

## Alley SG—March 20th, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** Do Something (Jesus Heals a Man Who Could Not Walk / Four Friends) • *Luke 5:17-26*

**Today's Key Question:** Who do you know who needs help?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Work together to help someone in need.

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

### 1. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Ping pong balls (bin with about 120), Bibles

#### What You Do:

- Say, "We're going to have a fun light-hearted competition to get started with Small Group today! It will help us understand the importance of how God wants us to work together."
- Challenge kids to see how many ping pong balls they can hold at once, without using their pockets or clothing to hold the balls.
- As kids work on this, keep track (generally) of how many balls each kid can hold at once.
- Prompt kids to talk about what is particularly challenging about this experiment. What would help them increase the number of balls they can hold?
- Pair kids up.
- Challenge them to see how many balls one kid can hold if they work together.
- Discuss the results. Can one kid hold more if they work together? Is it easier to do with someone's help?
- Hand out the Bibles and prompt kids to look up this month's memory verse, Ecclesiastes 4:9.

**Finding verses with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders:** Our verse is from Ecclesiastes. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*Old*) So we know it's toward the front or middle of the Bible. Instruct kids to start flipping from the front of their Bibles, toward the middle. (Or let them use the Table of Contents to find Ecclesiastes.) When they find Ecclesiastes, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to find verse 9 in chapter 4.

- Ask: Can anyone recite the memory verse from memory? As kid volunteers recite the verse, encourage kids to following along in the Bible.
- Revisit the examples kids gave in the Take a Snapshot activity to the question, "Who do you know who needs help?"
- Encourage kids to think of ways they could work together to help the people. If necessary, you could also provide one of the following scenarios to discuss:
  - There is a lot of trash around your school. What needs to be done and how could people work together to help?
  - The goalie on your soccer team is struggling during the soccer game and your team is losing. How could the team work together to help them?
  - Your friend is having a rough time at home. How can you work together to help them?

## 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Say, “This activity will show us the value of cooperating with others. God wants us to focus on the needs of others, and this activity will help us understand that idea a little better in a FUN way!”
- Start with kids in groups of three.
- Line groups up together on one end of the room.
- Tell teams to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their feet touching the feet of the kid standing next to them.
- Challenge teams to get to the other side of your room/small group space without their feet losing contact.
- If the line is broken at all, the team has to start over.
- Repeat the activity and increase the number of kids on the team—the greater number on the teams the more difficult the challenge.
- Continue until the entire group is in a line working together to cross the room.
- Gather kids together and ask:
  - You really had to work together and focus on each other, didn't you? What would happen if you didn't pay attention to your teammate and were only focused on your own feet?
  - In our story today, who worked together to help the man who couldn't walk? (*the friends AND Jesus worked together to help the man walk*)
  - When the man was lowered in front of Jesus, Jesus saw his needs. How did Jesus help the man? (*This is an opportunity to dig deeper. Jesus saw the man couldn't walk so He healed the man. Jesus also saw the man needed forgiveness and again He gave the man what he needed.*)
  - Jesus worked together with the friends to help someone in need. Does Jesus work together with us today to help others? Why or why not?
  - **[Make it Personal] (Share about a time when you worked together with others to help someone in need.)**

## 3. Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to work together to help someone in need?
- How does working together help others know Jesus?
- It is easy to miss opportunities to work together to help someone in need. What can help us recognize when someone needs help?
- Sometimes we see someone in need but we don't know what our part is to help them.
  - For example:
  - Your friend needs help with their soccer game but you don't play soccer. What can you do to work with others to help your friend?
  - Or your class is putting on a talent show to raise money to help a family in your neighborhood, but you don't like to perform in front of people. What can you do to work with others on the talent show?

*(Help kids understand that there are many parts to play when people work together to help someone. Just like in our story today, people had all kinds of ways they helped the man walk—someone showed hospitality and opened their house to Jesus, the friends carried the man to Jesus, Jesus healed the man.)*

#### **4. Make it Personal with Prayer**

**What You Need:** “Prayer Cards” Activity Page (1 set of Cards per Group)

**What You Do:**

- Gather kids in a circle and give each kid a “Prayer Card.”
- Point out that each card describes people who are in need.
- Pray as a group, using the cards as a guide.

**What You Say:**

“God, You are always there when we need You, and Your Word shows us how important it is to work together to help others. The man in our story today had great friends! His friends supported him and worked together to bring him to Jesus for healing. There are so many people who need help. Please show us how we can work together to help . . . (*encourage kids to take turns slowly reading their “Prayer Card”*). God, we also ask for your guidance to show us how to work with others to help the people in our lives who are struggling . . . (*encourage kids to silently pray for specific people they may know who need help*). God, thank You for seeing what we need and for sending Jesus to make a way to be with You now and forever! Amen.”