

# Alley SG—April 3rd, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** You Raise Me Up (Lazarus Raised) • *John 11:1-45*

**Today's Key Question:** How do you react when bad things happen?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

**Monthly Memory Verse:**

## 1. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, paper (1 per student), pens

**What You Do:**

- Hand out Bibles, paper, and pens.
- Look up John 16:33b then ask kids to write the verse on their sheet of paper.

**Finding verses with 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> 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.

- When finished writing, ask:
  - What are two promises you read in this verse? (*we will face troubles in our lives, God has won the battle over the troubles of the world*)
  - What is one command you read in this verse? (*be encouraged*)
  - How is this verse helpful when something happens that you didn't want to happen or when you're face a problem that feels too big to handle?
- Turn the paper over and ask kids to write a quick description of a problem or situation they are in that feels big, difficult, or scary.
- Give opportunity for those who are comfortable doing so to share what they wrote.
- Invite kids to estimate how many times they think they can fold the paper in half before it becomes too thick to bend.
- Begin folding the paper one-fold at a time and saying the verse together after each one. (The limit is usually seven folds.)
- Take a minute to acknowledge those who came closest in the estimate they made about the number of folds they could make in their paper.
- Ask:
  - With each fold, the paper became stronger. How do each of our problems make us stronger?
  - The problem you wrote down was wrapped tightly in the folded paper. How is that sort of like God's power over your problems?
  - How does that give you hope?
- Challenge kids to keep John 16:33b in mind this week.
- Suggest that they keep the folded paper in a pocket or book bag as a reminder that a very powerful God is with them through whatever they go through this week.

## 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Stopwatch on your Smartphone (*Optional*), Cardstock Paper (1 per group), “Story Statement” Cards (1 Set of 10 per Group)

### What You Do:

- Say, “We’re going to review the Bible Story of Jesus and his friends Lazarus in a fun way.”
- Sit in a circle.
- Place a sheet of paper on the floor in an area that is a good reasonable distance away from where kids are gathered.
- Review the Bible story in the following way:
  - Give one of the kids a “Story Statement” card.
  - Explain that they must read aloud the statement as they walk across the room and try to end up on the sheet of paper in the EXACT amount of time indicated on their card. They can’t watch a clock or use other devices to time themselves.
    - *Use a stopwatch on your Smartphone to time the kids, or just count out loud.*
- Repeat the process above until each of the kids have had at least one turn.
- Lead a discussion.
  - Would you still say that Jesus’ timing in this story was *perfect*, even though Lazarus had already died by the time Jesus arrived? Why or why not?
  - Why do you think Jesus didn’t come more quickly when He heard that his friend Lazarus was near death?
  - If you had been Mary or Martha, how might you have reacted when Jesus didn’t come as soon as you’d hoped?
  - What does this incredible story tell us about God’s power? How does that give you hope?
- Remind kids that a very powerful God is always with them. God has plans that are bigger than we can understand and God has timing that is more perfect than ours.
- Close by encouraging kids to remember that whatever happens, God is powerful enough to make good come from bad. They may not see or understand how God is working right now, but remembering how God has worked in the past helps them know they can trust Him no matter what.

## 3. Discussion Questions

### Ask:

- What is something good that you have learned from going through a hard or difficult time?
- What would you never learn if you could snap your fingers or say a special prayer and solve any problem in exactly the way you wanted?
- How did Lazarus, Mary, and Martha experience hope in today’s story?
- Where do you go to find hope?
- How would you explain hope to someone?

## 4. Just for Fun

**What You Need:** Slip of Paper (1 per group per service), pens, calculator on your Smartphone (or do the Math on paper)

### What You Do:

- Say, “We’re going to do some Math now. I know, I know. But trust me. It will be a fun way to see that no matter how things start or look, God determines the end result!”
- Write the number 1,089 on a slip of paper, fold it up, and hand it to one of the kids but tell them to not look at it yet.
- Follow the steps below.

- Ask someone to pick a three-digit number. **IMPORTANT: the three numbers must be different. (Example, 123)**
- Reverse the number. (123 becomes 321)
- Subtract the smallest three-digit number from the largest. ( $321 - 123 = 198$ ) If your answer is a two-digit number, put a zero in front of it so that when you reverse it in the next step, you still have three digits.
- Take the answer and reverse that number. (198 becomes 891)
- Add that number to the answer of the subtraction earlier. ( $891 + 198 = 1,089$ )
- Invite the kid who has been holding the paper you gave them earlier to reveal the answer.
- Repeat several times letting kids try different numbers. There are very few combinations of numbers that will not result in 1,089 when you follow the steps above.
- Say, "1,089. Every time. No matter what. I was in control of the formula of how to get to that answer no matter what number you gave me. God is in control of our lives, even when bad things happen. He determines the end result!"

## 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

### What You Say:

"Dear God, we praise You for Your power. Thank You for the promise to help us when we face problems and struggles. We know that life can bring discouragement and disappointment, but we also know that YOU are bigger than any trouble we face. If You can raise Lazarus from the dead, we know that nothing is too hard for You. Help us to trust you no matter what and call on You when we have problems at home, school, with friends, or anything that is bothering us right now. Thank You for loving us and giving us hope. In Jesus, name, amen."