

ALLEY SG – Jan 23rd/24th

Bible Story: Yes, I Think I Can Dance! (Jesus heals a paralyzed man) • Luke 5:17-26

Bottom Line: We can work together to change someone's life.

Memory Verse: "Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do." Ecclesiastes 4:9, *NIRV*

Life App: Cooperation—working together to do more than you can do alone.

Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray that kids would understand that changing someone's life doesn't have to be a huge thing. They can change someone's life simply by working together with their friends to be kind to a kid who's going through a rough time. Ask God to give kids opportunities like these. Pray that today would be a jumping-off point for your kids to look for ways to change someone's life.

In His Socks (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: Socks, Bibles, paper, scissors, markers, cardstock

What You Do:

- Have the kids take turn with the socks and instruct them to put the socks on their hands.
- Give them various tasks to do while wearing socks on their hands. Tasks can include:
 - Looking up the Bible story, Luke 5:17-26
 - Cutting a circle out of paper
 - Removing a cap from a marker
 - Picking up a piece of cardstock off a flat surface
- Review the Bible story with them. One option is to read the story from Luke 5:17-26. Potential review discussion could be:
 - How did the friends of the paralyzed man cooperate and work together?
 - How did their cooperation change the paralyzed man's life?
 - How did Jesus heal the paralyzed man? (*Besides allowing the man to walk again, talk about how Jesus healed him by forgiving his sins*)
 - Why were the Pharisees angry with Jesus for forgiving the man's sin?

What You Say:

"Imagine what it would have been like to be the paralyzed man in the story. Put yourself in his shoes ... or should I say socks? Using scissors or flipping through a book is typically a simple task, but it was difficult with socks on your hands. For the paralyzed man in our story today, even the simplest task became difficult and often impossible. There is no way he could have seen Jesus if it hadn't been for his friends. By working together, his friends changed the paralyzed man's life forever! **[Bottom Line]** We can work together to change someone's life, too. Maybe you and your friend visit a kid who just moved in the neighborhood, or you and your friends rake a neighbor's leaves or shovel their driveway. Changing someone's life doesn't have to be as dramatic as in our story today; even when we help someone have a better day, we change their life. So this week look for opportunities to work together because **[Bottom Line]** we can work together to change someone's life."

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when a group of people worked together and it changed your life or helped you have a better day. Maybe you had surgery or were sick and friends took turns bringing you meals and taking care of you. Or you had to move to a new house and your friends helped you move. Or a group of friends were in a Bible study and they invited you to join them.)

Story Puzzles (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: “Puzzles” Activity Pages (one set per bin), 3 blindfolds

What You Do:

- Divide kids into three groups and give each group a baggie full of puzzle pieces.
- Tell each group to choose one kid to be blindfolded, and then put the blindfold on that person.
- The blindfolded person will put the puzzle together, acting solely on touch and verbal cues from his fellow team members.
- If the kids do this quickly, let the teams switch puzzles, choose another person to be blindfolded, and do it again.
- Then designate a space in your area where the puzzles need to be moved and put back down in order. Teams should figure out how to do this together so the puzzles do not come apart and need to be reassembled at the designated spot.
- Ask kids to use the puzzles to briefly retell the Bible story.

What You Say:

“The man’s friends took the time to look out for their friend. They worked together to make sure that their friend saw Jesus. Without his friends, the man who couldn’t walk would never have gotten through the crowd to see Jesus. Without Jesus, the man would never have been forgiven and healed. You and your friends can also change someone’s life by showing them Jesus. What are some ways you can do this? *(By telling them about Him, by inviting them to church, by treating them kindly)* ***[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you and a friend helped show someone Jesus. What did you do? How did the person respond?) [Bottom Line] We can work together to change someone’s life.***”

Cooperation Volleyball (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Hula-hoop (one per bin), balloon (one per small group that uses bin), timer

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Hold up a Hula-hoop and tell each team to stand on either side of the hoop.
- Teams work together to hit a balloon back and forth through the hoop. Each time the balloon passes through the hoop, the team must say a word of the memory verse.
- *Optional:* Time the group on how long it takes them to complete the verse. Repeat the activity and see if they can work together to beat their previous time.

What You Say:

“Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do,’ Ecclesiastes 4:9. Our story today was a great example of what this verse means. In our story, the friends helped each

other carry the paralyzed man and bring him to Jesus. Imagine what we can do when we cooperate and work together to help each other. Like the verse says, two people are better than one. We can help each other and **[Bottom Line] we can work together to change someone's life.**"

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle. Ask kids to close their eyes and think of how their life has changed because of Jesus' love and because of His forgiveness.
- With eyes still closed, pray out loud, thanking Jesus for His love and forgiveness.
- Ask kids to now think about the different ways we can work together to change someone's life, to help improve someone's day. Did one of the ideas talked about earlier speak to them? Is there someone they know who may need some extra help this week?
- With eyes still closed, close in prayer, asking Jesus to show us opportunities we can work together to change someone's life.

Challenge:

What You Say: "Look for a way to say YES this week and help a friend who really needs it. It's easy to say, "No," or, "I can't," because we're busy or other obstacles pop up. But this week, don't give up too easily when a friend needs you even if it doesn't seem like that big of a deal (because it might be to them). Think outside the box, get creative, and surprise them by being there for them in a way that really means something. You have no idea how that might change their day! Then come back and tell us all about it!"

PARENT CONNECTION AT PICK UP: Tell parents today kids learned they can work together to change someone's life. Encourage kids to share the story of how people worked together to help their friend see Jesus and how it changed their friend's life.