

Alley Rundown - January 12-13, 2018

Bible Story: Fool to Think (Slow to Anger) • *Proverbs 16:32*

Bottom Line: Think before you lose your temper.

Key Question: What can you do to keep your cool?

Memory Verse: “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life...”
(2 Peter 1:3, NIV)

CONNECT TIME: This time is meant to engage your students, or “break the ice”, and develop relationships within your time together.

GAME: “Think Twice, Jack!”

What You Need: Decks of cards (1 deck per 4 kids)

What You Do:

- **Establish** groups of four to six kids, and give each group a deck of cards.
- **Instruct** the groups to sit in a circle facing each other in your area.
- **Tell** kids they will play a version of the card game “Slap Jack,” but instead of slapping the Jacks, kids will be looking for the twos.
- **Explain** the rules of the game:
 - The dealer shuffles and deals the cards face down, dealing until all the cards have been dealt.
 - Kids place their cards in a stack face down, without looking at them.
 - The kid to the left of the dealer goes first.
 - He places the top card from his stack face up in the center of the playing area.
 - The next kid then places her top card face up on top of the previous kid’s card.
 - Play continues until someone lays down a two.
 - As soon as the two appears, everyone slaps his or her hand down on top of the card pile.
 - The first kid to slap the two wins the round and adds the pile of cards from the center of the playing area to the bottom of their stack.
 - Play begins again with the kid to the left of the successful slapper.
 - If a kid gets excited and slaps a card other than a two, he must give each kid in the group a card from his stack.
 - If a kid runs out of cards, she is *not* automatically out of the game. Instead she must watch carefully while the game continues. If she is the first one to slap when a two appears, she takes the card pile and rejoins the game.
 - The player with the most cards at the end wins.

What You Say:

“That was a fun game! You really had to think twice before you slapped the stack because you certainly didn’t want to slap anything but a two. **[Transition] Let’s get started with our talk today to hear about when it’s really important to think twice before reacting.**”

“Well, what a good-looking bunch of people we’ve got here! Good to see you all. January is already off to a great start! I hope you all had a blast at last week’s Winterpalooza. So, I’ve got a question for you to get us started today. Have you ever seen someone lose it? I don’t mean their keys or their wallet . . . I mean IT. His cool. Her temper. (*allow response*)”

“Have you ever seen someone just lose his or her cool and, to be honest . . . it was kind of funny to watch? You know who is the best at this? Toddlers. I don’t know if you have younger siblings or cousins, but nobody loses his or her cool like a toddler does. To the point that you want to give them an Oscar for their riveting performance. Kind of like this toddler. Check this out...”

CG: Temper Tantrum Video (Runtime: 1:15)

“Those empty bowls are so heavy these days! Now, before we get too far, I’m sure we could have a good laugh at some of the temper tantrum stories from the people in this room alone. The truth is that we’ve all done it, right? Just some of us maybe a little more . . . let’s say . . . DRAMATIC than others!”

“And normally, these temper tantrums make people look downright silly! So why DO this? Why do we lose our cool? Flip our lid? Fly off the handle? Why do we lose our tempers? And . . . maybe the more important question: why does it matter that we learn to keep our cool? These are important questions, and we’re going to track down the answer together. And the best place to look when we have important questions is the Bible.”

“Check out Proverbs 16:32: *‘It is better to be patient than to fight. It is better to control your temper than to take a city.’* That about clears it up, right? Okay, we’ll get into it. I promise.”

“As I was planning this week, I was thinking this about all the times during the day that I am tempted to lose my temper—times where I have a hard time being patient. I mean unexpected things that go wrong almost every day. But then I got to thinking . . . my life is a little different than yours. What about your life? Where might YOU be tempted to lose your cool? Instead of just talking about it . . . let’s take a look.”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 8:30)

“What are some areas that you have to work really hard not to lose your cool? Think about what happens throughout your day—from the time you get up to the time you go to bed. Where are your frustrations? Where do things go wrong and you are tempted to explode? And what would it look like to pause before you react and conquer your own temper? A lot of times, all it takes is taking a moment to stop, think, and pray. Having self-control can be hard, but God can help!”

“So as you go to small group today, think about this question:

CG: Key Question Slide

“**What can you do to keep your cool?** Taking time to stop, think, and pray will look different for each one of you, depending on what happens throughout the day. In Small Group, you’ll have a chance to talk about this and figure out a plan to keep your cool when the pressure’s on. But before we head there, let’s take a moment to focus our attention on Jesus.”

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: Kenyan Flag

“Offering Time is important here in the Alley, because it gives you all an opportunity to worship God by giving your money generously. Here at *(your campus)*, we give our offering to help support *(your campus child)* in Kenya. Our offering goes to show kindness to them by buying clothes, and food, and other materials they may need. We have a picture of the Kenyan Flag where *(campus child)* lives! If you brought an offering today, you may place it in our Alley Offering Bin *(point children to location of bin)*

CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG

...when the video plays. If not, that's ok too. You can bring an offering next week. The Bible tells us this about bringing our offerings to Him...”

CG: Offering Verse JPEG (Acts 20:35)

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin)

CG: Worship Experience Video (Runtime: 5:00)

NOTE: Students will stand and sing to “Unstoppable” by Kids on the Move