

Alley SG - August 17-18, 2019

Bible Story: Rain (Noah) • *Genesis 6-8*

Bottom Line: Trust and obey even when others don't.

Key Question: What is the hardest thing about following someone?

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: Mini Stuffed Animals (5 per group), Paper, Pens (campus supplies)

What You Do:

- **Form** two teams.
- **Give** Team A the stuffed animals.
- **Ask** Team B to sit with their backs turned away from Team A.
- **Explain** that Team A will arrange the stuffed animals in a certain order and, at your signal Team B will turn around for 10 seconds to observe the order of the animals, then turn back around.
- Be sure to **note** the animals' order yourself by writing it down.
- **Mix** up the animals.
- **Invite** Team B to turn around again and work together to arrange the stuffed animals back to the original order.
- **Switch** roles and repeat several times.

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: Die (1 per group), Rocket Drawing (1 per group), Paper, Pens (campus supplies)

Note: Don't show the drawing until the end.

What You Do:

- **Give** students paper and markers.
- **Explain** that they will be drawing something with a head, tail, nose, wings, body, and spots, but they won't know specifically what it is.
 - The order in which they will draw the parts will be determined randomly by the roll of a die.
- **Roll** the die.
- **Call out** what students are to draw based on the numbers below.
 - One is for the body. (They will need one.)
 - Two is for the head. (They will need one.)
 - Three is for the tail. (They will need one.)
 - Four is for a nose. (They will need one.)
 - Five is for a wings. (They will need two.)
 - Six is for spots (They will need three.)
- **Continue** until all the parts have been added.
- **Show** students the "Dice Drawing" of the rocket ship when they are done, and see if anyone came close to drawing the same thing.

What You Say:

"It would've been SO much easier if I'd told you from the beginning that you were drawing a rocket ship, wouldn't it? But where's the fun in that! In today's Large Group, we learned about a time when God asked someone to obey but didn't give him all the details. It probably took a lot of trust for him to obey what God said—especially when friends started to call him crazy."

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Have you ever had a “Noah moment”? Share about a time when you felt sort of like Noah did when he built the ark and all the people thought he was crazy.
- If God was visible and you knew He was watching you (which we know He is), how might that make a difference in the choices you make?
- What’s the hardest part about following Jesus? Why is it worth it even though it isn’t easy?

4. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, ping-pong balls (one large plastic bag full per group)

What You Do:

- **Instruct** kids to get into pairs.
- **Give** partners a Bible and a ping-pong ball.
- **Challenge** one partner to balance the ball on top of the Bible while the other partner creates a distraction but without touching the person with the Bible.
- **Switch** roles and play again.
- **Use** the activity to illustrate the challenge of standing firm in our obedience to God when others aren’t making it easy for us.
- **Variation: Add an extra ping-pong ball!**
- **Ask:**
 - When you were trying to keep the ball balanced on the Bible while being distracted, what strategy worked best?
 - How do some people distract us or make it hard for us to obey God by obeying our leaders?
 - When is it most hard to stand firm and obey what you know is right?
- **Invite** partners to look up and read 1 Corinthians 15:58 together then discuss the meaning and application of the verse.
 - What are some words used in this verse that make it clear obedience isn’t an easy thing to do?
 - Without mentioning any names, what leader in your life is the hardest for you to follow? What are the benefits of obedience to that leader?
 - What might happen when you obey but those around you don’t? What can you do in those situations to not get discouraged and give in?

What You Say:

“Most of the time the benefits of obedience outweigh the consequences, but even if that’s not the case, we want our love for God and our desire to follow Him to be the force that drives us to choose obedience. We come out ahead when we obey, but because it’s sometimes a hard thing to do, it doesn’t always feel like a win. God always sees the hard work of our obedience. It’s never wasted or ignored by Him.”

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Tissues (1 per student, per service), markers

What You Do:

- **Give** each student a facial tissue and a marker.
- **Direct** half of the group to hold the tissue so the fold runs vertically (up and down) and the others to hold it so the fold is horizontally (right to left).
- **Ask** everyone to gently draw an “X” in the center of their tissue, being careful not to tear it.
- **Instruct** them to gently rip the tissue from top to bottom so that the tear runs through the middle of the “X.”
- **Show** each torn tissue and observe that one direction tore more neatly than the other.
- **Explain** that the fibers that make up the tissues run in a certain direction. When the tissue is torn in the same direction as the grain of fibers it’s a cleaner tear than when torn across them.

- **Connect** this concept with the way we sometimes feel when obedience means we have to go “against the grain” or the crowd and not do what others are doing.
- **Invite** students to pair up with someone who tore their tissue in a different direction than they did and pray (silently or aloud) for their partner to trust and obey even when others don't.

What You Say:

“Dear God, it's so hard for us to go against the flow—to obey you when those around us are going a different direction. In our heads we know what's right, but it's not always the thing we choose. Give us the help we need to be strong against the crowd, to love you more than we love what others think of us. Help us make the wise choice this week in the things we say and do. 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!