

Alley SG - September 30- October 1, 2017

Bible Story: God's World (The earth belongs to the Lord) • *Psalm 24:1*

Bottom Line: Remember, everything belongs to God.

Key Question: How can you treat everything like it belongs to God?

Memory Verse: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." *Luke 16:10a, NIV*

CONNECT TIME: *This Connect Time is intended to be done before **Large Group** begins, and as children arrive.*

What You Need: Bags of alphabet beads (one per child), tablecloths, paper plates (one per child)

Prep: Put down tablecloths on tables or the floor, creating workspaces for each team.

What You Do:

- **Split** your group into smaller teams of 3 or 4 students.
- **Give** each team a few paper plates and a bag of Alphabet beads.
- **Tell** them the rules of the game:
 - The goal is to create as many words as possible in 5 minutes.
 - Words are worth a certain number of points: one point for each letter in the word. (For example, words with four letters get four points.)
 - Words must be appropriate and must be "actual" words that can be found in the dictionary in order to count for points.
 - The group with the largest word will get a bonus of 15 points. (You can also choose to give bonus points for spiritual, "God-related" words or names of people in the small group.)
 - All finished words should be in a paper plate to be counted when time runs out. Words that a student is working on but hasn't yet finished won't count.
- **Instruct** kids to dump the beads out on top of the tablecloth to help make clean up easier.
- **Give** them a 3-minute and 1-minute warning.
- **Ask** teams to calculate what they think their point totals are.
- **Remind** them that you're the final say and able to award extra points.

Wrap Up and Say:

"It's impossible to even *guess* how many words can be created out of just 26 letters—too many to count. Today's lesson is also hard to wrap our mind around. It's about LITERALLY everything in the world. Let's head to Large Group and find out more.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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1. Prized Possessions

What You Need: Sticky notes, pens (one per child)

What You Do:

- **Pass** around the sticky notes—encourage each kid to take one off the top.
- **Put** the pens in the middle where your group can reach them.
- **Encourage** them to draw a picture or write the name of their most prized possessions.
 - What thing do they value the most?
 - If they could only take one thing with them on a long trip, what would they choose?
- **Show** them where to put their sticky notes (a wall, a door, a table) so that everyone can see what everyone created/wrote.
- **Ask** if they notice any themes or similarities.
Note: they can group and move sticky notes around if that helps make it clearer.
- **Give** them a chance to quickly (1 or 2 sentences) share why they choose that thing, if they'd like.
- **Next** ask them how their feelings might change if that one thing belonged to their whole family equally. Ask a couple volunteers to share their thoughts.
- **Ask** what it would be like if that thing belonged to their whole school or a library and you had to check it out and return it—even pay a fine if you damaged or lost it.
 - Would that change how they felt or acted with that thing?
 - Give a few students a chance to share.
- **Write A Sticky Note** that says, "Belongs to God," and put it up next to some of the notes. What does that make them think or feel?

Wrap Up & Say:

It's challenging to remember that everything and everyone belongs to God. We can get really focused and think that things, especially our favorite things or people, are only ours. God wants us to remember and thank Him for everyone and everything He's made.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, paper plates, markers, pens, letter dice (from Activity Page), timer

What You Do:

- **Encourage** students to partner up. Give each set of partners a paper plate.
- **Place** the pens within reach.
- **Tell** them to write "Everything" on one side in big letters in the middle of the plate.
- **Ask** them to flip the plate over and write "Everyone" in big letters in the middle of the plate on the other side.
- **Review** today's passage from Psalm 24:1.
- **Explain** that in order to help them really understand this verse, you'll play a version of Scattergories.
 - Hold up the timer and the letter die.
 - Tell students that they will be challenged during each round to think of as many words as possible that start with whatever letter gets rolled.

They will write each word on one side or the other—write the word on the "everyone" side for people and on the "everything" side for objects and more.

- It will be a challenge to write small enough and legibly enough to fit all the words they come up with!
- **Tell** kids that you will reset the timer and roll again as time (and space on the plates) allows.
- **Save** a little time at the end. Ask the pairs to circle the words they think others haven't thought of and then let them take turns sharing those words and seeing if any other teams had the same word.

Wrap Up & Say:

"We could play this game for a long time, couldn't we? There are a lot of people in the world and a lot of everything else. And *everyone* and *everything* belongs to God."

3. Discussion Questions

- Why is it hard to remember that God owns everything and we don't?
- What does remembering that God is the true owner change in our lives and in our thinking?
- If we are God's people and the whole earth and everything in it is His, how do you think that should affect how we treat the earth and other people?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Do:

- **Share** this month's Memory Verse: Luke 16:10.
- **Ask** if anyone can put this verse in his or her own words.
- **See** if anyone has personal examples of things others have trusted them with—it could be God, your parents, teachers, coaches, babysitter, etc.
- **Follow up** by asking students if they've ever proven themselves in a small way that led to a bigger opportunity or something they were trusted with. How did it make them feel?

5. EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY: God Time Sheets

Hand out the "God Time" Take Home Sheets to each student, and allow them to work on them until pick up.

NOTE: Remind the students that if they bring back their completed God Time Sheets the following week, they will receive \$5 in Alley Cash.

Before they leave, ask them to close their eyes so you can pray and send them out.

Dear Jesus, You know what we've talked about here today. You know the small things we hope to show we are trustworthy in. You know the big things that we hope to have a chance with to someday prove we can be counted on. We know the earth is Yours and everything in it. We know the whole world and all who live in it are Yours. Help us to treat your earth and your people as if they matter, because they do, to You. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen.