

# Alley SG - May 4-5, 2019

**Bible Story:** Runnin' Down a Dream (Great Commission and Spread of Gospel) • Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1–2

**Bottom Line:** Keep going because God is with you.

**Key Question:** What makes you want to give up?

**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. Get Your Head in the Game

**What You Need:** A Stress Ball (1 per group)

**What You Do:**

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Select** one kid to be the “guesser.” The “guesser” stands in the center of the circle.
- **Explain** that the group is going to play a guessing game.
- To play:
  - **Call** out a topic.
  - The “guesser” lists as many things as he or she can that are related to the topic.
  - For example, if the topic is candy, the “guesser” might say: chocolate, gum, licorice, Snickers®, Skittles®, etc.
  - **Count** the number of items the “guesser” lists.
  - Instead of a timer, kids pass the stress ball around the circle. Once the stress ball makes it around the circle, the “guesser” stops talking.
  - Potential topics could include: sports, soft drinks, video games, music, furniture, clothing, jobs, celebrities, YouTube® channels, TV shows, etc.
  - **Repeat** so everyone gets a chance to be the “guesser.” The kid who lists the most items wins.

**What You Say:**

“Some of those topics weren’t easy, and you did a great job sticking with it and thinking of related items. Often there are hard things we have to do or say and giving up just isn’t an option.”

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Index cards, pens or markers

**What You Do:**

- **Gather** kids in a circle around your table/area.
- **Give** kids index cards and pens.
- **Brainstorm** a list of activities kids think might be hard to finish or keep doing. **Encourage** them to use real-life examples.
- If necessary, **prompt** kids with the following ideas:
  - Completing a school science project
  - Cleaning your room
  - Being nice to your friends
  - Being nice to an annoying kid at school
  - Learning to play a musical instrument
- **Instruct** kids to write each activity on an index card.
- **Discuss** the ideas:
  - What activity would you pick as the hardest to complete? Why? (**Allow** kids an opportunity to *debate their answers*)
  - Why are some things harder to complete than others?

- What are some obstacles that could cause you to give up before finishing one of the tasks in the list? For example, what could be some reasons you might give up before finishing cleaning your room? (*It's boring, it takes too long, you don't know where to start, it is too big of a job, etc.*)
- *Optional: Pass the index cards around and tell kids to write on the card an activity/specific obstacle that might cause someone to give up. Discuss the obstacles as a group.*

### 3. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Plastic Cups (1 per pair of students), cotton balls (10 per pair of students), Bibles, *optional: timer or mobile device*

#### What You Do:

- **Pair** kids up.
- **Give** each team a plastic cup and stack of 10 cotton balls.
- **Instruct** teams to stand about 5-6 feet apart, facing each other.
  - One teammate has the cup and the other teammate has the pile of cotton balls.
- **Explain** that one teammate will toss cotton balls to their partner who tries to “catch” the cotton balls in their cup. At the end of 60 seconds, the team with the most cotton balls in their cup wins.
  - **NOTE: If you do not have a smartphone timer, simply play a “first team to get (set an amount) cotton balls in their cup wins” variation.**
- **Repeat**, allowing teams to switch roles.
- **Read** Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:8
- **Review** the Bible story. Potential discussion questions are:
  - What did Jesus ask His disciples to do?
  - What does it mean to “make disciples of all nations”?
  - What does it mean for the disciples to be Jesus’ witnesses?
  - Imagine you’re one of the disciples in Acts 1:8 and Jesus told you to tell others about Him to the ends of the earth. Would that be an easy or hard thing to do? Where would you start? What would it look like? Remember the disciples didn’t have phones, televisions or social media.
  - The disciples obeyed Jesus—and they didn’t give up. Why? What does Jesus promise them to help them not give up? (*He will be with them, He will give them power through the Holy Spirit to be witnesses, Jesus will always be with us.*)
- **Review** the reasons we might give up from the Take a Snapshot Activity.
- **Ask:**
  - What could help you to keep going, even when it is hard or frustrating or you don’t think you can do it?
  - How can our Bible story today encourage you to keep going even when it is hard?
  - How does knowing God is always with you, encourage you to keep going?

### 4. Discussion Questions

- What factors affect your ability to finish something? Does time affect it? How about whether you enjoy doing it or not?
- What can you do to keep going even when it is hard? Or even when you are overwhelmed and you think something is impossible to start, let alone *finish*?
- Encourage kids to share an example of someone they know who didn’t give up when things got hard. **[Make it Personal] (Do the same yourself. Share a story about someone you know who had perseverance through a really hard time.)**
- In Acts 1:8 Jesus tells His disciples to be His witnesses. How can we be Jesus’ witnesses? What would be challenging about being Jesus’ witness? What can we do to keep going even when it is hard to tell others about Jesus?

## 5. Memory Verse Scramble

**What You Need:** Bibles, Memory Verse Cards (3 sets of 10 cards 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!**