

Alley SG - May 11-12, 2019

Bible Story: I Won't Back Down (Paul and Silas in Prison) • Acts 16:16-40

Bottom Line: You can choose joy when life gets hard.

Key Question: Why is it worth it to keep going?

Memory Verse: Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Yarn (one small length per student, per service)

What You Do:

- **Invite** kids to put their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- **Give** kids a piece of yarn.
- **Challenge** kids to tie a knot in the yarn:
 - Without letting go of the ends
 - With a partner, each only using one hand and not letting go of the ends
 - Using only one hand
 - Behind their backs, using one hand
- *For a visual, search for “how to tie a knot with one hand” or “how to tie a knot without letting go” on your smartphones.*

What To Say:

That was pretty difficult! What do we do when things are hard? Do we give up? Ask for help? Ask GOD for help? Things will be hard, but how we respond to those things is what is most important.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Slips of paper (3 slips of paper per student), container (1 per group), pens, timer on mobile device

What You Do:

- **Give** kids three slips of paper.
- **Instruct** kids to write on each slip of paper a word or phrase they associate with joy.
 - For example: something you do that brings you joy, something you have that brings you joy, or how you show joy.
 - It is best if the words are nouns or verbs.
- **Place** the slips of paper in a container.
- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Explain** teams will compete in a guessing game, similar to the game Fishbowl.
 - There will be three rounds. “Clue Givers” have one minute to get their team to guess as many words as possible.
 - Teams score a point for each word they guess correctly.
 - After each round, teams return the clues to the container.

- *(Hint: Make sure kids are aware that the clues for each round are the same; therefore, if they make a mental note of the clues as they're given, it'll give them a leg up on the other team!)*
- The rules for clue giving for each round are:
 - Round 1: The Clue Giver draws cards and gives verbal clues to their teams; teammates guess what word is on the card. Verbal clues cannot be "sounds like" or a clue as to how to spell the word, e.g. it starts with a "G."
 - Round 2: Teams select a new Clue Giver. The Clue Giver draws cards and acts out clues for their team to guess the word on their slip of paper. Just like in charades, the Clue Giver cannot make a sound.
 - Round 3: Teams select a new Clue Giver. The Clue Giver draws cards and gives one-word clues to their teammates.
- Potential words could be: singing, dancing, smiling, laughing, puppies, sports, hiking, nature, kittens, ice cream, family, friends, jumping for joy, etc.

3. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Egg cartons (2 per group), dot stickers (24 per group, per service), ping pong balls (24 per group), timer on mobile device, pens, Bibles (campus supplies)

What You Do:

- **Read** James 1:2-4.
- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Give** each team an egg carton, 12 dot stickers and 12 ping-pong balls.
- **Tell** teams to label each sticker with a different key word from the verses they just read. (If teams end up choosing basically the same words, that's okay.)
- Then have the kids **place** the stickers into each space in the egg carton.
- **Explain** teams will get 60 seconds to bounce the ping-pong balls into the egg slots in their egg cartons. The team with the most egg slots filled wins.
- **Ask** the winning team to pick one of the stickers from their egg carton.
- As a group, **discuss** the sticker selected. Use the following questions to dig more deeply:
 - Define the word. For example: What does it mean to have your faith tested? Or to face trouble?
- If there is time, **allow** the other team to pick a sticker to discuss.

4. Discussion Questions

What You Need: *Optional:* words associated with joy from Take a Snapshot Activity

- Refer to the words associated with joy from the Take a Snapshot Activity. How could remembering what brings you joy help you keep going when things get hard? *(This is an opportunity to talk about how being thankful for what God has given us can help us to have joy in difficult circumstances.)*
- How does your attitude affect your ability to keep going even when things get hard? What does it show the world when we choose joy even in difficult circumstances?
- How have you seen someone else joyfully persevere through a really hard time? How did you feel, experiencing their attitude during their tough circumstances?
- Why is it worth it to refuse to give up even when it is hard?

5. Memory Verse Scramble

What You Need: Bibles, “Memory Verse Scramble” Cards (3 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up Isaiah 40:31.
- Say the verse together several times.
- Divide your group into 2 or 3 teams (depending on the size of your group)
- Give each team a set of “Memory Verse Scramble” pages.
- Tell the kids to spread the sheets out, face down, and scramble them up on the floor.
- On your “Go!” the first team to put the verse in order wins.
 - Have a team member read the verse to you to complete the round.

Play a few rounds as time allows.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS 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!