

CITY SG _ February 26th, 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*)

1. Guess Who?

Bible Story Review

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to form a circle facing inward.
- Choose a kid to stand in the middle.
- Instruct the kid standing in the middle to close their eyes.
- Once their eyes are closed, silently choose a commander.
- Instruct the commander to perform continual gestures and change gestures silently as often as they'd like.
 - Some suggestions include patting your head, rubbing your tummy, jumping up and down on one leg, high-fiving your neighbors, blinking, stroking your chin, clapping, running in place, etc.
- Direct the group to discretely imitate the commander's gestures.
- Once the commander begins the gesture, instruct the kid in the middle to open their eyes.
- As the commander leads the group in gestures, allow the guesser three chances to identify the commander.
- Choose a new commander a new kid to guess for each new round.
- Play multiple rounds.

What You Say:

"The Roman commander knew his soldiers respected him. When he told his soldiers to do something, they listened and did what they were told. In this game, you had to guess the real Roman commander. But the fact is we don't need to guess who is really in charge of our lives—God is! The Roman commander also knew that God was ultimately in charge of everything and that Jesus, who is God's Son, had the power to heal his servant without even seeing him.

"When we, like the Roman commander, learn more about who God is and what God did for us through Jesus, we too will recognize that God deserves the ultimate respect more than anyone else. When we **[Bottom Line]** remember God is most important, we can help others know God, too."

2. Creation Murals

Bible Story Application

What You Need: Large pieces of paper (3 per group) and markers

What You Do:

- Divide your group into three teams.
- Give each team a large piece of paper and markers.
- Ask the teams to draw a mural of things that show us who God is. Some suggestions:
 - Sun, moon, animals, people, time, seasons, weather, etc.
 - Family, love, laughter, fun etc. (Let kids get creative in how they show those things.)
- When finished, ask the teams to share their murals and explain why they drew what they drew.

What You Say:

“What are some of the things you included in your murals? (*Pause for responses.*) There are some great things on here that make me so happy. God invented all of the good things we love! When you see something you love, remember that God invented it. Out of love, God gave us all the things that make our lives fun and good. We respect God because God created us, loves us, sent Jesus for us, and gives us all the good things in our lives.

“What are some things we can do to show that God deserves our respect and attention? (*read the Bible, obey Him, thank Him, be kind to people because everyone is made in His image, take care of people, treat others well, etc.*) **[Bottom Line] Remember God is most important.**”

3. Fill in the Blanks

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: White board and dry erase marker (one per group), Bible

What You Do:

- Draw twelve blanks on the white board for every word in the memory verse, including the reference, Luke 6:31.
- Open your Bible to Luke 6:31.
- One at a time, call out a word of the verse in random order.
- Choose a kid to write that word on the board or paper in the correct spot within the verse.
- **NON READER OPTION:** If you have a younger group that can't spell the words, ask them to point to where the word goes and write it in the blank for them.
- Direct the rest of the group to recite the verse through the blank spot to help the kid figure out which blank the given word goes in. (Let the kid who's writing take a peek at the verse in the Bible if needed.)
- Continue until the verse is complete.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“This verse is worth repeating over and over again to remind us that we should treat others the way we want to be treated. This means that if we want to see respect shown to us, we need to show the same respect to others. This week I want you to **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important** and therefore worthy of our highest respect.”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Big paper from “Creation Murals” activity

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to circle up.
- Place the murals of God's creations in the center so the kids can see them.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, You are awesome! You created (*list some of the ideas on the murals*). You created everything, and You watch over everything—including us. You're the wisest and the greatest. Help us to **[Bottom Line] remember God is most important**. Guide our actions and our words so we show everyone how much we respect You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.”