

# Alley Rundown - November 30-December 1, 2019

**Bible Story:** A Thrill of Hope (Jesus Is Promised) • *Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 53:8, Micah 5:2 (plus Old Testament review)*

**Bottom Line:** You can have joy because God keeps His promises.

**Key Question:** What's the difference between joy and happiness?

**Memory Verse:** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NIV)

## CONNECT TIME

**What You Need:** Gift Bows (100 per team, 5 teams MAX)

### What You Do:

- **Form** two to five teams (depending on your service size).
- **Give** each team 100 gift bows.
- **Challenge** teams to race to see who can be the first to sort the bows into groups based on color.
- **Repeat** as time allows, using different sorting rules such as the following:
  - Sit with backs toward the inside of the circle, then reach back and sort the bows.
  - Give partners 20 or more bows. One partner closes his eyes and sorts the bows while the other partner tells him the color of the bow he picks up.

### Begin Rundown...

"Hey, everyone! Happy December, and Merry Christmas! So excited to be with all of you today! Now, we all know that Christmas is a great time of year to practice PATIENCE! So I decided it might be fun to have to do that today! Who wants to practice patience? *(Pause for response.)*

"Great! Well, here's the thing . . . I have a surprise for each of you. I can't give it to you now. Just wait a bit, and I'll make sure you get that surprise as you head to Small Groups."

*Wait for the inevitable disappointment from the kids. This is okay and part of the object lesson.*

"Now, I know what some of you are thinking. I have a surprise for you, but you can't have it right now! But seriously, I PROMISE I'll hand it out later today. Sound good? Or at least OK for right now? Good."

"Let's be honest for a second here. Waiting can be the worst, right? It's that feeling you get when you look at the clock and you've still got 45 minutes until lunch time. It's that feeling you get when you see a movie trailer for something that looks AMAZING only to find out that you've got to wait another eight months for it to come out. In December, we all wait for Christmas and time off from school! We've all been there before, and trust me when I say that it's sometimes hard to be happy when you're stuck waiting."

"It's one thing when we have an idea of how long we'll have to wait. But what about when we don't know when what we're hoping will happen will happen? We might start to wonder if what we're waiting for will ever happen. Which brings up a good question. How should we respond to waiting? Being happy doesn't seem like much of an option, and no one likes to be angry all the time. So, what's another option? Good question; in fact, it's a question people have been asking for a long time. We say this a lot around here, but the best place to go when you have a question about life is the Bible. The writers of the Bible include all sorts of truth for us to learn about how to respond in all sorts of situations—including what to do while we wait. Let's head to this week's episode now."

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:30)**

“We serve a God who keeps His promises, no matter what and no matter when. If God kept His promise about sending Jesus, why wouldn’t God keep every other promise He has made to you? Promises to always fight for us, promises to give us strength when we’re tired, and promises to give us courage if we ask for it. That same God who promised a Savior, a Messiah, is the same God who’s beside you today. Now, I’m not saying you’ll always be happy. I’m sure the Israelites weren’t happy losing wars and being forced out of their homeland. But when you remember God’s faithfulness to the world, you can have joy believing that God will work out whatever is happening in your life. Even if you’re waiting for a surprise!”

“You see, people break promises. But when God makes a promise, He keeps it. Remember God’s promise to Abraham. Remember God’s promise to Moses to take his people into the Promised Land. And also remember the promise God made through the prophets that He would one day send a Savior, a Messiah, to a sleepy, quiet town called Bethlehem.”

“Alright, so today we learned that God keeps His promises, so I guess I should too, right?” *(Pause for response.)*

“Alright, fine! I’ll hand out the surprise as you head to your small groups and learn a little more about joy, happiness, and how God keeps His promises. But as you head there, I want you to think about a question: **What’s the difference between joy and happiness?** Think about it. Can we have joy, even if we’re not feeling happy about what’s happening?”

**CG: Key Question Slide**

You’ll talk more about this in Small Group, but first, let’s pray and thank God for always keeping his promises.”

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. Lead offering and worship experience. Dismiss kids to Small Group. On the way out, give each kid their Candy Cane to eat while in small group.*

**CG: Offering Time/Worship Experience Video (Runtime: 5:00)**

*Dismiss to Small Groups*