

## Alley Rundown - December 9-10, 2017

**Bible Story:** Money Pit (Parable of the Rich Man) • *Luke 12:13-21*

**Bottom Line:** Don't miss your chance to give.

**Key Question:** Why is it important to give?

**Memory Verse:** "Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share." *1 Timothy 6:18 (NIRV)*

**CONNECT TIME: BOW-dacious Battle! (To be played at service start)**

**What You Need:** Gift bows; 1 for every two kids

**What You Do:**

- **Let students choose** a partner and stand facing each other about 3 feet apart.
- **Place** a bow on the floor in between partners at an equal distance from each of them.
- **Explain** that you will call out an action for them to follow such as grab your head, grab your ears, grab your toes, and so forth.
  - When you say, "grab the bow," the partner who gets the bow first is the winner of that round.
  - As you call out the actions, begin slowly then get faster.
  - After each round, let winners form new partners and play again until there is one final champion.
- **Repeat** as time allows.

**Wrap Up and Say:**

"In today's story, we'll hear about man who missed his chance to do something he should have done. It wasn't a chance to grab a bow. It was something far more important."

**Rundown begins...**

"What's going on, Alley? Have you ever seen one of these before?"

**CG: Picture of a Packaged CD**

"No, it's not a Blu-ray disc or an Xbox® Game. That is a CD. Before MP3s and iTunes and Spotify streaming, this was how I played music. They still sell some of them today, but when I was your age, CDs were the jam! You'd find out when your favorite band was releasing a CD, and you'd have your mom or dad take you to a music store to buy the CD and bring it home and listen to it over and over again. Well, I LOVED collecting CDs. At one point, my collection was jam-packed with CDs. It's rather funny to think about now, especially with the ability to add as many songs as we want to our Spotify or Apple Music playlists. But CDs were a big deal, and I was obsessed with getting more of them. Now, thankfully, I'm over that phase of my life. But people collect things all the time right?"

I bet many of you collect something. Who here collects something or has collected something in the past? (*Hand up.*) What do you collect?"

*Let a few kids share.*

“Yeah, those are great! Books, Beanie-Boos, Pokémon, all sorts of things you guys collect. But have you ever seen somebody who not only *collects* but *REALLY* collects? Check out these collections!”

“How many of you collect or used to collect stuffed animals? Ever have any stuffed cows?”

**CG: Stuffed Cow Collection**

“That’s a crazy number of stuffed cows, right?”

“How about sports cards? Baseball or basketball cards? Yeah, well I bet your collection never looked like this! Look at this!”

**CG: Baseball Card Collection**

“Can you believe that?! Do you think that guy actually knows what cards he still needs? Or even what cards he already has?!”

“Alright one more . . . because it’s awesome. How many of you like a cold can or bottle of Coke? Yeah? Check this one out . . .”

**CG: Coke Can Collection**

“A whole room of empty soda cans! We call that recycling in my house! Wow, right? *That* is dedication.”

“But all of those pictures bring up a good question: when is enough, *enough*? When you’re collecting something, when has the collection gotten so big that you no longer need any more of what you’re collecting? Or does it never stop? Will you always need one more stuffed cow, one more baseball card, or one more unique soda can? AND more important than that, we have to start wondering if it’s possible that the quest for more might be keeping us from something more important.

“Whether we collect something or not, these are good questions for us to think about, especially as we’re heading into the Christmas season when a lot of people are thinking about all of the presents they hope to open on Christmas morning. What’s great, though, is that when we have big questions like this, we have a place where we can start to find answers. That place is actually a book, or a collection of books and poems and letters, called what? (*Pause for responses.*) You guessed it! The Bible!”

“Let’s find out what one writer of the Bible wanted us to know about God’s plan for our stuff. Our Bible truth today comes from the gospel of Luke in the New Testament. This particular story is a parable that Jesus told. If you’re not familiar with parables, a parable is a story that

Jesus told to illustrate deeper truths . . . like who God is or what it means to be His follower. Let's take a deeper look at it in this week's episode..."

**CG: Week 2 Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:36)**

"Now, let's think about this for a moment. Is it bad that this guy did so well and had such a large harvest? NO! But here's the thing: if you go back through this story, the rich man missed a LOT of chances to give."

"After telling the parable, Jesus gave these final words: *(read from Luke 12:21.) "That is how it will be for whoever stores things away for themselves but is not rich in the sight of God, (NirV)."*"

And I think it helps to go back to what Jesus said to the man at the beginning of the story . . ."

"Jesus said . . . *(Reading directly from Luke 12:15) "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has, (NirV)."*"

"You see, the man had worked so hard at getting more and more and more, and he never thought that maybe all of those crops were not just meant to make his life easier but that they could be shared with others. Instead of building bigger barns to store more than he could possibly EVER have used, he could have given away all that he didn't have room for!

"It doesn't have to be grain . . . or CDs *(insert whatever the Communicator used for opening story)* or stuffed cows, baseball cards, or soda cans. It can really be anything that we set our sights on so hard that it starts to keep us from giving to others. When we cling to our stuff so tightly, it can then be really difficult for us give it away.

"So I'm sure we all know that giving is important. The question today is *why?*"

**CG: Key Question Slide**

"Why is it important to give? This is something that might take some time to figure out, but that's what is so great about Small Group. Before you head out, let's take some time to worship."

**CG: Worship Experience Video (Runtime: 5:00)**

NOTE: For this Worship Experience, students will sing an upbeat Christmas Carol. They may remain, seated, stand, dance, etc. at their own pace. Your excitement and participation as their leader will go a long way.

**(PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)**