

# Alley SG - August 18-19, 2018

**Bible Story:** Everybody Wants to Rule the World (Rehoboam Listens to Fools) \* 2  
*Chronicles 10 (Proverbs 13:20)*

**Bottom Line:** If you want to be wise, hang out with wise people.

**Key Question:** Why does it matter who your friends are?

**Memory Verse:** "If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you." *James 1:5a (NirV)*

## 1. Just For Fun

**What You Need:** Paper (1 sheet per kid), pens

**What You Do:**

- **Ask** students to think of something that happened to them this week. It can be something fantastic, freaky, fun, or a complete fail—whatever they would like to share.
- **Before** they share their stories, pass out paper and markers.
- **Tell** them to draw a picture or write a few words about their story but do so with their hands behind their backs.
- When they're finished, **let** the group try to guess what the artists drew then **ask** each person to share the story behind the picture or random words.

## 2. Take a Snapshot

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- **Ask** the students to share some of the things they like about their friends.
  - What do you enjoy doing together?
  - What's the nicest thing a friend has ever done for you?
  - What makes a good friend?
  - How do you choose your friends?
  - If you could have one quality in a friend, what would it be?
  - Would you rather have 20 friends that you don't know very well or one best friend?
- **Pair** students up—girls with girls; guys with guys.
- **Let** one of the partners be the sculptor and the other the clay.
- Without speaking, the sculptor poses the "clay" to depict something friends do together or something they do for one another.
  - They can use ideas from the previous discussion or come up with other things that show what a good friend is like.
- **Invite** the remaining students to guess what the sculpture is about. They can ask up to ten YES or NO questions to get clues from the sculptor.
- **Sculpture Suggestions** (if needed)
  - Praying
  - Throwing a ball
  - Giving a hug
  - Reading or studying
  - Watching a movie
  - Playing a game
  - Listening to music
  - Talking

### 3. Discussion Questions

- Why does it matter whom you are friends with?
- What is the benefit of hanging out with wise people of different ages? What wisdom might your parents have to share that your friends might not and vice versa?
- Would you consider yourself to be a wise person that people would want to hang out with? Why or why not? If not, how might you need to change?
- What are some ways you can share your faith without actually joining in with a crowd of kids who make bad choices or letting their choices influence your choices?
- What are some bad choices that seem like “no big deal” at the time but later can become a *huge* deal? (*Remind students of Rehoboam’s decision that totally backfired.*)
- How can you figure out who is giving good advice and who is giving bad advice?

### 4. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Toilet Paper (1 roll per group), “Wisdom” Activity Card Pattern (10 per bin, reuse each service) pens & bibles (campus supplies)

#### **What You Do:**

- Using Bibles or a Bible App on their phone, **invite** students to look up 1 Corinthians 15:33 and read it in a variety of translations.
- **Let** students share ways they think this verse applies to kids their age by finishing this sentence: “I think this matters because . . .”
- **Ask:**
  - How would you define “bad company”? (*or whatever phrase is used in your translation*)
  - How would you define “good company”?
  - Why are we sometimes drawn to friends who are not following God?
- If time allows, **use** the following activity to **illustrate** the way we can gradually lose focus on wisdom if we surround ourselves with foolish friends instead of wise ones.
  - Hand out the “Wisdom” Activity Page and a pen to each student.
  - Give differing amounts of tissue paper to each person (one sheet to one person, two to another, three to someone else and so on) up to five sheets of tissue to one person.
  - Invite the group to place all their layers of tissue over their Activity Card then use a pen to trace the word while trying to keep as much detail as possible.
- After a few minutes, **let** the students compare their tracings and then share some ways this activity illustrates what can happen when we surround ourselves with those who make poor choices.
  - How might foolish friends blur the lines between what God says is right and wrong?
  - Does one unwise friend among a group of wise friends influence you a lot or a little? Why?
  - What about three unwise friends in a group of six people? How much influence do the three unwise people have over the whole group?
  - Are there any friends you have right now that you should probably not be hanging out with? How do you go about changing that without hurting their feelings?

## 5. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- **Remind** students that sometimes our wisest friends are those who are older than us.
- **Invite** the students to name wise friends, teachers, coaches, and family members in their lives right now then thank God for their influence.

**What You Say:**

*Dear Jesus, YOU are our best friend, and when we listen to Your Word and follow it, You promise to help us make wise choices. We don't want to be a Rehoboam and make selfish decisions that go bad. Help us to surround ourselves with wise people who know what it means to follow You. Thank you for those in our lives right now who help us stay smart and think twice. Help us to not only HAVE wise friends, but to BE a wise friend. In your name we pray, amen.*

**HAND OUT "GOD TIME" SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING**

**IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH**