

Alley SG - April 21-22, 2018

Bible Truth: Golden Calf * Exodus 32:1-35

Bottom Line: When you think you can't wait, think about what's true.

Key Question: What can you think about when it's hard to wait?

Memory Verse: "Wait for the LORD. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the LORD!"
Psalms 27:14, NIV

NOTE: The Worship Experience will be done in Small Groups this week. Instructions are below.

WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

What You Need: Party horns(1 per child) , cotton balls (12 per bin, reuse) race track table cloth, and floor tape

What You Do:

- **Create** a starting line by placing the race track table cloth on your Small Group space and taping it to the floor or table of your space.
- **Ask** everyone to line up along the starting line.
- **Read** Psalm 27:14: **"Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord."**
- **Give** each student a blowout party horn and a cotton ball.
- **Explain** that they will use the party horn to push their cotton ball "cars" along the floor (or table) by blowing the horn out and bumping the "car" forward, one at a time.
- **Tell** them to "park" their cars anywhere between the lines of tape, depending on how patient or impatient they were this past week. *Remind them that this is not a competition, it's an opportunity to be honest.*
 - If they had a great week, tell them to push their cars to the finish line.
 - If they lost their cools and let their tempers get out of hand, tell them to park their cars closer to the starting line.
 - Anywhere in between means they had some good days as well as some bad.
- After all the cars are positioned, PRAY this prayer together:

"Dear Jesus, thank You for this opportunity to think about times when we may have lost our cools, and times when we held it together. We know that we worship You when we show patience and put You first. Help us not to lose our patience, and to live our lives more like You every day. Amen."

1. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask** student to pair up.
- **Give** partners two minutes to find out two true facts and one false about one another.
- **Bring** all the groups together then let students introduce their partners and tell the two true statements and one false statement they talked about.
- **Challenge** the rest of the students to name which facts are truth.

Wrap Up and Say:

"Finding out what's true about someone is just as important as knowing what's false. The same goes for knowing God, too. The Bible, God's 'Book of Truth' is the best place to discover what's been true in the past, is still true today, and will be true forever."

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, "What's Wrong With this Picture?" Activity Page (one per kid), "Answer Key" Activity Page (one per group), pens

What You Do:

- **Give** each student a Bible, a copy of the "What's Wrong with this Picture?" Activity Page, and a pen.
- **Tell** them to find and circle seven things that are out of place in the picture.
- **Encourage** dialogue about things they remember from the story. When everyone is finished, refer to the "Answer Key" to make sure all the areas are circled.
- **Ask** students to take one last look at the things they circled then turn their papers over and place them face down in front of them.
- **Direct** everyone to find Psalm 78:10-17 in her Bible. If necessary, remind students that the book of Psalms is in the middle of the Bible.
- **Let** those who like to read aloud take turns reading Psalm 78:10-17, one verse at a time.
- **Pause** after each verse and ask the group to think back on the things they circled on the activity page.
 - See if they can find a connection between the verse that was just read and one of the images they circled.
 - Answers can vary as students draw their own connections.
 - Refer to the "Answer Key" for clarity, as some connections are more abstract than others.
- **Close** by praising the students for being able to "look back" and remember the images they circled.
- **Ask:**
 - If Israel had *looked back* and remembered all of the miracles, wonders, power, and provision God had demonstrated in the past, what are some things they would have been encouraged by?
 - How might looking back at what they knew to be true of God impacted the situation with the Golden Calf and Israel's ability to wait with trust in God?
 - Besides all the evidences mentioned in Psalm 78, what are some other things you know to be true about God?
 - How can looking back and remembering what's true help you wait with patience when you're tempted to lose it?

3. Discussion Questions

- Can you think of a time when you did something you weren't supposed to because you were waiting for something and you got impatient?
- Name four things you believe, without a doubt, to be true about God. If you can, include a Bible verse or Bible story to back up the truth. (*Encourage students to look back on today's lesson if they can't think of other verses or stories.*)

- In what way do those things help when you're in a situation that's stressing you out? Share a personal example if you can.
- Israel messed up big time when they lost trust in God and decided to quit waiting. When we mess up, what can we do to make things right or better after we lose our patience?

4. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- **Use** this prayer time as an opportunity to challenge students to create a habit of "praying Scripture."
- **Read** all or some of the following verses out loud one at a time:
 - Psalm 62:1-2
 - Psalm 62:5-8
 - Psalm 62:11-12
- **Pause** after each verse to let students identify a truth, promise, or command and **ask** them to "pray the verse" in silent or spoken prayer back to God. Their prayers might include . . .
 - Words of praise
 - Statements of a truth they believe
 - Request for help to obey a command or trust a promise
 - Confession of unbelief or disobedience

"Dear God, in just one short Psalm we discovered great and awesome truths about You: You are our rock, refuge, and hope; we can trust in You and talk to You about anything at any time. All power belongs to You. How grateful we are for the way You bless those who believe Your truths and follow You. Help us to look back and remember these things this week when we are tempted to lose heart or lose our temper. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."