

Alley “All Together Activities”—February 21st, 2020

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Sticky notes (1 pad per service), white floor tape, hand sanitizer

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pump of hand sanitizer and encourage them to line up physically distanced.
- Challenge kids to see how high they can jump and touch the wall.
- Use a sticky note to mark where their hand touches the wall.
- Encourage them to see if they can jump even higher and reach even farther up the wall.
- If time allows, make a line with white floor tape.
- Challenge kids to stand on the tape and see how far they can leap forward.
- Encourage kids to leap even farther with each attempt.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Index cards (3 per student), pens

What You Do:

- As a group, brainstorm things kids have to do that aren't exciting.
 - Encourage kids to think of chores they have to do, like make their bed or take out the trash. Or things their parents often remind them to do, like homework, brushing their teeth, or playing with a younger sibling.
- Write each example on an index card.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Shuffle the index cards and use them to play charades.
 - Teams take turns selecting a teammate to be the actor.
 - Set a timer for 30-60 seconds. Or just keep time in your head.
 - The actor is shown a card and acts out what is on the card without making a sound.
 - Their team tries to guess what is written on the card.
 - If the team guesses correctly before time runs out, award the team a point.
 - If they cannot guess correctly before time is up, the opposing team gets an opportunity to guess and steal the point.
 - For each index card, either team can earn an extra point by finish following sentence, “When I am asked to (*fill in with action on the index card*) I can go the extra mile by . . .”
 - To prompt teams, encourage them to think about how they could do a little more than what they were asked to do.

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Cardstock (1 per student), markers, stickers (approx. 6 per student)

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to sit in a circle and to sit a safe and comfortable distance from each other.
- Guide kids to imagine they are part of the crowd sitting on the mountainside listening to Jesus speak. Jesus says, “If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.”
- Ask:
 - What did that mean to the people listening to Jesus on the mountainside? *(If necessary, remind kids the people on the mountainside had to obey the laws of Rome, including the law that any Roman soldier could force a Jewish person to carry his pack for one mile.)*
 - How would you feel if you had to carry a Roman soldier’s heavy pack?
 - After walking a mile with a heavy pack, I would be ready to be done; I would want to set the pack down and walk away. However, imagine saying to a Roman soldier, “How about I carry this another mile for you?” Why would that be an example of unexpected kindness?
- Tell kids that one way to show people unexpected kindness and to show them they are valuable is to send a card to encourage them.
- Hand out cardstock, markers and put out stickers to decorate cards.
- Guide kids to make cards for someone who has gone the extra mile for them: Parent, Guardian, Teacher, Front Line Worker, Friend, Volunteer at Church, etc. .
- Encourage kids to write something kind in the card, related to who the cards are going to.
- As kids work on their cards, encourage them to share stories when someone was kind to them and they didn’t expect it.
- ***[Make it Personal] (Be sure to share an example when you received unexpected kindness. Maybe someone gave you a gift and it wasn’t even your birthday. Or someone raked your leaves and you don’t even know who it was.)***

4.. Discussion Questions

- Why is it unexpected when someone is kinder than they have to be?
- What about having basic manners, like saying “please” or holding a door open for someone? Is that being kinder than you have to be? Why or why not?
- Challenge kids to think of way they could be kinder than what is expected:
 - Family and friends
 - The annoying kid at school
 - Your teacher or coach

5. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Alphabet Tiles (1 set per student), Bible

What You Do:

- Look up the memory verse, Colossians 3:12 and read it to your group.
- Allow kids to recite the verse from memory if any of them have it memorized.
- Explain that “holy” means to be set apart. As a follower of Jesus, being “set apart” often means your actions look different than what people typically expect.
 - For example, being holy is choosing to be kinder than people expect you to be – going the extra mile.
- Ask:
 - Can you think of a situation when it would be difficult to be patient? (*Allow kids to share ideas*) What would it look like to choose to be even more patient than what might be expected?
 - What does it mean to not be proud? (*Guide the conversation to being humble and focusing on building others up instead of bragging about yourself*) What would it look like to be even more humble than what might be expected?
 - As Jesus followers, when we go the extra mile to show people they are valuable, what are we showing them about Jesus?
- Give each kid a pile of alphabet beads.
- Let kids race to “set apart” beads to spell the word “KINDNESS.”
- After kids spell “KINDNESS” once, encourage them to go the extra mile and find more “KINDNESS.”
 - NOTE: For an extra fun variation, split the kids up into teams (with kids still having their individual pile of beads)
- Encourage the group to see how many times they can “set apart” beads to spell the word “KINDNESS” or “HOLY” or another word related to the lesson.

6. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Cards from the Bible Story Extension Activity

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to sit in a circle and to sit a safe and comfortable distance from each other.
- Place the cards from the Bible Story Extension Activity in the center of the circle.
- As a group, pray over the cards.
- Pray for the people receiving the cards that they would know that they are valuable and that they are dearly loved by God.
- Close prayer time by thanking God for the kindness He shows us every day and asking Him to show us ways we can choose to be kinder than we have to be.