

# Alley SG July 15-17, 2023

*Due to summer scheduling, these activities can be done in small groups or in one large group.*

## 1. Bible Story Extension

**What You Need:** Duplo Legos or large blocks, ping pong balls, “Paul’s Plunder” Activity Page

### What You Do:

- If doing as one large group, divide the kids into a couple of smaller groups.
- Lay all the Duplo Legos or blocks in a pile and invite kids to work together to build a strong, sturdy tower. *(Challenge kids to build a tower strong enough that it will not fall over when ping pong balls are thrown at it.)*
- Invite the rest of the group to line up several feet from the tower and hand each kid a ping pong ball.
- Explain that the leader will read off a description of events that took place in today’s story. *(From Paul’s Plunder activity page)*
- After each event, the next kid in line will throw their ping pong ball at the tower. The tower should be sturdy enough so that it does not tumble.
- Continue until every event has been read by the reader.
- Ask the following questions:
  - Have you ever heard the phrase, “When it rains, it pours”? This was definitely the case with Paul! Have you ever gone through a phase like that? What happened?
  - How did you respond when you were in the middle of such a mess?
- Explain how everyone experiences times in our lives where it feels like nothing is going right. In Paul’s case, there were certainly moments where he had to have felt pretty desperate. But we can remember that when we truly trust that God is with us, we can be just like this stack of blocks. No matter what is thrown at us, we can still withstand it.

## 2. Bad Scenarios Group Activity

**What You Need:** “Bad Scenarios” Cards (cut and in baggies, 2 per bin), large pieces of paper, and markers

### What You Do:

- Divide your group into groups of 2-4 kids depending on the size.
- Give each group a “Bad Scenarios” card, a piece of paper, and markers.
- Instruct each team—or if they prefer, each kid—to illustrate their idea of the assigned scenario on a section of the butcher paper.
- After teams have completed their drawings, invite them to present their scenarios to the entire group.
- After each team has presented their scenario, together as a group, brainstorm ways God can help them through each difficult situation.
- Ask, “What are some things you can do to help you face a bad situation?” *(You can pray, talk to adults you trust, listen to encouraging music, do things you enjoy, etc)*
- Remind them that The most important thing to remember is that **when bad things happen, God is with you.**

### 3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- Is there anyone in your life who you admire for their faith in God? If so, how do they keep their faith strong?
- What helps you remember God is with you?
- How do you typically respond when difficult things happen to you?
- When you have faith in God, do bad things happen less? Why or why not?
- How can our group here at church be a reminder that God is with you?

### 4. Pray

- “God, thank You for Paul’s story and for reminding us how we can trust in You. Thank You that when we face these scenarios in front of us, and more, You promise to always be with us. I know many of us are facing different things in this upcoming week—some happy and exciting, some that make us nervous and anxious. Help us remember Your promise that **when bad things happen, God is with you**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**EXTRA TIME COLORING SHEETS**