

Alley Rundown - November 23-24, 2019

Bible Story: The Lion Sleeps Tonight (Daniel Is Thrown Into a Den of Lions) • Daniel 6

Bottom Line: Honor God by giving Him credit.

Key Question: How do you honor God?

Memory Verse: Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10 NIV)

“Hey everyone! Can you believe we are wrapping up November today? It’s been an awesome month, and today is certainly no exception. Check out this painting. I think this is a pretty famous one.”

CG: *The Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh*

“How many of you have seen this painting before? *(Pause for response.)*”

“A lot of you! Okay. Now, does anyone know the name of it or the person who painted it?”

Pause for responses. If nobody knows, ask the small group leaders.

“That’s right. This is *The Starry Night* by Vincent Van Gogh. Van Gogh painted thousands of paintings, many of which you might recognize. And those paintings are valued in the millions today. But you want to know something crazy? When Van Gogh was alive, guess how many paintings he sold? *(Pause for responses.)* Good guess. He actually sold . . . one. One single painting. The rest of them sold after his death. While he was alive, he never really got much credit for being a good painter. Nobody really honored his work. But now, people give him tons of honor by shelling out loads of money to purchase his paintings! Funny how that works.”

“It makes me think of another question. When something good does finally happen—when someone does give you credit for something you’ve done or acknowledges you—what do you do with it?”

“See, I think there are a lot of things we do that we might consider ‘God-honoring activities.’ We just sang worship songs together. Soon we will open the Bible together. Maybe you pray on your own or give some of your money to help others. We often think about these types of activities as the ‘God-honoring’ type of activities. But can God be honored in other areas of our lives . . . maybe even the less obvious areas of our lives? Can we give God credit when we maybe wouldn’t normally consider it?”

“Great question. Let’s see what the writers of the Bible have to say about it. Today we head to the Old Testament of our Bible and a story that comes pretty close to the end of it. You see, the nation of Judah had been taken into captivity by the foreign enemy of Babylon. As God’s people live in this foreign land as captives, we have several stories in the Bible that speak of the challenges they faced as they tried to remain true to God.”

“Several of those stories follow a man named Daniel, a young Hebrew captive who faces some pretty tough stuff. I’m guessing you have probably heard about him and at least one of his stories, which we’ll be checking out in a moment.”

“Daniel did such a good job as a leader, even better than the other two guys, that the king planned on putting him in charge of the entire kingdom! Think Daniel was pretty happy about this? Yeah, well, not everybody was. Check this out.”

“*(Read directly from Daniel 6:4a, NIV) ‘But the other two leaders and the royal rulers heard about it. So they looked for a reason to bring charges against Daniel.’* Catch that? The other leaders look for a way to set Daniel up! They want to dig up some dirt on him to find some juicy details they can use against him to get him in trouble.”

“But there’s a problem. They can’t find anything! Seriously. They dig and dig and dig, but look what it says, *(Read directly from Daniel 6:4b, NIV) ‘They couldn’t find any fault with his work. He could always be trusted. He never did anything wrong. And he always did what he was supposed to.’*”

“So the other rulers resorted to plan B. *(Read directly from Daniel 6:5, NIV) ‘Finally these men said, “We want to bring charges against this man Daniel. But it’s almost impossible for us to come up with a reason to do it. If we find a reason, it will have to be in connection with the law of his God.’”*”

“You see, these men knew something was true about Daniel. Since he was a Hebrew, an Israelite, he was in a relationship with God. And a part of that relationship was following this . . . *(show Bible)*. What would happen next to Daniel, for refusing to dishonor God? Let’s find out in this week’s episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:45)

(Read directly from Daniel 6:26-27, NIV) “He is the living God. He will live forever. His kingdom will not be destroyed. His rule will never end. He sets people free and saves them. He does miraculous signs and wonders. He does them in the heavens and on the earth. He has saved Daniel from the power of the lions.””

“That was what Jesus did for us too! For Jesus, everything He did was about pointing people back to God. Even when He died on the cross for us, Jesus knew it was all about bringing glory to His father, God. We follow Jesus’ example when we show honor to God with the choices we make.”

“Now the truth is most of us are not going to face a decree that is going to threaten to have us thrown into a lion’s den if we pray to God. But the truth is we do face all sorts of choices where we might dishonor God and something He has asked us to do or not to do.”

“Honoring God isn’t just about doing the real obvious ‘God-honoring’ activities like singing worship songs and reading the Bible. We honor God with all of our lives. Jesus said this too when He said that our lives are like lights that we shine before other people. And when we shine them, other people will see the good we do and then THEY will honor God, too. That is pretty awesome.”

“Today, as you go to groups, I want you to think about this question:”

CG: Key Question Slide

“**How do you honor God?** Really think about it—go beyond the usual answers and consider some of the places in your lives right now where it can be harder to honor God. When you get back to Small Group, you’ll have a chance to share some of your ideas. Before you head there, let’s pray and thank God for being so faithful to us. Let’s ask God to help remind us of the times when we can show Him honor for all of the amazing things He does for us. Let’s pray.”

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

CG: MOHI 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 MOHI where *(campus child)* goes to school! 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: 3:00)

Supplies Needed: Note Cards, Pens, “Prayer Request” and “Praise Report” Bags

NOTE: This week, students will fill out prayer requests (“Please Jesus”) and praise reports (“Thank You Jesus”)

Dismiss to Small Groups