

# Alley SG – June 2-3, 2018

**Bible Truth:** Thou Raise Me Up (Jesus is the Cornerstone) \* Ephesians 2:20-21a

**Bottom Line:** Jesus matters most.

**Key Question(s):** Why does Jesus matter?

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

## 1. Get Your Head in the Game

**What You Need:** Pack of Starburst (2 packs, per bin, per service)

**What You Do:**

- **Form** teams of 3-4 students then ask each group to sit in a circle.
- **Place** a pack of Starburst candy in the middle of each circle.
- **Tell** students to work as a team and use their Starburst candy to create a small building that looks like their church. (they may even use the foil wrapper)
- **Designate** an amount of time for students to work and then signal groups to begin.
- When time is up, **ask** everyone which building comes the closest to resembling the one you’re meeting in (or a building at all!).
- They may eat the starbursts after you’re done with the activity

**Wrap Up and Say:**

“It’s easy to understand why every builder needs to start with a good foundation. The shape and design of your Starburst building was determined by the first few pieces you put together. Today we talked about another part of a building—an important one. In fact, it’s the ONE that matters most. Jesus, our Cornerstone.”

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** Bag of Beads/Gems (60 beads per bag, one bag per bin)

**What You Do:**

- **Sit** in a circle and place the beads in the center.
- **Explain** that you’ll read some statements. If the statement is something students have experienced in their lives, tell them to grab a bead.
- **Say**, “Grab a bead if you’ve ever felt confident . . .”
  - about getting an “A” on a test.
  - enough to tell someone about Jesus.
  - that you could win a race.
  - being in a new group where you didn’t know anyone yet.
  - that God heard your prayer and would answer.
  - about trying something new.
- After each statement and as students are willing, **ask** them to talk about the experiences that came to mind when they grabbed the bead.
  - What happened that made you feel the way you did?
  - *If students are reluctant to share, invite them to simply use one or two words to describe how they felt at the time.*

### 3. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Bibles, poster board (2 per group, per service), markers

**What You Do:**

- **Form** two teams within your group and give each team a Bible, poster board, and markers.
- **Tell** them that today's scripture passage contains many "word pictures"—words or phrases that help us *picture* something in our minds and better understand the meaning.
- **Assign** teams one or more verses from Ephesians 2:20-22 then **invite** teams to create a poster that illustrates the literal imagery of those verses.
  - v. 20 *You are a building that is built on the apostles and prophets. They are the foundation. Christ Jesus himself is the most important stone in the building. (NirV)*
  - v. 21 *The whole building is held together by him. It rises to become a holy temple because it belongs to the Lord. (NirV)*
  - v. 22 *And because you belong to him, you too are being built together. You are being made into a house where God lives through his Spirit. (NirV)*

**Tip:** *It might be helpful to review some of the concepts that were taught in Large Group so that students have a clear meaning of the imagery in these verses. Remind them that when Paul wrote, "You are a building," he was talking to those who believe in and follow Jesus. The foundation or base of the building is the teaching of the apostles and prophets—which we find in the Bible. The most important stone in the building is Jesus. That's one way of saying that Jesus is where Christians should place our confidence. We should anchor our lives to Him because He matters most.*

- After a few minutes, **bring** teams together and let them share their posters and how the pictures help them better understand the verses.
- **Remind** students that confidence is living like we believe what God says is true then ask:
  - What did you learn about God from these verses?
  - How does knowing truth about God and believing it make us feel more confident? Give an example.
  - What do these word pictures tell you about the relationship believers have with Jesus?
  - Why should Jesus matter most to someone who follows God?

### 4. Discussion Questions

- What are some things people put their confidence in other than Jesus? Why are those things weak or dangerous foundations on which to build our lives?
- In what way is the Bible like an instruction manual for the extreme sport of LIFE?
- How does someone live like he or she believes what God says is true?
- If Jesus matters most to someone, what might that look like on a day-to-day basis?
- Is it wrong to be confident in yourself? Why or why not?

## 5. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles

**What You Do:**

- **Hand out** Bibles or let students look up and read Psalm 20:7 on their phones.

**Tip:** Check to make sure everyone is familiar with chariots and their use in Bible times. If needed, explain that a chariot is a type of carriage pulled by primarily horses. Chariots were used by armies to transport weapons or as a mobile archery platform. The more chariots, the greater the army. Chariots were also used for hunting and as a fast way to travel. In Rome during Bible times, people who attended a circus could expect to see a type of an “X-Game” called, Chariot Racing. If time allows, let students use their phones to Google “chariots” or “chariot racing.”

- **Get** the students’ interpretations of the verse by asking open-ended questions and giving them an opportunity to share their thoughts.
  - What do you think it means to trust in a chariot or a horse?
  - We don’t use chariots or horses the way they did in Bible times, so how does this verse apply to us today?
  - What are some “chariots and horses” that we trust in for our confidence?
  - Why is it better to trust in Jesus?
- If time allows, form a circle and **play** the following game:
  - Choose one person to stand in the center of the circle.
  - Invite the person in the middle to point to someone in the circle and call out either “chariot,” “horse,” or “God.”
    - For “**chariot**,” the person pointed at pretends to hold the reins of a horse while the students on each side of him crouch down to become the wheels of the chariot.
    - For “**horse**,” the person pointed at goes down on all fours, while those on each side pat the tops of their legs to make galloping sounds.
    - For “**God**,” the person pointed at holds his arms in the air and spins around while the players to the right and left run around him one time.
  - The person in the trio who is last to respond correctly will trade places with the student standing in the center of the circle.
  - If everyone responds at the same time, play again going faster each time.

## 6. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** Posters from “Bible Story Extension” activity

**What You Do:**

- **Place** the posters students made in “Bible Story Extension” on the floor around the room.
- **Invite** everyone to walk quietly around the room, spending a minute or two at each poster as he or she prays silently asking God to help him or her remember that Jesus matters most.
- **Encourage** them to thank God for what He did for us through Christ’s death and resurrection.

**What You Say:**

*Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us a way to know You and for helping us find our confidence in You. Forgive us for the times when we put our confidence in ourselves or other things instead of what the Bible tells us to be true. Remind us this week that it’s not about how much we know or what we can do or how much we have. Our confidence needs to be in what we know is true about YOU. You matter most. In your name we pray, amen.*