

# Alley SG—January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** Help Me (John the Baptist in Prison) • *Matthew 11:1-6 (James 1:5)*

**Today's Key Question:** What questions do you have?

**Today's Bottom Line:** If you don't understand something, ask

**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:** Paper strips (2 per kid), tape, scissors, Bibles, optional: mobile device

### What You Do:

- Give kids two strips of paper.
- Guide kids to make a paper chain.
  - Form a circle with one strip of paper.
  - Overlap the ends and secure with tape
  - Thread the second strip of paper through the center of the circle.
  - Overlap the ends of the second strip of paper forming a circle and secure with tape.
- Challenge kids to make the chain of two loops into a square. If kids ask, let them use scissors and tape.
- Allow kids to struggle with it a bit.
- If kids ask questions, answer them. Wait until they ask how it is done before showing them the solution.
- To make the square, do the following:
  - Start with an intact two-loop chain.
  - Cut one circle in half. Now you have two circles on the ends of a rectangular strip of paper.
  - Starting at the narrow end, cut the rectangle paper in half.
  - The end result should be a square frame.
- After everyone has successfully turned two circles into a square, gather kids together.
- Give kids a Bible. Look up James 1:5 and read it together.
- Ask:
  - What does this verse tell us about knowledge?
  - Who can get God's wisdom? Based on this verse, how do we know God welcomes any question?
  - What does this verse tell you about God?
  - What are some ways God gives us wisdom?
- Invite kids to write the words of James 1:5 on their paper-chain-turned-square and take it home to remind them to ask God to help them grow in knowledge and wisdom.

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Paper, pens

### What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Give kids paper and pens.
- Ask: What questions would you ask a ...? Fill in the blank with an occupation, e.g., professional athlete, actor, veterinarian, pilot, etc.
- Give kids a couple minutes to write down some questions they would ask someone who has that job.
- Explain that the questions must be related to the occupation.
- For example: What questions would you ask a veterinarian?
  - What is the biggest animal you have treated?
  - How many animals do you own?
  - How many years of school did you have to learn to be a vet?

- After each round, let kids share their questions with the group.
- Award a point for each unique question. Allow the group to decide if a question is related to the occupation.
- Play a few rounds with different occupations.
- Ask:
  - What questions do you have about God or just life in general? Is there something you have wondered about? (The purpose of this question is not to provide answers. Just tick off a few questions kids might have. Stop when you get to five. Consider starting with a crazy, age-appropriate question you have yourself, such as: will people live on Mars someday? Do elephants really have great memories?)
  - What makes it hard to ask a question?
  - What are some reasons people don't ask questions?

### 3. Discussion Questions

- John knew about Jesus, yet he still had questions about Jesus. Just like John, we are always learning and growing, and thinking about Jesus in new ways. Imagine you are sitting with Jesus. What questions would you ask Him?
- Since Jesus isn't sitting here with us, who can you ask your questions to?
- Some questions have answers we can find out, and some don't. What do we do when we have a question that doesn't have an easy answer or can't be answered until we're with God in heaven? (This is an opportunity to assure kids that some questions simply can't be answered right now but it is important to keep asking questions, to keep searching for knowledge. Oftentimes, we learn more on the journey of asking questions than we do having answers themselves.)
- What do you know is true about God? How can knowing these truths help you when you have questions that are hard to answer?

### 4. Make it Personal with Prayer

- As a group, close in prayer.
- Encourage kids to fill in the blanks either out loud or silently.

#### What You Say:

"God, You are . . . [*good, kind, powerful, wise*]. This month we have learned so much. Thank You for teaching us . . . [*fill in with examples from the 'DID YOU KNOW...?' wall*]. God, we know wisdom and understanding come from Your mouth. All we have to do is ask and You will give it to us freely. We will always have questions, and some of those questions might not have answers right now. But God, we know we can trust You no matter what. Thank You for loving us. We love You! In Jesus' name! Amen."