

Alley Rundown - September 14-15, 2019

Bible Story: Steel Bars (Joseph in Jail) • Genesis 40

Bottom Line: When life doesn't make sense, you can trust God is with you.

Key Question: When is it hard to trust God?

Memory Verse: Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...
(Proverbs 3:5 NIV)

"What's up Alley? Good to see you today! So, to start, I have a question for you. Have you ever had a moment like this in life? A moment where normally something makes sense and then all of the sudden something happens and . . . well, it doesn't make sense anymore? Maybe you're usually really good at this sport, but you got hurt and now you're unable to play anymore. Or you usually ace a certain subject at school, but you need to learn a new concept and it doesn't come as easily to you. What you knew—what you expected to happen—changed. And now, life isn't making as much sense as it used to. Have you ever felt that way? I know I have. And when it happens, we start to question everything—including what we think about trusting God.

"When we have those questions or feel that way, the first place we should head to find some answers is the Bible. The writers of the Bible included some amazing moments where people experienced these types moments in their own lives and how God helped them along the way, including a person we started talking about last week: Joseph. Just to recap so we all remember, Joseph is part of the family God promised Abraham. Joseph had 11 brothers, but his dad, Jacob, made it very clear that Joseph was his favorite. His brothers got so jealous that they hatched a plan to get rid of him once and for all. Although they had planned to kill Joseph, the plan changed and they decided to sell him to traders that were headed to Egypt. Joseph was then sold into the house of Pharaoh's official, a man named Potiphar."

"But even in the foreign land of Egypt—a LONG way from home—Joseph was not alone because God was with him. That's what this week's episode is all about. Let's take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:30)

"Let's be honest for a moment. This story is tough. Some of us might find ourselves thinking, 'If God was really with him, shouldn't only good things have happened to him?' That's a really good question, and it's a pretty hard question, too, and I don't know the answer. But I do know that there are times where bad stuff happens in life. Parents get divorced, friends move away, people pass away. There are times when God allows us feel pain and heartbreak and loss. He let Joseph suffer. He let Jesus, His only Son, feel pain more than we could ever imagine. And Jesus didn't do anything wrong His whole life!"

"We won't always know WHY these things happen, and they certainly won't always make sense. But here's the thing. When bad things happen, we may be tempted to stop trusting God. But the truth is this is when we need to trust God the most, because what doesn't make sense to us makes sense to God. And He promises to be with us, no matter what is happening in our lives."

"As you head to Small Group today, I'd love for you to think about this."

CG: Key Question Slide

"When is it hard to trust God?" Each of us will answer that question differently, but it's still important that we answer it. When we know the times when it will be difficult for us to keep trusting God, we can be sure to talk to wise friends and family to help us work through it. And your Small Group is a great place to start. Let's pray before you head to groups."

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and worship experience, then dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

“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 few friends of Parkview that are in Kenya right now, 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)

Supplies Needed: Pens, “Bible Riddle” Sheet (1 per student, per service)

NOTE: Students will fill out a sheet full of fun Bible Riddles.

Dismiss to Small Groups.