

Alley SG - January 20-21, 2018

Bible Truth: Who Are You (Who do you say that I am?) • *Matthew 16:13-20*

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Key Question: Who can you talk with about God?

Memory Verse: "Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come." *1 Timothy 4:8, NIV*

1. Just For Fun

What You Need: "Tongue Twister Cards" Activity Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Kids **sit** in a circle.
- **Put** the "Tongue Twister Cards" in the center of the circle.
- Challenge kids to **select** a card and **practice** saying the tongue twister.
 - To increase the challenge, ask them to say the tongue twister while (literally) holding their tongue.
- **Encourage** kids, after they have practiced, to recite their tongue twister to the group.
- If kids know any additional tongue twisters, they can **share** them with the group.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: A large piece of paper (one per group, per service), "Speech Bubble Comments" cards (6 per kid), pens, tape (1 per bin)

What You Do:

- **Tape** a large piece of paper to the wall and **draw** a giant stick figure person on it.
- As a group, **create** a list of people your students could talk to about God.
- **Write** the list along one side of the stick figure.
- Examples could include:
 - Family
 - Friends
 - Teammates
 - Small Group members or people at your church
 - People who don't know Jesus
 - You, their Small Group Leader!
- **Give** each kid six "Speech Bubble Comment cards" and encourage them to write in a "Speech Bubble" something about God they could say.
- Prompts for ideas could be:
 - Something you learned at church you might want to share
 - An answered prayer or a prayer request
 - A question you have about a Bible story or a verse
- **Let** students volunteer to **share** their "Speech Bubble" comments by taping them up near the stick figure.
- **Discuss** the comments in each "Speech Bubble" shared:
 - Who could you say this comment to? Why? (*Encourage kids to refer to the list of people they created as a group*)

- Is there anyone you wouldn't be comfortable making this comment to? Why or Why not?
- Can anyone share a real-life example when he may have said something like this to someone? What happened?

Tip: This activity could provide an opportunity to discuss how you can have different conversations about God depending on whom you are talking to. There are a lot of topics about God we can discuss, but we don't necessarily discuss the same topic with everyone. For example, you wouldn't ask someone who doesn't know about God to help you understand a Bible story, but you could tell someone who doesn't know God why God is important to you.

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, paper (1 sheet per kid), pens, (*optional*) timer on mobile device

What You Do:

- **Pair** kids up.
- **Ask** kids to think of one of their friends.
- **Give** kids one minute each to tell their partners about their friend.
 - If kids need prompting, give them an example by telling them about a friend of yours.
 - Maybe share how long you have been friends, your friend's hobbies, what you like to do together, how often you see them, etc.
- After "introductions" are done, **discuss** as a group:
 - When you talked about your friend, what kind of information did you share about that friend?
 - How did you meet your friend for the first time?
 - Can you think of an adjective to describe your friend's personality? Are they funny or serious, kind or wise?
 - How does your friend treat you? Do they listen to you or do they ignore you? Do they encourage you or do they make fun of you?
 - Why do you like to be around your friend?
- **Set the scene** for a role-play activity with the kids.
 - Explain that you will be playing the role of someone who doesn't know God.
 - Ask the group work together to tell you about God, to introduce you to God.
 - Be prepared to ask questions to prompt them if necessary.
 - Encourage them to think about the types of things they said to introduce their friends.
- If there is interest, **pair** kids up again.
 - **Challenge** them to talk about Jesus for 30 seconds without saying "um", "ah," or "you know," like they did during the Social activity.

4. Discussion Questions

- Who can you talk to about your faith? Who can you share with about what God is doing in your life?
- Who needs to hear about God for the first time? Who can you invite to church?
- Who is a safe person you can talk to when you have questions about God or your faith?

5. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, index cards (one per pair of kids), pens

What You Do:

- **Pair** kids up and give each pair an index card and something to write with.
- **Give** each pair a verse to look up. (Instruct them to write their verse reference on the index card before they look up the verse.)
 - Hebrews 10:25 (*encourage one another and talk to others who believe in God*)
 - 1 Chronicles 16:12 (*talk about what God has done*)
 - Romans 1:12 (*encourage the faith of others and talk about what God is doing*)
 - 1 Peter 3:15 (*be ready to talk about why God is important to you and do it with gentle words*)
- **Instruct** each group to read the verse and, together in their own words, summarize what God says about what we should talk about and/or how we should talk about Him with others.
- After they've done this, **let** pairs take turns reading their verse to the group and sharing with the group what they came up with for their paraphrase.
- Using the list of people from the Snapshot activity, **challenge** kids to create a scenario where they "live out" one of the above verses and talk about God with the person from the list.
 - Kids can continue to work in pair or in larger groups.
 - If necessary, prompt kids by saying, "Your friend just told you he has never been to church and doesn't know anything about God. Which of the verses we discussed might be helpful for you to start a conversation with your friend? What could you say to your friend?"

Closing Prayer:

"Dear God, You are amazing! There is no one who we can't talk to about You! Help us to see opportunities to talk with others about what you have done and what you are doing. Give us courage to boldly tell people why You matter to us and to use words that are gentle and respectful. God, You love us so much! Help us to tell others about Your love for us and for the whole world! Amen!"

"God Time" Take Home Sheets

What You Need: "God Time" Sheets (one per child), pens (one per child)

NOTE: The God Time sheets are intended to be a closing time activity each week in The Alley. Children will begin working on their sheets, as well as be encouraged to bring their sheets back the following week for **\$3 in Alley Cash**. Children cannot turn in their sheets the same week. The goal is to keep the lesson on their minds and in front of them throughout the following week.