

# ALLEY LG – Oct 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>

**Bible Story:** Oh, the Gifts We Can Gift (Paul writes to the Corinthians) • *1 Corinthians 12:12-21, 25-27 (Supporting: Acts 18:1-18; 19, 1 Corinthians 1:11; 4:17, 7:1a; 16:10)*

**Bottom Line:** When we use our gifts together, we can make a greater 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:

Rise & Sing

We Shine

Faith

**CG:** In Focus Slide

## Opener

**HOST:** *(Looking through photos on your phone)* “Oh! Hey Guys! I am just looking through some of the pictures on my phone. I have pictures of so many different people on here. But you know who I don’t have pictures of??? YOU GUYS! Let’s take some pictures now. I want to go home and show my family all my friends from the ALLEY.

*(Go around and take a picture of each grade level, having the kids make their goofiest faces.)*

“That was fun, you guys! Come back next week and we will show the pictures on the screen. *(Looking at the pictures on the phone)* What I love about group pictures is that even though it is a photo of an entire group of people, it is still made up of each individual person in the shot. You can always pick out yourself in a photo because you are different from everyone else. The fact that you are unique and different from other people is called individuality.

**CG:** Individuality Slide

“Individuality is discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference. And God created us all different for a reason. But we will get back to that in a minute...

**STORYTELLER:** “Our theme this month is IN FOCUS. Because we are focusing in on ourselves to see how God created us! Hey did you know that God did make each one of us totally unique? No two people have the same thumbprint *(hold up your thumb)* ... or the same handwriting *(write the name of your environment on the white board and hold it up for the kids to see)* ... or the same laugh *(do an exaggerated laugh)*. That’s how God made us. That’s individuality!

**CG:** Individuality Slide

“Individuality is discovering who you are meant to be so you can make a difference.

“Last week we talked about how we all have different gifts and talents. God made us different, but He doesn't want us to be different all by ourselves. There's so much POWER and FUN and AWESOMENESS that can happen when lots of different individuals get together! Different people, working together, can make a BIG difference. God designed it that way!

*(Point to a kid.)* “You've got a story. *(Point to a leader.)* You've got a story. *(Point to yourself.)* I've got a story. And each of us has different gifts that God has given to us. But it's when we put those gifts together that it becomes OUR story.

**STORYTELLER:** “Now, let me get you guys up to speed on Paul and Timothy. Paul was this really famous guy who went around telling others about Jesus—about how Jesus had died for our sins so we could believe and receive eternal life with God. It was the best news ever, and it still IS the best news ever! Paul saw something in this young guy, Timothy, that made him think Timothy would be a great leader and great at telling others about Jesus.

“Paul thought so much of Timothy that he sent him to help out a church in a place called Corinth. At least, we can imagine that Timothy was there, based on one of the letters Paul wrote to the people in Corinth. This letter is in the Bible—it's called 1 Corinthians. *(Hold up Bible.)* Paul sent Timothy to Corinth to help the Corinthians because there was a problem—the Corinthians weren't really getting along so well.

“It's funny how that happens, isn't it? How many of you have a brother or sister? Raise your hand. *(Pause.)* Raise your hand if you ALWAYS get along great with your brother or sister. *(Pause.)* Yeah, that's what I thought. Not so many. And that even happens with people that we know at school, or on our sports teams, or even our best friends. After all, each one of us is an individual.

Each one of us is different, and we have different thoughts, opinions, and abilities. When that happens, you have a choice. You can choose to come together, or you can pull apart from each other.”

### **PAUL WRITES TO THE CORINTHIANS**

**STORYTELLER:** “Unfortunately, the Corinthians were choosing to pull apart. And this was a really big deal, because think about it: they were a church! This was a group of people whom God had chosen to make a big difference in their city and share the good news about Jesus. And if anyone should choose to work together, it's the church!

“This was just a few years after Jesus had died and rose again. So very few people had even heard about Jesus yet. Paul and the other believers didn't have texting, social media, email, or even phones to spread the word about Jesus and the good news of living forever with Him. So they had to do it in person ... or in letters.

“That's why Paul was writing to the Corinthians. Basically, he was like, ‘Guys! Stop fighting! Stop pulling apart from each other. You ARE different, and I'm going to show you how that's how God designed it. Because when you work together, you can help people see Jesus!’”

## THE BODY

**STORYTELLER:** “And I can’t tell this story by myself, I need help so I have asked \_\_\_\_\_ (a pre chosen SGL) to help me. Come on up \_\_\_\_\_. I want to show you guys what Paul was getting at in his letter.

“Okay, [SGL’s name]. Can you do something for me? I need you to put in these earplugs and then listen with your eyes and tell me what you heard. Cool?

*Give SGL the earplugs*

“All right, [SGL’s name], what’s the best way to clean a fish? *(Pause.)* Put it in the fish-washer.

**STORYTELLER:** “So did you hear that.”

*MAKE SURE THE SGL says NO☺*

**STORYTELLER:** “Okay, cool. Well, it was an amazing joke. These guys loved it. *(Pause.)* All right. Now, close your eyes and tell me what scent this candle is ... with your ear.”

*Storyteller holds up a big candle (with a prominent, recognizable scent on the label, like sugar cookie) to Host’s ear.*

**STORYTELLER:** “So how does it smell??.”

*Obviously they shouldn’t be able to smell it☺*

**STORYTELLER:** “Okay, it was sugar cookie. You are not doing very good at this! Now keep your eyes closed, take your shoes and socks off, and taste this with your toe. Tell me what kind of drink it is.

*Storyteller pours some Sprite® (or other clear soda) in a bucket and then puts the SGLt’s foot in the bucket.*

**STORYTELLER:** So, how does that taste??

“Still nothing? Okay, well, everybody needs to be smelling fresh, so go ahead and put some of this on your head.

*Storyteller hands deodorant to SGL, who skeptically PRETENDS to rub it on his hair.*

“Oh, and that reminds me ... you’ve really got to take care of yourself. Don’t forget to brush your knees.”

*Storyteller gives the toothpaste and toothbrush to Host. Host pulls his pant legs up, puts toothpaste on the toothbrush, and brushes his knees.*

**STORYTELLER:** “OK. You just don’t seem to be getting this so why don’t you have a seat. Don’t worry. It’s okay if you’re a little confused. Let’s listen to how Paul explained it. You can go get cleaned up.”

*SGL exits.*

## **THE BODY OF CHRIST**

**STORYTELLER:** *(To audience)* “Check this out—it’s from 1 Corinthians, chapter 12. *(Hold up Bible.)* Remember, this is a letter from Paul to the church in Corinth. Let me get three of you up here to help me out.”

*Storyteller opens the Bible to 1 Corinthians 12:12, 15-20, 25b-27 and has each volunteer read one selected part of the passage (maybe highlighted with a different color). Choose kids to read parts 1 and 3, and an adult to read part 2.*

### Part 1

**KID VOLUNTEER:** “There is one body, but it has many parts. But all its many parts make up one body. It is the same with Christ.” *(1 Corinthians 12:12, NIV)*

### Part 2

**ADULT VOLUNTEER:** “Suppose the foot says, ‘I am not a hand. So I don’t belong to the body.’ By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. And suppose the ear says, ‘I am not an eye. So I don’t belong to the body.’ By saying this, it cannot stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? God has placed each part in the body just as he wanted it to be. If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? As it is, there are many parts. But there is only one body.” *(1 Corinthians 12:15-20, NIV)*

### Part 3

**KID VOLUNTEER:** “The parts of the body will not take sides. All of them will take care of one another. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it. If one part is honored, every part shares in its joy. You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it.” *(1 Corinthians 12:25b-27, NIV)*

**STORYTELLER:** “Thanks, guys! You can have a seat. *(Pause.)*

“So the church is like a body. Paul calls it the body of Christ. And just like [SGL’s name] couldn’t smell a candle with his ear or taste Sprite® with his toes, and just like toothpaste didn’t do any good on his knees, every part of the body has a very specific purpose. Your eyes, your nose, your heart, and your lungs all work together to help you stay alive every single day. It’s really pretty amazing when you stop and think about it. Your biceps help you carry heavy things. Your feet can carry the weight of your whole body, and they can also get a signal from the brain to help you kick a soccer ball.

“God made our bodies in a specific way, and He made the church in very specific way. ALL people who put their faith in Jesus have something very unique to bring—something that no one else has! Every believer has a gift from God’s Spirit that’s intended to help build up each other and point each other to Jesus! That means that everyone is important. Everyone has something to offer. I may not be a ‘nose,’ but God might have made me to be a great ‘ear!’”

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “And that’s what Paul was telling Timothy and the Corinthians. It’s the same message that you and I need to hear today. Just like them, our differences are part of God’s design. We are different, but at the same time, we’re all parts of the same body. God created us to work together. So you’ve got to take the gifts God has given you through His Spirit and make them part of the bigger story.

“It’s not about ignoring our differences, or ‘getting over them.’ It’s about working together. **[Basic Truth]** **We can trust God no matter what**, and a big part of that is trusting that He puts people in our lives for a reason. We need to recognize how God made each person in His body unique, and believe that each person is important. Because each person in the body has a part to play in God’s story. And He can do amazing things through us together that we could never do on our own.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “When we use our gifts together, we can make a greater difference.

“That’s a lot easier to talk about than it is to actually do, so we need to ask God for help! Let’s do that now.”

## Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “God, it’s so cool to think about how You made each one of us totally unique and different. And we know You did that on purpose. We know that You’ve given us different gifts that we can use to help others and show them Your love. Help us to not just talk about it, but to really choose to come together and act as one body and one church. We want our lives to tell YOUR big story. Please use us, together, to make a difference. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*