

Alley “All Together Activities”—January 17th, 2021

Today’s Bible Story: Ants Marching (Ant and Sluggard) • *Proverbs 6:6-8*

Today’s Key Question: When have you had to work hard?

Today’s Bottom Line: Work hard.

Monthly Memory Verse: “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much...”
(Luke 16:10a NIV)

1. Opening Activity

What You Need: Hand Sanitizer, Plastic Ants (10 per kid) Chopsticks (1 set per kid)

CG: 1-Minute Timer Video on Screen (or use your Smartphone Timer)

What You Do:

- Give each kid 10 Plastic Ants, a set of Chopsticks, and a squirt of hand sanitizer
- Challenge kids to compete with a partner in an “Ant Stacking” contest.
 - NOTE: Kids will use their chopsticks to stack the ants. No hands!
- Explain that they will have one minute to see which partner can create the tallest stack of ants.
- Let the winners compete until there is one final “Ant Champ.”
- Vary the competition by challenging partners to line up 20 ants or spell out the word, ANT in the least amount of time.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Hand sanitizer, note cards (1 per student), pens

What You Do:

- Provide a pump of hand sanitizer to each kid before beginning this activity.
- Ask kids to secretly write down three jobs they consider hard.
- Two of the jobs should be jobs they have actually done, and one should be a job they have never done.
- Instruct them to put a star next to the job that they’ve never done.
- Clarify that all of the jobs must be ones that kids their age are capable of doing.
- The goal is to make it hard for the other kids to guess which jobs they’ve done and which they have not.
- Collect the cards and mix them together.
- Read a card and then let kids guess who they think the card belongs to and which job is the one they have never done.
- Award the following points to the guessers:
 - One point for guessing the identity of the writer
 - One point for guessing the job that was not true
- Award the following points to the kid whose card is being read.
 - One point for each incorrect guess of the writer
 - One point for each incorrect guess of the job that was not done by them

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, “Origami Ant” Instructions and 8.5” x 8.5” Square Paper (1 per kid), Pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a sheet of origami paper and a pen.
- Instruct kids to write on one side of the paper as many words as they can think of in 30 seconds that describe a hard-working ant.
- Tell them to turn the paper over then give them another 30-seconds to write down words that describe a sluggard or lazy person.

- Invite kids to take turns saying one of their words at super-fast, ant speed or super slow, slug speed and see if the others can guess what they're saying.
- Give each kid copy of "Origami Ant" activity page.
- Lead kids in following the folding directions step-by-step.
- Read Proverbs 6:6-8 aloud.
- Take a few minutes to lead kids in reflecting on what Proverbs 6:6-8 means for them.
- Ask:
 - In what ways does hard work honor God?
 - Describe what it feels like to be lazy.
 - What's the difference between being lazy and simply taking a break for a while?
 - How does it feel to work hard?
 - What are some possible consequences of being lazy?
 - How can you tell if you're a hard worker or if you're lazy?
 - What are some lazy areas of your life that you can work on to be more responsible this week?

4. Discussion Questions

- Describe a time when you had to work hard. What did you enjoy about that experience? What did you not enjoy?
- Why do you think some people are harder workers than others?
- If someone is super smart, does that mean they don't have to work as hard as others?
- Do you think it's possible to work TOO hard? Explain why or why not.
- What should be our motivation for working hard and not being lazy?
- When you're feeling lazy, what helps you to get going again?

5. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, Paper, Pens

What You Do:

- Form groups of three or four kids with an Adult/Student Leader
- Give each team leader a Bible, Paper and a Pen.
- Ask teams to look up and read 1 Corinthians 15:58 together.
- Challenge kids to work as a team to create a short chant, rap, cheer, poem, or song (they can add new words to a familiar tune) that encourages people to work hard.
- Instruct them to use some of the words and phrases from 1 Corinthians 15:58.
- When finished, let teams take turns sharing what they came up with.
- Ask:
 - What often makes hard work feel harder than it actually is?
 - What can make a hard job seem easy or fun?
 - When you need to work hard but don't feel like it, how might 1 Corinthians 15:58 help you face the task with a good attitude?

CLOSE IN PRAYER:

"Dear God, when we face a hard job this week, help us to call on You for help to do our best and not give up. Even when a job is super easy, we need Your help to not be lazy and put it off or do a bad job. Remind us that You are with us and that all that we do is seen by You. We want to honor You by being hard workers. In Jesus' name, amen."