

## CITY LG – February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** God Is God (A Roman Commander Has Faith) • *Matthew 8:5-13*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Remember God is most important.

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

### **Worship:**

Chasing Me

Believe It

### **SLIDE: Theme**

"Hi, everybody! It's another fantastic day in the City! We've had a lot of fun this month as we've learned about respect.

### **SLIDE: Virtue**

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

### **SLIDE: Theme**

"Every person we ever meet is made in the image of God. We should show respect, because each person is special and important! I know it makes ME feel special and important when someone treats me with respect. So if I show respect, that's a great way that I can treat others the way I want to be treated.

"We've got a fun game to play that's all about respecting the rules of the road. This is an epic, extra special, extremely original version of a game called 'Red Light, Green Light!'

"When I say, 'Green light,' you can move around the room. When I say, 'Red light,' you have to freeze. Easy enough, right? Here's the twist. While you're moving, I'll call out other words like 'helicopter' or 'bicycle.' Whatever I call out, that's what you are . . . until I call out something different. So, you'll need to move around and make sounds like that kind of vehicle—whatever it is!

"This will be fun! Everyone, up on your feet!

"Remember to respect your fellow drivers as we play, okay? Here we go! Green light!

### **AUDIO: Fun instrumental music**

*Play the game, alternating between "red light" and "green light."*

*During each session of "green light," call out one or two different things for the kids to switch to ("Now you're a . . . car, bicycle, semi-truck, airplane, skateboard, helicopter, school bus, roller skates, motorcycle, monster truck, electric car, etc.")*

### **SLIDE: Theme Background**

“Well, we’ve come a long way in God’s Big Story, haven’t we? We saw how God created the world and everything in it, including people. We saw how people turned away from God . . . but God had a plan to bless the whole world through Abraham’s family. We saw how, when the time was right, God sent Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

“When Jesus grew up, He traveled to many different places with His followers. Jesus taught people about God, and He did all kinds of miracles. There was one town, called Capernaum, that was kind of like Jesus’ home base. Everyone in Capernaum knew about Jesus—not just people who were Jewish like Jesus, but also the Romans who ruled over the Jewish people at that time.

“One day, Jesus entered the town of Capernaum, and He met a Roman army commander. Let’s check out what happens in our Story Lab!

### **Lesson Video**

“As we think about this story, we can see how the commander had great faith in Jesus. He believed that Jesus had the power to heal. He knew that Jesus was very important, and he had respect for Jesus’ authority. Sure enough, Jesus did what the commander asked and healed the servant who was sick.

“This story helps us remember that we should show respect to God. Like the commander did, we should put God first in everything we do. Like this. . .

### **Bottom Line**

### **SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**“Remember God is most important.**

“It’s really amazing that God created the whole universe, and yet we can still talk to God and KNOW God personally. Let’s pray and thank God for that now.”

### **PRAY**

“God, thank You for being all-powerful and all-loving. Thank You for being in control, even when things in our lives sometimes feel out of control. We know that we can trust You no matter what! Please give us great faith like the Roman commander had in the story. Show each of us how important You are, and help us see how much You love us. Thank You for taking care of us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“One of the best ways we can show respect to God is by spending TIME with God. Our lives can get busy and really full. Whether it’s with school or church, sports or activities, or time spent with your family or neighbors, there are so many ways to spend our time. And all of those things are good things. But it’s important to remember that our relationship with God is the MOST important of all. We can show respect to God by not letting all those other things crowd out our time that we spend with God.

“We can spend time praying—which is really just talking to God. We might pray before dinner, or maybe at bedtime, or here at [your environment’s name]. But remember, we can talk to God on our own—anytime, anywhere. We can talk to God about anything that’s on our minds.

“We can also show respect to God by living the way Jesus taught us to—by loving others the way God loves us.

“Let’s talk in Small Group about some other ways we can remember that God is most important. Bit before that...let’s have our offering time!”

**OFFERING:**

As some of you may already know, we are highlighting some of our Parkview Global Missionaries from the beautiful country of Mexico. Here is a picture of our Missionary Friends Eli and Mandy Garcia!

**CG: Eli and Mandy**

Parkview has spent many years developing a very important partnership with an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries in Mexico. This group has been working in many of the under-resourced areas to plant churches, start schools, and care for the amazing people of Mexico. Here’s a picture of some of the kids at the school down in Mexico.

**SLIDE: Kids at School (Image 6620)**

So if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now knowing that it is going to help a lot of people just like you in the great country of Mexico!

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