

Alley SG—March 13th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: All For You (Joshua Wins the Battle Over the Amalekites) • *Exodus 17:8-13*

Today's Key Question: Who do you work well with?

Today's Bottom Line: Work together to help someone succeed.

Monthly Memory Verse: "Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor."
(Ecclesiastes 4:9 NIV)

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, a staff (1 per group for leaders), mobile device timer

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Encourage kids to work together to retell the Bible story with each kid adding a sentence until the story is complete.
- Start the story by saying: "God freed the Israelites from Egypt and led them into the desert..."
- Go around the circle with each kid repeating the statements already made about the story and then adding a sentence to the story.
- Allow the group to help each other remember the sentences.
- After the reviewing the story, consider asking:
 - How did Aaron and Hur know Moses needed help if the Israelites were to succeed? *(It is not recorded in the story Moses asked for Aaron and Hur to help him. This could be an opportunity to talk about the importance of noticing the people around you. You cannot work together to help someone succeed if you don't even recognize they need help to do so.)*
 - Who worked together in the story to win the battle over the Amalekites?
- After discussing the story, line the group along one wall of the room and stand at the opposite wall (or across your group's area), holding the staff.
- Set the scene by explaining:
 - The group is going to reenact the story. You are playing the role of "Moses" and the kids are the "Israelites."
 - To defeat the Amalekites, an "Israelite" must make it to the other side of the room before time runs out.
 - However, the "Israelites" can only move when "Moses" raises his walking stick above his head. When "Moses" drops his walking stick, everyone must freeze.
- Start the timer for 5-10 minutes.
- Start the game by raising the staff over your head. Whenever you lower the staff, act tired, and it is only with a great effort you can lift the staff again.
- Continue playing, and once a kid is close to the finish line, lower the staff. Play this up. You are so tired you even sit down to catch your breath! Don't raise the staff again until someone comes to help you raise your arms, at which point you let the rest of the group make it across the room.
- *Note: If you have kids attending multiple hours and they know the "point" of this activity, you can ask one of them to be "Moses."*

2. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Cups (8 per Group), blindfolds (one per pair of kids), Bibles, pens, note cards (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Say, "We are going to do an activity now that will require us to get out of our seats and see how well you all can work together, the way God wants us to!"
- Pair kids up and instruct the pairs to line up at one end of your small group space.
- Tell pairs to pick one kid to be blindfolded.
- Give them a blindfold and ask them to work together to securely cover the eyes of the blindfolded teammate.
- After blindfolds are secure, place three cups around your space.
- Tell kids to direct their blindfolded teammates to the cups and to select a Cup.
- To direct their teammate, kids can only say, "You are getting HOT (close) or COLD (farther away)" depending on where their teammate is.
- After the blindfolded kid gets a Cup, their partner directs them back to the starting point.
- After every pair has a Cup, allow kids to switch roles and play again.
- Be sure to move the cups for the second round after everyone has been blindfolded.
- After everyone has a Cup, gather the group together and pass out Bibles.
- Let kids look up the verse reference you assign them, and to write a short summary of what the verse says about cooperation on a note card.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Guide kids read their verse aloud to the group and to share with each other what the verse says about cooperation.
- Verse references are:
 - Matthew 7:12
 - Ecclesiastes 4:9
 - Colossians 3:23a
 - Romans 12:16
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - 2 Corinthians 6:14
 - Philippians 2:2
- Ask: As we look at these verses, what is important to remember when we work together? (*This question provides an opportunity to talk about the motivation of why we do what we do. When we cooperate, we are doing it because God created us to work together and to show others who God is by doing so.*)

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Take-Out Boxes (1 per kid), rubber bands (8 per kid)

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Say, "We are going to make an instrument right now. It will help us to see the importance of how God made things and people to work together."
- Place a supply of boxes the center of the circle.
- Place a pile of rubber bands in the circle.

- Show kids how to make a Box Harp by stretching rubber bands across their boxes or box tops.
- Encourage them to explore the different sounds they can make using different types of rubber bands and thrumming the bands over the box opening. Can they figure out a recognizable song?
- After kids have made their Box Harp, ask:
 - Who do you work well with? Encourage kids to give an answer for each rubber band they used to make their harp. (i.e., If they have a three-rubber band harp, they give three names.)
 - Why do you work well with those people?
 - When is it easy to work well with someone?
 - What makes it difficult to work together?

4. Discussion Questions

- What does it look like to succeed?
- ***[Make it Personal] (Share about a time when you worked with a team to help someone else succeed.)***
- When has someone helped you succeed or when have you helped someone else succeed?
- What is the benefit of working together to help someone else succeed?
- What could be the disadvantage of working together to help someone succeed?
- Why would you want to help someone succeed if you aren't going to get credit for your efforts?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Note cards, pens

What You Do:

- Remind kids that prayer is powerful, and we can help each other succeed by praying for each other.
- Pair kids up.
- Tell each kid to write their partner's name on a note card.
- Encourage kids to share one prayer request with their partner.
 - *Example: Greg Sarchet – Sister in Law to accept Jesus as her Friend Forever.*
 - *NOTE: Kids do not have to share, but encourage pairs to at least write each other's names.*
- Challenge kids to pray for their partner each day this week.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, You are powerful! We know when we lift each other up to You in prayer, You hear us. God, just like Aaron and Hur helped Moses and the Israelites succeed, help us to see opportunities where we can work together to help someone else succeed. Amen!”