

ALLEY SG Guide Oct 10-11

Bible Story: Oh, the Places We'll Go (Paul chooses Timothy) • Acts 16:1-5

Bottom Line: When you discover your gifts, you can 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.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to begin to reveal to your kids what their talents and gifts are, if He hasn't already. Pray that the younger kids would start to discover their gifts and older kids would discover opportunities to use their gifts to serve God.

Two Gifts and a Lie (Icebreaker/ Application Activity)

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think of (but don't say out loud) the best gifts they've ever received—maybe something they were given for Christmas, their birthdays, or at other times.
- Explain that each kid will name two gifts that they actually received and one thing that's made up.
- Then have the group try to guess which gift was the "lie."

What You Say:

"Those were some really cool gifts! You must have had a lot of fun opening and enjoying all of those fun things. God gives each person who believes in Him special gifts to use for a special purpose.

Timothy discovered special, spiritual gifts from God by hanging out with, studying with, and serving others in his hometown. And Paul noticed. Paul encouraged Timothy to use those gifts and his own individuality to make a difference. Just like Timothy, you can learn about and discover your spiritual gifts from God by hanging out with other believers and serving God together. That's the best way to discover the unique gifts that God has put in you.

- What is a cool talent or skill that you got from someone else by watching them or by them teaching you? It could be learning how to juggle, a trick for math problems, how to tie a special fishing knot, or how to crochet.
- Our gifts, talents, and things others teach us make all of us unique. What are some ways that you can use your uniqueness to share the message of Jesus?

Insta-Comic (Review the Bible Story)

What You Need: Markers or crayons, pencils, Large light colored construction paper (4 pieces per small group)

What You Do:

- Review the Bible story with the kids. Use the four summary statements below to guide you.
 1. Timothy was mixed race, part Jew and part Greek, and he grew up in Lystra. He followed the Jewish faith of his mother and grandmother.
 2. Paul visited Lystra and met Timothy and his family when Timothy was a young man. Timothy and his family become followers of Jesus.
 3. When Paul visited again later, Timothy was a young leader in the church and everyone said great things about him.
 4. Paul was impressed with Timothy and what people said about him so he asked Timothy to go with him on his next journey to teach about Jesus.
- Break the kids up into four groups and give each group a square of paper and some writing and drawing materials.
- Assign each group to make a one-panel comic drawing depicting one of the summary statements.
- Have them write the summary statement in a box at the top, similar to boxes containing narration in comic books.
- Then have them draw a scene depicting what happened. Have them draw the characters, the setting, and put in dialogue bubbles for people's speech. Allow them to summarize what the people said in their own words.
- Help them divide the work up into different jobs: drawing the backgrounds, drawing the people, filling in the drawings with color, writing in the lines, and adding additional description or narration.
- Tell them to put the panels together once they are finished and go over the story again together using the panels.

What You Say:

"Great job using your gifts to tell this story! Some of you might have done most of the drawing, and some of you might have helped more with the backgrounds, coloring in, or writing in the lines. All of you used your gifts to help. ***[Make It Personal] (Tell about a time when you were able to use a gift to help someone.)*** You may be thinking, 'I don't have any gifts. I'm just boring, normal me.' Don't worry. You do have gifts. All of us have gifts that we haven't noticed or discovered yet. Keep serving God in any way you can and you will find your gifts. ***[Bottom Line] When you discover your gifts, you can make a difference.***"

Pass The Verse (memory verse activity)

What You Need: "Memory Verse Cards" Activity Pages (may use the cards from last week's activity), a beanbag

What You Do:

- Help kids look up the verse in their Bibles. Then read the verse out loud together.
- Lay out the "Memory Verse Cards" on the ground face up and have kids stand in a line where all can see the verse.

- Have them start with one person holding the ball at the end of the line.
- The person holding the ball reads the first card and passes the ball to the next person in line, who reads the next card. If the ball gets to the end of the line, the person on the end passes the ball back down the line the other direction and the verse continues.
- Continue, mixing up the order of the children and the spot at which you start the ball so that the kids aren't always reading the same card over and over.
- *Throwing Option:* When using the ball, you could have the kids stand in an arc and the person on the end would throw the ball across to the first person instead of passing it back down the line.
- *Circle Option:* You could also play this game in a circle (some kids will have to read the cards upside down) and have the kids toss the ball underhanded across the circle to go in a more random order.

What You Say:

"You did a great job with keeping the verse going. You didn't let the verse stop when it got passed to you and you kept the verse going by passing it to the next person. Timothy was like that. Paul passed on to Timothy the message of Jesus and helped Timothy use his gifts to spread that message! I and the other Small Group Leaders and our church leaders are working to be like Paul and pass on to you the message of Jesus! We want you to be awesome 'Timothys' who will discover your gifts and use them to tell others about Jesus. **[Bottom Line] When you discover your gifts, you can make a difference.**"

Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Remind kids that you will be learning and trying out some different postures of prayer this month.
- Tell your kids that today's prayer posture will be kneeling with heads down and hands up or praying with a hand or hands extended toward the person being prayed for.
- Go around the circle and ask kids to tell one skill or gift that they have. Then put your hands over or on her head and pray for her out loud. The rest of the kids will extend one hand toward the person being prayed for and pray silently.
- Pray a short, one-sentence prayer for each child to be able to use his or her gift as God intends.
- If the child cannot think of a gift, pray that he or she will recognize the gifts God has given, or pray about a gift that you have observed in that child.

What You Say:

"This week, continue to pray for each other to discover and use the gifts God has given you as He intends. **[Bottom Line] When you discover your gifts, you can make a difference.**"