

Alley SG - November 3-4, 2018

Bible Story: Come Together (Building the Tabernacle) • *Exodus 25:8-9; 28:1,3; 31:1-11; 35:21, 25, 34; 39:42-43 (Exodus 19, 25)*

Bottom Line: God wants us to work together.

Key Question: Why would God want us to work together?

Memory Verse: Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Index Cards (3 per student), pens

What You Do:

- **Give** kids a few index cards and pens.
- **Ask** kids to write on the index cards one activity they did to get ready to come to church today.
 - For example: brush teeth, get dressed, eat breakfast, etc.
- **Let** kids share their examples with the group and work together to place the cards in chronological order, creating a timeline.
- If necessary, **create** additional index cards to fill in the gaps in the timeline.
- **Select** one of the activities on the timeline.
- As a group, **brainstorm** the group of people necessary for making the activity happen.
 - For example, where did you get the food for breakfast: someone bought the food, the employees at the store or market sold the food to your parents, the farmers grew the food, etc.
- **Encourage** kids to write on the index cards who worked together to accomplish the activity.
- If time allows, **repeat** creating lists of people for several of the activities in the timeline.
- **Emphasize** that people work together more than we realize.
- **Discuss:**
 - What if you didn't have a group of people and you had to do everything yourself?
 - What would it look like to get food for breakfast? Or what would you have to do to get clothes to wear?
 - What are some benefits of working together?

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Large Cardstock (one per group, per service), permanent markers (one per student), Bibles

What You Do:

- **Place** the cardstock on a flat surface.
- On the paper, **write** the heading, “TABERNACLE.”
- **Ask:**
 - What is a tabernacle? *(A huge portable tent that could be taken down and set up as the Israelites moved from place to place)*
 - Why was the tabernacle built? *(Exodus 25:8—So God could come and live with them; it was a place set apart for God to meet with His people.)*
- **Explain** that information about the tabernacle is found in the book of Exodus.
- **Write** Exodus 31:1-11 and Exodus 35:21, 25, 34 under “Tabernacle” on the paper.
- **Encourage** kids to work together to look up the Bible verses and identify the people and skills required to build the tabernacle.

As they identify people and skills, **instruct** them to write their answers on the paper under the “Tabernacle” heading. Potential answers could include:

- Exodus 31:1-11 *(Bezalel, Oholiab, designers, stonecutters, wood workers, seamstresses, priests)*
- Exodus 35:21 *(people to pay for the supplies and the construction)*
- Exodus 35:25 *(weavers)*
- Exodus 35:34 *(teachers)*
- **Review** the list kids created.
- **Emphasize** that God asked the Israelites to build the tabernacle, and it took a lot of people working together to complete it.
- **Ask:**
 - Why do you think it took so many people to build the tabernacle? *(It was a big job; one person couldn't have had all the skills needed to complete it, so everyone felt a part of the community—the tabernacle was for all the Israelites)*
 - As part of the church, why do you think God wants us to work together?
 - What about our time together today? Who worked together to provide us with our time together? *(Be sure to include the people who are working behind the scenes, e.g. the people who clean the environment, people who decorate the room, people who give money to the church for the programs, etc.)*

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Why does God want us to work together?
- What could happen if we don't work together?
- What are some reasons that keep us from working with others? (*We want the praise, we don't value others input, they can't do it as well as we could, it is faster if I just do it alone, etc.*)
- What are some reasons why we should work with others? (*God asks us to, we should treat others the way we want to be treated, God gave us unique skills so we could work together just like in our story today when the Israelites were building the tabernacle, etc.*)
- Can you think of a time in history when a group of people worked together to show the world God's love?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, balloons (one per student), permanent markers (one per student)

What You Do:

- **Pass** out Bibles.
- **Encourage** kids to work together to find the monthly memory verse, Ecclesiastes 4:9.
- **Read** the verse together.
- **Give** each kid a balloon and have them blow it up and tie it.
- **Ask:**
 - What about our time together today? Who worked together to put together the Large Group time and our activities in Small Group for us today?
- As kids give answers, **instruct** them to write one answer on the balloon.
 - Each balloon should represent a person necessary to create today's program.
 - Examples could include: Rundown Host, Small Group Leader, tech person, cleaning crew, welcome team, set-up person, etc.
- **Instruct** kids to stand up, toss their balloons in the air, and work to keep them in the air.
- Next, **give** all the balloons to one kid and **ask** him to keep all of them in the air at the same time.
- **Allow** other kids to take turns trying to keep all the balloons in the air on their own as time allows.
- When finished, **ask** kids to compare keeping the balloons in the air together versus individually.
- **Ask:**
 - Why is it better to work together?
 - What are things we do that are better when done with someone else?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Balloons from the “Verse to Take with You” Activity

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Instruct** kids to select a balloon.
- **Ask** each kid to pray a short prayer thanking God for the person on his or her balloon.
- **Encourage** them to include in their prayers why they are thankful for the person.
 - For example, if your balloon says “Worship Leader,” you might say, “Thank You, God, for our worship leader. I love singing, and she selects great songs for us each week.”
 - Or if your balloon says “cleaning crew,” you might pray, “Thank you, God, for our cleaning staff. It is so nice to come to a clean space and not have to worry about sitting in gum.”
- **Close** in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, we are so thankful for Your Word and the stories You share with us to guide how we live. We know You want us to work together, and when we do it well, it is an opportunity for us to show the world Your love. Thank You, God, for the talents and gifts You have uniquely given each of us. Please guide us to see opportunities we can work together to get Your work done. Amen.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH