

# Alley SG—July 10th, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** Good Vibrations (City on a Hill) • *Matthew 5:14-16*

**Today's Key Question:** How can you show God's goodness to others?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Show God's goodness to others.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6 (NIRV)

## 1. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, paper, markers, scissors, spoon (1 per group)

### What You Do:

- Give each of the kids a sheet of paper and a pen.
- Make sure kids have access to a Bible.
- Invite half of the group to look up and read Psalm 119:68. (Direct them to the middle of the Bible to find Psalms.)

**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.

- Invite the other half of the group to look up and read Ephesians 5:1. (Direct them to the back of their Bible to find Ephesians in the New Testament.)
- Ask: "What would you say is the one thing God wants you to know from this verse?"
  - Tell them there is no right or wrong answer and that each kid's answer may be different.
- Provide a few minutes for kids to write their thoughts in a few words on their sheet of paper.
- When finished, read aloud each of the verses one at a time, giving groups the opportunity to share what they wrote.
- Ask:
  - How do we develop God's goodness in our life?
  - Share why you agree or disagree with this statement: Goodness is more than just being good.
- Hold up a spoon and let kids observe its size and shape.
- Hide the spoon from view.
- Give each kid a pair of scissors.
- Challenge kids to cut their sheet of paper to the exact shape and size as the spoon but without being able to look at it.
- When finished, let kids compare their paper shape to the actual spoon and see who came the closest.
- Point out that their paper took on the shape of the spoon as they pictured it in their mind and tried to cut it to match as closely as they could. As we live, we should try to picture or "mimic" Jesus' goodness in everything we say and do.
- Ask: What part of God's goodness do you most want others to see take shape in you?
- Remind kids that everything we say and do that is "good" is showing God's goodness to those around us. When we reflect God's good character, we can make waves of goodness and make a difference in the world.

## 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bible, beach ball (1 per group), props box (1 per group)

### What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Invite a volunteer to read Matthew 5:14-16 to the group.

***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.

- Clarify that God, of course, wants us to BE good and DO good—it's a reflection of who God is. But the *reason* or *motivation* for why we do it is our love for God and so that we can show God to others, too.
- Ask:
  - What does it look like for a kid your age to be a light shining for Jesus?
  - How do we “hide” our light? (*When we don't act like Jesus; when we don't take the chance to share with others that we follow Him*)
  - When is it easier for us to hide our light rather than shine? (*Sometimes it's easier to do the wrong thing and just along with the crowd*)
- Invite kids to choose a random prop from the box, but don't tell them what it's for just yet.
- Ask kids to take their prop and scatter around your area so that they are a few feet away from one another.
- Explain that they will use their prop to carry the beach ball across the room to another kid. The only thing they can use is their prop—they can't directly touch the beach ball with their hands, but they can use their prop in any way they choose to carry the ball to another kid.
- Hand the beach ball to one of the kids and begin the exchange.
- After each kid has had a turn moving the beach ball, come back together for a brief discussion.
- Remind kids that through the power of God's Spirit, they can spread the light of God's goodness where they are right now and anywhere they go. They can be a “vessel” that carries God's goodness to others. And, like a wave, their actions can reach one person after another to show them what God is like.
  - Each of the props was able to carry the beach ball, but what made some props better than others?
  - Anyone who follows Jesus can (and SHOULD) be like a prop that carries God's goodness to others. What makes someone able to carry God's goodness well? (*Tapping into the power of the Spirit through prayer, reading your Bible, and talking with others who follow Jesus; doing your best to do what Jesus would do in every situation*)
  - What are some ways you can “shine your light” brighter to the people around you?
- Close by encouraging kids to continue learning who Jesus is and how we can be more and more like Him.

## 3. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Index cards, pens

### What You Do:

- Give each of the kids a pen and index card.
- Assign kids a random word such as one from the list below.
  - Sunshine
  - Phone
  - Watermelon
  - People
  - Gift
  - Beach
  - Puppy
  - Huge
  - All
  - Joy

- Challenge each kid to come up with a short definition of the word GOODNESS and write it on their index cards.
  - The challenge? They must include their random word in the definition while still coming up with a clear and accurate definition.
- Let kids have fun writing unique definitions while encouraging them to give thought to what they feel is the true meaning of the word based on the things they've learned today.
- Form a circle when finished writing.
- Trade cards several times in the following ways:
  - Trade with someone taller than you. (The tallest kids can "accept" any trade from someone who is shorter.)
  - Trade with someone wearing the same color as you.
  - Look at someone's feet. Trade with that kid.
  - Trade with someone God has been good to.
- Invite kids to take turns reading the definition on the card they now have.
- Offer encouragement and affirmation for the ideas expressed by their definitions of goodness.

#### 4. Discussion Questions

- Fill in the blank to finish this sentence: The point of goodness is \_\_\_\_\_.
- Where do you see God's goodness in your life right now?
- What would you say is the greatest motivator for wanting to reflect God's goodness?
- Who benefits when we live out God's goodness?

#### 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:**

- Lead kids in a prayer that praises God's goodness and asks for help that we may show God's goodness to others.
- Read Psalm 119:68, pausing to give kids time to pray silently or to interject a sentence prayer that follows the same thought.
  - "Dear God, You are good. (*pause*)
  - And what You do is good. (*pause*)
  - Teach me Your ways. (*pause*)

**What You Say:**

"Dear God, we know that everything good comes from You. Show us the many ways You are good to us then help us, in turn, reflect Your goodness to others. Thank You for the Holy Spirit that You have given to those who trust in You to help us spread a wave of goodness that reaches out to those around us. In Jesus' name, amen."