

Alley SG—September 11th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Liquid (Isaac's Wells) • *Genesis 26:1-22; 26-31*

Today's Key Question: How do you react when things don't go your way?

Today's Bottom Line: Trust God no matter what

Monthly Memory Verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

1. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Craft sticks (9 per kid), rubber bands (5 per kid), buckets (3 per group) ping pong balls (1 per kid), spoons (1 per kid), "Catapult Diagram" Activity Page (2 per group), Verse Reference Cards (9 cards per group), pens, Bibles, notecards (1 per kid), baggie (1 per kid to take home notecard/catapult/ping pong ball)

What You Do:

- Guide kids as they make a popsicle stick catapult.
- Let the kids do as much of the craft themselves as they can.
- Use the "Catapult Diagram" Activity Page for a visual reference.
 - Stack seven craft sticks together and tie a rubber band around each end to hold them together.
 - Stack two craft sticks and place a rubber band at one end to hold them together.
 - Place a spoon on top of the two craft sticks and use a rubber band to tie the spoon to the top craft stick.
 - Pull the two craft sticks slightly apart and slide the stack of seven craft sticks between the two craft sticks.
 - The stack of seven craft sticks and the two craft sticks should form a "t."
- While kids are working on their catapults, set up a row of three buckets.
- Place three "Reference Cards" in each bucket, making sure each bucket has the same verse reference.
- Give each kid a ping pong ball.
- Challenge kids to use their new catapult to launch their ping pong ball into the buckets.
- When their ball lands in a bucket, they can retrieve a card from that bucket.
- After each kid has collected at least one "Reference Card," gather them together.
- Hand out Bibles to look up the verses referenced on the cards.
- Pass out note cards and have kids write their verse on the note card. Have a few of the kids read their verse out loud.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Ask kids to tell you if the book of the Bible they're looking for is in the Old Testament or New Testament. If it's in the Old, instruct kids to flip slowly, starting at the front of the Bible and heading toward the back, until they find the book they're looking for. If it's in the New, instruct kids to start flipping from the back, going forward to find the book they're looking for. Once they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. First, have them find the chapter they're looking for. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell kids to find the verse within the chapter they've already found.

- Discuss the verses. The verses are listed below with potential discussion questions:
 - Proverbs 3:5: Trusting God no matter what takes training. What are some things you can do to train yourself to trust God especially when things don't go the way you expected or the way you want them to go?
 - John 3:16: God gave us Jesus so we can have a relationship with God now and forever. Why is this an important truth to remember when building our trust in God?
 - Psalm 139:14: God is the creator of everything: the sun, the moon, day and night and you. How does knowing God is the Creator of everything help you to trust, especially when things don't go your way?
 - Psalm 139:14: God's works are wonderful. Why is it important to remember what God has done? Can you think of a time things turned out better than you imagined? Does remembering what God has done in the past help you to trust God now?

- Ask: Which verse means the most to you and why?
- Encourage the kids to take their note card home to memorize the verse this week. Give them a baggie so they can also take their catapult and ping pong ball with them, too.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Buckets (2 per Group), cotton balls (2 bags per group), spoons (1 per kid), Bibles, Paper (2 per group per service), pens

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Set a bucket across from each of the teams.
- Give each team a pile of cotton balls and give each kid a spoon.
- Explain that the buckets represent the team's wells; the pile of cotton balls are piles of dirt and the spoons are shovels.
- When you say, "Go!" teams will race to fill their opponent's bucket with cotton balls.
- Remind kids they can only touch the cotton balls with the spoons.
- When time runs out, shout, "Stop." The team with the least amount of cotton balls in their bucket wins.
- To review the story, place an even amount of cotton balls in each team's bucket.
- Give each team a piece of paper and pen.
- Read a review question from the list below and give kids a moment to confer with their team and then write their answers on the paper.
- For each correct answer, each kid removes a spoonful of cotton balls from their team's bucket.
- The first team to empty their bucket wins.
 - Review questions:
 - Who was Isaac's dad? (*Abraham*)
 - God promised Abraham his family would be greater than the number of _____ in the sky. (*stars*)
 - Why did the Philistines fill up Isaac's wells? (*they were jealous, they wanted to pick a fight*)
 - What was Isaac's response to the Philistines? (*he dug another well, he didn't fight with them*)
 - How many times did Isaac dig new wells? (3)
 - Each time the Philistines filled in Isaac's wells, what did that mean for Isaac's family and his servants? (*no water, more work to dig more wells*)
 - What was the result of Isaac's response to the Philistines? (*a peaceful relationship with the Philistines, God was honored*)
 - *Optional: Allow kids to come up with questions for the group to answer. For each question a kid asks, they can remove an additional spoonful of cotton balls from their teams' bucket.*
- After a winner is declared, read Genesis 26:2-6 and consider asking:
 - What did God ask Isaac to do? (*stay in this land*)
 - What about Isaac's response tells us he trusted God? (*Isaac stayed even when the Philistines were making it difficult for him to stay; even when things didn't go his way Isaac did what God asked him to do*)
 - Trusting God can look a lot of different ways. What are some ways we can show we trust God no matter what? (*Continuing to pray and follow Jesus during difficult situations; coming to Small Group and participating and listening; singing during Large Group*)

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Yellow and orange cards (3 per kid), markers, pens

What You Do:

- Give kids several yellow and orange cards.
- Guide kids to think of several “If . . . Then” statements.
 - Ask kids to write the “If” part of the statement on a yellow card and the “Then” part of the statement on the orange card.
 - For example: If I jumped in a pool of pudding (*yellow card*) . . . then I would be slimy (*orange card*).
- Collect all the “If” statements (*yellow cards*) in one pile and the “Then” statements (*orange cards*) in another pile.
- Let kids take turns selecting a yellow and orange card and reading the full statement to the group.
- After everyone has had a turn to read a statement, ask:
 - Some of those statements didn’t end the way you thought they would, did they? Can you think of a time things didn’t go your way or the way you thought they would go? Encourage kids to share their experiences.
 - **[Make it Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story of a time things didn’t go the way you wanted. Maybe you thought an interview for a job went well and you didn’t get job. Or a friend misunderstood what you said and got mad at you.)**
 - How do you react when things don’t go your way? To prompt discussion, rephrase the question: How would you react if (*fill in with the experiences the kids shared*)?

4. Discussion Questions

- How can doing the right thing, especially when it is hard, be a way we can show others we trust God?
- When we have been treated unfairly or unkindly, does getting even show we trust God? Why or why not?
- Even when things don’t go your way, why can you still put our confidence in God and depend on Him?
- How can believing Jesus as your Savior show you trust God?
- Is there something that isn’t going your way right now and you need to trust God with it?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle.
- Encourage kids to complete the sentence: I can trust God because (*fill in the blank*). For example:
 - I can trust because God is faithful.
 - I can trust because God does what He says He will.
 - I can trust because God knows everything.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“God, we know we can trust You no matter what! We know Your ways are perfect, but there are times we just want things to go our way. God, guide us to do the right thing, to follow Your way. Help us to trust You when things don’t go our way. We know You are always with us. Amen!”