

Alley SG—May 22nd-24th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Whatcha Say (Peter Says That Jesus is the Messiah) • *Matthew 16:13-20*

Today's Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Today's Key Question: Who can you talk to about God?

Monthly Memory Verse: *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.* 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: rubber bands (1 bag per group), cups (20 per group), leader's cell phone timer

What You Do:

- Set up two (or more) identical target areas each with six plastic cups placed upside-down in a row on the floor. It's okay if the targets are in different areas of the room.
- Add a tapeline on the floor six feet away from each target.
- Challenge kids to stand behind the tapeline and shoot rubber bands at the row of cups, attempting to knock each one over within 60 seconds.
- Repeat the game to allow kids to better their score.
- Add variety to the challenge if time allows.
 - Create a two-way competition between partners
 - Shorten the time to 30 seconds instead of 60.
 - Set cups up in 3-2-1 pyramid target.
 - Shoot rubber bands with eyes closed.

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: Index cards (1 per student plus extra), pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card and a pen.
- Ask kids to write a noun (place, object, person, thing) on their card without letting anyone else see what they wrote.
- Include a few additional cards with words from the list below or others you come up with.
 - winter
 - chicken noodle soup
 - pillow
 - McDonalds
 - giraffe
 - basketball
 - swimming pool
 - flat tire
- Collect the cards.
- Invite one of the kids to choose a card.
- Instruct them to give the group 10 clues about what their card is NOT.
 - For example, "I'm NOT green . . . I'm NOT an animal . . . I'm NOT edible . . ." and so forth.

- After giving the 10 “I am NOT” clues, kids can each ask one question to help them know what the actual answer is.
- Ask the kid with the card to say, “What would you say I am?” then give each kid an opportunity to take their best guess.
- Repeat as time allows to give each kid at least one chance to choose a card.

What You Say:

“Knowing what something IS can be as important as knowing what it IS NOT. **[Transition]** In today’s lesson, Jesus’ followers were asked a question—not just *any* question—one of the **MOST IMPORTANT** questions they would ever be asked: Who do you say that Jesus is?”

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, prepared playing cards (1 set of Face Cards ONLY per Group)

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Invite kids to share what they remember most from the Bible story in Large Group.
 - Who were the main characters in the story?
 - Where did the story take place?
 - What were some of the emotions the people in the story may have been feeling?
 - What stuck out most to you from today’s story?
- Set out the deck of cards you have prepared by removing all number cards, leaving just the aces, kings, queens, jacks, and jokers.
- Choose one of the kids to take a card from the pile then, based on what they draw, share their response to the corresponding question:
 - Ace – What questions do you (or someone you know) have about Jesus or God?
 - King – Who can you talk to about Jesus?
 - Queen – What is your favorite thing about God?
 - Jack – Share a character quality that God has.
 - Joker – What is something people might believe about God or Jesus that isn’t true?
- Read Matthew 16:15. Prompt kids to share how they would respond if Jesus asked them the same question He asked His disciples. (Be careful to not put anyone on the spot, while at the same time expressing the importance and weight of this question.)
 - Why do you think Jesus wants people to know who He is?
 - Who needs to hear about God for the first time? What can you do or say to that person to help them get to know who Jesus is?
 - When YOU have questions about God, who can you talk to?

4. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Who is someone you trust and can talk to when you have questions about God or your faith?
- If you could tell someone anything you want to about God, what would it be? Who would you tell?
- What is something God is doing in your life right now? Who can you share that with?
- How can we know that what we’re telling others about Jesus is true?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Index cards, pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card and pen.
- Ask kids to write down the names of a few people in the categories below. If they can't think of a specific person for each group, encourage them to pray that God will give them someone they can talk to about God.
 - Someone who needs to hear that Jesus loves them.
 - Someone they can go to with their questions about God or the Bible.
 - A friend they can share with about the things God is doing in their life.
- Provide a few minutes for kids to pray for the people on their lists.
- Encourage them to pray aloud for one person and silently for the others on their list.
- Challenge kids to pick a person from their lists and commit to having a conversation with them about God soon.
- Close with prayer.

What You Say:

"Dear God, help us look for opportunities to share what we love about You with others, by telling them what You have done, and what You are doing in our lives. We need courage to not shy away from a conversation that could literally change someone's life. You've challenged us today to stand up for what we believe about You. Now help us practice talking about You with others this week. Amen!"

REMIND STUDENTS TO GET A GOD TIME JOURNAL - RETURN IT COMPLETED NEXT WEEKEND AND GET ALLEY CASH.