

# Alley SG - August 10-11, 2019

**Bible Story:** This Used to Be My Playground (The Fall) • *Genesis 3:1-24*

**Key Question:** What is at stake if you don't obey?

**Bottom Line:** Trust and obey even when you think your way is better.

**Memory Verse:** "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love." 2 John 6 (NIV)

## 1. Just for Fun

**What You Need:** Paper, pens, markers

**What You Do:**

- **Set** out paper, pens and markers.
- **Ask** students to draw a picture of a rocket.
- After a few minutes (even if they aren't finished drawing), **let** students choose partners.
- **Have** the students exchange drawings with their partners then sit back-to-back.
- **Tell** them to make three changes to their partner's rocket without him or her seeing. The first change should be easy to detect, the second less obvious, and the third change barely noticeable.
- **Ask** partners to turn around, exchange papers again, and then guess what's different about their original rocket.

## 2. Get Your Head in the Game

**What You Need:** 3 Decks of Cards (per group)

**NOTE: YOU as the Small Group Leader will decide which card games your group plays!**

**What You Do:**

- **Form** teams based on the best number of players for the card games you've chosen.
- **Invite** teams to come up with new rules for playing their card games then allow time for them to play.
  - Each player should contribute a new rule.
  - Let kids think through the rules "submitted" and vote on two rules to actually use during game play.
  - Once the game has started, the rules cannot be changed.
- **Come** together after teams have had time to play a round of their game using the new rules.
- **Invite** discussion about how the new rules were helpful or not so helpful and why.
- **Play** again with new games and new rules, if time allows.

**What You Say:**

"Changing a rule in a card game just for fun isn't a big deal—although even a card game works best when played by the original rules. There are, however, times when going against the rules can make for the worst day ever. In our talk today, we learned about rule breaking that literally made everything worse for everyone!"

## 3. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- **Read** the scenarios below.
- After each one, **invite** students to (collectively) share two benefits of obedience in that situation and two possible consequences of disobedience.
- **Vote** on the benefit and consequence they feel are the most likely outcomes.
- **Allow** students to share experiences they've had in situations similar to the one you read.
  - What positive benefits or negative consequences did they face? What did the experience teach them?
- **Ask** students to come up with additional scenarios if time allows.

### Scenarios:

- You're not supposed to snack right before dinner, but you're so stinkin' hungry. You remember there's a candy bar in your backpack.
- Your teacher asked you to give a sealed envelope with a note in it to your parents. You're going crazy wondering what it says. You're pretty sure you can carefully open the envelope then seal it again.
- Your aunt is staying with you while your parents are out of town. She insists that you can't have more than 30 minutes of screen time each day, but the rule your parents have is 60 minutes. You know you're right, but there's no convincing her.

## 4. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bibles

**What You Do:**

- **Provide** Bibles (or let students use a Bible app on their phone).
- **Ask** everyone to look up Genesis 3.
- **Allow** a few minutes for students to silently read the lesson's passage to themselves.
- **Invite** the group to take turns "Space Walking" (slow motion movements) as they act out something from the passage while others guess the event.
- **Ask:**
  - As you read Genesis 3, where do you see the first hint of disobedience?
  - Why do you think Adam and Eve chose to disobey God?
  - Apart from never listening to a creepy snake, what else do you learn from these verses?
- **Challenge** students to share specific verses where they see the following results of disobedience:
  - Guilt
  - Blame
  - Lies
  - Punishment
  - Regret
- **Invite** students to finish this sentence: "One thing I've learned from Adam and Eve is ..."

***Tip:** There will be times when students face a situation in which they're sure their way is better than what a parent, teacher, or other leader is asking them to do. And they may be right! Remind students that God always wants us to show respect. Suggest ways they might be able to talk things through and share what they're thinking in a way that's calm, kind, and respectful.*

**What You Say:**

"Minus the talking snake and the perfect world, disobedience is still much the same as it was back in Genesis. People choose to go their own way. Just like Adam and Eve, we can get fooled into thinking our way is better than anyone else's—even God's. What was at stake when Adam and Eve chose to disobey? Take a lesson from Adam and Eve: it's never a good idea to go against God's rules!"

## 5. Discussion Questions

**Ask:**

- Based on what we've learned today, how would you best define sin? What about obedience?
- Why is obedience often so hard and disobedience so easy?
- Parents, teachers, and other leaders are more experienced and wiser than kids. They know what's best, but they're not always perfect. They make mistakes. How should you handle a situation when your way actually IS probably better than the leader's?
- Is there ever a time when you should not trust or obey someone, even if he or she is the adult or authority? Explain.
- If the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3 could be turned into a song, what would be a good title for it?

## 6. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- **Ask** kids to share how they did last week reading their Bible and GodTime each day.
- **Continue encouraging** them to make use of the GodTime cards and to spend time taking to God at the beginning and end of their day.
- **Invite** your group to pray silently for God's help to live out obedience—trusting those who lead them by doing what they're asked to do.
- As you call out the following leaders, **pause** briefly after each one to allow students time to think about the relationships they have with leaders in their life.
- **Encourage** students to ask forgiveness if they have had disobedient attitudes or actions and to pray for the choices they will make this week.
  - Parents and family members
  - Teachers, coaches, and other leaders
  - Church and community leaders
  - God

### What You Say:

"Dear God, in 2 John, verse six, You tell us that 'The way we show our love is to obey God's commands.' It goes on to say that You command us to 'lead a life of love.' We can't do that without Your help. Our love for others begins with a love for You, so we ask that You grow in us a genuine attitude of love that gives us the power to choose obedience even when it's hard. In Jesus' name, amen."

**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!***