

# Alley “All Together Activities”—January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

## 1. Just for Fun

**What You Need:** No Supplies Needed

### What You Do:

- Stand together in a wide circle.
- Explain that kids will take turns tossing an imaginary object to someone in the circle. Only the first kid tossing it knows what it is.
- That kid will name someone in the circle, then realistically “toss” the object to them.
- The kid who catches it tosses it back in the same way and says what they think it is.
- If the guess is wrong, the original kid tosses it to someone else who then takes a guess and tosses it back.
- Continue until the object is guessed correctly or until all kids have had a turn.
- Play more rounds, changing the secret object each time.
- Use objects from the list below or let kids come up with their own ideas.
  - a bowling ball
  - feather
  - baseball
  - hot potato
  - raw egg
  - water balloon
  - snake
  - mud
  - baton
  - large, heavy box

## 2. Opening Activity

**What You Need:** Beans (1 bag), spoons (1 per student), hand sanitizer, plastic cups (4 per Service)

### What You Do:

- Form two teams and stand on one side of the meeting area.
- Set out a cup of beans near each team and two empty cups (one for each team) at the opposite end of the room.
- Give one kid on each team a bottle of hand sanitizer and each of the remaining kids a plastic spoon.
- Explain the “Toxic Beans” game:
  1. Don’t touch the beans—they’re toxic.
  2. Scoop up a spoonful of beans without touching them and carry them across the room on the spoon to your team’s container.
  3. If you drop a bean, you must stop and pick it up, but you can’t move on until your team “Medic” (the kid with the hand sanitizer) comes with a pump of hand sanitizer to wash off the toxins.
  4. The team with the most beans in their container after two minutes is the winner.
- Switch players after each round and choose a new “Medic” then play again as time allows.
- Variations: (Same rules apply if a bean is dropped—kids must wait for the Medic and the hand sanitizer before proceeding.)
  - Transport the beans by placing several on top of their hand, foot, or head
  - Walk backwards while carrying the beans on a spoon.

### What You Say:

“Beans aren’t usually toxic or poisonous, but if they were, you guys would be the ones to call on for transporting them. The world is a safer place because of you! **[Transition]** In real life, beans are not all that dangerous, but today in Large Group we learned about how our words can be toxic and we should be careful how we use them.”

### 3. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Cardstock (1 sheet per student), markers (1 per student)

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a sheet of cardstock and a marker.
- Tell kids to think of (but not say) what the following sentence means to them: “Use your words wisely.”
- Tell them to secretly write their thought in the form of a short phrase, example, or sentence on their cardstock by drawing a blank line for each letter in each word and placing a space between words. (Similar to a game of Hangman.)
  - If they need help remembering the exact wording of their phrase, they can write the answer on the back of the card, making sure no one sees that side of the card.
- When finished, come together in a circle.
- Choose one kid to show their card to the others.
- Invite kids to take turns naming a letter.
- If the letter they guess is in any of the words, the card’s “owner” fills in the blanks wherever that letter appears.
- If the letter is not in any of the words, the kid to the left of the first guesser takes a turn.
- Kids who guess a correct letter can take another turn or try to guess what’s written on the card.
- Continue until the phrase or sentence on the card is guessed correctly.
- Repeat until each kid has had a turn sharing their card.
- As time allows, ask kids to talk about what they wrote and how it relates to using words wisely.

### 4. Discussion Questions

- Why do words matter so much?
- Think about times at home, school, or other places when it’s hardest for you to watch your words. What sets you off? What can you do to respond the right way?
- If you’re going to show God’s love to those around you, how do you need to speak differently to those around you (family, friends, teammates, teachers, coaches, etc.)?
- There’s an old saying that goes like this: “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.” Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Why?

### 5. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, sandpaper (1 small sheet per kid), cotton balls (3 per kid)

**What You Do:**

- Give kids a piece of sandpaper, 3 cotton balls, and a Bible (or let them use a Bible app).
- Ask:
  - How would you describe the way sandpaper feels?
  - How would you describe the way cotton balls feel?
  - Name some words that remind you of sandpaper. (*hurtful, mean, angry, disrespectful, lies, griping, harsh, put downs, gossip*)
  - Name some words that remind you of cotton balls. (*quiet, calm, kind, thoughtful, encouraging, helpful, loving, gentle, affirming, instructive*)
- Assign each kid a verse from the list below. It’s okay if some kids have the same verse.
  - Proverbs 12:18
  - Proverbs 15:1
  - Proverbs 21:23
  - Proverbs 29:20
  - Psalm 19:14
- Ask kids to look up and read their verse then attach the cotton to the sandpaper to create an image that illustrates the verse.

- They can tear apart the cotton into smaller pieces to create an image, word, or scene. The cotton should adhere to the sandpaper due to friction.
- After a few minutes, invite kids to take turns reading the verse they were assigned, then sharing what they created and how it illustrates the verse.
- Ask:
  - Which of the verses that were shared will help you most this week as you ask God's help to use your words wisely? In what ways will it help you?
  - What would you say is the most important thing to remember from all that we learned today about the way we use our words?
- Encourage kids to take the sandpaper and cotton with them as a reminder to watch what they say this week.

**CLOSE IN PRAYER:**

“Dear God, we all know the difference between wise and unwise words. We know what it feels like to be hurt by words as well as to be encouraged. Since the things we say can be powerful, we ask that you give us the courage and wisdom to watch what we say especially when we are upset, angry, or feel like getting even. Please give us the help we need to live, speak, and act in ways that show others we can be trusted with what is expected of us. Amen.”