

ALLEY SG June 29-30, 2024

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

1. Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible marked, “Even if . . .” Activity Page (one per kid), pens

- Ask for a kid to read to the group, then hand that kid the marked Bible to read Habakkuk 3:17-18.
- Give each kid an “Even if . . .” Activity Page and a pen. Direct kids to write their name on it.
- Ask:
 - Habakkuk 3:17 described a very bad day. Have you ever been upset about dried up fields or no animals in the barn? If not, what would your very bad day be like? Write down five things that would be extremely hard for you to face on the “Even if . . .” lines of the Activity Page. *(Kids can brainstorm ideas together or work individually. Encourage them to give genuine answers that are real to them—even if they’re not the same as others.)*
 - Habakkuk 3:18 says that Habakkuk would still be glad because of what the Lord has done for him. What are some things you could still be glad about even if a lot of things were not going well? Write it on the last lines of the Activity Page. *(Kids can once again brainstorm with others or work separately.)*
 - If everything you wrote down on the first five lines actually happened, what would it look like to trust God in all of those tough situations?
 - What can you celebrate even on your toughest day?
 - What might God use to fill you with joy in the midst of disappointment or sadness?
- Ask:
 - What evidence of God’s love and care can we celebrate even when everything seems to be going wrong?
 - What is one thing you can celebrate right now that will still be a reason to celebrate when you’re not having a good day?
- Invite kids to ask for God’s help to follow Habakkuk’s example this week when things don’t go as planned or they face a tough situation.
- Give the kids a few minutes to pray silently that they can follow Habakkuk’s example this week when things don’t go as planned and that the Holy Spirit always helps them find something to celebrate.

2. Application Activity

What You Need: Party blowers (one per kid)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a party blower.
- Explain that you will read a short scenario for them to imagine then they will use their party horn to indicate if that situation would be easy or hard for them to find something to celebrate—push the party horn out a small amount if the situation seems easy to find joy and more if it’d be difficult to find joy.
- Read the scenarios listed below, one at a time, and pause for responses.
- Invite kids to share why they answered the way they did each time.
- Remind kids that sometimes things that happen are out of our control, but one thing we CAN control is the way we respond.

Scenarios:

1. Your parent got a new, exciting job, but it means your family will need to move to another state.
2. You sprained your wrist playing volleyball and can't play in the final tournament.
3. You studied A LOT but still got a "D" on your science test.
4. Your best friend since kindergarten is moving away.
5. Your parents are arguing a lot lately.
6. Your dog is sick and might not get better.
7. Your friends are all going to summer camp, but your family can't afford it this summer.
8. Your birthday party at the water park had to be canceled.
9. You tried out for the team but didn't make it.
10. The internet is down, and you can't play any online games or watch any of your favorite shows.

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

- What's your favorite way to celebrate and worship God?
- If someone said to you, "I don't have anything to be joyful about," what would you say to help them realize that they do?
- What is something that took longer than you wanted it to? How might it help in those situations to celebrate small steps of progress along the way and thank God for them?

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- "Dear God, thank You for being a good Shepherd, always watching over us. We know that when we go the wrong way, you come looking for us with love and joy in Your heart. Thank You for sending Jesus. Even when we make mistakes or feel lost, thank You that Jesus is there to guide us back to You. Help us to trust that **we can have joy because of Jesus**. We love You and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share something that they can celebrate today!