

# Alley SG - December 14-15, 2019

**Bible Story:** Born to Be Our Friend (The Coming Birth of Jesus) • *Luke 1:26-56*

**Bottom Line:** You can have joy because God is with you.

**Key Question:** What are some ways to find joy when you're afraid?

**Memory Verse:** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NIV)

## 1. Just for Fun

**What You Need:** Ribbon (2 rolls per group)

### What You Do:

- **Place** the two lengths of ribbon in straight lines on the floor.
- **Create** two teams and have each stand on one side of their team's ribbon.
- **Instruct** everyone to place both hands somewhere on their team's ribbon. Wherever they have their hands, this is now their "permanent" spot for the game.
- **Explain** that you will call out the name of an object or shape, such as a triangle or a house.
  - Teams will then race to be the first to form the outline of that shape using the ribbon.
  - They can slide their hands along the ribbon as needed, but they can't let go of it or trade places with anyone.
- **Call** out shapes related to the holiday season or let kids come up with additional ideas.
  - Christmas tree
  - Bell
  - Star
  - Stocking
  - Candle
  - Cookie
  - Candy cane
  - Snowflake
  - Snowman
  - Heart

## 2. Get Your Head in the Game

**What You Need:** Ribbon (from Activity 1)

### What You Do:

- **Use** the ribbon to create a large circle on the floor for each team.
- **Choose** teams of even numbers (two, four, six, eight, or even one team of ten).
- **Ask** teams to stand around the circle of ribbon.
- **Challenge** them to switch places with the person directly across from them without touching. (If there's any question as to who qualifies as "across" from whom, help kids confirm who they are supposed to switch places with.)
  - Everyone must step into the circle as they cross.
  - The first team to succeed is the winner.
  - Warn that if anyone makes contact with the person they are switching places with, both kids must freeze for five seconds.
- **Decrease** the size of the circle then play again allowing kids to come up with ideas to better their time.

### What You Say:

"This is one game God would never play—that is, if God ever played Small Group games. He's all about being close to us—not keeping us away. No matter where we are, day or night, God wants us to know He's there with us. That's a reason to have joy."

### 3. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Paper plates (1 per student), Markers

#### What You Do:

- **Give** each of the kids a paper plate and a marker.
- **Instruct** kids to place the plates on top of their heads.
- **Tell** them to use the marker to write about or draw something they are afraid of but not to let others see what it is.
- When they've finished, **let** the kids take turns showing what they wrote or drew. Before they talk about their drawings, let others guess what they are.

#### What You Say:

"Fear comes in all shapes and sizes. Your fears may be different from someone else's, but everyone has something that freaks them out. It might be spiders, being up in front of an audience, wild storms, trying new things, or being alone . . . the list goes on and on. Whatever is on your 'Freak Out List,' God can help you face it. He's not afraid of ANYTHING. God's with you all the time, and if you're a follower of Jesus, He sends His Spirit to be with you as well. He's got your back. Not only your *back*, He's all around you—front, sides, from the top of your head to the soles of your feet. Fear doesn't have a chance when we turn it over to God and trust Him. He gives us peace and joy even in scary situations because we know He's with us."

### 4. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bible, gift bows (50 total, 25 of 2 different colors per group)

#### What You Do:

- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Give** each team 25 gift bows.
- **Ask** kids to name the main people (and one angel) mentioned in today's story. (Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, Elizabeth)
- **Explain** that you will read a statement then teams must arrange gift bows to form the first letter in the name of the person from the story it applies to.
- **Choose** from the following statements or add others if desired.
  - I've gotta go check this out with my cousin. (*Mary*)
  - I can't wait to tell Mary that God has an amazing, one-of-a-kind plan for her life. (*Gabriel*)
  - I'm from Nazareth and King David is one of my ancient relatives. (*Joseph*)
  - You will have a son and His name will be Jesus. (*Gabriel*)
  - I nearly lost it when an angel appeared to me out of the blue. (*Mary*)
  - The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you. (*Gabriel*)
  - I am going to have a baby and the baby is God's Son. (*Mary*)
  - Whoa! I felt my baby jump when you came it. (*Elizabeth*)
  - I trusted the angel when he said that God would be with me. (*Mary*)
  - I can't wait to marry the most amazing woman ever. (*Joseph*)
- **Use** discussion to help kids connect with the story.
  - In one word, what do you think Mary would have been thinking and feeling after the angel, Gabriel, left the room?
  - Gabriel gave Mary a lot to think about; One minute she's a 15-ish-year-old girl waiting to marry a guy named Joseph, and the next minute she's going to have a baby who will save the world. That's terrifying on a lot of levels. Name some fears Mary would need to trust God with.
  - Mary's situation was unique to say the least. Still, fear is fear, but we can have joy even when we're afraid of what's next. Why is that true?
- **Prepare** to read Luke 1:46-49 by explaining that it's part of the prayer of praise Mary spoke when she went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. (If needed, remind kids that this is the same Elizabeth from last week's story. Zechariah and Elizabeth were the parents of John the Baptist.)
- **Encourage** kids to listen for words of joy reflected in Mary's prayer and her confidence that God was with her. Pause after each verse is read to let kids share.

- Read Luke 1:46 then ask teams form the letter “J” with gift bows.
- Read Luke 1:47 then form the letter “O” next to the “J.”
- Read Luke 1:48 then form the letter “Y” next to the “O.”
- Read Luke 1:49 then form an “!” after the letter “Y.”
- **Close** by asking kids to list a few practical ways to find joy in situations where it doesn’t come easy.

## 5. Discussion Questions

### Ask:

- What are some things that you believe are true about God?
- How can those things that can help you when you’re afraid?
- What are some reasons we feel afraid?
- Is fear ever a GOOD thing? When and why?
- *(Word Nerd Alert!)* What does *omnipresence* mean? (The ability to be everywhere at the same time.) God is omnipresent. Why is that a big deal?
- How does knowing that God is omnipresent give you joy?

## 6. Verse to Take with You

**What You Need:** Romans 15:13 Word Search(1 per student), pens

### What You Do:

- **Give** each of the kids a pen and a copy of “Romans 15:13 Word Search” Activity Page.
- **Direct** kids to read the directions on the page and then find and fill in the missing words of Romans 15:13.
- **Invite** someone to read the verse aloud when the puzzles are completed.
- **Explain** that the verse in the puzzle, Romans 15:13, comes near the end of a long letter that Paul, a follower of Jesus, wrote to encourage and teach the church in Rome.
- **Remind** kids that joy, like the words in the puzzle, is something we will find if we look for it in the right place.
  - Name some places people often look for joy.
  - Explain why you agree or disagree with the following statement: Joy can be found in situations that are difficult.
- **Read** Romans 15:13 again then ask kids to take turns finishing the following sentence: This verse reminds me that . . .”

**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!**