

# ALLEY SG – Feb 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>

**Bible Story:** In the Nic of Time (Jesus teaches Nicodemus) • *John 3:1-21 (Supporting: John 7:49-51; 19:38-40)*

**Bottom Line:** When I believe who Jesus is, I'll live with God forever.

**Memory Verse:** "Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see." *Hebrews 11:1, NIV*

**Life App:** Faith—believing in what you can't see because of what you can see.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

*Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for sending us Jesus to show us His love. Pray the kids will ask questions to learn more about Jesus. Pray the kids will believe in and accept Jesus.*

## **Forever and Ever (Review the Story)**

**What You Need:** Small whiteboard, dry erase markers, and erasers.

### **What You Do:**

Have kids sit together in a group. Choose one person to be the artist. Everyone else will be the guesser. Ask the question, "If you could live forever, but only eat one thing, what would you eat?" Have the artist whisper his or her answer in your ear. Then let the artist start to draw the food item they chose while the rest of the group tries to guess the answer. Let a couple more people draw their answers while everyone else guesses. Then ask the question, "If you could live forever, but only watch one movie, which movie would you watch?" Let a few kids draw their answers for everyone to guess.

Talk about the story you heard in Large Group. Ask a few comprehension questions:

- "Who was Nicodemus?"
- "What kind of question did Nicodemus ask Jesus?"
- "What are some ways the Pharisees thought you could live forever?"
- "What did Jesus say was the only way to really live forever?"

### **What You Say:**

"When Jesus said, 'Everyone who believes in Him can live with God forever,' He was talking about Himself! Jesus was saying that **[Apply] when we believe who He is, we'll live with God forever.**

"I'm not sure if Nicodemus understood everything Jesus said on the night he met with Jesus, but I do think Jesus gave him a lot to think about. I wonder if, after Jesus died, Nicodemus remembered Jesus' words: 'God loved the world so much 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*).

## **ABC Prayer (Salvation message)**

**What You Need:** ABC cards (Please make whole sheet cards on cardstock that say A Admit, B Believe, C Choose on them – one set per bin)

**What You Say:** “Nicodemus had seen the truth—that God sent His one and only Son, and anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. Another way to say it is this—God loved, so God gave. When we believe, then we receive. So God loved us and gave his son to die for our sins. When we believe that Jesus died for us, we can receive God's gift and live with him forever. But HOW do we receive that gift?? Well, it's as easy as ABC. We call it the ABC prayer. “

- There are 3 parts to the ABC prayer. (Show the ABC cards from the bin)
  - A- Admit** – We tell God that we know that we have sinned (done things we shouldn't have done)
  - B-Believe** Tell God that we believe that he sent his son Jesus to die for our sins
  - C- Choose** Tell God that we Choose to become a member of his family and to follow him forever
- God makes it so easy for us to live with him forever! When we tell God these things, we will get to live with him forever!

“It's okay if you don't understand all of this yet. But if you have any questions, you can talk with your parents, me, or any of the other leaders. We'll be very happy to talk with you and help you understand as much as you can!

SAY,” If you have never prayed the ABC prayer and are ready to say it, repeat after me in your head:

“Dear God....I admit that I have sinned...I believe that you sent your son Jesus to die for my sins....I choose to follow you and become a member of your family...I love you, God.....Amen”

Discussion: God sent Jesus to die and live again because God loves everyone. Those of us who believe in Jesus have told God we believe Jesus is the savior God promised to send. We have asked God to make us members of his family. And then we get to live with God forever in Heaven!

## **Seeing With Your Ears Wide Open** *(memory verse activity)*

**What You Need:** Bible

### **What You Do:**

Some of the kids may have Hebrews 11:1 memorized by now. Give a word of praise and affirmation to everyone for hiding God's Word in their heart. **[Apply] Remind them of how valuable it is for us as we follow Jesus to have God's promises and commands tucked away in our hearts and heads. The Holy Spirit will help us remember what we've learned when we need God's help.**

Ask the kids to recite this month's memory verse together. Then invite them to “see with their ears wide open.” Explain that faith is believing in what you can't see because of what you can see—or, in this case, what you can hear.

Begin by choosing one person to stand in front of the others and then turn around and close his or her eyes. Explain that you will point to another kid who will then say the verse aloud using a disguised voice

such as high or low pitch, an accent, or a silly cartoon voice. Tell the kid whose eyes are closed to guess who's speaking. Repeat until all kids have had a chance to say the verse.

#### **What You Say:**

"You couldn't see who was speaking in our game, but it wasn't too hard to guess who it was. We've never seen heaven. We've never heard Jesus' voice. Yet we can choose to have faith that God, Jesus, and heaven are all very real. That's because faith isn't just hope. It's more. It's being certain of what you cannot see. Being sure that **[Impress] when I believe who Jesus is, I'll live with God forever** is where our faith walk begins. Then, as we grow in our faith and the more we learn about God, the better we get at trusting Him. **[Apply] If you want to live for God this week, it'll take faith to do so. It will mean choosing to do what's right—choosing what God says to do. If you're sold out for God and willing to do whatever He calls you to do, you can step out in faith and do it.** God is mighty and powerful to help. He will be with you here on earth and for eternity in heaven."

### **Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** None

#### **What You Do:**

This month's memory verse is "Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see." *Hebrews 11:1* Ask for volunteers to share something that they hope for. It could be someone sick feeling better, getting an "A+" on a test, living forever with Jesus, etc. After each kid shares, bow your heads and say a prayer for that kid, according to what he or she said

#### **What You Say:**

"Praying is one of the best ways to show God we believe He is in control. Even more, it reminds us that God is in control and that we can have faith in Him! So, let's pray together and thank God for sending Jesus—for giving us someone and something to trust in and especially for giving us a way to live with Him forever!

"Dear God, thank You so much for sending Your Son, Jesus, to this earth. We never want to be separated from You, and we are so glad You gave us a way to live with You forever and ever. Help us to believe and trust in You always. Help us to remember who Jesus is and all that He has done for us. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen."

**Give each child a GodTime card.**