

Alley Rundown - February 23-24, 2019

Bible Story: Secret Service (Give in Secret) • *Matthew 6:1-4*

Key Question: What would happen if you never got credit for serving?

Bottom Line: Serve others without looking for applause.

Memory Verse: Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.” Mark 9:35 (NIV)

WELCOME:

Supplies Needed: Paper Grocery Bag (1 per campus)

“Oh hey! Didn’t see you all there. I was just on my way to the local food pantry with all of these groceries that I’m planning to donate to families in need. (*Falsely modest*) Oh, you know how I do, I just like to get out there in my community and spread the love a little bit. And speaking of spreading the love . . .”

Pull out a phone/just pretend, aim up for a selfie with grocery bag in hand.

“There we go. Let me just fire this off to Instagram really quick . . . caption . . . (*typing*) ‘spreading . . . the . . . love . . . hashtag service . . . hashtag food bank . . . hashtag ain’t I the sweetest . . .’ and . . . post. Oh, you know, while I’m here I should document the work I’m doing at the church; my followers will definitely want to know about that! Wow, working in The Alley always brightens my day . . . hashtag good person . . . hashtag props to me . . . hashtag service life’ . . . and . . . post.”

“Okay, clearly I’m being ridiculous. No one on my Instagram or Facebook accounts needs to know that I just helped someone. But the unfortunate truth is that we live in a culture where we LOVE to get credit for the good things we do. When we do something good, we tend to want people to know about it. But why? Maybe we want to feel appreciated, or maybe we just want props for the effort. But what happens if we don’t tell people? Is it still service even if no one knows about it? If you make an anonymous donation and no one ever knows that it was you . . . is it still worth it? If you anonymously clean up a mess in the hall without anyone seeing your effort, will you miss the kudos? Really think about it. If you didn’t get credit for your service, would you still serve?”

“Today we will be looking at some verses that will completely flip our natural desire to get credit for serving others . . . on its head. Let’s get to it.”

“Today we head to the book of Matthew where Jesus was talking to a large crowd on a mountainside near Capernaum. Historians believe Jesus spoke to the group over the course of several days where He covered subjects like anger, prayer, worry, and, of course, giving in secret. In chapter 6, (*Open Bible and read Matthew 6:1-2a*) we can read how Jesus said, “*Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people. Don’t do those deeds to be seen by others. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you. When you give to needy people, do not announce it by having trumpets blown.*””

“Now, we realize Instagram is not the same as announcing it by blowing trumpets, but it is not all that different either. Jesus continued, (*Open Bible and read Matthew 6:2*) “*Do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They announce what they do in the synagogues and on the streets. They want to be honored by other people. What I’m about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward.*”

"In other words, Jesus is explaining some people serve only to look good, and that will be the extent of their reward."

"Let's put some action to these words. I'm going to show you guys a few social media images of people giving in a very public way. Then we will give you time to brainstorm with your small groups on ways to achieve the same spirit of service without making it an opportunity to show off. But first, check out this week's episode!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:35)

"Serving others is an awesome way to help someone out. When we serve others in secret, it prevents our mindset from being all about us. Being 'all about us' is the danger when we tell our friends about how generous we are or when we post all of our good deeds online. We can start to believe we are ALL THAT and get a little self-absorbed."

"You're probably thinking, 'If I am serving in secret, what do I get out of it?' Great thought. Jesus continued and said (*Open Bible and read Matthew 6:3-4*), "*When you give to needy people, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Then your giving will be done secretly. Your father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly, (NIRV)*." Not only will you get to see firsthand how you've helped someone else, but also Jesus says your reward will come from God! It doesn't matter if others notice because God will notice. We're not always sure what God's reward will look like, but God's reward will be so much better than what we could receive from others."

"But what would it look like or what would it feel like to not receive the props? As we wrap up in here, we want you to think about it. Try to answer this question in your head."

CG: Key Question Slide

"What would happen if you never got credit for serving?" No pats on the back. No high fives. No warm thanks. What would happen? Think about it. You'll have a chance to chat with your Small Group about that in moment. Before you head to group, let's take our offering and spend some time in worship!"

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: Kenyan Facts JPEG

"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 some fun facts about Kenya 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 (Acts 20:35)

Invite students to place their offering in the bin at this time

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

Supplies Needed: Note Cards, Pens, "Prayer Request" and "Praise Report" Bags

NOTE: This week, students will fill out prayer requests ("Please Jesus") and praise reports ("Thank You Jesus")