

Alley Rundown - May 18-19, 2019

Bible Story: Stop Draggin' My Heart Around (Cloud of Witnesses) • Hebrews 12:1

Bottom Line: God can help you let go of what is holding you back.

Key Question: What gets in the way of finishing what you start?

Memory Verse: Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NIV)

“Glad to see everyone here today. To start us off this morning, I have a few pictures to show you. When you know what’s happening in the photo, call out what you see. Ready? Here’s the first one!

CG: Unfinished house

Pause for responses.

“Yep . . . a house that still needs some work, I’d say.”

CG: Unfinished puzzle

Pause for responses.

“Looks like a pretty good puzzle. They just need to keep going! Next!”

CG: Unfinished book

Pause for responses.

“Seems someone is in the middle of a good book. Alright next . . .”

CG: Unfinished Lego® set

Pause for responses.

“A nice little house coming together there. And the last one . . .”

CG: Unfinished vegetables

Pause for responses.

“Let’s be honest. How many of you would say this is YOUR plate at home? Come on! I knew it!”

“Alright, so what do all of these pictures have in common? What links them all together?”

Pause for responses.

“That’s right . . . they are all photos of something that’s unfinished! Something got started but never quite got finished. Do you have anything in your life like that?”

“I don’t know about you, but have you ever had the feeling that no matter what you do things keep getting in the way of finishing what you started? You start something, but no matter how hard you try, you just can’t seem to ever finish what you started. Now sometimes it doesn’t really matter. I’ve got plenty of books that I lost interest in and never picked them back up. But what about things that really do matter? Maybe it has something to do with your relationship with God. That no matter how much you want to connect with God and grow in your relationship with Him, you feel like things keep getting in the way.”

“Well, don’t worry. You’re not the first person to feel this way. People all throughout history have run into trouble when it comes to finishing what they start. Sometimes it’s their fault, but other times life happens, plans change, and even if they *want* to finish, they’re finding it really difficult. Something like this seemed to be happening for some of the first followers of Jesus, and they needed some encouragement.

“We find that encouragement in book of Hebrews in the New Testament. We’re not exactly sure who wrote the book of Hebrews. But we know it was written to encourage followers of Jesus to have perseverance when it came to their faith, especially when things were tough for them. Let’s take a look at this week’s episode and explore this idea a little more!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:40)

“See, God has a race for each one of us. He has marked it out for us to run here and now. And the stands are full of people cheering us on. People like Noah, who was faithful to build the ark even though everyone around him was making fun of him. Or Moses. You remember his story, right? He almost missed out on running his race because he was so convinced he wasn’t going to be a good leader and he wasn’t really a very good speaker. But God told him to lay all of that aside and he ended up leading the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt!”

“And then there is Joseph who ended up in a foreign land and found himself being accused of things he didn’t do. And yet, he put aside all of his anger and excuses and ended up rising to second in command and saving the entire nation from a famine! And they are cheering you on! And we here in The Alley are cheering you on! But if we’re ever going to run, we have to be really careful about those things that distract us and hold us back. The things that weigh us down.”

“Today as you go to groups, think about the race that God has for you to run and ask yourself this question:”

CG: Key Question Slide

“**What gets in the way of finishing what you start?** Think about the things that might be carrying around that are keeping you from finishing the amazing things God has planned for you. And don’t worry if you’re having trouble thinking of something; you’ll talk more about this with your Small Group. Before you head to groups, though, let’s spend some time worshipping God.”

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor
New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: Nairobi 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 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 (Hebrews 13:16)

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin)

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

Supplies Needed: Pens and “Where I Am/Want to Be” Cards (1 per student, per service)

NOTE: Students will fill out “Where I Am” and “Where I Want to Be” cards in regards to their faith journey with Jesus.