

Alley Rundown - December 8-9, 2018

Bible Story: Someone Like You (Gabriel Appears to Mary) • *Luke 1:26-56*

Bottom Line: God can use anyone to meet others' needs.

Key Question: What are you willing to do to meet others' needs?

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 NIV)

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

GAME: ChristMESS Time!

ITEMS NEEDED: 2 Gift Bags of Random Christmas Items and 2 Christmas Box “Hoops” (NL and OP have 4 boxes and 4 bags)

INSTRUCTIONS: Place Christmas Box Hoops in the middle of your room, or an area that makes sense in your room. Split your group up into teams. Have children line up facing their box hoops.

NOTE: Teams will compete against the clock (90 Second Timer), and one another, to be the team that has the most randomized Christmas items in their hoops. A player grabs one item from the basket, quickly tries to make it into the hoop, then goes to the back of their line. The team with the most “made” items in their hoops within the 90 seconds wins.

CG: 90 Second Timer

After the Game, Say: “Wow! Great job everyone! Our game was a little messy, with random Christmas items flying everywhere. Today we’ll learn about how Jesus came down to Earth as the to meet our need for forgiveness, made our lives better, and cleaned up the mess we call sin in our lives. Let’s get started!”

Begin Rundown...

“What’s up Alley? I have a question to start us off today: have you ever heard of or watched a story about a kid who did something significant or extraordinary? I love those stories. Some of you might be familiar with Alexandra Scott. *(Pause)* No? Well, let me tell you more about her story. Alexandra was diagnosed with cancer before her first birthday. When she was four years old, she set up a front yard lemonade stand and planned to give the money to the doctors to help find a cure . . . and that was the beginning of ‘Alex’s Lemonade Stand.’ That first day she raised \$2,000! While fighting her own cancer, she continued to set up stands every year so she could help other sick kids. She lost her battle at the age of eight, but by the time she passed away, she had raised more than one million dollars toward finding a cure. Her parents continued the work their daughter started and to this day have raised over \$150 million! And all from a little girl starting a lemonade stand. That’s incredible, right?!”

“Most of the stories you hear about people doing incredible things like that are not kids. They’re maybe teenagers or adults. Sometimes even adults think they don’t have what it takes to do something that significant. Has that happened to you? Have you ever had a moment when you

felt too young to do anything that mattered? Or maybe it wasn't your age. Maybe you felt too shy, or too small, or too distracted, or too clumsy . . . too whatever. What is it for you that makes you believe you can't do anything that will make a difference? For me it might be **[Share an age-appropriate reason they might feel like they couldn't make a difference]**. But I wonder if those are the sorts of things we should be worrying about when it comes to doing things that matter."

"Those are big things to think about. And when we have big questions or big thoughts about life, the first place we should look is God's word. Let's head there now and check out a person who probably felt the same way and asked how she could be a part of something HUGE that God wanted to do through her. Let's check out this week's episode!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 10:53)

"For Mary, she was amazed by the fact that God would want to use her. She had a 'why me' moment. 'Why me? Who am I that God would use me?' I'm sure she wondered why God would want to use an ordinary girl from a small town to do something so extraordinary. Maybe she thought she was too young, too shy, too small, too . . . whatever. And yet, God worked through her in a big way . . . maybe the biggest way!"

"Maybe you feel like that, too. Now, I'm not saying God is going to work through you to bring the Messiah into the world, but maybe there is something big that God wants to do through you, but it is easy to think like Mary, 'Why me? Who am I that God would use me?'"

"Now there's another piece to this, too. What God was doing through Mary would meet the need of the world. The need for a Rescuer. The need for a Savior. But meeting this need would cost Mary. This could potentially cost her her reputation. It would cost her her plans. And yet, God would use her in a powerful way to meet the needs of the whole world."

"Sometimes God's plans for us can be uncomfortable. Sometimes they can be inconvenient. But if God is in them, we can trust that He's good and He'll be with us through it all."

"As you go to small group today, brainstorm some ways that God might want to work through you for the sake of others. As you head to Small Group, think about how you'd answer this question:

CG: Key Question Slide

"What are you willing to do to meet others' needs?"

"God invites each one of us to help others and show them how much He loves them. Even if it might cost you something, what are some ways you can help others and meet their needs? But before you head to Small Group, let's take a moment to worship God with our offering and energy!"

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 play Worship Experience Video)

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

NOTE: Students will stand and sing/dance along with “Dance” by Planetshakers