

Alley “All Together Activities”—February 7th, 2021

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Small Water Bottles (1 per kid), Hand Sanitizer, (*optional*) mobile device

What You Do:

- Give a kid a pump of hand sanitizer before beginning this activity. Be sure kids only touch their own water bottle.
- Challenge kids to flip the partially-filled water bottle so that it lands upright on a hard, flat surface. To flip the bottle:
 - Instruct kids to grab the neck of the bottle below the cap.
 - Guide kids to flick their wrist upwards and to let go of the bottle when their wrist is pointing upwards.
 - The bottle will spin in the air.
 - The goal is to get the bottle to land upright.
 - Give kids time to practice.
- To make it competitive, offer the following challenges:
 - How many times can kids get the bottle to land upright in a minute?
 - Can kids flip the bottle using their non-dominant hand?
 - How many successful flips can kids get in a row?
- Troubleshooting tips:
 - If no one can successfully get the bottle to land, try increasing/decreasing the amount of water in the bottle. Ideally, the bottle should be 1/4 - 1/3 full of water.
 - Practice letting go of the bottle sooner or later.
- It's highly likely your kids will already be well-practiced in flipping water bottles, but for a visual of how it's done, do an internet video search for “water bottle flip.”

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: Plastic Gemstones (1 large bag per Service), dice (1 per kid), plastic bags (1 per kid), sharpie (box per campus), hand sanitizer

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle and instruct them to sit distanced from each other.
- Provide a pump of hand sanitizer to each kid.
- Give each kid a die.
- Spread out a layer of plastic gemstones in the center of the circle.
- Explain that kids will play a game. To play:
 - Kids take turns rolling a dice. For each number rolled, the “roller” performs the following actions:
 - Roll a 1: pick a piece of gemstone from the pile
 - Roll a 2: pick two gemstones from the pile
 - Roll a 3: skip their turn
 - Roll a 4: select a kid in the group to pick a gemstone from the pile
 - Roll a 5: pick a gemstone from the pile and skip the next kid's turn
 - Roll a 6: pick a gemstone from the pile and the direction of the game reverses
 - The first kid to collect 10 gemstones wins.
 - Keep the pace of the game fast.
- Allow kids to keep their gemstones.
- Provide plastic bags and instruct kids to put their gemstones in the bag and to write their name on the bag with a sharpie.

Note: Have kids hold on to their dice for Activity 4

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Index cards (5 per kid), markers

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle and instruct them to sit arm's length from each other.
- Give kids three to five index cards and a marker.
- Challenge kids to finish the sentence, "Kindness is . . ." with an action statement.
 - For example: Kindness is when my mom makes my favorite dinner.
- Encourage kids to think of times when they have experienced kindness at school or when a family member or a friend did something that made them feel special or important.
- Ask kids to write each example on a separate index card.
- Allow kids to share their responses with the group.
- Group similar sentences by putting the matching index cards together in the center of the circle.
- Ask:
 - Out of our responses here, what was the most common example of a way to show kindness?
 - What was the most unique way?
- Pick a couple of cards and ask:
 - How would this show someone they are valuable? For example: How would sharing your lunch show someone they are valuable?
 - How does God show us kindness? How does He show us we are valuable?

4. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, dice (from earlier activity), a coin (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Look up and read Ephesians 4:31-32 to your group.
- To review, consider asking:
 - What does this verse say about kindness? What does kindness look like?
 - Is it easy or hard to be kind if you are holding on to a grudge or holding onto hard feelings? Why?
 - Why is forgiving someone a way to show kindness? How could forgiving someone show them they are valuable to you and to God?
 - What are some ways Jesus showed kindness? What did He do to show people they were valuable? (*He forgave people, didn't fight, was humble, fed people, helped people when they were sick, listened to people, encouraged people, etc.*)
- Instruct kids to get their dice from the Activity 2 earlier.
- Divide the group into two teams and assign one team "Heads" and one team "Tails."
- Flip a coin to determine what team gets to go first and then read a scenario from the list below.
- Guide teams to take turns (starting with the team that won the coin toss) coming up with ways someone could show kindness in the situation you just read about.
- Remind kids to think of ways Jesus showed kindness and challenge them to consider how they might reflect Jesus' kindness in the given scenario.
- Let teams keep taking turns sharing different ways to show kindness until they run out of ideas.
 - As kids run out of ideas, they'll start to get more and more "creative" with what they come up with. You are the judge of whether or not some of the later ideas count.
- For each example a team gives, instruct everyone on the team to roll their dice. The number of the roll is how many points that team gets.
- ***The first team to get a certain amount of points (that makes sense in your group/service) wins.***

Scenarios are on next page...

- Scenarios are:

- Your friend had another bad day at school. Your first response is to stay away until they are in a better mood, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?
- Your brother spilled chocolate milk all over your homework assignment. Your first response is to yell at him, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?
- A new kid moved into your neighborhood. You don't know what to say to them, and you feel awkward because you don't know them, so your first response is to avoid them. But what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?
- You are really mad at your friend. Your first response is to give them the silent treatment, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?
- Two of your friends are in a fight. Your first response is to pick sides, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first?
- Your locker at school is next to a kid who annoys you. Your first response is to ignore them, but what would it look like to flip your response and show kindness first?
- Your mom was about to drive you to your friend's house when a neighbor stopped by unexpectedly. They have been talking forever, and you are ready to go. Your first response is to sigh heavily and give your mom a look that says, "LET'S GO NOW!" But what would it look like to flip your first response to show kindness first?
- Your brother is nervous about the first day of kindergarten. Your first response is to tease him about being nervous and tell him that kindergarten is no big deal, but what would it look like to flip your response to show kindness first? (*This is an opportunity to revisit the Memory Verse from January, Ephesians 4:29 and review what it looks like to show kindness by encouraging others according to their needs*)

5. Discussion Questions

- Would you rather be described as being nice or kind? Why?
- What's something kind someone did for you lately?
- What's something kind you did for someone else lately?
- Often our first response isn't always to show kindness. What can you do to remind yourself to respond with kindness first?
- Why is kindness important? How do you feel when someone is kind to you versus when someone is unkind to you?
- God showed us kindness by sending Jesus. What are some ways Jesus showed others they were valuable? How was Jesus kind to others? (*forgave people, didn't fight, was humble, fed people, helped people when they were sick, listened to people, encouraged people, etc.*)

CLOSING PRAYER:

"God, You are so kind to us! Thank You for dearly loving us, for forgiving us, for providing for us, for being patient with us (*be sure to include the answers kids gave to ways God has been kind*). Just like we put on our clothes each day, God, help us to put on kindness. God, help us to show others by the way we treat them that they are valuable to us and more importantly they are valuable to You. Amen!"