

# ALLEY SG – January 24<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** Jesus Chooses Matthew • *Luke 5:27-32 (Supporting: Romans 12:1)*

**Conversation Starter:** What does it look like to live for God?

**Bottom Line:** Practice living for 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 NIV

## 1. Take a Snapshot

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Scrabble® tiles, Bag to hold the Scrabble® tiles

### What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Pass the bag of letters around and instruct each kid to draw 7-8 letters without looking.
- Explain that the challenge is to work together, using all the letters in the circle, to spell out words that describe what it looks like to live for God.
- They can trade letters and move around the circle to work with others.
- Encourage them to spell out words like: KIND, LOVE, HELP, SHARE, OBEY, TRUTH, PRAY, GIVE, HONEST, FORGIVE.
- As they spell words, talk about what those words mean and how they connect to living for God.
- **Say:** “Look at all these words we spelled! This is like a game plan for our faith. Living for God isn’t some big, mysterious secret. It’s about these simple, everyday choices to be loving, kind, honest, and helpful. When we do these things, we’re putting our faith into practice. Every day is a chance to **practice living for God.**”

## 2. Bible Story Extension

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** Slips of paper with different scenarios written on them (one set per group)

### What You Do:

- Divide the group into pairs or trios.
- Give each group a scenario. Here are some examples:
  - *You see the new kid sitting by himself on the playground at recess.*
  - *You see a person trip and drop all their books in the hallway between classes.*
  - *Your friends start making fun of someone you know.*
  - *You know the answer in class, but you also know the kid next to you is struggling to understand.*
- Tell the groups their challenge is to come up with two different ways to respond to the scenario: one that shows what living for God looks like, and one that doesn’t.
- Give them a few minutes to plan a very short, simple skit for both responses.
- Invite each group to perform their two skits for the rest of the group.
- After each one, discuss: Which response showed what it means to live for God? Why?

- **Say:** “The Pharisees in our story were focused on who was ‘good enough’ to be around. But Jesus had a totally different view of things. He came for everyone—especially the people who knew they needed help. Matthew got that. That’s why he immediately hosted a banquet to introduce his friends—other ‘sinners’—to Jesus. He knew they needed Jesus too. That’s a key way we **practice living for God:** by introducing people to Jesus.”

### 3. Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Jesus chose someone like Matthew, who wasn’t very popular, to follow Him?
- What do you think it means to “live for God” instead of living just for yourself?
- What are some ways you can show love for God and others in your everyday life—at school, home, or with friends?
- Romans 12:1 says to offer your whole self to God. What might that look like for you?
- Matthew’s life changed when he met Jesus. What’s one change you could make this week to live more like Jesus?

### 4. Verses to Take with You

**What You Need:** Bibles

**What You Do:**

- Give every two kids a Bible.
- Invite them to work together to look up 1 Timothy 4:8 using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
- Repeat the verse together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
  - Share that “being godly” means getting to know God and following His good ways!
- Instruct the group to set their Bibles aside and stand in a circle.
- Explain the game “SPARKLE.”
- The first person says the first word of the Memory Verse. The next kid says the second word, and so on around the circle.
- When the verse is finished, after the reference is said, the next kid in the circle says “SPARKLE!” and the kid after them is out and sits down.
- The game continues with the remaining kids until only one person is left standing.
- Play a few times to help the kids really learn the verse.

## **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)*”
- “God, thank You for making each of us unique. Thank You for the talents and gifts You’ve given us. Help us to see the opportunities You give us this week to use those gifts to show people what You are like. Help us to be brave like Matthew and follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one way they can live for God.