

Alley SG—May 1st, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Start Spreading the News (Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel) •
Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2

Today's Key Question: When have you felt alone?

Today's Bottom Line: God is always with you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NirV)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, permanent markers, and plastic helicopters (1 per kid, per service)

What You Do:

- Give kids a Bible.
- Look up this month's memory verse, Isaiah 40:31 and read it together.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Isaiah. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*Old*) So we know it's not toward the back of the Bible. When they find Isaiah, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 40. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 31 in chapter 40.

- Ask: Who is Isaiah? (*Isaiah was a prophet, a messenger of God, who listened to God and then told people what God wanted them to know. The book of Isaiah was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born; Isaiah wrote about God's promise to send a rescuer, a Messiah who would provide a way for us to be with God now and forever.*)
- Lead kids to make a "Flying Verse Helicopter."
 - Give each kid a plastic helicopter in 2 pieces (the propellor and the straw).
 - Instruct kids to cut the straw so it is about five or six inches long.
 - Then ask them to write Isaiah 40:31 in permanent marker on each wing of the propellor.
- To fly the helicopter, follow the instructions below:
 - Place the straw between your palms, propellor above your hands.
 - Spin the helicopter by sliding your hands together, your right hand moves away from you.
 - As your right hand leaves your left, gently lift the helicopter in the air by moving your hands upward.
- Explain that you can't see the forces at work keeping the helicopter in the air, but you know they are at work because you can see the helicopter fly.
- Ask:
 - Isaiah 40:31 starts: *But those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength.* What does it look like to "trust in the Lord"?
 - What does that mean to "receive new strength"?
 - What are ways we might see the Spirit at work in us? (Encourage kids to think of how the Spirit affected the disciples and how they were able to bounce back and continue to grow the early church.)
 - How does trusting God help us to be resilient?

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper, pens

What You Do:

- Ask: When are some times people might feel lonely?
- Give kids a piece of paper.

- Ask: When have you felt alone? Encourage kids to write their answers on the paper.
- Give kids a few moments share their answers.
 - **[Make it Personal] (To prompt discussion, share about some times you have felt alone and ask kids if they have had a similar experience.)**
 - Maybe you felt alone when a group of friends didn't invite you to join them in a fun activity, or when your family fights, or when you can't do something well, etc.

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- How do we know God is always with us?
- When is it hard to feel like God is with you? How do you know He is still with you?
- When have you seen or heard about something happening that you just knew was a "God thing"? (Give a couple examples, such as a family needing some help making rent and a friend just happening to give them the exact amount they need, or someone moving to a new area but they meet their new best friend.)
- Is there something that is getting you down in your life right now where you need God's power to help you show resilience? Allow kids the opportunity to share.
 - Depending on the discussion, consider leading the group in prayer for the situations the kids share before moving on to another activity.

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Foam Dice (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
 - Hand the Foam Dice to a kid in the circle.
 - Ask that kid to answer the questions based on the number they roll:
 - 1 Trust: Who do you trust the most? Why? How can you trust God more?
 - 2 Resilience: How can you bounce back when you feel like quitting? Who helps you to never give up?
 - 3 Strength: Where do you find your strength? Your Family? Friends? How can you get strength from God?
 - 4 Family: How can you show resilience with your Family?
 - 5 Wise choice: How do you know which choice is the wise choice? Can you go to God for help?
 - 6 School: How can you pray for your classmates and Teachers?

Close in Prayer:

"Thank You God that You give us resilience. Thank You for every kid here in this group. Help us to not give up when things get tough. You didn't. We trust You and we love You. Help us to have a good week this week. Amen."