

Alley Rundown - July 6-7, 2019

Bible Story: Back 2 Good (Every Good and Perfect Gift) • *James 1:17a*

Bottom Line: Show God's goodness to others.

Key Question: How can you show God's goodness to others?

Memory Verse: "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." *Philippians 1:6, NIV*

Supplies Needed: Bible, 3 Bad Gifts

CG: SummerJam Promo Video

"It's not too late to get signed up for SummerJam! This is a week-long experience you won't want to miss, so sign up today at our SummerJam Central tents today!"

Begin Rundown...

"Ok everybody! Great to see you. As we get started, I have a question for you: have you ever received a gift that, at the time, you couldn't see how it was a good gift, but then later on it turned out to be something you loved?"

Tell a personal story similar about a gift you didn't like at first, but it proved to be something you loved.

"How about you? Take a quick moment and TURN and SHARE with the person sitting next to you about a time you received a gift that you didn't really like or understand at first but maybe came to appreciate later on."

If you overheard any good examples, share them with everyone.

"Judging by the conversation, I'm thinking the answer is going to be yes . . . but do we ever have moments like what happened with me? Where we can't see the good gifts we have been given? And what if those gifts in question are from God? We might be missing out on enjoying all sorts of things because we're not seeing all of the amazing things God has been doing in our lives. And we wouldn't want that to happen, right? That would be bad. But how can we tell which gifts are good and from God?"

"That's a big question! But one that actually has an answer! Let's dig into something found in the pages of the Bible. It comes from the New Testament in a letter called James. James was the brother of Jesus. He wrote a letter to Christians who were being persecuted because of their faith in Jesus. James writes these simple yet powerful words."

"(Read directly from James 1:17a NIV) 'Every good and perfect gift is from above.'"

"Seems pretty straightforward, right? But as I was thinking about this, it made me think about gifts. I know we're not anywhere near the Christmas season, but I brought a few gifts with me today for some of my friends."

Give three bad gifts out to three pre-selected leaders. Allow for reaction and interact.

(After gifts are opened) “Okay. Let’s be honest—those were some pretty bad gifts. But I did that to make a point. See, I was thinking about what James was saying here, ‘Every good and perfect gift is from God.’ Now that is a true statement . . . absolutely . . . but it made me wonder if he got that idea from something Jesus had said. See, in one of Jesus’ most famous teachings, Jesus talked about gifts.”

(Read directly from Matthew 7:9-11 NIV) “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

“Jesus says that even though as humans we get it wrong a lot, we are able to give good gifts to those we love . . . how much more should we expect that God, who NEVER gets it wrong, should be able to give good gifts to those He loves! In other words, James says every good and perfect gift is from God, and we can trust that is true because God is good and perfect.”

“Sometimes we don’t know a gift is good at first. Sometimes it takes some time before we truly see the gift for what it is. That’s what this week’s episode is all about today. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 17:30)

“You know, the beautiful thing about all of the good gifts from God is that they ultimately point us back to the good God who gave them. Every good and perfect gift comes from God, and when we see it, we are reminded about our good and perfect God!”

“God has given us the most incredible gift ever—Jesus! When we were still far from God, God loved us and sent Jesus to live a perfect life, die on cross, and come back to life to conquer death to make a way for us to have a forever-relationship with God. When we believe that is true, God gives another gift, the Holy Spirit, to guide us and give us power to show others how much God loves them, too. Goodness is one of those things. We get to show others God’s goodness by how we treat them.

“So today as you go to groups, I want you to talk about this question . . .”

CG: Key Question Slide

“How can you show God's goodness to others?” From friends to family members, how can your actions point them to God and show them how much God loves them. If you’re having trouble thinking of a way, don’t worry! You’ll talk more about it in small group. Before you head there, let’s thank God for giving us good and perfect gifts, like Jesus! Let’s pray.”

(Lead your students in a prayer according to what they have just heard, lead Offering, lead the Worship Experience, and then dismiss to Small Groups)

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/dance along with the SummerJam song “No Pressure” by Elevation Youth.

Dismiss to Small Groups