

Alley Rundown - May 4-5, 2019

Bible Story: Runnin' Down a Dream (Great Commission and Spread of Gospel)

• Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1–2

Bottom Line: Keep going because God is with you.

Key Question: What makes you want to give up?

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)

CONNECT TIME: Endurance Games

Supplies Needed: Bundle of Alley Cash

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

What to Do:

Gather students together around your room and tell them that you are going to play some endurance games. The student that lasts the longest in each activity, without giving up, wins \$5 in Alley Cash. Activities include:

- Queen’s Chair (sitting against the wall in an imaginary chair)
- Planking on Elbows
- Most push ups
- Sitting on floor with arms up and legs out (without falling over or resting feet on ground)
- Holding a squat with arms out in front of them

Begin Rundown...

“Hey everybody! Great to see you. I’m so excited to begin another month together. So now that the weather is getting warmer, how many of you like to get outside? *(Pause for response)* Any runners in here? *(Pause for response)* Okay, any *endurance* runners in here? That’s great! Now, how many of you would be up for something like this? Check this out.”

CG: Video of Spartan Race (Runtime: 1:10)

(After the video) “I think that race looks insane! You have to be a special kind of crazy—and in great shape—to be able to do a race like that. You don’t just hop off the couch from watching TV and decide, ‘I think I’ll run an endurance race tomorrow!’ And I’m sure that many people who start the race don’t finish it.”

“It makes me wonder, when is a task so big or so tough that you want to quit? Have you ever faced a time like that? Maybe you were staring at a huge yard in the fall and it was full of leaves. You already filled a few bags and it didn’t look like you even made a dent. Did you want to quit? Or maybe you were asked to clean your room and, well, it had been a while. It looked like the task was too big and you wanted to give up. Some of you are nearing the end of the school year, and you don’t know how you’re going to finish it!”

“All of us have started things that once we get into them seem impossible and all we want to do is give up. But giving up isn’t always the best path out of the situation; sometimes you need to show some perseverance and travel through the hard times to get to the other side. But how do we find the strength to keep going? That’s a great question. Thankfully this isn’t a new problem to us. In fact, we can find some of these moments in the Bible when people struggled to keep going even when it got tough. Let’s take a look at one of those moments now, through this week’s episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:15)

“Alright, now our personal task might not be as big as “THE WHOLE WORLD!”—though if you are a follower of Jesus, you do get to be a part of that incredible mission to tell everyone about Jesus. But sometimes there are other tasks, maybe even day-to-day things, that make us just want to call it quits. We just don’t think we have what it takes or lack the power to see it through. Or maybe you’re facing a really big challenge or problem right now and the easy thing to do would be to quit.”

“Think about what Jesus told His followers. The whole reason they were able to accomplish the task He had for them was not because they were so smart or talented or special. Rather, they were able to accomplish the task was because God was with them . . . working in and through them”

“And God wants to do the same with you . . . for you to experience His presence and His power working in and through you to accomplish those big tasks before you! But in order to keep going and trust God, we might need to think about something important. In fact, it’s the question I want you to think about as you head to Small Groups. Here it is:

CG: Key Question Slide

“**What makes you want to give up?** We’ll all have times that require us to dig in and trust God to give us the power to get something finished. What is it about those moments that makes us what to throw in the towel and quit? When we are able to identify those moments, we’ll know when it’s time to pray and ask God to give use the strength to keep going! You’ll talk more about it in Small Group, but how about we take some time to 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 (Hebrews 13:16)

(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 "Reckless Love" by Red Rocks Worship.