

## Alley SG—August 28th, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** I Choose You (God Chooses Abram) • Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6

**Today's Key Question:** When have you made a plan?

**Today's Bottom Line:** God has a plan to show love to the world.

**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 (NIV)

### 1. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** “Doodle Verse” Page (1 per kid), markers

#### What You Do:

- Tell kids that John's purpose in writing 1 John was to explain the love of God through the death of Jesus as the way for us to have a relationship with God now and forever.
- Ask if anyone has spent time memorizing 1 John 4:10 this month. If so, give them a chance to say it for the group.
- Hand out “Doodle Verse” Activity Pages to the group and set out an assortment of markers.
- Give kids time to color and decorate their pages. (Make space for conversation among your group as they color. This is a good time to ask the discussion questions from the activity above if you haven't already done so.)
- Encourage kids to take this sheet home and post it where they will see it. It can be a reminder of God's love for them and a way to continue remembering this verse.

### 2. About the Author

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### What You Do:

- Divide kids into two teams. Name them “Team 1” and “Team 2” (or you can give them 60 seconds to discuss and choose their own silly team name).
- Teams will take turns answering “Author Trivia” questions.
- You will ask the first question to Team 1.
- Teammates can quietly discuss and come up with their answer.
- If they answer the question correctly, their team gets two points.
- If they get the answer wrong, Team 2 gets a chance to answer the question.
- If Team 2 answers the question correctly, they get one point.
- If Team 2 gets the answer wrong, no team gets a point.
- Team 2's turn is next.
- Repeat the process until all the questions have been asked. The team with the most points wins.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. This author of a famous children's series named his/her two main characters after characters from two other children's classics: “Harold the Purple Crayon” and “Curious George.”
  - a) Jeff Kinney
  - b) Dav Pilkey**
  - c) Beatrix Potter
2. This author was inspired to write their famous children's novel when they witnessed a spider spinning an egg sac in their barn in Maine.
  - a. E.B. White**
  - b. J.K. Rowling
  - c. C.S. Lewis

3. This author's book, "A Light in the Attic", achieved the honor of being the first children's book to make the prestigious *New York Times* bestseller list.
  - a. Dr. Suess
  - b. Shel Silverstein**
  - c. R.L. Stine
4. This author originally created a worm as the main character of one of his most famous books. But he was advised to change the worm to a caterpillar.
  - a. Rick Riordan
  - b. Roald Dahl
  - c. Eric Carle**
5. When this author was a child, she almost flunked the first grade where her teacher would often punish her for daydreaming.
  - a. Louisa May Alcott
  - b. Beverly Cleary**
  - c. Judy Schachner
6. Before this author became known for writing and illustrating books about animals, such as a pigeon, an elephant, and a piggie, they were a writer and animator for *Sesame Street*.
  - a. Mo Willems**
  - b. Louis Sachar
  - c. Jan Berenstain
7. This author, who is known for writing a very extensive collection of children's fiction, wrote her first book as an accident. As an April Fool's joke, she wrote a story about her daughter, who turned pink after eating far too many pink cupcakes.
  - a. Jane O'Connor
  - b. Kate DiCamillo
  - c. Victoria Kann**
8. This author/illustrator of books that kids tend to buzz about, used to paint murals on the walls of the barracks when he was in the army.
  - a. James Dean
  - b. Tedd Arnold**
  - c. Dan Gutman

### What You Say:

"Great job, everyone! I don't know about you, but I certainly learned a lot about some of these famous children's authors! The author of a story is so important. Sometimes we tend to focus more on the book title, rather than the name of who wrote it. **[Transition] Today, we learned about the Author of the greatest story ever written! God and the Bible! The truth is, this Author is still writing the story through each of us. That's a really BIG deal!**"

### 3. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** "The Beginning" Cards (1 set of Cards per Group)

#### What You Do:

- Divide kids into teams of two or three.
- Read the beginning of one of the stories from "The Beginning" Activity Page cards.
- Then give kids time to discuss the prompt with their team and come up with the rest of the story.
- When every team has had a chance to form their stories, give each a turn to share their story with the group.
- Let teams vote on which story ending they think is best. (Make a rule that teams cannot vote for their own story.)
- Play a couple rounds, as interest and time allow.

- Wrap up by asking:
  - When have you had to make a plan?
  - Why are plans a good thing?
  - How do you usually react when your plans have to change?
  - ***[Make it Personal] (Share a story about a time when you weren't sure what would happen. Maybe you had plans to take a new job but those plans fell through. Or you had plans to go on a mission trip but Covid delayed or cancelled those plans. Were you able to take comfort knowing that God's ultimate plan is to show love to the world?)***

#### 4. Discussion Questions

- When have you made a plan?
- How does it make you feel when you make a plan that doesn't end up the way you had hoped?
- Since we typically do not hear God's audible voice, how can we know what God's plan is for us?
- Can God still use us to show love to the world, even if we have fallen off the path a bit?

*Note: If you're short on time, combine these questions with the Verses to Take With You activity.*

#### 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** ½ sheets of paper, pens

##### What You Do:

- Set you group up for success in prayer, by letting them know they will take some time silently praying for 4 different topics.
- The four topics are:
  - Pray about why you love God.
  - Pray for a specific person who you need to show love to.
  - Ask for forgiveness for some way that you've messed up.
  - Talk to God about a situation where you need help trusting God.
- Tell the kids you'll be spending some time in silent prayer OR they can prayer journal if they want by writing things down on paper.
- Explain that we all need a little guidance sometimes when it comes to praying. The different topics will prompt them on thinking of things to pray about.
- Wrap up your time by praying for the entire group.