the Story**

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** Bible, Play-Doh<sup>®</sup> (one can per kid per bin), Paper plates (one per kid)

### **What You Do:**

- Open the Bible to Matthew 25:14-30 NIV, and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Give each kid a paper plate and can of Play-Doh<sup>®</sup>.
- Explain that you're going to tell the Bible Story together, and their job is to make the things from the story with Play-Doh<sup>®</sup>.
- Say: "In our story, a rich man gave his servants bags of gold to take care of while he went on a long journey. To the first servant, the rich man gave five bags of gold. Can you make five little coins with your Play-Doh<sup>®</sup>?"
- Say: "Another servant got two bags of gold. Can you make two little coins?"
- Say: "The last servant got one bag of gold. He dug a hole and hid it! Can you make a little hole and hide one coin?"
- Say: "The first servant who had five bags of gold used his gold and made more! Can you make five more coins to put with those first five coins you made?"
- Say: "The second servant who had two bags of gold used his gold and made more! Can you make two more coins to put with those first two coins you made?"
- Let the kids show you their creations at each step.
- Say: "When the rich man, who is also called the master, came back from his long journey, he was so happy that the two servants had used what he had given them and made more gold! But he was very sad about the one servant who hid his one bag of gold. The master took that bag of gold from that servant and gave it to the first servant who had made five more bags of gold."

**Say:** “God has given us all amazing gifts—like our talents, our time, and our smiles—and He is so happy when we use them! And He will do great kingdom things when we use them! **God’s kingdom grows when you use what He’s given you.**”

## 2. Do the Wave

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Show them how to do “the wave.” Start by standing and raising your arms up high, then have the person next to you do it, and so on around the circle.
- Practice doing the wave a few times.
- After the kids get the hang of it, ask some questions while you do the wave.
  - *(Do the wave.)* “How can you use your hands to help at home?”
  - *(Do the wave.)* “How can you use your smile to be kind at school?”
  - *(Do the wave.)* “How can you use your feet to go play with someone who is lonely?”

**Say:** “When you do your part, the wave just keeps growing and going all the way around the room. It’s like that when we use what God has given us. When you use your hands to help, or your smile to be kind, that goodness can spread to other people!”

## 3. Memory Verse Roll

*Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** a soft ball (one per group)

### 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.
  - *God’s kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17*
- Give one kid the ball.
- 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.

**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 teaching us what’s right. Please help our hearts be like the good soil, ready to listen to You. Help us to hear You and do what You say. 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 for a PRIZE!
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**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to say a gift that can use for Jesus.