

Alley SG – February 5th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: For the Sake of the Call (Calling of the Disciples) • *Luke 5:1-11, 27-32*

Today's Bottom Line: Include people who are left out

Monthly Memory Verse: *Do to others as you want them to do to you.* Luke 6:31 (NIRV)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, small white boards and markers (3 per group)

What You Do:

- Form teams of two, three or more kids.
- Choose a child to be the “driver” for each team.
- Invite teams to arrange themselves on the floor (or in chairs) as if seated in a car with the driver in front and everyone else in the seat(s) behind them.
- No one sits next to the driver in the front passenger’s seat.
- Ask kids if they have ever heard someone called a “backseat driver.” If they are not familiar with the phrase, tell them that it’s someone who sits in the backseat and gives the driver advice about how to drive, whether they ask for it or not.
- When everyone is seated, give the backseat drivers a white board and marker (one per group)
- Tell kids that you will ask a question about today’s Bible story.
 - While the “driver” keeps their eyes on the road (faces forward) the backseat driver(s) will quietly discuss, decide on an answer and write down the answer on their White Board.
 - They then pass their White Board to the kid in the driver’s seat who will then shout out the answer.
 - If the driver’s spoken answer is correct, they remain in the driver’s seat.
 - If they are wrong, they move to the back of the car and the kid on the front left moves forward as kids switch seats.
 - Use any of the review questions at the bottom of the page or add others of your choosing that have simple answers that can be easily written on the White Boards.
 - If needed, refer to Luke 5:1-11, 27-32.
 - If kids don’t know how to spell an answer, tell them to do their best. Incorrect spelling won’t make their answer wrong.
- Bring kids together to make some observations about the story.
- Remind kids that Jesus’ friends and followers were made up of all kinds of people. Even the men He invited to be His closest companions were not the most popular, powerful, or cool—just normal, everyday people who were not necessarily the ones everybody invited to their party.
- Ask:
 - Who can follow Jesus?
 - If your answer to the previous question is anyone or everyone, explain how that shows respect for all people.
 - What does it look like for a kid your age to follow Jesus?
 - If you choose to follow Jesus, how should that change the way you treat others?

Review Questions:

1. Name the book of the Bible where today's story is found. (*Luke*)
2. Whose mother-in-law did Jesus heal? (*Peter's*)
3. What was Peter's mother-in-law suffering from? (*high fever*)
4. What's the name of the body of water Jesus was near when he was preaching to a crowd of people? (*Sea of Galilee*)
5. What is the name of the fisherman whose boat Jesus used? (*Peter*)
6. What were the fisherman cleaning when Jesus asked to use his boat? (*fishing nets*)
7. How many fish had the fisherman caught after fishing all night? (*none*)
8. What began to happen to the nets the fishermen were using when they fished where Jesus told them to? (*broke*)
9. What are the names of the other fishermen who left their boats to follow Jesus? (*James and John*)
10. What job did Matthew have? (*tax collector*)
11. What is the best word to describe how people felt toward tax collectors? (*hate*)
12. Where did Jesus go with Matthew that shocked the people? (*dinner at Matthew's house*)
13. Who did Jesus come to seek and save? (*sinners, everyone*)

2. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies

What You Do:

Ask:

- Why do you think we often play favorites based on how someone looks or acts? What do you think should happen instead?
- Name three good reasons why God wants you to show respect to everyone and not just the kids you think are cool.
- Jesus didn't choose His disciples based on how they looked or how popular they were. If Jesus showed up at your school, who are the kinds of people He'd probably sit with at lunch? (no names)
- It's not wrong to have a close group of friends—Jesus did. But when can it become a problem and cause others to feel excluded? What can you do to keep that from happening?
- If a teacher, coach, or other adult seems to play favorites, who can you go to and talk about it?

3. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, 3 sheets of paper per child, markers

What You Do:

- Guide kids as needed to look up Luke 6:31.
- Use the Navigation Tip below if kids need help finding the verse on their own.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Luke. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (*New*) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. It's the third of the four gospels (*Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*). When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 31 in chapter 6.

- Many kids will be familiar with this verse and may have heard it called “The Golden Rule.” Ask why they think it’s called that.
- Take turns reciting Luke 6:31 and finishing one of the sentence starters from the list below.
- Give kids different sentences to finish then use their answers to unpack the meaning of the verse and how it applies to them.

Sentence Starters

1. This verse reminds me to . . .
 2. If everyone lived by this verse . . .
 3. One thing that stood out to me in this verse was . . .
 4. I think this verse is important to know because . . .
 5. I need to remember this verse when . . .
 6. I might have a hard time following this verse when . . .
 7. One thing this verse tells me about God is that . . .
 8. Living out this verse shows respect because. . .
 9. I think this verse should be . . .
 10. One thing this verse tells me about people is that . . .
- Give each kid a few pieces of paper and marker.
 - Invite them to make a doodle, design, or picture that reflects the meaning of Luke 6:31.
 - Let kids share their doodles with the group and explain the meaning behind it.

4. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Floor Tape

What You Do:

- Place strips of tape on the floor to create a two-lane road long enough for all your kids to stand in.
- Invite kids to line up on the middle line.
- Call out choices from the list at the bottom of the page and let kids show their preference or favorite by jumping to the left lane for the first thing you mention and the right lane for the second.
- If they have to preference or can't decide, they can stay in the middle.
- Return to the center lines after each round.
- Add other choices to the ones in the list, if desired.
- Point out that every once in a while, kids had the same favorites, but usually the group was divided.
- Ask: (*Remind kids to not share names of others in their answers.*)
 - If you were one of the kids who was on one side of the road during our game while everyone else was on the other side, was it a big deal to you? Why or why not?

- What are some ways you've noticed kids you know leaving others out? (No names)
- What are some of the feelings you've felt when you've been left out?
- When has someone included you when you felt left out? When did you include someone?
- Agree with kids that feeling left out is never fun. Knowing what it feels like to be excluded makes us more aware of how others feel and challenges us to be "includers," not kids who leave others out.

LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD	RIGHT SIDE OF THE ROAD
Pizza	Spaghetti
Hot Coffee	Cold Coffee
Broccoli	Spinach
Beach	Pool
Books	Movies
Summer	Winter
Football	Baseball
Cats	Dogs
Your Birthday	Christmas
Spend time with one friend	Go to a party with lots of friends
Zoo	Water Park
Spiders	Snakes

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: index cards, markers,

What You Do:

- Ask kids to write their name neatly on an index card.
- Ask kids to sit in a circle or around a table.
- Invite them to trade cards across the circle.
- Lead kids to pray silently for the kid whose name is on the card.
- When finished, kids can place the card inside circle and wait until everyone is included.
- Close with a group prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, help us to follow the example of Jesus and treat everyone with respect. You made each person and created us unique and special. Remind us how it feels when we are tempted to not include someone. We love You and want to follow Your example. Just like each of our names is in the circle in front of us, show us how to include others in our circle of friends so that no one feels left out. Help us to not play favorites with people. In Your name we pray, amen."