

# ALLEY SG – April 29-May 1, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** Mercy's Shore (Jesus Restores Peter) • *John 21:1-19 (John 18:1-27)*

**Today's Key Question:** When is it hard to make things right?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Put others first by making things right

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3 (NIRV)

## 1. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Play-Doh (10 per bin)

### What You Do:

- Give each of the kids a small container of Play-Doh.
- Invite kids to form the dough into the shape of a heart as they share what they remember from Large Group.
  - What did Peter do that he said he would never do on the night Jesus died on the cross?
  - What do you think prompted Peter to do the very thing he said he'd never do?
  - Before Peter saw Jesus alive again, what feelings do you think he had as he looked back on that night?
- Tell kids to pass their Play-Doh heart to the left then continue the review.
  - If the Play-Doh could represent how Peter felt after his actions on the night Jesus died, what might it look like? (*Pause to **allow kids a moment to reshape the dough in whatever way they choose.***)
  - What was the question Jesus asked Peter three times?
  - How easy or hard do you think it was for Jesus and Peter to make things right? Explain.
  - How do we know that things were made right between Jesus and Peter?
- Ask kids to pass the Play-Doh back to the kid on their right who will restore it back into the shape of a heart they made earlier.
- Point out that after the heart shapes were broken and squished, kids "restored" them back to the original shape. We could say that they "made things right" again.
- Wrap up with a few more discussion questions.
  - How have you made things right with someone when you've done something you regret?
  - When is it hard to make things right?
  - What are some things you can say or do to start making things right with someone?
  - What can you do when you're willing to make things right but the other person isn't?
  - If you need help making things right with someone, who can you talk to?
- Close with a reminder that when someone wrongs us, it's easy to get mad and stay mad. But even if we FEEL like we have a right to stay mad, humility means choosing to make the first move to make things right.
- Collect the Play-Doh for kids to reuse during the Prayer activity.

## 2. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles, ball (one per bin)

### What You Do:

- Stand in a circle with one kid in the center.
- Give the ball to one of the kids around the circle.
- Explain that the kid in the middle will call out one of two signals.
  1. "Tap it!" which means the person holding the ball must tap the top of it.
  2. "Pass it!" which means to pass the ball to someone on their left or the right.
- Tell kids that the trick is that whoever is holding the ball must do the *OPPOSITE* of the command. (If they are told to "Tap it," they must pass it. If they are told to "Pass It," they must tap it.)
- If they make a mistake, they switch places with the kid in the middle.
- Build momentum as you play by increasing the speed of how quickly the commands are given.
- After the game, gather kids together.
- Ask kids to look up Colossians 3:13.
- Read the verse together then give kids a few minutes to try and memorize it.
- Practice saying Colossians 3:13 as a group without looking at it in the Bible.
- Discuss the verse by first reminding kids that sometimes God asks us to do the opposite of what we might FEEL like doing.
  - What can you do when something needs to be made right but no one is willing to take the first step?
  - What would happen if God was not willing to make things right with us?
  - What would it look like for you to take the first step in making things right if you need to this week?
  - What's the difference between just letting something go and actually making things right with the person who has wronged you?
- Close by saying Colossians 3:13 together one more time reminding kids that living out this verse today might mean letting someone off the hook and letting go of a grudge. It might mean taking the first step toward someone to make things right even if they think they don't deserve it. If they feel like doing the right thing, take a beat and talk to God, the master of making things right.

## 3. Discussion Questions

### Ask:

- How do you benefit by being the first one to step out and make things right with others?
- If God wants us to make things right with others, what does that tell you about how much God values relationships? What else has God done that shows us how incredibly important it is for relationships to be restored?
- Why do we sometimes choose to not make things right after something has happened between us and a friend or a family member? Is there ever a good reason to avoid making things right?
- Can our motives ever be selfish even when we're doing something to make things right? Explain.

#### **4. Take a Snapshot**

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Toothpicks (one bag per bin), tape

**What You Do:**

- Form two teams.
- At the far end of the room set out 10 toothpicks, plus a roll of tape for each team.
- Lead kids in a relay race in which the first kid on each team runs down and breaks a toothpick in half, and then returns.
- The next kid runs down and tapes the toothpick back together then returns.
- Continue until all of the team's toothpicks have all been *broken and made right*.
- After the game, ask kids to share their thoughts about the attitudes, words or actions that can break a relationship.
  - What can help fix or make that friendship right again?

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

**What You Need:** Play-Doh

**What You Do:**

- Give kids a container of Play-Doh from earlier.
- Ask them to create a shape that represents a relationship that needs to be made right.
- Invite kids to pray for those they may need to make the first move with and show humility in making things right.
- Ask kids to reshape the dough into something that represents a relationship that has been made right.
- Invite them to thank God for sending Jesus to die for us so that we could be made right.

**What You Say:**

*“Dear God, thank You for not leaving us without a way to make things right and be in a forever friendship with You. Give us a heart of humility that is willing to take the first step in making things right with those we have hurt or who have hurt us. Since this is usually the opposite of what we feel like doing, give us the courage to step up and do what we know is right even if it’s hard. In Jesus’ name, amen.”*