

Alley SG - December 1-2, 2018

Bible Story: The Greatest Love of All (God Loves the World) • John 3:16

Bottom Line: God did something about our greatest need.

Key Question: Why do we need to be rescued?

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: “What Do People Need?” Activity Page (one per student), pens

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Give** each student a **different** “What Do People Need?” Activity Page and a pen.
- **Explain** that they will have 10 seconds to write as many things as they can think of that the person pictured on their page needs.
- **Pass** papers to the left when the time is up and let students add more needs to the list.
 - If they think of something already written on the page, they can “agree” by putting a check mark next to it.
- After the lists have made their way around the circle, **give** students a few minutes to share ways they could participate in meeting the needs of someone on one of the lists.

Wrap Up and Say:

“Some needs on your lists are small and easy to fix. Others are totally impossible for us to take care of. It’s easy to feel overwhelmed when we start thinking about all the needs in people’s lives. The good news is that God saw our greatest need—the one **ONLY** He could meet. He sent Jesus to make a way for us to be rescued from the punishment we deserve for our sin.”

2. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Why does everyone need to be rescued?
- Why can’t we rescue ourselves by being really good and going to church?
- When people say they don’t need Jesus, what are some reasons they give?
- Why is Jesus the only One who can give us eternal life?
- What gifts are you hoping to get for Christmas? Why is Jesus better than all of them?

3. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, gift bags containing cards from “1 Timothy 1:15” Activity Page (two per group)

What You Do:

- **Form** two groups.
- **Give** each team one of the prepared gift bags.
- **Share** this clue about the contents of the bag:
 - When arranged correctly, the words on the cards in the bag will form a verse about what Christmas is really about.

- **Share** this rule about the activity:
 - Teams must work like silent sleuths (no talking) to figure out the correct order of the cards.
- **Tell** teams to shout out “Merry Christmas” (or another phrase of your choosing) when they think their cards are arranged correctly.
- **Check** their work and then declare a winner if the verse is correct.
- **Ask:**
 - If you could choose one word from 1 Timothy 1:15 that describes our greatest need, what would it be? Explain your choice.
 - If you could choose a word from this verse that describes God’s provision for our greatest need, what word would it be? Explain your choice.
 - If 1 Timothy 1:15 is the truth—what should be our response? How do we show that we believe what it says?

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bible, sticky notes, pens

What You Do:

- **Offer** everyone sticky notes and pens.
 - If kids would like to write down the name of a person they know who needs to receive God’s greatest gift, Jesus, they can.
 - Or maybe they want to write down their own name.
- **Read John 3:16-17** aloud then lead students in forming a prayer around the hope and promise found in those verses.
- **Encourage** them to hold the sticky note in their hand and pray quietly for that person or hand it to you for prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank you for giving us the greatest gift. You loved us so much that you sent Your one and only Son to rescue us. You have promised that anyone who believes in You will live forever. You know each of the names written on the papers we’re holding. Please help these people that we love to know that You love them too. We pray that they will invite You to rescue and forgive them from the things that have separated them from You. We love you. Thank you for our time together. 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