

# ALLEY SG – December 7 - 8, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** Send Me an Angel (An Angel Appears to Mary and Joseph) • *Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:18-25*

**Today's Key Question:** What helps you remember that God is with you?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Celebrate because God is with you.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** "[Mary] is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)

## 1. Bible Story Extension

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** "Recap Cards" (2 sets of cards per group), carpet tape

### What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- *\*If you don't have the room to play a relay, just have the kids take turns choosing a card and answering the question while staying in one group*
- Designate two start and finish points for both teams using tape.
- Place a set of cards from the "Recap Cards" Activity Page at both finish points facing down.
- Have each team pick a kid to go first.
- Explain that the first kid will run to the finish point, grab a card, and run back.
- Give the teams a few moments to discuss the card together.
- Determine which team returned first and have them share something about today's Bible Story based on the card they picked up.
- Allow the other team an opportunity to share an answer based on their card afterward.
- Continue until everyone gets a turn or all cards have been answered.
- Ask:
  - What does the name Immanuel mean?
  - Can you share a situation where knowing God is with you could change how you respond?
  - How can knowing God is with you give you peace?
- Remind kids that when we choose to follow Jesus, we can trust that God will never leave us. We can have peace because God is always with us, no matter what's happening around us.
- Close by giving kids an opportunity to think about how they would finish the following sentence:
  - I can remember that God is with me this week when \_\_\_\_\_.
- Invite those who are willing to share their answers.

## 2. Take a Snapshot

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** balloons (2-3 per group), duct tape, permanent marker (a few per bin), scissors

### What You Do:

- Inflate and tie a balloon.
- Remind kids that when we choose to follow Jesus, we can have a relationship with God. God is with us no matter what!
- Invite kids to think of specific times it's helpful to remember that God never leaves us.

- If kids need a prompt to get the discussion started ask:
  - When have you felt sad, hurt, or disappointed?
  - When have you tried something new, gone to a new place, or had to make new friends?
  - When have you been sick?
  - When have you been embarrassed?
  - When have you needed to apologize for something you said or did?
- As kids share, pass the balloon and permanent marker to them.
- Instruct the kids to use the permanent marker to write a few words on the balloon that describe the example they mentioned.
- Ask:
  - How does knowing God is with you change the way you think about a difficult situation you're in?
  - How does it make you stronger?
- After the discussion, use scissors to cut each kid a piece of duct tape (about 4-6 inches long).
- Invite the kids to take turns carefully attaching their piece of tape to the balloon.
- Then, have them use the permanent marker to write, "With (*their name*)" on their piece of tape.
- Once everyone has finished, invite kids to observe the covered balloon.
- Remind kids that we might still feel the impact of a bad thing that happens even when we know God is with us, but it doesn't have to steal our peace. We can remember that God is always with us and knowing that can give us true peace no matter what.

### 3. Discussion Questions

- What helps you remember that God is with you?
- What has God done to make it possible for our relationship to be restored?
- Is there anything that keeps you from remembering that God is with you?

### 4. Verses to Take with You

#### *Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Bibles, butcher paper and markers

#### **What You Do:**

- Together, look up Isaiah 9:6.
- Call on a kid to read the verse aloud to the group as everyone follows along.
- Inform kids that Isaiah 9:6 was written hundreds of years before Jesus was born.
- Repeat the verse as a group.
- Ask:
  - After hearing this verse, what do you think the people in the Old Testament expected Jesus to be like?
  - How does Jesus show us that He is with us as a:
    - *Wonderful Adviser (or Counselor)*
    - *Mighty God*
    - *Father Who Lives Forever (or Everlasting Father)*
    - *Prince Who Brings Peace (or Prince of Peace)*
  - How does believing that Jesus is all these things give us peace when we're worried?
- Set out the large paper and markers.
- Assign each kid one of the names that describe Jesus in the last half of the verse.
  - It's okay to assign some kids the same name.
- Challenge each kid to illustrate their part of the verse with a picture, words, or a design that reminds them of that name on the paper.

- When everyone is finished, give kids the opportunity to display their drawings and share why they chose to draw what they did.
- Point out that when we trust that God is with us, we can see all the different ways God shows up for us.

## 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 being with us all the time. We know that You are with us in so many ways. Help us to remember that no matter what we are going through, You promise to be with us all the time. We can have peace and celebrate You no matter what we are going through. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to share what helps them remember that God is with them.