

ALLEY SG – September 16 – 18, 2023

Today's Bible Story: I'll Stand by You (Barnabas and Saul) • Acts 9:26-30

Today's Key Question: When have you seen someone stand up for someone else?

Today's Bottom Line: Friends stand up for one another.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.*
Proverbs 17:17 (NIRV)

1. Roll the Dice Story Review

What You Need: Dice (2 per group)

What You Do:

- Have the kids take turns rolling both dice.
- Encourage them to answer the review question that corresponds with the number they rolled.
- If someone rolls a number already called, move onto someone else until all questions are answered.

Review Questions:

2. Who put Jesus' followers in prison? (Religious leaders, Saul)
 3. Where did Saul travel so he could arrest more Jesus followers? (Damascus)
 4. Who saw a bring light, couldn't see, and didn't eat or drink for three days? (Saul)
 5. Who placed their hands on Saul so he could see again? (Ananias)
 6. What did Saul do after he could see again? (Got baptized, started preaching)
 7. How did Saul escape the religious leaders and get out of the town? (His friends lowered him in a basket through a wall)
 8. When Saul traveled to Jerusalem, who heard his story and believed him? (Barnabas)
 9. Why did the church continue to grow? (Multiple answers: the help of the Holy Spirit, Saul traveled and started new churches, Barnabas was an encouraging friend)
 10. What is this week's bottom line? (Friends stand up for each other)
 11. Why is it important to stand up for our friends?
 12. What book of the Bible is this week's story found in? (Acts)
- Explain how important it is to have friends. But it's even better when we develop friendships with people who are willing to stand up for us. It can be such an encouragement when we have friends who have our back. In Saul's case, it not only had an impact on his life but also on the lives of many others!

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: three balloons (three per service)

What You Do:

- Blow up and tie 3 balloons.
- Ask for two volunteers.
- Invite them to stand up and create some space around themselves. The rest of the group will remain sitting.
- Instruct one of the volunteers to sit down next to the other volunteer, who will remain standing.
- Explain that you will toss three inflated balloons in the air next to them. They will need to work together to keep all three balloons in the air.
- The kid who is standing up can move around to reach the balloons.
- The kid who is sitting will have to remain in the place they are sitting, which limits them to only touching balloons when they are within reach.
- As soon as one balloon falls to the floor, the challenge ends.
- More than likely, the partners will not keep all three balloons in the air for very long.

- Give them a chance to try again. But this time, allow the kid who was sitting to stand up and move around. They will play until one of the balloons falls to the floor.
- Point out how they were able to keep all three balloons in the air for much longer when they were both standing. This shows how we are much more effective when we choose to stand up for our friends.
- Play again with different volunteers, giving each kid a chance to play.
- Ask kids the following questions for discussion:
 - What does it mean to stand up for a friend?
 - Have you ever stood up for a friend? If so, how?
 - Have you ever experienced a situation where a friend did not stand up for you? How did that make you feel?
 - Why is it important to stand up for our friends?
- Be sure to point out that standing up for our friends can happen in many different ways. Share a personal story, if you have one, about a time where someone stood up for you or you stood up for a friend.

3. Discussion Questions

- Can it be scary to stand up for a friend? Why or why not?
- When have you seen someone stand up for someone else?
- Has anyone ever stood up for you? How did that make you feel?
- What does that communicate to a friend when you choose to stand up for them?

4. Stand Up

What You Need: “Stand Up Prayer” Activity Page (one per kid), pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of the “Stand Up Prayer” Activity Page and a pen or pencil. Have them find a partner and spread out in your space.
- Explain that you will be giving them time to read through the prompts provided on the Activity Page with their partner and write an answer to each question on their pages. The prompts will get them thinking about ways they can stand up for people in their lives.
- Provide kids with 10 or so minutes of quiet time for this activity and then call everyone to gather in closer.
- Go through each question and invite anyone who is comfortable to share their answers.
- Encourage kids to take these pages home with them so they can use them throughout the week as a guide for things to pray about.

5. Pray

- “God, thank You for being a friend who we can talk to at all times. Thank You for giving us Jesus, the best friend of all! As Jesus shows us, **friends stand up for one another**. Help us have the courage to speak the truth about our friends, the heart to encourage our friends, and the eyes to see when our friends are lonely and invite them in. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”