

Alley SG Guide – 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.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 20 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. That’s Wrong! (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: “Messed Up Bible Story Cards” Activity Pages, a few red markers, Bibles

What You Do:

- Tell the kids you are going to read the Bible story to them, but you think your cards have some facts wrong. *Option: You could have a different kid read each card to the group instead of you reading them.*
- Have them open their Bibles to Paul’s story (Acts 9) and after reading each card, have them tell you if you got something wrong.
- Allow the kids to take turns using the red pen to correct your cards so that they read correctly. Sentences are listed below with errors underlined and corrections in parentheses.

- Paul used to hate dirty floors (Christians) and spent all his time cleaning (arresting) them. He got permission to go all the way to Damascus and clean up (arrest) all the floors (Christians) there.
- On the way to Disney World[®] (Damascus), Paul was blinded by a giant pie to the face (bright light).
- Jesus told Paul that he was to take pancakes (Jesus’ message) all over the world.
- Paul became a follower of the rules (Jesus) and helped spread the rulebook (good news of Jesus) to the whole world.

What You Say:

“Whew! Thank you so much for correcting my story summaries on those cards. That was embarrassing. I love hearing stories like Paul’s. It’s a pretty powerful story, but you don’t have to be blinded on the side of the road to have a story God can use. **(Tell a brief story of your own salvation experience.)** All of us have unique stories. I don’t know all the details of your stories, but I do know this truth: **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference.**”

2. My Foil Face (Application Activity)

What You Need: 12 inch piece of foil for each child, pens

- Give each of the kids a piece of foil and ask them to write their names in the corner.
- With the side they wrote their name on toward their face, show the kids how to place the foil on their face and firmly press it around their nose, mouth, and chin to create a foil impression. Make sure each kid's facial features are visible.
- Gently remove the foil and place all of the "foil faces" on the floor so that the names are on the backside and not visible.
- Ask everyone in the group to turn around as you rearrange the "faces." Give each person a turn to pick one "foil face" and try to identify whose it is.

What You Say:

"God made each person in our group uniquely special. It's easy to see that we all look different, but God has also given each of us our own individual story to live out. Every person that has ever lived has a one-of-a-kind story that's different from anyone else's. I know that sometimes I have felt that my own stories were boring and I have wished my life was more like someone from a movie. Have you ever thought that? ***(Talk about a fictional or famous character you used to wish your story was like.)*** But we need to remember that God made all of us unique. That is why none of our stories are the same. But all of our stories can be important. Like our Bottom Line says: ***[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference.***"

If you lead mostly older kids, consider asking these discussion questions:

- If your life were a story, what kind would it be? A mystery? An adventure? A comedy? Why did you pick the genre you did?
- Have you ever heard a story from someone's life that helped you understand God better?
- How can your story help lead people to God?

3. Beginning, Middle, End (memory verse activity)

What You Need: "Memory Verse Cards" Activity Pages *(Note: These cards will be used each week.)*

What You Do:

- Help your kids look up the verse in their Bibles and then read it out loud together a few times.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from 1 Timothy. 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 one of Paul's two letters to Timothy. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to then find verse 12 in chapter 4. We are looking at the first part of the verse, called part "a."

- Mix up the "Memory Verse Cards" for each team and place them a short distance away.
- Divide your kids into two teams.
- Have one team member at a time run to the pile, search for the first word or word group of the verse, and then run it back.
- Before the next person runs, you must confirm that the word or word group that is brought back is correct. If it is correct, the next runner goes for the next word or word group.
- If it is not correct, the next runner takes the wrong card back and chooses another.
- Run the race until the kids have the cards all in the correct order.

What You Say:

"You did a great job putting the words from our verse in the correct order. That made a big difference in our being able to read the verse and understand it. To understand a story, we have to know the beginning, the middle, and the end. You are young, and your story is just beginning, but that doesn't mean that you are unimportant. God wants to use your story and your experiences, both good and bad, to help others understand Him. That's what God did with Paul's story, and Timothy benefited from it. And that's what God wants to do with your story, too. **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference.**"

4. Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell your kids that even though most of the time we pray in the same way (head bowed, eyes closed) that there are many different postures of prayer and many ways to pray to God.
- Explain that they will be learning and trying out some of these postures and prayers this month.
- Today's prayer posture will be holding hands in a circle with eyes open looking at the leader.
- Today's prayer method will be call and response. You will pray in short phrases and they will say, "Help us tell Your story," after each phrase until you say, "Amen," which they will repeat.

What You Say:

"God, thank You for caring about us at the beginning of our story. (*Kids say, "Help us tell Your story."*) Thank You for walking with us through the middle of our story. (*Kids say, "Help us tell Your story."*) Thank You for being with us all the way to the end of our story. (*Kids say, "Help us tell Your story."*) Help us tell our story to help others understand Your story. (*Kids say, "Help us tell Your story."*) Amen. (*Kids say, "Amen."*) Remember, **[Bottom Line] Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference.** And the biggest difference you can make is helping someone understand God's story.