

Alley SG—June 12-14, 2021

Today's Bible Story: You Say (God So Loved the World) • John 3:16 (supporting: John 3:1-21)

Today's Key Question: How does Jesus matter in your life?

Today's Bottom Line: You can be confident because God loves you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.* Psalm 27:13 (NIV)

1. Opening Activity

What You Need: Slips of paper (6 per student), pens

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Give each kid six slips of paper.
- Instruct them to write an object on two slips, an action word on two slips and a descriptive word on two slips.
- Shuffle the strips and lay them face down in the center of the group.
- Instruct kids to each pick four strips.
- Guide kids to tell a story incorporating the words on the strips they selected.
- Ask for a volunteer to start the story and then let the next kid add the next sentence.
- After they use a word, tell them to pick another slip.
- Challenge the group to use as many slips as they can in telling the story.
- When time is up, end the story by saying, "The End."

What You Say:

"You did a great job using the words to tell one crazy story, a story I thought would never end."

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to sit on the floor.
- Ask a series of "yes or no" questions. If kids think the answer is yes, they stand up; if they think the answer is no, they remain seated.
- Before revealing the answers, ask:
 - How confident are you in your answer?
 - Instruct kids to give a thumbs up if they are confident or a thumbs down if they are not confident in their answer.
 - They can also give a "neutral" thumb if they're sort of in the middle between confident or not confident.
- Start by asking questions about yourself.
 - Be sure to ask questions kids can answer with confidence, such as, "Am I wearing shoes?" or "Do I have a pet elephant?"
 - Then ask other questions that kids may not be sure about, "Do I like to read?" or "Do I have a green bike?"
- Allow kids to ask questions to the group about themselves and see how confident the group is in answering the question.
- Potential wrap-up questions:
 - Why were you confident in some of your answers and not in others? To prompt kids, use their responses to the questions.

- For example: Why were you confident I was wearing shoes? Why weren't you confident I have a green bike?
- To have confidence is to know that something is true. What are ways we know things are true?

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Large Cardstock (1 per group, per service), black and red markers for leader, Bibles

What You Do:

- Using a black marker, write out John 3:16 on large cardstock, and place it in front of you on the floor.
- Tell kids to sit on the floor around the verse.
- Play a review game with the group.
 - Read a question from the list below.
 - If kids know the answer, they stand up. The first kid to stand up answers first.
 - For questions with multiple answers, let kids share their answers in the order they stood up.
 - After they answer, they sit back down.
 - For questions with multiple answers, kids can only give one answer at a time; kids must sit down and stand up again to give additional answers to questions.
 - Award a point to each kid with a correct answer. The kid with the most points at the end of the game wins.
- Review Questions:
 - What do we know about Nicodemus?
 - Why did Nicodemus visit Jesus? *(To ask Him questions, learn more)*
 - When did Nicodemus visit Jesus? *(At night)*
 - Why do you think he visited Jesus at night?
 - John summarized what Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:16. Read John 3:16 and underline "God loved" in red. Ask: Who did God love? *(To emphasize God loves everyone, let kids answer quickly and in rapid succession.)*
 - Underline "He gave" in red and ask: God loved us so much He gave us who? What do you know about Jesus? *(This provides an opportunity to review the truths we know about Jesus.)*
 - Underline "Whoever believes" in red and ask: What does it mean to believe in Him? *(Be prepared to ask follow-up questions, e.g. Yes, Jesus died for our sins. What is a sin?)*
 - Underline "have eternal life" in red and ask: To have eternal life means to live forever with God. We don't need to wait for heaven to get to know God; we can know God right now. What are some ways we can get to know God better?
- After you have finished the game and declared a winner, gather kids in a circle.

Note: Be sensitive that kids may have questions about what it means to believe in Jesus. Assure them that asking questions is a great way to learn who Jesus is and what it means to believe in Jesus. Remind kids that even though Nicodemus was a teacher and knew the Scriptures better than most people, he still had questions. Encourage them, as they process information, if they have questions, they can talk to you or to someone they know who is a believer, e.g. a parent or grandparent or friend.

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- To have confidence is to know that something is true. What are things we know are true?
- What are things you know are true about Jesus?
- How does Jesus matter in your life?
- How does knowing you are created in God's image give you confidence?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bibles, Verse on Cardstock from Act. 3

What You Do:

- Review John 3:16 using your hand. Use the following as a guide for discussion:
 - Point to your thumb—the thumb represents you. All of us sin or disobey God and our sin separates us from God because He's perfect.
 - Point to your index finger—but God loves all of us so much
 - Point to your middle finger—that He gave us Jesus
 - Point to your ring finger—and when we believe in Jesus
 - Point to your pinky finger—and trust Jesus is the way to be with God
 - Make a fist hiding your thumb with your fingers—you will never be separated from God and you can be with Him now and forever.
 - Allow kids time to practice reviewing John 3:16 using their hand to prompt them.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, Your goodness is in everything You created! And when You created us in Your image, You declared us to be very good. God, we want to see ourselves the way You see us. Help us to remember that You love us and You gave us Jesus so when we believe in Him we can live now and forever with You. God, help us to keep in tune with You so we can reflect Your love to others. In Jesus' name we pray! Amen.”

Remind the students to grab a God Times Sheet – they can return it next week for Alley Cash.