

Alley Rundown - April 6-7, 2019

Bible Story: You Raise Me Up (Lazarus Raised) • *John 11:1-45*

Key Question: How do you react when bad things happen?

Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

Memory Verse: *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* John 16:33b, NIV

WELCOME:

Supplies Needed: 1 Flashlight (per Campus)

"Hey, everyone! I have a couple tasks I need to complete before we can get started, and I was wondering if I could get two of you to help. Now before you volunteer, I need you to know that the jobs are really hard to do. So, if you are up for the challenge, let me know."

Select two volunteers. Make sure to select volunteers who will try to complete the task even if asked to do an impossible task. Allow volunteers to introduce themselves when it is their respective turn.

"Alright, thanks for your willingness to help. For our first volunteer, I have this flashlight sitting on my stool/table. I need it turned on, but I want you do it without touching the light itself. In fact, I want you to stand directly behind the light and turn it on by giving it 'the look.' That look is also called 'the stank eye.' You know what I'm talking about, right? Give it that look like your mom gives you when you are not doing what she asked you to do. Here's a perfect example of what I'm looking for. Watch this..."

CG: "The Look" Baby Video (Runtime: 30 seconds)

Encourage kid to give the flashlight a dirty look. After a few funny attempts before the attempt gets stale, intervene.

"Interesting. I had really hoped this would work. It definitely did not fail due to a lack of effort. (To the volunteer) Do you have an easier solution to turning on the light? (Pause for response)"

Allow kid to turn on the flashlight by pushing the power button. Move to the second volunteer.

"Good move! For our second volunteer, I need you to turn off all the lights in this room except this flashlight. To darken the room, I want it done by having you do a crazy dance. When I say 'crazy dancing,' I don't mean some halfhearted attempt at not looking ridiculous. I need you to dance like nobody's watching. We'll even give you some music! DJ in the back, play that song!"

CG: Upbeat Dance Music Video (Runtime: 30 seconds)

Play the song for about 30-seconds and encourage kid to turn off the lights by crazy dancing. After a few moments, intervene before the attempt gets stale.

"I had really hoped that would work, too. Good dance moves, by the way. *(To the volunteer)* What's an easier way for turning off the lights? *(Pause for response.)* Sure! You can use the light switch. Or the people in the back of the room can press a button, and the stage light will go out."

Allow kid to turn off the lights by flipping the light switch.

Lights: Lights Out

Dismiss the volunteers and continue in the dark while holding the flashlight on your face.

"Man, that was way easier than crazy dancing. If you think about it, both of my requests required the impossible to happen. It doesn't matter how long we stare at this flashlight with a stank eye or how hard we dance to turn off the lights; it's not going to happen. It's impossible. This reminds me of life. So many times, situations seem impossible."

Share a brief example of something hard for you (Algebra, Mechanics, Sports, Singing, etc.)

"What are we supposed to do in those hard or impossible moments? What are we supposed to do when life seems to go dark? Should we just give up? Where can we turn for help? You might not have these questions right now, but there will come a time during your life when you will. For others of you, you have these sorts of question all the time. And that's ok! When we have question like this, the first place we should turn is the Bible. Not only can the Bible help us with answers to those tough questions, but we can also find out why we can still have hope when everything seems dark."

"However, the story doesn't start in the dark."

LIGHTS: Lights come up.

Turn off flashlight.

"At this time, crowds followed Jesus everywhere He went. Some wanted to hear what He would say next. Others needed to be healed. Some were just curious. Regardless of their reasons, people would congregate wherever Jesus traveled. While He was there, Jesus got some news about His friend."

"For some time, Jesus was friends with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. These three siblings had numerous interactions with Jesus. But in this moment, Jesus received word from Mary that Lazarus was sick in a town near Jerusalem. That's where we'll start for today, and allow this week's episode to fill in the details. Let's watch!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:00)

"God is bigger than us and our problems. God has a handle on a bigger picture we cannot see. And God loves us even when we don't feel like He does. God felt the pain of Mary and Martha, and He knows the pain we endure as well."

"I realize these words are easy to say and much harder to remember when bad things happen. We all respond to bad things differently. So as you head to Small Group today, I want you to think about something."

CG: Key Question Slide

"How do you react when bad things happen? Not how do you think you *should* respond? But really think about how you react when things don't go your way or something bad happens. Take a second to be honest with yourself.

Going through something that feels hopeless can be really difficult. But we don't have to go through these moments alone. That's why we have Small Groups where you can connect with a Small Group Leader and other kids who can help you through the tough times and remind you to have hope. In fact, you'll talk more about all this with them next. But before you head to groups, 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 Facts

"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 facts about Nairobi 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 offerings in bin)

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

NOTE: Students will stand and sing along with the song "Glorious Day" performed by Parkview.

Dismiss to Small Groups