

Alley SG – June 16-17, 2018

Bible Story: Clip My Hair (Samson) * *Judges 13–16*

Bottom Line: God is stronger than anyone.

Key Question: What happens when you trust yourself more than God?

Memory Verse: “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” *Psalms 27:13 NIV*

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper, pens

What You Do:

- **Hand out** paper and pens and ask students to draw a Tic-Tac-Toe grid on their pieces of paper.
- **Explain** that you will name a category such as “places to eat.”
 - The students will then write down one place in each box on the Tic-Tac-Toe grid, without letting others see what they wrote.
- **Emphasize** that the goal of the game is to write down answers they think others will also write down.
- **Provide** a few minutes for students to work, and when they’re finished, invite them to go around and check to see what others wrote.
 - If they have written the same word in any of the boxes that someone else did, they can X it out.
 - The words must be the same, but they do not have to be placed in the same areas of the grid.
 - The first person to get three in a row wins.
- **Play** a few rounds, using these categories:
 - Things that make us strong
 - Things we trust
 - Powerful people
 - Things with hair
 - Objects found in today’s story
- **Finish** by asking students to fill in each square with a word that reminds them of something from the story of Samson – for example, “hair.”
 - For a word to count in this round, though, it must be in the same square as someone else’s grid.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, paper, pens

What You Do:

- **Bring** everyone together and hand out Bibles.
- **Ask** half of the group to look up Proverbs 28:26.
- **Ask** the other half of the group to look up Proverbs 3:7.
- **Invite** each group to use what they remember from Samson’s life story to come up with three ways he followed the wisdom of these Proverbs and three ways he did not.
 - **Let** them look up the story in Judges 13-16 if they get stuck.

- **Bring** the groups together after a few minutes and let them read their verses aloud and then share what they came up with by way of application to Samson's life.
- **Prompt** deeper conversation with the following questions:
 - What do you think was Samson's biggest mistake?
 - Is it possible to be too confident? Explain why or why not.
 - What's the most important thing you learned from this discussion?

Wrap Up and Say:

"Believing that God is stronger than anyone can give us the confidence to put our trust in what HE can do more than what WE can do. We can only do so much on our own. We need God's help to accomplish God's plan for our lives."

3. Discussion Questions

- Our culture is all about believing in ourselves. We are often told, "You can do it! Just believe in yourself." What's one good thing about having confidence in yourself? When might having confidence in yourself be a bad thing?
- What's the difference between being confident and being proud?
- What could happen when you trust yourself more than you trust God?
- If you could have one of the gifts God gave Samson, what would it be? How would you use it?
- How does knowing and believing that God is stronger than anyone help give you confidence? When might you need to remember to trust God more than yourself this week?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- **Invite** everyone to look up Psalm 147:5 in their Bibles or on a Bible app.
- **Ask** a few students to read the verse aloud from a variety of translations.
- **Instruct** kids to pair up.
- **Using** the sentence starters below, one student will start the sentence and the other student will finish it. Then partners will switch roles and do it again with a different sentence starter.
- If you'd like to give students a funny way to do this, try the following:
 - The goal is for partners to say the same thing at the same time.
 - They will essentially be speaking in unison, anticipating the words their partner will say and attempting to say the same thing.
 - Tell them to speak slowly and watch their partner's mouth to try to stay in sync.
 - They can wait for their partner to start a word and then try to anticipate what that word is.
 - See if your group can do this without laughing!

Finish Each Other's Sentences . . . Starters

1. Something that stood out to me in this verse was . . .
2. I think this verse matters because . . .
3. I need to remember this verse when . . .
4. I wonder if . . .
5. I think this verse is saying . . .

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Do:

- **Read** Psalm 147:5 to the group.
- **Invite** the students to focus their prayers around praising God for His power and to use the words of this verse as a backdrop.
- **Tell** them that you will recite a portion of the verse and they can simply repeat it as a personal prayer or they can use their own words in a sentence prayer of their own—silently or out loud.

Great is our Lord.

His power is mighty.

There is no limit to his understanding.

(Psalm 147:5 NIV)

“Dear God, You are the greatest of the great. You are the most powerful of the powerful. You are the mightiest of the mighty. You have no limits, no weakness, no boundaries, and no end. We praise You for Your incredible understanding, wisdom, and love. Let our strongest confidence rest on You and not ourselves. In your name we pray, amen.”