

ALLEY SG- January 28th/29th

Bible Story: John the Baptist in prison • *Matthew 11:1-6 (Supporting: James 1:5)*

Bottom Line: When you don't know what God says, ask.

Memory Verse: "Your word is like a lamp for my feet. A light on my path." *Psalm 119:105 (NIV)*

Life App: Knowledge—learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

What?!?

What You Need: mouth guards for each student, "Mouth guard cards" Cards

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into two groups. Each child will have a chance to be a reader.
- **Each child will get one mouth guard and they are NOT to share them with others. Please be sure the kids take the mouth guard they used home with them. If any used mouth guards are left please throw them away.**
- The teams will keep switching back and forth reading the phrases, until all of them are gone.
 - Have the kids hold on to the phrase card to keep track of their points.

What You Say:

- Do you think that you could always talk like that?
- Have you ever thought that talking about God is like wearing a mouth guard? Why or why not?
- What are some things that you know about God? What are some questions that you would want to ask Jesus?
- What are something's you do when you don't know the answer? **[Make It Personal]** Share something(s) you do when you run into a question about the Bible or God.
- **[Bottom Line] When you don't know what God says, ask."**

Note: Leader's it is ok to respond with I don't know. Remind the kids that even adults are learning new things about God. Write down the question and try to look up the answer for them or ask a staff member. Remember to bring the answer back next week. Also encourage their parents to help answer the questions. We want kids to be encouraged to ask really good questions about God.

Head Bands

What You Need: Masks (to use as head bands), "Head Bands" cards, tape, Alley Cash (optional)

What You Do:

- To review the story, kids will guess people, places, and things in today's Bible story.
- Choose a volunteer and have him place the mask on his or her forehead to use as a headband. Tape one of the cards onto the front of the mask so that everyone can see it (except the kid wearing the card).
- Tell the child wearing the head band that he must guess what is written on the card that's attached to his or her forehead.
- He can ask only YES or NO questions.
- The goal is to figure out the person, place, or thing in the least amount of questions. If you choose, offer alley cash to the person (or people) who guesses his or her card using the fewest amounts of questions.

What You Say:

- What would make this game easier?

- Do you ever feel like something is preventing you from knowing everything about God and Jesus?
- Why do you think John had questions for Jesus? (He was confused and unsure if Jesus was really the Messiah).
- What do you think Jesus answer means? (Jesus was saying that everything John had seen was true).
- How do we ask Jesus questions, since we can't ask him face-to-face? (Prayer)
- How do you pray? (We ask that God would show us the right answer and remember Jesus doesn't answer all of our prayers right away).
- Does Jesus always answer our questions right away? (no) If not, what should we do? (Trust God no matter what).

Pray

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Give kids some time to think of an area where they need God's wisdom. Perhaps they have a question about what God says or they are struggling with a decision they need to make. Maybe they have a situation with a friend, brother or sister they need God's wisdom in handling.
- Give kids an opportunity to share their wisdom needs with the group.
- Pray aloud (or let a volunteer pray), thanking God for His Word and for people in our lives who help teach us His Word. Thank God for always being there for us. Ask God for wisdom for each of the kids.

Psalm writing session

What You Need: Paper, pencils, Bibles

What You Do:

- Look up Psalm 119. Explain to kids that the psalms have been translated into our language so we can read them. However, in the original text, each section of Psalm 119 corresponds to a letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Each verse in the section begins with the same letter.
- Encourage kids to write a prayer where every sentence begins with the same letter.
- Encourage kids to share their prayers.
 - An example:

I love You, God!
Instruct me each day with Your Word.
Insights from thinking about Your Word guide me.
Instill a desire to learn more about You.
Important is everything You say.

What You Say:

- What do think the "light" is in this verse?
- What do you think that God's word shows us or makes clear? (What we can do to live the best life).
- How does prayer help show us the way? (When we pray, we are asking God to show us what he wants us to do).
- What is a way we can grow in knowledge of God this week? (Pray, Read the Bible, review our Memory verse, and listen to worship music).
- **[Bottom Line] When you don't know what God says, ask."**