

## ALLEY SG – March 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** A Roman Commander Has Faith • *Matthew 8:5-13*

**Conversation Starter:** How do you show that God is important?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NlrV*

### 1. Take a Snapshot

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** gift bag (one per cart), Slips of paper (3 per kid), Pens

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a few slips of paper and a writing tool.
- Tell them you're going to have a Q&A session, but they're the ones providing the questions.
- Ask them to write down any question they have about God, faith, the Bible, or Jesus. Assure them that there are no bad questions and they don't have to write their name on it.
- Instruct them to fold their questions and put them in the gift bag.
- Mix up the questions. Draw one question to read it aloud to the group.
- As a group, try to answer the question. It's okay to say, "I don't know, but that's a great question we can look into." The goal is the conversation, not having perfect answers.
- Use the discussion to point back to the idea that even when we have questions, we can trust God no matter what.
- **Say:** "Even when we have big questions, we can have that same kind of faith, trusting that God is in charge. Nothing is too big or too hard for God. We can take anything to God and He will listen. God is always there to help. We can trust God no matter what! **Remember God is most important.**"

### 2. Bible Story Extension

*Bible Story*

**What You Need:** Bible, marked at Matthew 8:5-13

**What You Do:**

- Explain that as you retell the story of the Roman commander, you're going to call out "Freeze!" at key moments.
- When you say "Freeze!", everyone is to freeze in a pose that represents that part of the story.
- Open your Bible and read through the story, pausing at the bullet points below to have them freeze.
  - Jesus entered the city of Capernaum. (*Maybe they pose like they are walking.*)
  - The Roman commander approached Jesus with a worried look while he explained about his sick servant. (*Pose with a worried/pleading face.*)
  - The commander said to Jesus, "Just say the word and my servant will be healed" (*Matthew 8:8 NlrV*). (*Pose with a hand up, showing humility and trust in Jesus' authority.*)

- Jesus was amazed at the commander's faith. (*Pose with a shocked or impressed look.*)
  - The moment the servant was healed at that moment back at home. (*Pose by jumping up with joy and energy.*)
- After each freeze, talk about what was happening in that moment.
- **Say:** "Great job with those poses! My favorite one is when the commander said, '*Just say the word and my servant will be healed*' (Matthew 8:8 NIV). He was a very powerful guy with authority over about one hundred soldiers, but he was humble enough to know that Jesus' power was way bigger than his own. Jesus is most powerful. Jesus said He had not found faith so strong in all of Israel. The commander is a perfect example of what it looks like to **remember God is most important.**"

### 3. Discussion Questions

- The Roman commander had a lot of power, but he still asked Jesus for help. What does that tell us about what it means to be strong or in charge in God's eyes?
- Jesus was amazed by the commander's faith. What do you think it means to have the kind of faith that "amazes" Jesus?
- The commander believed Jesus could heal his servant just by speaking. What are some things in your life that you need to trust God can handle—without you having to control it?
- The Roman commander humbled himself, even though he was important. What are some ways you can show humility and remember that God is most important in your own life?
- Jesus said people from all over would be part of God's kingdom—not just a certain group. How does that change the way you think about who God's love is for and how we should treat others?

### 4. Verses to Take with You

#### *Memory Verse Activity*

**What You Need:** Bibles, Large paper (one per service), and marker, Sticky notes (21 per service)

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

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 2:3.
- Read the Memory Verse together out loud several times.
- Write each word or short phrase of the Memory Verse on a large piece of paper.
- Read the verse together a few times.
- Then, give one kid a sticky note to place over one word.
- Say the verse again with that word covered up.
- Give another kid a sticky note to cover another word.
- Recite the verse again as a group.
- Continue until all words are covered up.
- Say the verse one more time as a group.

## 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 being all-powerful and having all authority. Thank You for the example of the Roman commander who showed us what amazing faith looks like. Help us to be humble this week and to always **remember God is most important**. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back to the Alley for 3 Alley Cash!

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them one way they can show that God is important.