

ALLEY SG Guide – Oct 17th-18th

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.

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 help kids embrace their differences and to celebrate them instead of viewing them as something negative. Pray for those kids in particular who might feel isolated because of a perceived difference. Ask God to help all the kids understand that He made them each different on purpose, to serve His purpose.

Gift Mix and Match (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: “Body Part Memory Cards” Activity Pages (Print on cardstock. One set per group)

What You Do:

- Mix up the cards and lay them out face down in a giant grid. You will play a game of memory, but with a twist.
- Kids turn over two cards and try to find matches, as normal. Some of the cards are just body parts representing the body of Christ. Some cards are gifts or talents that can be used tell others about Jesus or help serve the church.
- When they find a match for a gift or talent, stop and talk about how that gift or talent can be used as a part of helping the church carry the message of Jesus to others.
- If they find two gifts or talents that don’t match, have them try to come up with a way that those two gifts can be used together. If they can think of at least one way, let them keep the match.

What You Say:

“Having gifts and talents is great, but what really helps the church carry out God’s mission of spreading the message of Jesus is when we combine our gifts and talents and use them together. That is why Paul taught Timothy, and the rest of the church, that our gifts from God help us fit together like a body to represent Jesus on earth. **(Talk about how your children’s ministry works with everyone using their different talents: teaching, organizing, singing, acting, etc.)** Using your gifts makes a difference but using our gifts together makes a bigger difference than we can on our own. **When we use our gifts together, we can make a greater difference.”**

Build a Robot (*application activity*)

What You Need: Bags of “Robot Parts” Activity Pages, 4 bags per group (Make five copies for each Small Group. Put all the heads into one paper bag. Put all the bodies into a second paper bag. Put all the arms into a third paper bag. Put all the legs into a fourth paper bag.)

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into four groups. Be careful to not use the word “team” for their groups.
- Show them your example robot and tell them that they are going to work together to build a robot.
- Give each group a bag without showing them what is in it.
- Make a big show of counting down to when they can open the bags and begin.
- They will quickly realize that they don’t have the parts they need to build a robot on their own.
- They **should** realize that they need to work together to give each team the parts that they need, but if they don’t, step in to ask questions and guide their thinking.
- Here are a few things to say and questions to ask: Don’t forget you have to work together. I didn’t specify HOW you have to work together. Do some of you have parts that the others need and vice versa? What should you do about that?”

What You Say:

“In this game, I gave different parts to each group, but it wasn’t so you would work against each other. You were all on the same team! Sometimes in life we naturally think that people with different gifts than us aren’t like us—that we don’t have anything in common with them. It’s true that God made us different and we have unique gifts and abilities, but there is one thing that we all have in common. If we are followers of Christ, we all have the exact same purpose. We are on the same team and need to share our gifts to make a difference. Remember, **when we use our gifts together, we can make a greater difference.**”

Together Toss (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: Bibles, towels, ball

What You Do:

- Review the verse by reading 1 Timothy 4:12 and saying it together a couple of times.
- Lead a brief discussion by asking kids to suggest things they can say and do that would “set an example” for others to follow. For instance, saying kind words, being polite, respecting others, sharing what they have, etc.
- Form two teams and give each team a towel. Tell team members to stand and hold the edges of their towel.
- Explain that the object of the “Together Toss” is to work together to toss a ball from one team to the other.
- When the teams successfully toss and catch the ball, have them say the first half of the memory verse together. Then after the next successful toss and catch, they say the next half, and so on.
- After each round, direct the teams to take one step back so that the distance between them gets bigger.

- Repeat as many rounds as time allows.

What You Say:

“No matter where you are, who you are, or how old you are, God says you have an important job of saying and doing the right things. You can be an example to others by using the things you’re good at to help, encourage, care for, and point others to Jesus. **[Bottom Line] When we use our gifts together, we can make a greater difference.**”

Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell kids that today’s prayer posture will be for everyone to pray in a different posture: some standing with hands and heads up, some standing with bowed heads, some holding hands, some kneeling, some lying face down.
- Encourage everyone to choose a slightly different posture. This might be a bit uncomfortable for some, but gently encourage them that there’s no “wrong” position.
- Today’s prayer method will be everyone repeating out loud after the leader. You will pray in short phrases and have them repeat after you.
- Pray in your own words about aspects of the lesson. Or use this suggested prayer: “God, thank You for Your gifts to us. *(Pause.)* Thank You that our gifts all work together. *(Pause.)* Thank You that when we work together ... *(pause)* ... we can make a greater difference. *(Pause.)* Help us use our gifts ... *(pause)* ... to help spread Your message. Amen.”

What You Say:

“Today as we pray we will unite our voices in praying for God to use our gifts together while helping to spread His message. Because **when we use our gifts together, we can make a greater difference.**”