

# Alley SG—August 28th-30th, 2021

## 1. Just for Fun

**What You Need:** No Supplies Needed

**What You Do:**

- Share some crazy facts with kids.
- Prepare three to five facts based on your group's interests or use the facts from the list below.
- Provide kids an opportunity to share fun facts they may know by asking the group: Did you know . . . ?
- "Did you know . . .
  - Snails can sleep for up to three years?
  - You don't smell when you are asleep?
  - Kangaroos don't hop backwards?
  - Hummingbirds can fly upside down?
  - It's impossible to lick your elbow?
  - You can't talk and inhale or exhale at the same time?
  - A tiger's skin is striped, just like its fur?
  - You produce enough saliva each year to fill two bathtubs?

## 2. Imagine This...

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Tell them they are going to use their imagination to create a mental picture.
- Ask kids to close their eyes and imagine any animal.
- Give kids instructions that slightly changes what they are imagining. For example:
  - Now imagine your animal is an elephant. (*allow kids to share how their image changed*)
  - Now imagine your elephant is purple . . . (*pause*) . . . with orange stripes.
  - Imagine your orange striped, purple elephant drinking . . . a glass of chocolate milk . . . using a straw.
- After 4-5 directions, allow kids to share how their image changed.
  - What animal did everyone start with?
  - Did anyone's elephant start out purple?
  - Before the chocolate milk, what did you imagine your elephant was drinking?
- Play a couple of rounds. If there is interest, allow kids to take turns giving instructions.

**What You Say:**

"You had to do a lot of changing of your visual pictures. When I asked you to imagine an animal, none of you started by imagining a purple elephant drinking chocolate milk did you?"

**[Transition] You had to change your thinking."**

### 3. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Blue wall tape (2 rolls per Group)

**What You Do:**

- Ask:
  - How tall/long do you think you were as a baby? Tell kids to place a piece of tape on the wall to show how tall they think they were as a baby.
  - How about when you were in kindergarten? How tall do you think you were then? Again, tell kids to place a piece of tape on the wall to show how tall they think they were.
  - Tell kids to place a piece of tape to show how tall they are now.
- Point out that everyone here has grown a lot since the baby, but we haven't just grown physically. We have grown in wisdom as well.
- Encourage kids to give examples of things they know now that they didn't know as a baby or a kindergartener. Ask kids to think of ways they are wiser now than they were five years ago.
- If necessary, prompt with:
  - How many of you can tie your shoes? Could you do that as a baby?
  - What about reading? Can you read better now than in kindergarten?
  - What about recognizing situations that could be unsafe, like talking to a stranger on the street? Are you wiser than you were as a kindergartener? Encourage kids to give examples.
  - Can you think of something about the Bible or about God that you know now that you didn't know in kindergarten?
- Ask:
  - How are you wiser now than you were five years ago? What are some things that helped you grow in wisdom?
  - How do you think you will be wiser in 10 years? What types of decisions do you think you'll be able to make? (*What kinds of classes to take or sports to play in high school, what college to go to, whether or not to get an after-school job, etc.*)

### 4. Discussion Questions

**Ask:**

- How did you grow in wisdom this past school year? For example, do you do what you're asked to do at home more often without complaining? Is there a subject at school that you struggle with but you put some extra time into it last year?
- What are some things you can do to grow in wisdom?
- How do you know if you are growing in wisdom?
- How does the world around us influence what we think?

## 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### **What You Do:**

- Remind kids: Jesus didn't live the way the world lived; He showed us a different way to live. Jesus taught us to obey God, to forgive, to love others—even to love our enemies. It is not easy to remember to think like Jesus, but what we can remember is the power of Jesus' name. Sometimes you don't have words to pray or your mind is so full of thoughts it is hard to determine what is wise.
- Teach kids a "Breath Prayer" to use for times when they are struggling to focus their thoughts on God's wisdom.
  - Gather kids sitting in a circle.
  - Tell them to close their eyes and inhale slowly.
  - Then exhale slowly.
  - Tell kids to take another breath but this time say silently in their head "Jesus" and when they exhale say silently, "Your way is wise."
  - Allow kids time to pray these words for several breaths.
- Close in prayer.

### **What You Say:**

"God, You are generous! When we need Your wisdom, You give it to us. Your ways are wise! Help us continue to grow in Your wisdom. Help us to make wise choices, to know Your Word and to follow the ways Jesus taught us to live. God, we know we aren't perfect, and we will spend our lives growing in Your wisdom. We don't want to live as the world, but it is our desire to live in Your wisdom. In Jesus' name we pray! Amen!"