

## Alley SG—January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** New Attitude (Jesus' Baptism) • *John 1:19-42; 3:22-36 (Matthew 3)*

**Today's Key Question:** When have you discovered something new?

**Today's Bottom Line:** When you discover something new, it can change you.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The LORD gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth. Proverbs 2:6 (NirV)*

### 1. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles

**What You Do:**

- Sit in a circle and ask kids to close their eyes.
- Challenge them to create a mental picture as a group, with each person adding a detail to the picture.
- Start by giving the group an object to imagine, e.g., a boat.
- Ask someone to go first and add a detail about the boat, such as “it has a sail.”
- Guide kids to continue taking turns to add details to create a more detailed picture, e.g., a sailboat on a river.
- Make sure everyone adds a detail to the picture.
- Encourage kids to talk about how the mental image in their mind changed as they were given more information.
- Give kids a Bible. Look up the memory verse, Proverbs 2:6.
- Allow kids to recite the verse from memory. As kids attempt to recite the verse, the rest of the group can follow along in the Bible.
- Point out to the group that their mental picture changed as they were given new information. That is how it is when we continue to seek God's wisdom—the more knowledge and understanding that we have can change how we react to situations or how we treat others.
- Ask the following questions. Consider looking up verse references to help spark conversation:
  - How can God's wisdom change how you respond when you are frustrated? (*Galatians 5:22*)
  - How can God's wisdom change how you respond to someone you are mad at? (*Proverbs 15:1*)
  - How can God's wisdom change how you treat others? (*Genesis 1:27*)

### 2. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Floor tape, yellow and orange card stock squares, index cards, markers, Bibles

**What You Do:**

- Tape a line on the floor.
- Write “John” on a yellow cardstock square. Set the yellow cardstock on the left end of the tape.
- Then write “John's disciples” on an orange cardstock square and set it on the right end of the tape.
- Pair kids up and give each team three or four index cards.

- Ask teams to write on their index cards (one on each card) something John said about Jesus and who Jesus was.
  - They can look up today's story in John 1:19-42 if they need help remembering specific details.
  - Tell teams to place their facts underneath the "John" card.
  - Review the facts kids wrote.
- Remind kids that John had disciples, people who were following him. We learned in our story today one of John's disciples was Andrew.
  - Ask teams to write down a couple different things (one on each card) that John's disciples (including Andrew) said or knew about Jesus.
  - Tell teams to place their facts underneath the "John's disciples" card.
  - Review the facts kids wrote.
  - Ask: Did Andrew change after Jesus' baptism? Encourage kids to explain their answer. *(Once Andrew knew who Jesus was, "The Lamb of God!" he began following Jesus; Andrew became a disciple of Jesus. Andrew didn't just follow Jesus, but he told his brother, Simon, about Jesus and then Simon started following Jesus, too.)*
- Remind kids that learning that Jesus was the Messiah changed John and Andrew. All of John's followers started following Jesus after they learned that Jesus was the Messiah.
- Ask: What does Messiah mean?
  - When you decided to follow Jesus, how did it change you? ***[Make it Personal] (Share how knowing Jesus is the Messiah changed you. Maybe you worried a lot about the future and now knowing you will be with God forever helps you worry less. Maybe you were facing a difficult decision and knowing what is important to Jesus helped you make a wise choice.)***
- Tell kids that in our story there were people who heard what John had to say about Jesus and they didn't change—they heard about Jesus but didn't choose to discover who Jesus really was. Tell kids that it is okay if they are still discovering who Jesus is. The important thing is to continue searching for knowledge and for what is true.
  - Ask: What are ways we can learn more about Jesus?

*Note: The discussion for this activity will vary depending on your group dynamics. For some groups, the purpose of this activity is to plant the seed that knowing Jesus should make a difference in our lives right now. For other groups, kids may be ready to discuss what difference Jesus currently makes in their lives.*

### 3. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Bucket of Random Objects (1 per Group)

**What You Do:**

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Set a bucket of props between the two teams.
- Instruct one team to select a prop.
- Challenge teams to demonstrate a unique and new way to use the prop. For example: a pool noodle—an oar, a jump rope, a giant straw, etc.
- Award teams a point for each idea they give.
- Play a few rounds alternating which team selects the prop.

- After a winner is declared, ask:
  - When have you discovered something new? *To help kids answer this, encourage them to think through the things they thought about and did while in kindergarten and how it has changed now that they are older.*
    - *For example: in Kindergarten I couldn't tie my shoes, but now I can. Or In Kindergarten learning the alphabet was a challenge, and now I am reading chapter books. Consider prompting them to fill in the sentence: I used to . . . but now I . . .*
- As kids share, ask: Did what you discovered change anything about how you think or feel?

#### **4. Discussion Questions**

- How should knowing Jesus change how you treat people? How can knowing Jesus help change how you react when someone makes you mad? Or hurts your feelings?
- How does knowing Jesus help change how you react when things aren't going your way? What about when you are facing a challenge?
- If you feel like you want to know more about Jesus, what are some steps you can take to do that?

#### **5. Make it Personal with Prayer**

- Close in prayer.

#### **What You Say:**

“God, Thank You for loving us so much You sent Jesus. When we discover who Jesus is, we can choose to follow Him. As we continue to grow in knowledge and understanding, help us continue to grow to be more like Jesus. Open our eyes, God, to discover something new, to discover the way You want us to live, the way You want us to act, the way You want us to treat others. Help us, God, to be more like Jesus. In Jesus' name! Amen!”