

## CITY LG – September 26<sup>th</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** The Vine and the Branches • *John 15:1-11*

**Bottom Line:** I can grow when I stay close to God.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me.* • John 10:27 NIV

### WORSHIP

My God

Nothing is Impossible

#### SLIDE: Theme

Hi, friends!!! I'm so happy to see you today! We're continuing our series we've been in this month: 'Frequency—Learning to Hear from God.'

I have a question for you: Have you ever tried really, really hard to listen to something? Maybe you were trying to hear your mom's voice in a loud store. Or maybe you were trying to hear your name when someone called you. Or maybe you were trying to hear your favorite song playing quietly somewhere. There are so many things we hear all day every day!

This month our theme is called 'Frequency.' That's a big word! Well, *frequency* is how you find the right signal. Frequency means tuning in so you can hear clearly.

All month long, in this series called 'Frequency,' we're learning how we can tune in and hear from God! God talks to us because He loves us. He wants us to stay close to Him so we can hear His voice and follow Him. It's going to be great! But now it's time for a game! It's called 'Stay Connected!' Let's play!

#### GAME SLIDE: Stay Connected! Title

Here's how we play. You are going to work with your small group. In your group, when I give you instructions on what to do, you must stay physically connected the whole time. That means holding hands, linking elbows, but you cannot let go! If your group breaks apart, you sit down. Let's get into our groups!

Let's get started! Everyone, connect! Grab hands or link arms! Make sure nobody is left out. We stay connected!"

#### AUDIO: Upbeat Music

First challenge ... JUMP! All together! No one break loose! Let me see you now jump five times together! Now ten! Don't let go! Keep holding on! Whew! That was a lot of jumping! Great job! Let's keep going.

Next ... SPIN!

I see some dizzy friends! Stay connected!

Next challenge ... SIT DOWN!

Okay ... now a fun one. Let me see your best dance move! I see those dances! We have got a coordinated group dance over here!

Wow! That was so much fun! Great job! You can all take a seat.

Friends, just like we had to stay connected to each other in the game, we need to stay connected to God. When we stay close to Him, He helps us grow strong. He helps us listen. He helps us follow Him.

Let's check out this month's memory verse. In this verse, Jesus says, *'My sheep listen to my voice.'* That means we can learn to listen to Him. We listen when we read the Bible. We listen when we pray. We listen when someone teaches us about Him.

Then He says, *'I know them.'* Think about that. Jesus knows you. He knows your name. He knows your thoughts. He knows your heart. You are not forgotten.

And then He says, *'and they follow me.'* When sheep hear their shepherd, they walk behind him. When we hear Jesus and trust Him, we follow Him.

#### **SLIDE: Memory Verse**

*"My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me" (John 10:27 NIV).*

To get started with our Bible Story today, I have a question. You can answer it with a show of hands. Have you ever tried to grow taller? Like really tried?

Let's try it. Stretch up as tall as you can. Reach for the ceiling. Stand on your tippy toes. Think really hard: 'Grow! Grow! Grow!'

Did it work? No! You can't grow taller just by trying really hard.

Your body grows when it gets what it needs. And it needs food, sleep, and time. We don't grow by trying harder. We grow when we stay close to what gives us life.

And that's true about our hearts too. Just like you can't stretch yourself taller, you can't grow love and kindness and the things of Jesus in your heart all by yourself. You grow when you stay close to Jesus. And today, we're going to hear how Jesus explained that.

#### **VIDEO: Bible Story**

Jesus wanted His friends to understand something simple but powerful. He is the vine. We are the branches. We need the vine. Not just sometimes. Not just when we feel like it. We need Jesus every day. Without staying joined to Him, we slowly dry up inside. We can't grow the good fruit God made us to grow.

That's exactly what our Bottom Line for today says!

**SLIDE: Bottom Line** I can grow when I stay close to God.

Jesus told us that life is a constant flow as we, the branches, stay connected to Him, the vine. But how do we practice staying connected to Jesus all of the time so His goodness keeps flowing into us?

Well, first, remember that Jesus is with you all of the time. When you decided to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit, His very Spirit, came to live inside of you. So Jesus is with you every second of every day! So turn your heart to Him regularly, throughout the day, to remember He is with you. Because He is!

In any situation, you can talk to Jesus and say, 'Okay, Jesus, I know You are with me. Guide me and lead me right now.' Another way you can remember God is with you is by reading the Bible to get focused on what is real and true. You can spend time reading the Bible with a grown up. Or even listening to it on a Bible app! Reading the Bible will help you stay close and connected to Jesus.

So this week, remember this truth: **I can grow when I stay close to God.** When you wake up, you can pray, 'Jesus, help me stay close to You today.' When you're at school, you can remember He is with you. When you feel upset, you can ask Him for help. You don't have to grow alone. The vine is strong. Jesus is always ready to give you life. Let's talk to the God who wants us to stay close to Him!

Jesus, thank You that we don't have to try really hard to grow all by ourselves. Thank You that just like our bodies grow when they get what they need, our hearts grow when we stay close to You. Sometimes we try to be kinder or more patient on our own, and it doesn't always work. We need You. We want to stay connected to You every day. Help us remember that You are the one who gives us love, joy, and strength. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

**CHECK THE TIME: There should be 25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part and just have kids bring up their money.**

## **OFFERING**

In Parkview Kids, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. This year we are collecting our offering money to help kids all the way on the other side of the world in a country in Africa called Malawi. Did you know that in this area many communities don't have access to clean water? \

**Slides: 1-4**

We are helping a ministry called E3 which helps put in freshwater wells. Having a well with clean water right in their village means women and children don't have to travel far away to other villages to get clean water, and they don't have to walk with heavy containers of water. Help us raise money to provide wells in the communities in Malawi. We want you to go home and ask what YOU can do to raise money for these families in Africa!