CITY SG – November 28th- 29, 2026

Bible Story: God's Plan to Send Jesus • John 1:1-5,14; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 7:14-15
Bottom Line: We can thank God for giving us hope.
Monthly Memory Verse: *Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows.* • James 1:17 NIrV

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Advent Activity Sheets (1 per kid)

What You Do:
- Welcome kids by name with a high-five, fist bump, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Give each kid a Advent activity sheet to complete.
- Say, "It's the beginning of Advent. Just like waiting for your birthday or opening presents, Advent is a time of happy waiting. Instead of rushing straight to Christmas morning, we take four weeks to get your heart ready and think about why Christmas is so special."
- Ask kids what they are excited for this Christmas season while they work!

Say: "Christmas is all about the hope we have because of the birth of Jesus. Today we will hear about how God gives us hope that is strong and sure because God's hope comes through Jesus"

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Hope Tower Challenge
Bible Story Review

What You Need: "Hope Tower Challenge" Activity Page (one set per small group), Plastic cups (20 per group)

What You Do:
- Split the kids into two teams.
- Say: "I will ask you some questions and the first team to answer correctly earns a cup. There may be a few silly challenges in the stack of questions as well. Doing the silly challenge will also earn your team a cup. The goal is to earn enough cups to build a great tower, taller than the other team."
- After all questions are answered, the teams will compete to see who can build the tallest tower.
- *Optional: Have the teams work together to build one big tower of hope.*

Say: "God promised a baby would be born—a child who would grow up to rescue and rule forever. And that baby would be born in a very real, specific place: the little town of Bethlehem. Jesus lived a perfect life and then gave up His life to rescue you and me and every single person ever who chooses Him. God gave us hope that we can count on every time. And that hope has a name: Jesus."

2. HOPE Ornament
Application Activity

What You Need: Hope ornament (one per kid), strings, markers, gems

What You Do:
- Say: “The hope God gives us is a gift. God sent Jesus because He loves us, not because we could earn it. God promised His people that a Rescuer would come. He promised Immanuel, God with us. He promised a forever King. He even promised that the Savior would be born in Bethlehem. Then God kept every promise by sending Jesus. So when life feels hard, we can remember that God has already given us the greatest gift: hope through Jesus”
- Give each kid a HOPE ornament.
  Have them use the markers and gems to decorate it.
- Help them add a string to the top.
- Encourage the kids to hang this on their tree or somewhere where they will see it to remind them of the HOPE we have from Jesus.

3. Memory Verse Pass
Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, and a ball

What You Do:
- Instruct the kids to join you sitting in a circle.
- Review the memory verse, “*Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows.* • James 1:17
- Use the ball to practice the Memory Verse with your group.
- Explain that you will begin with the first word of James 1:17 and then pass the ball to another kid in the circle to repeat the second word.
- Continue this rotation until the verse is complete. Repeat the verse several times or until every kid gets a turn to say a word. Try having the kids toss the ball across as they play.
  If the kids are having trouble with the long verse, do sections of the verse at a time.

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 giving us hope! We know that the ultimate hope is in Jesus, and we thank You for that great gift. Help us to always remember that we are loved by You and that we can thank You for giving us hope. 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!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, have them show them their ornament, and remind them that **we can thank God for giving us hope.**