

ALLEY SG – May 18-19, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Speak Now (Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah) • *Matthew 16:13-20*

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

Today's Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIRV)*

1. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: "Talk Time" cards (a set per group)

What You Do:

- Invite the group to sit in a circle.
- Choose a kid to go first and let them pick one of the "Talk Time" cards. Ask them to read what's written on the card out loud for the group.
- Once they have read the scenario, give them a chance to answer the question about how they can talk about God in that scenario.
 - If they are having trouble thinking of an answer, they can choose another kid in the group to help them. Allow the group to contribute to the discussion for each scenario.
- Continue passing the stack of cards around the circle until everyone has had a chance to read a scenario or you have gone through the entire stack.
- Remind kids that the way we live our lives and our interactions with those around us can lead to conversations about God. Sometimes just choosing to be a good listener is what helps others trust us and become more receptive to what we have to say.

2. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bible, "Free Throw Verses" cards, bucket/basket, small plush basketball or other ball, floortape

What You Do:

- Place the bucket on one end of your group space and place the "Free Throw Verses" cards inside.
- Place the Bible on the floor next to the bucket.
- Use the floor tape to make a line on the floor roughly 8-10 feet away from the bucket (or as much as your group space allows).
- Invite kids to line up behind the taped line.
- Explain to kids that in the game of basketball, there is a shot called a free throw. In order for basketball players to consistently make their free throws, they have to spend a lot of time practicing. That takes commitment!
- Tell kids that they will be practicing their free throws in this game. They will take turns shooting the ball into the bucket.
- If they make their shot, they will pick one of the cards out of the bucket. On the paper will be a Bible verse reference. They should use the Bible to look up the verse, and then they should read it out loud for the group.
- If they miss their shot, they should go to the end of the line, and it becomes the next person's turn to shoot.
- Continue rotating through the line until all Bible verses have been read.
- Assure kids that just like it takes practice to improve our free throw skills, it also takes practice talking to others about God. The more we do it, the more comfortable we will feel when it comes to telling others about things God has done.

3. Discussion Questions

- Who do you talk to about God?
- What kinds of things can you say about God?
- Is it difficult for you to talk to others about God? Why or why not?
- How can you overcome a fear of talking to others about God?
- Why does talking about God take practice?

4. Peter's Confession Word Search

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Peter's Confession Word Search (1 per student)

What You Do:

- Give each child an activity sheet
- Let the kids work on the sheet by themselves or in pairs
- Talk about how the words relate to the Bible story as they search for them in the puzzle.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*"
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

"Dear God, thank You for our time in groups where we can practice talking with others about You. Help us to slow down, keep our eyes open, pay attention, and be ready to notice what You are doing all around us. Give us the courage to share what You are doing with others. Thank You that we can grow in our faith as we practice talking about You. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

- If there is still time, pass out the Parent Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the card at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share one person they can talk to God to about this week!