

Alley SG – February 22-23, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Right Now (Timothy) • 1 Timothy 4:12

Today's Key Question: Who has made a difference in your life?

Today's Bottom Line: You can make a difference right now.

Monthly Memory Verse: *"How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well."* Psalm 139:14 (NIRV)

1. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Pens, index cards (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Gather your group together.
- To get the group thinking about ways kids their age can make a difference, suggest some of the following questions:
 - "How could kids your age make a difference by . . ."
 - Being nice to a kid others are making fun of?
 - Reading the Bible?
 - Walking away from a fight?
 - Being careful about what you say?
 - Standing up for what's right?
- Give each kid an index card and pen.
- Instruct kids to write a sentence describing one way they can make a difference this week in the lives of those around them.
- Tell the kids to use at least five words in their sentences and remind them not to let anyone see what they're writing.
- After writing their sentences, ask the kids to flip over the index card and draw a simple picture illustrating what they wrote.
- Invite the kids to take turns reading their sentences but with a twist:
 - Read the sentence backward by starting with the last word and finishing with the first.
 - While reading, have them hold up the picture on the back of their card for the others to see.
- Pick a kid to start by inviting them to stand before the group.
- Encourage the other kids to listen carefully and try to figure out the forward version of the sentence.
- Have the reader repeat the sentence for the group to decipher if needed.
- After each kid has a turn, point out that it may *seem backward* to think that kids can make a difference.
- Remind kids that God can use their gifts and talents even when they are young.
- Close by emphasizing that if we choose to follow Jesus, He will use us to make a difference in the lives of others every day.

2. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bibles, “Make a Difference” People cards (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Read 1 Timothy 4:12 aloud as the kids follow along, then invite your group to summarize what Paul is encouraging Timothy to do—and what Paul asks him NOT to do.
- Discuss the following questions:
 - Paul asks Timothy to set an example. How can we set an example and make a difference right now?
 - What does it look like to set an example in what we *say*?
 - How might the way we *live* make a difference?
- Emphasize that, just like Timothy, the people we spend the most time with are the ones we have the most incredible opportunity to love and serve.
- Explain that sometimes it's easy to love others, but other times it's hard. However, Paul's message to Timothy is the same for us today.
- Play this “Make a Difference” game with your group:
 - Gather your group together in a circle.
 - Spread one set of the 12 “Make a Difference” Activity Page cards face up in the center of the circle.
 - Give each kid one or more cards from the second set, ensuring they keep their cards hidden.
 - It's okay if some kids have more cards than others.
 - Instruct the kids to place their card(s) face down in front of them.
 - The game's goal is to guess which character card the other kids are holding.
 - Pick a kid to start.
 - Direct that kid to look at the cards in the center and ask two “Yes” or “No” questions to a kid of their choice to determine which card they have.
 - For example, they might ask, “Does your person wear glasses?” or “Does your person have brown hair?”
 - Once that kid is finished, the person to their right will go next.
 - On their turn, a kid can ask questions or guess another kid's card.
 - If they guess correctly, they can take the other kids' card(s) and place them face up in front of them.
 - Continue around the circle until everyone gets a turn.
- After a correct guess, ask the group to share some examples of ways they could make a difference in the life of someone similar to the character on the card.
- The game ends when all the character cards have been guessed. The kid with the most cards is the winner.
- To close the activity, remind the kids that just like the characters on the card were unique, God has made each of them unique, too!
- Remind kids that everything they say or do this week is an opportunity to be an example of Jesus!

3. Discussion Questions

- What type of attitudes might keep us from looking for ways to make a difference?
- What can we do to overcome these obstacles or attitudes?
- What are some things you can do to discover the gifts God has given you?
- What can you do to make a difference right now, no matter who you are or how old you are?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity Page

What You Need: Bibles, “Mad Scientist Cards (1 set of 10 per group)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Ask kids to look up Ephesians 2:10.
- Direct kids to recite the verse aloud together.
- Explain that you will play a game called “Mad Scientist.”
- Each kid will get a secret “Mad Scientist” card.
- As they recite Ephesians 2:10 together, inform kids that they will casually include their secret gestures at least twice.
- Review the verse again.
 - Assist if kids struggle to remember the verse.
- Distribute a card to each kid.
 - Be sure the cards are folded so no one can see inside them when passing them out!
- Play the “Mad Scientist” game.
- On your signal, ask kids to recite the verse and encourage them to include their secret gestures.
- After each round, let the group guess each other’s “Mad Scientist” gestures.
- Discuss Ephesians 2:10:
 - What are the facts or truths in the verse about anyone who knows and follows Jesus?
 - What do you find most encouraging in this verse?
 - How do you define “good works.” (*This is the phrase used in NIV.*)
 - How can you use the things you’re good at to do some of those “good works” this week?
- Remind kids that using the gifts God gave them often feels natural—they’re doing what they love to do.
- Emphasize that God gave them their unique skills and abilities for a reason; by using those gifts, they can make a difference daily!

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...

“God, thank You for creating us with specific gifts for a specific purpose. Help us remember to trust that You have good plans for us and that we can make a difference no matter how old or young we are! Help us to say and do things that show people Your love. 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 to bring it back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to share one thing they learned about Timothy from the Bible today!