

ALLEY SG – Dec 27th

Bible Story: Shepherd Guys Are Comin' to Town (Shepherds visit Jesus) • *Luke 2:8-20*

Bottom Line: God gave us great news. Who will you tell?

Memory Verse: "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." *John 3:16, NIV*

Life App: Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else's need.

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 show your few that the perfect response to Christmas is to go and tell others about Jesus! Pray for opportunities for your kids to show their friends what Christ has done in their lives and to share Him with others.

Body Language (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: Cards from "Body Language: Parts" (2 copies on cardstock per bin) and "Body Language: Words" (2 copies on cardstock using a different color than the "parts" per bin) Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Form two teams
- Set the pile of body parts cards facedown in the middle of your space.
- Choose one player from each team to begin.
- Show those players one of the key word cards from "Body Language: Words" without anyone else seeing what it says.
- Ask the first two players to each pick (without looking) one of the "Body Language: Parts" cards.
- Explain that they will return to their team and at your signal will begin to spell out the word they read from the first card using ONLY the assigned body part described on the second card. They can't speak or give clues. They can only spell (in the air) using the body part on their card.
- The remaining team members must try to guess the specified word. The first team to guess the spelled word earns a point.
- After the word is guessed, let kids share how it relates to the Bible story and what they remember from that part of the story.
- Repeat with a different speller from each team.

What You Say:

"That may have been the craziest spelling test I've ever seen! Great job with the body language and guessing. Aren't you glad that when we share Jesus with others we can use our voices and not have to spell out the good news with our left ear or our elbow? **[Bottom Line] God gave us great news. Who will you tell?** The shepherds in today's lesson didn't hesitate for a moment to tell others once they heard the good news that the Savior had been born. They spread the word to everyone they knew. Like the shepherds, we have people we know and can share Jesus with. Maybe you have a friend at school

or someone in your family who doesn't go to church. Invite them to come with you next week! We have some really good news that we should tell to other people. If we have compassion, we will share Jesus—the best gift of all time—with as many people as we can.”

[Make It Personal] (Who was the first person you ever shared Jesus with after you became a Christian? Tell the kids how that person responded. How did you feel?)

Special Delivery (application activity)

What You Need: Vaseline (one jar per bin), cotton balls (lots, one per kid), wet wipes, container or plastic grocery sack, trash bag

What You Do:

- Form two teams and give each team an equal amount of cotton balls in a container or plastic grocery sack.
- Place two unopened trash bags flat on the floor at one end of your space.
- Have teams stand at the opposite end of the room from where the trash bags are located.
- Remind kids of today's Bottom Line: ***[Bottom Line] God gave us great news. Who will you tell?***
- Tell them that the cotton balls are going to represent the good news of Jesus and the trash bags at the other end of the room are the world.
- The goal of the game is to spread the Good News everywhere in the “world”—from one corner of the trash bag to the other.
- Explain that the only way to transport the cotton balls from the container to the trash bag on the floor is by getting them to stick to a dab of Vaseline® that they will put on their nose.
- Hands can only be used to release the cotton ball when they've reached their team's trash bag.
- Let each team member put a dab of Vaseline® on his or her nose. Then signal the game to begin.
- Set a designated time for the game to end then count the amount of cotton balls in each team's area. The group with the most is the winner.
- Provide wet wipes for clean up.

What You Say:

“God's good news is the greatest news ever. Thankfully, we don't have to put a glob of goo on our nose to spread the word. All we have to do is get excited about Jesus and what He has done for us and then be willing to tell others. Like the shepherds in today's story, we can spread the news that the world has been given a Savior. Everyone needs to hear that Jesus came to save us. ***[Bottom Line] God gave us great news. Who will you tell?*** As we begin a new year, let's look for ways to share the story of Christmas all year long.”

Speed Mouth (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Ask the kids to find John 3:16 in their Bibles.
- Invite a volunteer to read the verse two words at a time and ask the other kids to echo the words back.

- Since John 3:16 is a familiar verse to most church kids, they may know it well and can easily quote it. But can they quote it backwards? Challenge them to read the verse backwards in their Bibles and then try to quote it from the end to the beginning.

What You Say:

“Just because we know an important verse backwards and forwards, it doesn’t mean we are living it out or sharing it with others. This week’s Bottom Line asks a question that we all need to answer. **[Bottom Line] God gave us great news. Who will you tell?** Not everyone we share Jesus with will believe and receive God’s gift of salvation. But that’s their choice. Our job isn’t to get people to believe; only the Holy Spirit can do that. Our job is to show compassion to others and help them understand what God has done to show us His love for them: He gave His Son to take the punishment they deserve for their sin. Even if we don’t always say things exactly right, or know just what to say, that’s okay. The important thing is that we keep trying and keep praying for our friends who don’t know Jesus. Start by telling others what God has done in your life, and then pray for the Holy Spirit to help others believe in Him too.”

5-6 Challenge: Let the kids role-play ways they can tell others about Jesus. Ask them to come up with a scenario such as the lunchroom at school. Have one kid play the part of the Christian, and the other kid is someone who doesn’t believe in Jesus.

Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Use this final prayer time to review the Bottom Lines for the month and use them as individual prayers. Read them one at a time, allowing a minute or two for kids to pray silently in response to each question. Encourage them to give some quiet thought to their answers and ask God’s help to follow through on the things that come to mind by way of the actions they need to take in order to show God’s love to others.
 - God loved you first. How will you love others?
 - God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?
 - God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?
 - **[Bottom Line] God gave us great news. Who will you tell?**
- Close with a short prayer. Try to mention each kid’s name as you pray, and ask God to help them live out the things they have learned about compassion this month.

What You Say:

“The shepherds in today’s lesson were just ordinary guys like us. God chose ordinary people to tell about the most extraordinary and amazing news that ever happened—the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Like the shepherds, God wants to use you today, tomorrow, and every day of your life. He has entrusted us with the privilege and mission of telling others about Him. Be courageous this week and look for opportunities to tell the people God has placed in your life about Jesus. See you next week!”

Remind kids to look for opportunities to share the Good News with others, and ask them to tell their parent the name of one person they can tell about Jesus this week.

