

Alley Rundown - October 13-14, 2018

Bible Story: Just Can't Get Enough (Don't Be Controlled by Money) • *Hebrews 13:5*

Bottom Line: Stuff can't keep you happy.

Key Question: Why do you still want stuff if it can't keep you happy?

Memory Verse: "Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Luke 12:15 NIV)

CONNECT TIME: This time is meant to engage your students, or "break the ice", and develop relationships within your time together.

Choose from the below activities, based on the size/dynamic of your group.

1. Just For Fun

What You Need: Individually wrapped candy, coins, scrap paper, pens

What You Do:

- **Show** students the areas of the room that are set up for the following games:
 - Thumb Wrestling
 - Rock, Paper, Scissors
 - Coin Toss ("Heads" is always the winner.)
 - Tic-Tac-Toe
- **Give** each person 5 candies
- **Challenge** them to play several of the one-on-one games above.
- **Let** the winners of each game take a candy from their opponents.
- After a set amount of time, **see** who has the most candy and declare him/her the winner.
- Everyone gets to keep whatever candy he/she has left.

2. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: Yarn, "Got Stuff" Activity Page

What You Do:

- **Form** two teams.
- **Give** each team five strands of yarn
- **Show** one student from each team the same "Got Stuff?" card without letting anyone else see it.
- At your signal, teams will race to guess the image as their teammate uses the yarn to outline it on the floor in front of them.
 - The team that gets the first correct guess is the winner.
- **Repeat** until everyone has had a turn to "draw" with the yarn at least once.

Wrap Up and Say:

"Most of us have more stuff than we know what to do with. Even if we don't have everything we *want*, we generally have everything we *need*. It seems like the more we have the happier we should be, right? That's not always the case. Let's go to Large Group and discover what's often missing when people look like they have everything."

Begin Rundown...

ANNOUNCEMENT: Alley After Hours

CG: Alley After Hours JPEG

Promo: "Alley After Hours is coming up on November 2nd! It is a great time, with lots of fun, food, games, and even some prizes! Don't miss it, and don't forget to invite a friend that has never been here before! Cost is only \$5!"

Now, before we get started, it's time for something a little new here in the Alley, the "Alley Cash Call"! Before every service we will open the Alley Shack, and close it when we start. Also, every time you come here to the Alley, you'll have a chance to earn more Alley Cash in these ways...

ALLEY CASH CALL: \$1 New Kids, \$1 Bible, \$1 Brought a First Time Guest, \$3 God Time Sheet

NOTE: Hand Out Alley Cash according to the above criteria.

"Ok Alley! As we get started this morning, check this out."

CG: Black Friday shopping video

"That. Is. Crazy! Be honest—have you ever wanted something so badly . . . I mean SO badly . . . I mean SOOOOO badly . . . that you would do ANYTHING LIKE THAT to get it? (*Pause for response.*)"

"Yeah, I hope not. But for the people in this video, the answer was a definite YES! Could you imagine wanting a TV so badly that you run people over to get it? Or yanking a coffee maker or toy out of somebody else's hands?! OK, maybe you shouldn't answer that!"

"But while watching a video like that is funny, it also sheds a bit of light on how much people want stuff. Now, it's not that money or stuff is actually bad in and of itself. But what happens when it is the ONLY thing you think about or talk about? What happens when it becomes the MOST important thing to you? What happens when it drives you to start thinking about knocking over the person in front of you to grab a 4K TV? That can't be good for you, right?"

"To help answer that question, let's take a look at this week's episode!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:30)

"When our money or our stuff becomes the MOST important thing, it can make us do some pretty crazy things. But more than that, we also miss out on what we do actually have . . . and, even more importantly, the people around us."

"Let's look at that this month's verse. (*Read directly from Luke 12:15 NIV or JPEG*) "Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Luke 12:15 NIV)

CG: Luke 12:15 NIV JPEG

“Notice that it says . . . “be on your guard against all kinds of greed”. It is very hard to notice what you DO have when you are driven by what you DON’T have. When you obsess over the next game, the next gadget, the next fashion accessory, you can miss what’s already right in front of you.”

“So when you start to obsess over stuff . . . when you start to find that all you can think about is that thing you want . . . I want you to stop and think about the car and ask yourself, ‘Who is driving?’ Am I in control or is my love for stuff controlling me?”

“Who is driving?”

“Now one last thing. There’s actually more to the verse. Let me read it all now. *(Read directly from Hebrews 13:5 NIV) ‘Don’t be controlled by love for money. Be happy (or content) with what you have. God has said, “I will never leave you. I will never desert you.”’* The truth is that money runs out. Stuff breaks, and clothes wear out. But God has made us a promise that He will never leave us, and that is a promise you can take to the bank. *(Pause)* See what I did there?

“And let’s be honest—being content, controlling our actions toward our stuff? That can be really hard, especially when we watch people spend gobs and gobs of money on TV or when see our friend show up to school in new sneakers. But thankfully we don’t need to do this on our own. Not only will God never leave us but also He is there to help give us the strength to have contentment. Let’s rely on Him for help!”

“As you go to small group today, think about this.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“**Why do you still want stuff if it can’t keep you happy?** Have you ever wondered about that? I mean we know that stuff breaks, toys get lost, and even if they don’t, over time, we just lose interest in them. It’s a good question: **Why do you still want stuff if it can’t keep you happy?** Think about that as you head to small group, but before you go, let’s worship God with our offering and attention.”

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: Kenyan Flag

“Offering Time is important here in the Alley, because it gives you all an opportunity to worship God by giving your money generously. Here at *(your campus)*, we give our offering to help support *(your campus child)* in Kenya. Our offering goes to show kindness to them by buying clothes, and food, and other materials they may need. We have a picture of the Kenyan Flag where *(campus child)* lives! If you brought an offering today, you may place it in our Alley Offering Bin *(point children to location of bin)*

CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG

...when the video plays. If not, that's ok too. You can bring an offering next week. The Bible tells us this about bringing our offerings to Him..."

CG: Offering Verse JPEG (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin, then dismiss to Small Groups)

NOTE: No Worship Experience this Weekend, due to Connect Time!