

Alley SG - September 14-15, 2019

Bible Story: Steel Bars (Joseph in Jail) • Genesis 40

Bottom Line: When life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.

Key Question: When is it hard to trust God?

Memory Verse: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding... (Proverbs 3:5 NIV)

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Pool Noodle & Bandana (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Select** one kid to stand in the center of the circle.
- **Blindfold** the kid in the center and **give** him or her a pool noodle.
- **Instruct** the kid to hold the noodle over his or her head and spin around 15 times.
- **Let** the rest of the group count the number of spins.
- When the first kid is finished spinning, **guide** him or her to set the pool noodle on the ground and **challenge** him/her to step over it.
- **Ask** the group be there for the blindfolded kid to make sure he/she doesn't fall as he/she attempts to step over the noodle.
- Once the kid removes the blindfold, **lead** the group to count to 10 to make sure he/she is stable before the next kid tries.

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: Slips of paper (2 per student, per service), pens, two containers (one labeled "WHAT IF" and one labeled "THEN") (per group)

What You Do:

- **Give** kids two slips of paper and a pencil
- **Tell** kids to write the first part of a "What if" statement on a slip of paper and **put** the slip in the bag labeled "WHAT IF"
 - For example, "What if I see a snake in a tree . . ." or "What if I am walking in the rain . . ."
- On another slip of paper, **tell** kids to finish the statement starting with the word, "then" and **put** the slip in the bag labeled "THEN".
 - For example, ". . . then I will scream and run away." Or ". . . then I will get wet."
- **Encourage** kids to take turns selecting slips of paper from each bag and reading the sentences.

What You Say:

"Many of our statements, though very funny, simply didn't make sense. Sometimes events occur or people say things that just don't make sense to us and we find ourselves asking "what is up with that?" **[Transition] Today we heard about something we should do when life just doesn't make sense. We can trust that God is with us!"**

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper plates (20 per group, per service), markers

What You Do:

- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Ask** kids to think of someone they trust.
- **Allow** time for the kids to discuss why they trust that person.
- **Give** each team 10 paper plates and **encourage** teams to write on each plate one reason they would trust someone.
 - For example: they do what they say, they keep promises, they speak from experience, they don't lie, etc.
- **Establish** a starting line and a finish line.
- **Challenge** kids to race from the starting line to the finish line, but they must follow some rules:
 - **Explain** each of the plates is a stone.
 - Teams must "move in trust," so to move from the start to the finish line, they can only step on the stones.
 - If they don't quite have enough stones to simply make a path from the start to the finish line, they must figure out how to relay the stones back and forth so that each team member makes it all the way across.
 - If anyone steps off a stone, the team goes back to the starting line and begins again.
 - The first team to get all their teammates to the finish line wins.
- **Declare** a winner.
- **Ask:**
 - When do you think it would be hard to trust someone? (Use the examples on the "stones" to prompt discussion.)
 - Do you think you could trust someone you don't know? Why?

4. Discussion Questions

- When is it hard to trust God?
- How do you think Joseph felt during the dark times in his story?
- It is easy to trust God when things are going good, but what can you do to remember to trust God when life isn't going as we want?
- It is hard to trust someone you don't know. How can you get to know God?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Alphabet beads, paper, pens

What You Do:

- **Give** kids paper and a pen.
- **Place** a bag of alphabet tiles in the center of the circle.
- **Explain** that sometimes it is hard to remember to trust God, especially when life doesn't make sense.
 - Joseph's life was filled with things that didn't make sense to him and yet God was with Joseph through it all.
 - Jesus had to face a lot of difficult situations.

- His death on the cross was horrible and painful, yet Jesus trusted God through everything. And now, because of Jesus' trust in God, we can be with God now and forever.
- **Instruct** kids to write on the top of their paper, "I can trust God even when . . ."
- **Encourage** kids to complete the sentence with an example of when it is hard to remember to trust God.
- **Instruct** kids to write, "Because God is . . ."
- **Instruct** each kid to take a bead, set it on his or her paper, and write a word starting with the letter he or she drew to finish the sentence.
- **Repeat** for several beads.
- **Close** in prayer.

What You Say:

"God, there are things that make no sense to us, but You know everything! You understand everything! And You alone can use the bad, the confusing, and use it for good. God, we thank You for the story of Joseph and his example how to trust you even things aren't going well for us. And God, thank You for Jesus and for Jesus' trust in You in all situations He faced. God, we know we can trust You even when . . . *(allow kids to read their examples of when it is hard to trust God)* because God you are . . . *(allow kids to read their words the wrote about who God is)*. We love You! 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!