

Alley SG - May 6-8, 2023

Today's Bible Story: All Around the World (Great Commission and Ascension) • *Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11*

Today's Key Question: How can you share God's love?

Today's Bottom Line: Share God's love with others

Monthly Memory Verse: *So we can say boldly, "The Lord helps me. I will not be afraid."*
Hebrews 13:6a (NIRV)

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: "Bible Story Review" Page and 2 dice (1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Invite your group to sit in a circle.
- Have one kid roll both dice.
- If the child rolls a 2-11, ask them the corresponding number question on the "Bible Story Review" Page.
- If the child rolls a 12, ask them to tell you the bottom line for today. (*Share God's love with others*)
- Allow the kid to respond if they know the answer but open the question to the group if they don't.
- Take turns around the circle until all kids have had at least one turn.
- At the end, If there are any questions that were never asked, ask them to the whole group.

2. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Prepared "Verse Blocks" (2 sets per bin), floor tape, Bibles

What You Do:

- Have kids find Hebrews 13:6a in their Bibles
- Use a piece of floor tape to mark two "Starting Lines" on one end of your group space.
- Divide kids into two teams and have each team line up behind a "Starting Line."
- On the opposite end, place a pile of the prepared "Verse Blocks" Activity Page pieces across from each team.
- Explain that when you say, "Go!" kids will relay race to the other end to pick up the pieces from their stack.
- Only one player from each team can go at a time. The next player in line will not go until the player who collects a piece from the other end crosses back over the "Starting Line."
- Once all 16 pieces have been retrieved, teammates will work together to place the pieces together in a way that fits and states the verse in the correct order (a la the 1980s game Tetris®).
- The first team to successfully complete their verse puzzle wins the game!

- Lead kids in saying the verse together a few times and encourage them to continue learning it at home.
- Explain that just like it took all of their teammates in order to retrieve the pieces and put the verse in order, it takes all of us in order to share God's love with the world. It's a team effort! But not only do we have each other, we also have the Holy Spirit to help us love and live the way Jesus did when He was here on Earth. The Spirit can give us confidence to share God's love, even when we're nervous!
- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THE 2 SETS OF VERSE BLOCKS GET BACK IN THE BAGS FOR THE NEXT GROUP TO USE.**

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: "Share Controls" Page (1 per student), pens

What You Do:

- Hold up a copy of the "Share Controls" Activity Page.
- Ask kids these questions, and call on volunteers to answer:
 1. Does anyone know what these are? (*Joy-Con controllers*)
 2. How do you use them in order to play a video game? (*You can hold them in your hands and control what's going on in the video game either by pushing buttons or moving the controller in certain directions. It is motion-censored, which allows it to wirelessly connect with the screen where the game is playing.*)
 3. What makes this type of controller so special? How is it different from other kinds of controllers? (*They are versatile. You can connect them to both sides of a gaming device, and play single player. Or you can keep them separate and share a controller with another person, which allows you to play a game with someone else.*)
- Explain that after Jesus defeated death, He told us to go share God's love with others. This includes everyone! We should share with people who don't know who God is, and we should share with people who do! We are given opportunities every day to share God's love with everyone we encounter.
- Give kids a chance to think of people in their lives with whom they can share God's love. **Instruct them to write those names down on one of the controllers on their "Share Controls" Activity Page.**
- **Instruct them to write down various ways they can share God's love on the other controller on the page.**
- Allow kids to write on their controllers as you ask the following questions for discussion:
 1. Is it easy to share God's love with people we love and like?
 2. Why is it sometimes difficult to share God's love with people who make us uncomfortable?
 3. Should we only share God's love with people who don't know Jesus? Why or why not?
- Remind kids that we should share God's love with everyone! One way we can do that is simply by choosing to live in a way that follows Jesus' example.
- Encourage them to put this page somewhere where they will see it and be reminded to share God's love with others.

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Are there times when you don't feel confident? If so, when?
- What keeps you from feeling confident?
- When was a time where you felt afraid to share God's love?
- How can you share God's love? (*Be sure to encourage kids to think of outside-the-box ways they can share God's love. Remind them that this does not always have to be big or awkward or even risky. Sometimes the simplest ways speak the loudest!*)
- How does the way you live affect the way others see Jesus?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: *Nothing*

- Explain that you are going to lead them in a prayer. You will begin by praying out loud, but then you will include some quiet time where kids can pray silently for the people they wrote down on their controller page from activity 3. Encourage them to ask God to help them find ways to share His love with those people this week.

What You Say:

"Dear God,

Thank you for the amazing thing you did when Jesus came back to life! Today's story reminds us that You want us to share Your love with everyone! Sometimes it feels scary or risky. We've all missed an opportunity to show love to someone because we were nervous. Help us to have confidence as we remember that You are with us. We pray specifically for the people that You have brought to each of our minds today. (*Pause for a moment.*) Thank You, God, for placing these people in our lives. Help us to trust You. Amen."