

ALLEY SG – Dec 5th/6th

Bible Story: Yes, Mary, This Is a Savior (Gabriel appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-38*

Bottom Line: God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but 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 open the kids’ eyes to the needs of those around them. Pray for them to have opportunities to meet others’ needs, both big and small. And pray for kids to be motivated to answer the call.

Candy Cane Q&A (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

What You Need: “Candy Cane Q&A Pictures” Activity Pages (2 sets per bin), individually wrapped small candy canes (one for each child), Sharpie’s

What You Do:

- Give each child a candy cane (keeping it wrapped) and have them write their name or initials with sharpie markers on the wrapper
- Place the “Candy Cane Q&A Pictures” on the floor so that kids know where they are, and then tell them to turn around so their backs are facing the pictures.
- The entire group should be at least 10 or more feet from the pictures.
- Explain that you will read a statement someone in today’s Bible story may have said.
- When the kids think they know who the person is, they should toss their candy cane over their shoulder and try to hit the picture of the person they believe said the words you read.
- Let kids turn around and see how close they came to the correct picture and then retrieve their candy canes and repeat for each of the following statements:
 - I can’t wait for the day Joseph will be my husband. (*Mary*)
 - I can’t wait for the day Mary will be my wife. (*Joseph*)
 - I can’t wait to tell Mary that God has an amazing, one-of-a-kind plan for her life. (*Gabriel*)
 - You will have a son and His name will be Jesus. (*Gabriel*)
 - I’m a carpenter in the town of Nazareth. (*Joseph*)
 - The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you. (*Gabriel*)
 - I was totally confused and frightened when an angel spoke to me out of the blue. (*Mary*)
 - I am going to have a baby and the baby is God’s Son. (*Mary*)
 - I trusted the angel when he said that God would be with me. (*Mary*)
 - I was just as confused and frightened as Mary. (*Joseph*)

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] “God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see? If I asked you to close your eyes and picture the face of someone you know who has a need, whose face would you see? *(Let kids share. No names are necessary.)* **[Make It Personal]** *(Tell kids about a time when you were able to meet someone’s need. Maybe you loaned a person something they needed, helped them work on a project that needed to be done, babysat for them, or simply helped a family member carry an arm full of groceries in from the car.)* There are always people around us who have needs. It’s easy to not see people’s needs or to turn our backs and ignore the needs we do see.

“When God saw what WE needed, He didn’t turn His back on us. He made sure that we received what we needed in order to be forgiven and made ready for heaven. One need everyone has is to believe and receive Jesus. Even if you don’t have a way to meet the needs people have for things like clothes and food, you can always share the message of Jesus with someone or invite that person to church. This week, let’s all keep our eyes open to see the needs around us—and not turn our backs when we know that we can help in some way!”

Spot the Dot *(application activity)*

What You Need: Dot stickers (one per child)

What You Do:

- Have all the kids sit with their backs to you and their eyes closed.
- Choose one kid from the group to stand a few feet behind the group and put a dot sticker somewhere visible on his or her body. (You might need to tell them to put the sticker on an appropriate place.)
- Invite everyone to turn around and open their eyes. The first kid to “Spot the Dot” wins and takes the place of the previous kid wearing the dot.
- Play as time allows or until all the kids have had a turn wearing a dot.

What You Say:

“Great job! You guys are the best dot spotters I’ve ever seen. If you can spot a dot, I bet you can spot a need. It’s all about keeping your eyes open and being willing to help. If you’re willing to show others that you care about them, then all you need are two good eyes and a heart that wants to show compassion. This week you might spot someone who needs help with homework or a hard project they have to do. Maybe you’ll spot someone who needs a friend or could use some encouragement. *(If you’re not participating in Bite Back, edit the following to fit with the service project your church is doing this year.)* A need we’ve been hearing about is for mosquito nets to protect kids at night while they’re sleeping. Even if you can’t give enough money to buy a whole net yourself, whatever you DO give will be combined with what everyone else gives, and together, we can all make a huge difference!

“Christmas is the perfect time to help those around you who may need warm clothes, food, or other things. Just like God knew what we needed and gave Jesus to us, we can have that same attitude as we look for ways to help others with their needs. **[Bottom Line]** God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?”

Name That Voice (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Hand out Bibles and then have kids race to find John 3:16.
- Read the verse together as a group.
- Tell kids to pair up. Then secretly assign each pair one of the voices or styles listed below.
- Tell them to recite John 3:16 in front of the group as if they were that person. Let the remaining kids try to “Name That Voice” by guessing who the partners are acting out.
 1. A Christmas caroler
 2. Santa Claus
 3. A little kid excitedly opening a gift
 4. Angel Gabriel
 5. Joseph
 6. Mary when the angel appeared to her

What You Say:

“No matter who you are or how you say it, John 3:16 is one of the most amazing verses in the whole Bible. It pretty much says it all: God loved, God gave, we believe, and we receive. **[Bottom Line]** God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?”

Pray

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Tell kids to think about a need they’ve had in the past. It could be a time when they were nervous about a big test. Maybe it was when their family was going through a hard time.
- Ask kids to now think about how God helped meet that need. Maybe they prayed and He helped them remember what they studied for the test. Perhaps God gave them peace or sent a friend along who knew just what to say.
- Give kids a few moments to silently thank God for meeting that need.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for meeting our needs. We especially thank You for seeing our need for a Savior. Thank You for sending Jesus to earth to meet that need. You are amazing, God. In Jesus’ name, amen. **[Bottom Line]** God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?”