

Alley SG - December 8-9, 2018

Bible Story: Someone Like You (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56*

Bottom Line: God can use anyone to meet others' needs.

Key Question: What are you willing to do to meet others' needs?

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: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask** students to imagine that they could have any skill (an actual ability—not a superpower) or possession of their choosing, but tell them not to say what it is just yet.
- **Take turns** asking one of the students “yes or no” questions in order to guess what his desired skill or possession is.
 - The group can ask up to 10 questions before guessing.
- **Take time** to discuss ways the skill or possessions could be used to meet the needs of others.

Wrap Up and Say:

“It’s a good thing we don’t have to be millionaires or rock stars in order for God to use us to meet the needs of others. God has been using ordinary people like us to do great and extraordinary things for a long time. The secret isn’t in what we have or don’t have. It’s all about how willing we are to let God use us.”

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, “Descriptions” Activity Page (one set per group), adhesive bows (one per student, per service), container (one per group)

What You Do:

- **Ask** the students to share highlights of what they remember from the talk today.
 - What did they find unique about Mary’s story?
 - In what ways was Mary just an ordinary young girl?
 - In what ways was Mary extraordinary?
- After this brief review, **give** each student an adhesive bow.
- **Ask** them to attach it to themselves anywhere on their head or face, knee, elbow, hand, or foot.
- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Set out** the container with the folded “Descriptions” cards from the Activity Page.
- **Invite** one of the students to take out a card and read it to him or herself.
 - If the word on the card *does not* describe Mary, he/she can show it to everyone and explain why he/she feels it’s not true about her.
 - If the card *does* describe Mary, instead of showing the others, the student must “write” the word in the air or on the floor using the bow on his/her body as the tip of a pen to spell the word. He/she may not talk or give hints.
 - The remaining team members must try to guess the specified word.

- When a word is guessed correctly, pause and let students share ways in which Mary displayed the characteristic written on the card.
- **Continue** until everyone has had a turn.
- **Remind** students that God used Mary, an *ordinary* girl from Nazareth, in an *extraordinary* way to bring the Savior into the world to rescue us.
- **Go deeper.** If time allows, invite the students to look up Luke 1:38 then discuss Mary's willing response to God's plan as seen in this verse. Ask:
 - When the angel first appeared to Mary, she could not have known all that God was going to do through her to meet the needs of so many people. What can you learn from the way Mary's response?
 - What are some ways you can be a servant of God and meet the needs of others?

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What are some reasons we have for not being willing to meet others' needs?
- What would help us be more willing to meet someone else's need?
- What is the greatest need at your school? What can be done?
- What are you willing to do to meet others' needs?
- Is there ever a time when you might have to say "no" to meeting someone's need? Explain why or why not.

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- **Sit** quietly for a minute or two and let students think through the things they heard about compassion in Large Group and during their Small Group time.
- **Ask** them to consider how God might be challenging them to be more willing to meet others' needs.
- If they're willing, let them **share** what came to mind as they thought back over their experiences today.
- **Read 1 Peter 4:10** and Invite them to talk to God about ways they can serve others this week.

What You Say:

"Dear God, thank You for giving us all that we need to serve You. We don't all have the same skills or ways of serving You, but each of us has opportunities to meet the needs of others in some way. Help us to be faithful servants who live out compassion for others. In Jesus' name, 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!