

# ALLEY SG – October 14-16, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** Keeping the Faith (Daniel's Integrity with Food) • *Daniel 1*

**Today's Key Question:** When is it hard to do what's right?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Do what's right wherever you are.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught.* Proverbs 10:9 (NIRV)

## 1. Bible Story Extension

*Bible 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. What were Daniel and his friends being trained to do? (*serve the king*)
3. Integrity is . . . (*choosing to be truthful in whatever you say and do.*)
4. Why didn't Daniel want to eat food from the king's table? (*eating the king's food would dishonor God*)
5. What happened when Daniel and his friends only ate vegetables for 10 days? (*They looked healthy and well fed—they looked better than the men who ate the king's food.*)
6. Daniel and his friends never stopped . . . (*making the right choice, honoring God in everything they said and did*).
7. What is one thing you learned from this story about Daniel and his friends?
8. Name a situation when it might be hard for kids to do what's right.
9. What was your favorite part of this story?
10. How would you describe Daniel?
11. Daniel's friends loved God the same way he did. In what ways can friends help you do what's right?
12. What are some ways friends can tempt you to do something you know is wrong?

## 2. Take a Snapshot

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Tissues, markers

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a facial tissue and a marker.
- Direct half of the group to hold their tissue so the fold runs vertically (up and down).
- Instruct the other half of the group to hold the tissue so the fold is horizontal (right to left).
- Ask everyone to gently draw an "X" in the center of their tissue, being careful not to tear the tissue as they draw.
- Instruct the kids to gently rip the tissue from top to bottom (depending on if they're holding the tissue vertically or horizontally) so that the tear runs through the middle of the "X."
- Show each torn tissue.
- Point out that one direction tore more neatly than the other.

- Say: “The fibers that make up the tissues run in a certain direction. When the tissue is torn in the same direction as the grain of fibers, it’s a cleaner tear than when torn across them. Sometimes we feel doing what’s right means we have to go ‘against the grain’ or against the crowd and not do what others are doing.”.
- Say: “I’m going to suggest some scenarios or actions kids face where they have to decide between doing what’s right (going against the grain) or doing what may seem easier at the time.”
- Direct the kids to move their car to stand up if the situation might be hard for them to choose what’s right.
- Instruct the kids to stay seated if the situation is easy to stand strong in that scenario.
- Share the following scenarios and pause for the kids to stand or sit:  
(Add/adjust statements to best fit your group.)
  - When friends are watching a movie that you know is off limits for you.
  - Going along with making fun of someone.
  - Cheating on a test when you’re pretty sure you won’t get caught.
  - Taking a small item from a store without paying for it.
  - Disagreeing with someone even though you know they are right about something.
  - Lying to your parents to keep out of trouble.
  - Using inappropriate or harsh words.
  - Talking when you should be listening.
  - Saying hurtful words when you’re angry.
  - Using devices in inappropriate ways.
  - Disrespecting teachers.
  - Complaining.
- Ask the kids to briefly share why it’s harder to choose what’s right in some of those situations.
- Invite the kids to suggest additional situations.
- Say, “One thing we learn about integrity is that it’s not always easy. Going against the grain or against our friends in order to follow Jesus is something we’ll continue to work on all of our life. It helps to remember that in God’s big plan, our choices—big and small and wherever we are—play an important part in the way we show up for Jesus.”

### 3. Discussion Questions

#### Ask:

- Even if you were guaranteed you wouldn’t get caught in a lie—why would it still be important to choose to be truthful?
- Name two things you need to remember when you’re tempted to make an unwise choice.
- If you could create a bumper sticker about something you’ve learned this month about integrity, what would it say?

## 4. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles

**What You Do:**

- Together, invite kids to look up and read 1 Corinthians 15:58
- After reading the verse together, ask:
  - What are some words used in this verse that make it clear that doing what is right isn't an easy thing?
  - When you want to follow Jesus but those around you don't, what are some things you can do to help you not get discouraged and give in?
  - Why is it important to choose friends who have integrity?
  - Do you think the benefits of doing what is right outweigh the consequences of making a bad choice? Why or why not?

## 5. Pray

- “Dear God, it’s hard for us to go against the grain—to follow You when those around us are going a different direction. In our head we know what’s right, but it’s not always the thing we choose. Give us the help we need to be strong in times when we’re tempted to make a bad choice. Help us love You more than we love what others think of us. Help us make the wise choice this week and do what is right in the things we say and do—wherever we are. We love You and we pray these things in Your name. Amen.”

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As parents come to pick up their kids, let them know that our key question today was, “When is it hard to do what’s right?” Encourage kids to answer that while their parent is there.