

CITY LG – February 12th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: All About Love (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-47*

Today's Bottom Line: Show respect even when you don't get along.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Do to others as you want them to do to you.* Luke 6:31 (*NirV*)

WORSHIP:

Chasing Me

Believe It

Have kids get into their small groups Before you start Large Groups

"Hello, hello! We're here for another AMAZING day in the City!"

"Did you know that you're important? It's true. I'm talking to YOU! Each person is important and valuable, because each person is made in the image of God. We can show other people that they're important by treating them with respect. I want you to circle up in your small groups and discuss the answers to a question together. **The question is: How can you show someone they are important?** I want you to talk about this as a group.

Give the groups about a minute to discuss. Walk around and help them with some of the suggestions above if they are struggling with answer.

"Ok, what is one thing your group came up with as a way you can show someone they are important? (*call on groups to tell you one of their answers*)

SLIDE: Virtue

"Respect is showing others they are important by what you say and do.

SLIDE: Theme

Today, I've got a great story that comes from the book of Matthew, which is the first book in the New Testament. (*Hold up Bible.*)

As we look back at God's Big Story, we've seen how God created the world. We've seen how the world was broken when people turned away from God. We've seen how God made things right by sending Jesus to be born into the world.

"When Jesus grew up, He began traveling from town to town, teaching and healing people. Crowds of people followed Jesus because no one had ever seen or heard anyone like Him! One day, Jesus sat on a hillside in Galilee to teach His disciples. Check this out....

Lesson Video

"It isn't easy to show love when someone hasn't shown love to you. But with God's help, we can speak kind words. We can choose our actions carefully so that we still show respect. And like Jesus said, we can PRAY for the person who's been mean to us. We can ask God to help us show love instead of trying to get even.

"Remember, we are ALL made in God's image. The person who you're not getting along with is made in God's image, too. When we show respect and do good things for people who don't treat us well, we're actually showing the world what God is like.

"So let's do this.

Bottom Line Video

SLIDE: Bottom Line

“Show respect even when you don’t get along.

“I know we need God’s help to do that. Let’s pray and talk to God about that now.”

SLIDE: Theme Background

PRAY

“God, thank You for always loving us. We know that we mess up sometimes and we forget to treat other people with love and kindness. Sometimes people mess up with the way they treat US. Help us love people like You do. Show us how we can respond with love and respect even when someone has been mean or unkind to us. Fill us with Your love for the people in our lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“I know this can be really difficult, but we don’t have to do it alone! God is always there to help us respond with love. And when we follow Jesus, we have God’s Holy Spirit living inside us. God’s Spirit can help us show kindness and respect, even when it’s difficult.

“Here’s something I want to make sure you understand, though. You should still speak up for yourself if someone is saying mean things or treating you badly. It’s important to ask people to treat you with respect, too. You can always talk to an adult and ask for help if you’re not sure what to do.

“But remember to do everything you can to respond with kindness, patience, and love. That way, you can show that you value the person you’re talking to. It’s like our memory verse says this month...

Memory Verse Slide

Do to others as you want them to do to you. Luke 6:31 (NirV)

“This is such a big idea that I know you’ll have a lot to talk about in Small Group. But before we do that. It’s offering Time!

OFFERING:

We are giving our offering to our friends in Mexico through an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries. Unfortunately, many families in Mexico don’t have enough money for food or education.

Vida Nueva Ministries is dedicated to overcoming poverty through education. Here is a picture of one of their amazing teachers.

SLIDE: Teacher in Classroom

Vida Nueva has built an entire set of schools in the city of Piedras Negras, where kids of all backgrounds can come and learn. They also receive meals and hear about Jesus. Isn’t that great? So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!

“Great job! I sure have enjoyed hanging out with all of you today. Have fun in Small Group!”