

# City LG – July 6-7, 2019

**Bible Story:** Back 2 Good (Every Good and Perfect Gift) • *James 1:17a*

**Bottom Line:** Show God's goodness to others.

**Memory Verse:** *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6, NIV

**CG: Countdown Video**

**WORSHIP: "Dance" and "Give My All"**

*(Worship Leader prays)*

**WELCOME:**

**Supplies Needed: Bible, and 4 Gift Boxes with 4 Gifts in them (per Campus)**

"Hi, everyone! How many of you are getting excited about SummerJam? It's almost time! If you haven't signed up yet, you still can today at our SummerJam tents! Here's a video about all the fun you can have. Watch this!"

**CG: SummerJam Promo Video**

"SummerJam looks amazing! Be sure to sign up today, if you haven't already! Ok City, I've got a quick question for you. How many of you have a brother? Raise your hand if you've got a brother. Okay, you can put your hands down.

"Jesus had a brother named James. James was one of the people who helped start the very first churches ever. After all, he believed that His brother Jesus was the Son of God!

"Here's what James had to say in a letter that we can find in our Bible today. We call it the book of James. Listen to this.

*Open the Bible to James 1:17a (NIV) and read.*

*"Every good and perfect gift is from God.*

"James knew that every good thing and every gift we have comes from God!"

"When James talked about the gifts we receive, he wasn't just talking about the kind of gifts that are wrapped in pretty paper with big, shiny bows. He was saying that ALL of the good things we have in life are gifts from God.

"I thought it might be fun if we opened some gifts here today! Can I get a volunteer to come up and open this first gift for me?"

*Choose a child to open gift one and then go back to her seat.*

“Okay, great! This first gift is a house. Did you know that the house or apartment or condo where you stay is a gift from God? That’s right! God knew you needed a place to stay and a shelter over your head from the rain and storms, so He gave you the gift of a home to live in.

“Can I get a volunteer to come up and open this next present for me?”

*Choose a child to open gift two and then go back to his seat.*

“A cheeseburger? What in the world? Oh, wait! I get it! This one is about food. How many of you love cheeseburgers? *(Pause for responses.)* How many of you love Brussels sprouts? *(Pause for responses.)* Yep! I thought I’d get that sort of response on that one. Another one of the good gifts that God gives us is food! It may not always be our favorite food or the food we really hoped for, but God gives us food to eat so our bodies can grow and be healthy.”

“Those gifts we just opened represented things that we need. We know God gives us good things that we need to live, like food and shelter. But what about those things that we don’t exactly NEED, but we really WANT? Does God give us good gifts that we want?”

“I’m really having fun opening all these good gifts. Are you? *(Pause for responses.)* Yeah! This is fun. Before we open another gift, let’s take a look at this week’s Bible Story Video. Watch this!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 10:30)**

Let’s open another one. Can I get another volunteer?

*Choose a child to open gift three and then go back to his seat.*

“It’s a soccer ball! God gives us soccer, baseball, cheerleading, playing in the park, dancing, music, and so many other great activities. He lets us have FUN doing things we like to do. I’m so glad that He doesn’t just give us what we need; He also gives us things we enjoy—things that make life so good!”

*(Looking around)* “Well, I guess that’s all the gifts we have, right? I mean, I don’t see any more gifts we could open. Do you?”

*Keep looking around everywhere, except for the really obvious spot where the last gift is sitting.*

“Wait. Do you all see any other gifts? *(Pause for response.)* You do? Where?”

*Look in the opposite direction of where the kids are pointing. Keep this going for a little while, for humor’s sake. Then locate the gift and bring it to the center of the stage.*

“Look what I found—another present! You all really should have seen this one and told me about it. Okay, let’s have one more volunteer come up and help me open this last gift.

*Choose a child to open gift four and then go back to her seat.*

“Oh, wow! Yeah, this one is really special. This one might be my very favorite gift of all. Can anyone tell me what this is? (*Hold up the mirror and wait for responses.*) That’s right. This is a mirror. And a mirror has one very important job: to reflect things.

“Did you know that we can be kind of like mirrors? For real—we can! We can reflect something to other people. We can reflect God’s goodness.

“When we love others and show kindness to them, it’s like we’re a mirror. We’re reflecting the goodness of God to the world around us—so they can see how good He is. When we reflect the goodness of God to other people, WE get to be one of the good gifts that God gives to THEM! Isn’t that amazing?”

“God gives us so many good and wonderful gifts. We always want to remember that all those good things come from Him. But it doesn’t stop there!

“We also want to help others experience God’s good and perfect gifts. You and I can share God’s goodness when we’re kind and loving to other people.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

“Let’s do everything we can to **[Bottom Line] show God’s goodness to others.**

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us with that.”

**Pray:** “Dear God, thank You for giving us so many good gifts. You’ve given us the gift of life, the gift of a place to stay and food to eat, the gift of family and friends, and the gift of fun activities that we love to do. If we tried to write down all of the gifts You give us every day, we’d totally run out of paper! Thank You for loving us so well. Please help us to reflect Your goodness to others, so they can see how good You are, too. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“I love that verse that Jesus’ brother James wrote. Let’s listen to it again.

*Open the Bible to James 1:17 (NIV) and read.*

*“Every good and perfect gift is from God.*

“That’s so true! EVERYTHING in our lives that’s good is a gift from God. And here’s the coolest part of all. The very best and most perfect gift that God ever gave us was His Son, Jesus! When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price for our sins. Jesus conquered death when He came alive again. He made a way for us to have a relationship with Him that will last forever!

“So, what do we do with the good things God has given us? We share them! We can share our talents—the things we’re really good at. We can share love. And we can share the good news about Jesus! We can **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated.** When we **[Bottom Line] show God’s goodness to others,** they can see how good God is, too.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

‘Remember, **[Bottom Line] show God’s goodness to others.**

"We can do it with God's help! His Holy Spirit can give us the power we need to share His goodness with the people around us.

"Now it's time for you to head to Small Group and talk some more about God's goodness. Before we head there though, let's worship God with our offering Have fun!"

**Offering Time:**

"Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else's life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called 'Missions of Hope' to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God's love for them."

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

***Homer Glen: Victor***

***New Lenox: Daniel***

***Orland Park: Michael and Valerie***

***CG: Picture of Child***

"(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya and is part of a really great place called Mission of Hope International! Here's a picture of Missions of Hope!"

***CG: Missions of Hope JPEG***

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while our Offering Video plays! (*show offering container*)."

***CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 3:00)***

*Dismiss to Small Groups*