

Alley SG—October 24th-25th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Right Now (Timothy) • 1 Timothy 4:12 (supporting: Acts 14–17; 1 Timothy 4:14, 1 Corinthians 4:17; 16:10)

Today's Key Question: How can you make a difference right now?

Today's Bottom Line: You can make a difference right now.

Monthly Memory Verse: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14 NIV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Index cards, pens/markers, 3 labeled containers (WHERE?, WHO? and HOW? (1 set per Group)

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Give kids 3 index cards.
- Ask kids to think of places they go each day or each week and to write one of the places on an index card and put it in the "WHERE?" container.
- Ask kids to think of people they know and to write one person's name (and their title, like "mom, teacher, coach, etc." on an index card and place it in the "WHO?" container.
- Ask kids to think of skills or traits they have or things they enjoy doing and to write that skill or trait on an index card and place it in the "HOW?" container.
- Let kids to fill out multiple index cards if they want.
- Pair kids up and instruct each pair to draw a card from each of the three containers.
- Give kids time to brainstorm HOW they could use the gift/skill/trait they drew to make a difference in the life of WHO they drew or how they can use it to make a difference in the location (WHERE) they drew.
- Encourage teams to share their ideas with the group.
- Discuss the examples the teams share with the group. For specific examples, consider asking;
 - What difference could your actions make in the life of the person?
 - What could happen if you didn't choose to make a difference?

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: "Making a Difference Cards" (1 per kid), scissors, markers, "Blank Cards" Activity Page (1 per student), Bibles

What You Do:

- Review the Bible story. Consider asking:
 - What do we know about Timothy?
 - What do you think Timothy's gifts were? (*Prompt kids by asking what did Timothy do? What gifts would someone need to do what he did?*)
 - How did Timothy make a difference?
- Give each kid a "Making a Difference Card" Activity Page and let them cut out each bio on the card with scissors.
- Encourage kids to place their cards upside down, scramble them up, and pick one.
- Talk with your group and identify what sparked the person on the card they chose to make a difference.
- Ask:
 - How old do you have to be before you can start to make a difference?
 - What if you want to make a difference but you aren't sure where to start? What can you do?
- Give each kid a "Blank Card" Activity Page and let them create a few "Making a Difference Cards" for themselves.
- Encourage them to think of ways they can start making a difference right now. Refer back to the "Take a Snapshot" activity if they are stuck for ideas.

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- How can our words make a difference in the world or someone's life? (*our words can make a positive or a negative difference to someone. Discuss the importance of choosing to build people up.*)
- How can our attitude make a difference in someone's life? Encourage kids to give an example of how your attitude can make a difference.
- What can keep us from thinking we can make a difference?
- How can you make a difference right now?

4. Just for Fun

What You Need: "What's Different?" Page (1 per student), markers

What You Do:

- Give kids a "What's Different?" Activity Page and a marker.
- Challenge kids to find the differences between the two pictures.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: (*optional*) "Making a Difference Cards" from Activity 2

What You Do:

- Ask: How can your prayers make a difference in someone else's life?
- Challenge kids to think of someone they could pray for this week.
 - Maybe they have a friend who is struggling in school or as a group, consider praying for one of the organizations you discussed in the Bible Story Extension Activity.
- Close by asking kids how you can pray for them this week. ***[Make it Personal] (Share an age-appropriate prayer request you may have and ask the kids to pray for you this week)***