

Alley LG – Oct 3rd - 4th

Bible Story: And to Think That I Saw Him on the Road to Damascus (Paul shares his story with Timothy) • 1 Timothy 1:12-16 (Supporting: Acts 9:1-19, Acts 16:1)

Bottom Line: Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference.

Memory Verse: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live.” 1 Timothy 4:12a, NIV

Life App: Individuality—discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference.

SFX: Play upbeat music as kids enter.

Worship:

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everybody! It’s great to see you! Today we’re talking about one very important thing that’s true for every single person in this room. It’s true for you. *(Use your phone to take a picture of a kid in the front row.)* It’s true for you. *(Take a picture of a Small Group Leader.)* It’s true for you guys in the back. *(Take a picture of the tech team.)* It’s true for your mom or your dad or your brother or sister.

“It’s even true ... for me. *(Hold up the phone like you’re about to take a selfie, and then pause.)* Especially when I get things ... *(tap the screen)* in focus. *(Take the picture.)*

“You see, every single one of us has a STORY. I have a story. Your Small Group Leader has a story. And YOU have a story. You are completely unique. You are an individual. There is no one else on this planet that has the exact same story as you. And that’s what we’re talking about for the next few weeks—individuality!

CG: Individuality Slide

“Individuality is discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference. So this month, we’re going to get in focus ... *(hold up the phone and tap the screen)* and see who God made us to be. And, speaking of stories, to kick us off I need you guys to help me fill in some stories for my friends up here on the screen. I need you to tell me ‘What Happens Next?’

“This game is pretty simple ... and awesome. What you’re about to see is either an epic win or an epic fail. We’ll pause each one, and you can give me your best guess about ‘What Happens Next?’ Oh, and don’t try any of these at home!

Note: These are just a few examples of wins and fails. Be sure to pause the videos and get the kids to guess what happens next.

“Check out this guy. What do you think? What’s the story? Is he going to land it? Let’s see!

CG: https://youtu.be/SILKoyX_Sok (1:59, pause at 2:01, end at 2:06)

“What about this one? Awesome goal ... or fail?

CG: <https://youtu.be/xKuEDQj7KnA> (2:29, pause at 2:35, end at 2:47)

“How about our trampolinist? What’s going to happen here? Epic or fail?

CG: <https://youtu.be/F-7wOb65toU> (4:05, pause at 4:08, end at 4:15)

“Okay, last one. Believe it or not, this guy is trying to fly through that waterfall. You think he can do it?

CG: <https://youtu.be/jLWnS3qFJoM> (0:35, pause at 0:41, end at 0:50)

“Not bad, you guys. I think you guessed all of them!

“It’s funny how we’re always so good at figuring out other people’s stories. Or at least we THINK we are. *(Pause.)* But, let’s be honest, sometimes it’s hard to tell. Sometimes we think a person is a certain way because of what their story appears to be or even USED to be. But God can use EVERY part of our story—the parts we’re proud of, and even the parts we’re not so proud of.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “SO our stories can be pretty powerful, and God can use them in powerful ways. I want to show you what I mean by telling you about a guy named Timothy and his friend Paul.

(Hold up Bible.) “You can read about Timothy and Paul in the New Testament. Paul had asked Timothy to help lead the new church. Even though Timothy was still young, Paul saw something in Timothy that made him think he would be a great person to help people get to know Jesus and follow Him.

“Now, Paul was kind of an interesting guy. Paul was this GREAT leader who went around telling everyone the awesome news that God loves us and He sent Jesus to be our Savior. BUT... there’s more to Paul’s story; there’s a bit of a backstory. And Paul tells Timothy all about his story in a letter that he wrote to Timothy. It’s so cool because we can actually read his letter in our Bibles today. It’s the book of 1 Timothy. *(Hold up Bible.)*

(LG Group Leader: You also have the option showing the Bible story on video instead of this live teach. It will be loaded on the computer in case. Just let the tech team know.)

PAUL: A “BAD GUY”

STORYTELLER: “Ok. In order for us to really understand his story, I need someone to come up and play the part of Paul.”

Pick a child to come up and be “Paul.” Pull a robe from the bin and put it on the child. Then pull out the scroll. Let the bottom dowel drop to the floor.

STORYTELLER: “OK, great. So, Paul, in this letter apparently you were telling our young leader, Timothy, that you weren’t always such a great guy.” See, it says it right here in your letter to Timothy...

(Clear throat and read from the scroll.) ‘I am thankful to Christ Jesus our Lord. He has given me strength. I thank him that he considered me faithful. I thank him for appointing me to serve him. I used to speak evil things against Jesus. I tried to hurt his followers. I really pushed them around. But God showed me mercy anyway.’”

STORYTELLER: “Wow. So, Paul, you’re telling us that you used to say bad things about Jesus! And you tried to hurt people who believed in Him! Here are some things that I read about you in the Bible...

you believed that the people who believed in Jesus were criminals and deserved to be arrested, put on trial, and even killed!”

Storyteller pulls out a bag full of coats

STORYTELLER: “Yeah, there’s even a story about how some men were throwing rocks at a guy who believed in God named Stephen so they could kill him. And you stood off to one side and helped those men by taking care of their coats while they threw the rocks! Here, hold these, Paul.

Storyteller dumps the bag of coats onto “Paul”

STORYTELLER: “But guess what?? That’s not ALL that Paul did that was bad!”

Storyteller picks up the chains out of the box and puts them on the outstretched the arms of “Paul”.

STORYTELLER: “You guys are probably wondering why Paul needed those chains?? Well, I’ll tell you. Paul was angry about all of the people who were following Jesus. REMEMBER, he did NOT believe in him! He was yelling threats and insults at them!! He even went to Damascus,

another city, and arrested the followers of Jesus that lived there. When he caught them, he planned to put them in chains and take them ALL back to Jerusalem where they would be put on trial and killed. So start walking, Paul.”

“Paul” walks in place still holding the chains.

PAUL’S CONVERSION

Storyteller pulls the flashlight out of the box and circles around “Paul” shining the light into his eyes.

STORYTELLER: “And now, you are probably wondering why I am shining a flashlight in Paul’s eyes? Well, the Bible tells us that while Paul was walking on the road to Damascus, a bright light shone down on him from heaven. And he heard a voice speaking to him.”

STORYTELLER: *Turns to the audience...* “Anyone want to guess who’s voice that was??? RIGHT! That voice was Jesus speaking to Paul. He wanted Paul to know that He was REAL, and He was ALIVE just like all His followers had been saying! He wanted Paul to stop trying to hurt the other believers and to become a follower of His. He told Paul He wanted him to even go around telling other people that Jesus is alive!!”

PAUL IS USED FOR GREAT THINGS

STORYTELLER: “And GUESS WHAT??? He DID! Paul was actually blind from the bright light for three days, but afterwards he spent time with other people who believed in Him and started telling others about Jesus. Paul went on to teach other leaders, write letters that became part of the Bible, and spread the message of Jesus to THOUSANDS and THOUSANDS of people. In one of the letters he wrote, Paul spoke about his story to Timothy so that Timothy would know something very important.”

“Lets all give a round of applause to our awesome actor who played Paul today!!

Dismiss child back to his/her seat

TIMOTHY’S STORY

STORYTELLER: “Thanks, [kid’s name.] Now, let’s put ourselves in Timothy’s shoes for a second. Timothy was a young leader in the church, so maybe he was just a little bit nervous about whether he was the right guy for the job. You can probably imagine how he must have felt. But here was Paul, laying it all out there by telling him that God didn’t give up on HIM because of his past. In fact, now God was able to use Paul to share the great news about Jesus, and his story was a HUGE part of that.”

“Listen to how Paul said it. (*Open the Bible to 1 Timothy 1:15b-16 and read.*) ‘Christ Jesus

came into the world to save sinners. And I am the worst sinner of all. But for that very reason, God showed me mercy. ... He showed me mercy so that Christ Jesus could show that he is very patient. I was an example for those who would come to believe in him. Then they would receive eternal life.' (NirV)

"In other words, Paul was saying, 'I was the worst person ever, but God still loved me. He saved me. And now I want you to experience the same thing.' Paul openly shared the story of his rocky past because it showed God's grace and love for him in a unique and powerful way. Think of how encouraging that must have been for Timothy, reading Paul's letter! Even though Timothy might have felt nervous about being a leader, he could see what God had done in Paul's life. Timothy could see that HIS story mattered too. And he could see how Jesus could use him to make a difference."

Sit on the edge of the stage.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "So what does all of this mean for us? (*Hold up Bible.*) Well, Paul wrote this letter to encourage Timothy, and it should encourage us too. Paul gave Timothy a great reminder that God was with him and that God could use everything about him—his personality, his background, his individuality—to make a difference for others. And that's something all of us need to remember. God can use ANYONE to share His story, including you and me.

"So what is it about YOUR story? How could God use YOUR story to help others? He made you a unique individual. And He can do great things through you, if you're willing to say yes to Him and you're willing to use the story of YOUR life to help others understand what His Big Story is all about. Let's look at our one thing to remember for today."

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] "Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference. It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done; Jesus can use your story to help others. Let's take a moment and thank Him for that. Let's pray."

Pray

STORYTELLER: "God, thanks for this awesome reminder that You can use our stories in powerful ways. It's so cool to see how You used Paul to share Your love with others, even though he had some things in his past that he wasn't proud of. We know that You're the One writing our stories, and You have a plan for our lives. Thanks for showing us Your amazing mercy and love and giving us the chance to make a difference for others. We ask these things in Jesus' name, amen."

OPTION 2:

***TECH please have this video loaded on both Alley and City computers in case lg group**

needs to use video option.

VIDEO:Wk 1 Bible Story