

ALLEY SG – Jan 30th/31st

Bible Story: Flip This Church (Early Church works together) • Acts 2:42-47 (Supporting: John 13:35)

Bottom Line: Working together can point people to Jesus.

Memory Verse: “Two people are better than one because they have a good return for their labor.” Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV

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 your kids would understand that their actions, as followers of Christ, point back to Jesus and His message. Pray that they would be encouraged to work together to point people back to Jesus. Ask God to give kids opportunities to show others God’s love and to do it together with their fellow believers!

Point the Way to Jesus (application activity / review the Bible story)

What You Need: poster board, markers, Bible

What You Do:

- Write “Jesus” on the center of a poster board or butcher paper.
- Ask kids to think about the Bible story today and about the early church. Ask kids what life was like for the early believers. What did they do? How did they act?
- Write their answers around the word “Jesus.” If necessary, to help kids answer, read Acts 2:42-46. (Answers can include: they studied God’s Word, they shared lives together, they cared for each other, they ate together, they prayed together, they were generous and hospitable, they had cheerful attitudes, they were glad and sincere)
- Ask kids how God blessed the believers’ efforts. (Read Acts 2:47; every day the Lord added to their group, every day more people followed Christ)

What You Say:

“The way the early Christians lived their life pointed people to Jesus. When people saw how much the early Christians loved each other and cared for one another, people wanted to be part of their community, and people wanted to know Jesus. (As you talk, draw an arrow from each of the answers written on the paper to Jesus.) But the story doesn’t stop with the early Christians. By working together we can point people to Jesus too. Is it possible for us to live like the early Christians? Can we study God’s Word? Can we pray together? Can we care for each other? (Use the examples on the butcher paper for the questions you ask the kids.) We can be like the early Christians. **[Bottom Line] Working together can point people to Jesus.**”

[Make It Personal] (Share a ministry you wanted to be a part of because of the way the members worked together and cared for each other. It might be a ministry you volunteered for at church, a local charity, a sports team, etc.)

What a Scene (application activity)

What You Need: Jump rope

What You Do:

- Explain you will read a scene to the kids and they will act out what you read.
- Read Scene 1: “As a group, you are jumping rope. It is a happy environment and everyone is getting along and taking turns. You are treating each other the way you would want to be treated. You are playing jump rope games. Ready, set, action.” Give kids time to act out Scene 1, to be goofy and have fun.
- Read Scene 2: “But wait! Now [insert name of kids twirling the rope] are twirling too fast and everyone is frustrated because you can’t jump that fast. [Insert names of kids jumping the rope], you are mad. Ready, set, action.” Give kids time to act out Scene 2.
- Read Scene 3: “But you all remember what you learned in church this week—working together can point people to Jesus—and you decide to work together so others can see Jesus’ love through your actions. Ready, set, action.” Give kids time to act out Scene 3.

OPTIONAL Challenge:

What You Need: “Scene Cards” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Kids draw a “Scene Card” and then as a group create a scenario where they could work together to point others to Jesus. For example, if the card says, “the lunchroom at school”, answers could include: invite someone to join you for lunch, share your lunch with someone who forgot theirs, clean up your table when you are done, etc.
- As a few of the kids are acting out a particular scene, other kids can call out directions and “changes” to the scene and the kids who are acting have to adapt their scene to the changes.

What You Say:

“We can work together and **[Basic Truth]** treat each other the way we want to be treated. We can work together to encourage each other. We can work together to reflect Jesus’ love to others. However, there will be times when it will be hard to work together. Maybe someone is twirling the jump rope too fast, or maybe we get frustrated and mad when we think certain situations aren’t fair. It is especially during those times we need to remember that our actions and our words are powerful. Our actions and words can reflect Jesus to the world. **[Bottom Line]** Working together can point people to Jesus.”

Helicopter Verse (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Jump rope, Bibles

What You Do:

- Look up the memory verse and read it together.
- Tell kids to stand in a circle and you stand in the center of the circle with the jump rope.
- Hold both ends of the jump rope in one hand and spin the jump rope in a circle on the floor. (Note: Depending on the length of the rope, you may want to hold on to just one end.)
- Kids jump over the rope when it comes to them and say one word of the memory verse.
- Keep spinning the rope until the entire verse has been recited.

What You Say:

“The people in the early church were great examples of how to live according to this verse. They knew that together, as a community, they could do more than they could alone and they helped each other in everything they did. Just like in the early church, when we work together and help each other in everything we do, people will start to notice something different; people will notice we care about each other and love one another. So if someone needs help, give it; if they need a friend, be one; if they need encouragement, share kind words. **[Bottom Line] Working together can point people to Jesus**, especially when we work together with love.”

Pray

What You Need: Bibles, paper and pencil

What You Do:

- Look up John 13:34-35 and read it together.
- Ask kids to describe what love is.
- After the kids have given a couple of descriptive words, look up 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and read it together.
- Using 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 as a guide, work together and make a list words describing love. (*patient, kind, not proud, humble, respectful, unselfish, slow to anger, truth, protects, hopes, lasts forever*)
- Close in prayer asking Jesus for help us show His love to everyone. Use 1 Corinthians as a guide for the prayer.

What You Say:

“Jesus, we know that working together can point people to You. You ask us to love one another. Help us to show Your love. Help us to be ... (*kids can fill in a word from the list describing love*). Thank You for giving us opportunities to show Your love to others by working together with believers. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

PARENT CONNECTION AT PICK UP: Tell parents today we learned that working together can point people to Jesus. Encourage kids to describe the early Church to their parents and how it was different from the rest of the world.