

Alley SG - May 18-19, 2019

Bible Story: Stop Draggin' My Heart Around (Cloud of Witnesses) • Hebrews 12:1

Bottom Line: God can help you let go of what is holding you back.

Key Question: What gets in the way of finishing what you start?

Memory Verse: Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
(Isaiah 40:31 NIV)

1. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: Decks of cards (3 decks per group)

What You Do:

- **Pair** kids up.
- **Explain** kids will play a card game called War. The goal of the game is to win all of the cards.
- To set up:
 - Shuffle the cards.
 - Deal one half of the deck to each player.
- To **play**:
 - Both kids flip over a card from their pile.
 - Highest number wins. (Ace is Highest, 2 is lowest)
 - In the event of the same number flipped over, students will place 3 cards faced down then flip a fourth card face up. Highest card wins.
 - The first kid to gain control of the entire deck of cards wins.

What You Say:

"You had to be really patient to get all the cards. When you lost some, it was holding you back from winning the game. **[Transition]** In Large Group we heard about some people who didn't let anything hold them back from finishing what they started."

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper (10 sheets per bin per service), markers

What You Do:

- **Gather** kids in a circle.
- **Place** 10 pieces of paper and markers in the center of the circle.
- **Ask:** What can cause you to give up? What are reasons we might say, "I can't do that?" If necessary, prompt with, "Why might you give up . . ."
 - . . . building a space ship?
 - . . . learning to ride a horse?
 - . . . being patient with the most annoying person in the world?
 - . . . when things get hard?
- As kids answer, **allow** them time to write their answers on a piece of paper, using all 10 pieces.
- Roll up each sheet and secure the tube with a rubber band in the middle.

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Paper tubes from Act. 2 (10) white floor tape (campus supplies), rubber bands (15 per bin-remove and use each service), ping pong balls (10 per group), Bibles

What You Do:

- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Stand up** the paper tubes in a bowling pin formation (triangle).
- **Create** a line about 10 feet from the tubes with floor tape.
- **Line up** team 1 behind the tape.
- **Give** each student a ping pong ball.
- **Explain** the goal is to launch your ping pong ball and knock down the paper, i.e. to knock down the excuses we use to give up.
- **Count** how many they knock down, have Team 2 play and count.
- The team that knocks down the most paper tubes wins.
- **Bring** all the paper tubes back to the group and **gather** students into a circle.
- Have the students remove the rubber bands (use for next service), and they can ball up the “excuses” and throw them in the middle of the circle.
- **Read** from Hebrews 11, verses 7, 8, 22, and 24.
- **Ask:**
 - What did Noah, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses have in common (*they obeyed even when it was hard*)?
 - What excuses could Noah have used to give up building the boat? Or for Moses to give up and not speak to Pharaoh? Or what excuses could Abraham use when asked to move? If necessary, the paper could provide examples. (*Noah: people made fun of him, he didn't know how to build a boat, Abraham: he was moving far from family, he wouldn't know anyone, he would have to start over, Joseph: his brothers were mean to him and they didn't deserve to be forgiven, Moses: he was afraid of Pharaoh, he didn't have confidence in his ability to speak*)
- **Read** Hebrews 12:1.
- **Explain** when Paul refers to “a cloud of witnesses,” Paul is talking about the list of people from Chapter 11, the people who had faith in God, who trusted God and didn’t give up when things got hard.
- **Ask:**
 - Why do you think Paul want us to remember the people in verse 11?
 - Encourage kids to give an example of someone they know who faced a difficult situation and didn’t give up.
 - How does hearing stories about people who faced hard situations encourage us to finish what we start?

4. Discussion Questions

- What gets in your way of finishing what you started?
- Encourage kids to give an example of someone they know who faced a difficult situation and didn’t give up. How does hearing stories about people who faced hard situations encourage us to finish what we start?
- Who encourages you to finish what you started? How do they encourage you?
- **[Make it Personal]** (*Answer the question above for yourself. Who is someone in your life who has encouraged perseverance in you?*)

5. Memory Verse Scramble

What You Need: Bibles, Memory Verse Scramble Cards (3 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Guide kids to look up Isaiah 40:31.
- Say the verse together several times.
- Divide your group into 2 or 3 teams (depending on the size of your group)
- Give each team a set of “Memory Verse Scramble” cards.
- Tell the kids to spread the cards out, face down, and scramble them up on the floor.
- On your “Go!” the first team to put the verse in order wins.
 - Have a team member read the verse to you to complete the round.
 - Play a few rounds as time allows.

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

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