

## Alley SG—August 21st, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** No Matter What (The Fall) • Genesis 3 (*supporting: Genesis 2:15-17; The Gospels*)

**Today's Key Question:** Who has loved you even when you've messed up?

**Today's Bottom Line:** God loves us no matter what.

**Monthly Virtue:** Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins.* 1 John 4:10 (NIRV)

### 1. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, "Love Verses" Activity Page (2 sets per Group), Alley Cash, buzzers (1 per Group)

#### What You Do:

- **Say**, "We're going to have a good old-fashioned Sword Drill to start out our Small Group time today. What does that even mean? Well, your Bible is like your Sword. It has words that can protect you from harm, just like a sword can in battle. Here's how it works..."
- Explain that kids will race to find the verse reference on the slip of paper they've been assigned.
- Once a player has found their verse reference, they will reach to the middle of your playing area/table, and hit the buzzer.
- They will stand up and read the verse. If correct, award a dollar in Alley Cash.
- Shuffle the cards around and play as many rounds as time and interest allows.
- Ask:
  - If we look at all of these verses together, what does it say about God's love for us? (*There's a lot of it; God shows love to us in different ways; people throughout biblical history have continuously been experiencing God's love*)
  - What can you do when you feel like the things you've done wrong get in the way of God loving you? (*Look back at these verses; look for even more verses that talk about God's love; use these verses as prayers*)

### 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** "Choose Your Own Story" Cards (1 set per group)

#### What You Do:

- Lay the "Choose Your Own Story" cards on the floor or a table where the entire group can see them.
- Place all the "Intro" cards together, doing the same thing for the "Conflict" cards, "Resolution" cards, and "Ending" cards.
- Choose a kid to create their own story by selecting one card from each of the four categories.
- Let them read their story to the group as they read their cards in order (1. Intro, 2. Conflict, 3. Resolution, and 4. Ending)
- Allow more kids to take turns creating stories.
- Explain that in this activity, everyone had the choice to create their own story. Like this, we all have choices to make every single day. Sometimes those choices are small, such as choosing whether or not to pick up our Lego® bricks. But sometimes they are big decisions that could influence a friendship or even have a long-lasting impact on your life!
- Ask:
  - When we know what the right thing to do is, why do we sometimes choose the wrong thing?
  - What kinds of situations are more difficult for you to choose the right thing?

### 3. Discussion Questions

- Why do you think we choose to do the wrong thing even when we know what the right thing is?
- How does it make you feel when you have messed up?
- Who has loved you even when you've messed up?
- Do you ever feel like God doesn't love you?
- What are some things that remind you that God loves you no matter what?

*Note: Take the opportunity to assure kids that they are defined not by the things they do, but by the love God has for them.*

### 4. What do you know about Me?

**What You Need:** Timer or phone with a timer app

**What You Do:**

- Pair kids up and instruct them to spread out and stand facing their partners.
- Explain that you will read an ice breaker question. Partners will have 30 seconds to look at each other and exchange their answers to the question.
- Then prompt kids to mix up and find a new partner. Repeat the process with a new question.
- Continue repeating the process until everyone has had a chance to partner up with everyone else in the group.
- Ice breaker questions (or you can come up with your own):
  - What is your favorite ice cream flavor?
  - What is your favorite YouTube channel?
  - What is the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?
  - Do you have any hidden talents?
  - Who is your favorite super hero?
  - How do you like to spend a rainy day?
  - Which cartoon character do you wish was real?
  - Do you have any pets? If so, what is it and what is its name? If not, what do you wish you had?
  - Where were you born?
  - What's your favorite sport?
  - If you could change your name, what would you change it to?
  - Would you rather have a pet dinosaur or a pet dragon?
  - If it was raining meatballs, would you eat them?
  - If you could be any emoji, which one would you be?
  - Would you rather be invisible or be able to fly?
- After everyone has gone around the group, ask kids to give answers to the questions based on how you pair them up:
  - *For example, "Greg, what was George's answer to who is their favorite Superhero?"*
  - *Celebrate any and all correct answers!*

**What You Say:**

"I hope you had fun partnering up and learning about each other! **[Transition]** Today, we heard about how the world began with just two people. They were partners that God created on purpose. How they handled a questionable situation they were faced with, is how we should as well. God loves us even if we mess up!"

## 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** ¼ sheets of cardstock, pens, heart stickers (1 per kid)

### **What You Do:**

- Hand out paper and pens to the group and have everyone spread out so they have some privacy as they write.
- Ask kids to think about a time this past week where they messed up and did the wrong thing in a situation.
- Be sure to point out that we ALL mess up and that we've all had times where we respond in the wrong way.
- Give kids a moment to write down what happened.
- Allow anyone who wants to share to have an opportunity to talk about what happened.
- Give each kid a heart sticker and explain that even when we choose not to respond the way we should, God still loves us. God's love wins out over everything, no matter what.
- Have the kids put the heart sticker over their words on the sheet and give kids time to pray silently for a few minutes, thanking God for his love.
- Close by praying for the whole group.

### **What You Say:**

"Dear God, thank You for the epic love You have for us. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Your only Son to make a way for us to have a relationship with You now and forever. Please help us to feel Your love for us when we feel bad about something we've done. Remind us that You love us no matter what, and help us to do better in the same situation next time. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."