

# Alley Rundown-February 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Bible Story:** Never Gonna Give You Up (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-47*

**Key Question:** When is it hard to love others?

**Bottom Line:** Love others because they matter to God.

**Memory Verse:** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10 NIV)

## CONNECT TIME: Heart Chart Competition

**What You Need:** Bucket of Foam Hearts (1 per campus)

**What You Do:**

- **Form** pairs.
- **Set** out the bucket of foam hearts within reach of both partners.
- **Explain** that kids will race their partner to see who can line up the most hearts on the floor in one minute.
  - They must start the line with one heart, then make a second line next to it with two hearts then three and so on.
  - They will make each line one heart longer than the previous one as in the example below.  
X  
XX  
XXX  
XXXX  
XXXXX
- **Switch** partners and repeat as time allows.

## Begin Rundown...

"What's up? Happy belated Valentine's Day! By show of hands, how many received Valentine's Day cards and treats? *(Pause for response.)* Awesome. Did anybody get enough sweet treats to last you till spring break? *(Pause for response.)* Doubt it! I mean let's be honest, there's no amount of candy that will last that long in my house! How many of you gave Valentine's cards and treats to people you love? *(Pause for response.)* Oh! Alright!"

"Now, without saying any names, how many of you gave Valentine's to people you DON'T like? *(Pause for response.)* I've been there before."

*The following can be a personal story of a time you gave a Valentine to someone you didn't like. Use the following as a template. If you don't have a similar experience, this can be told as a hypothetical situation.*

*"It was a long, loooong time ago when I was in the fifth grade. At the time, I was incredibly competitive at whatever I was doing. This included sports like basketball, flag football, and recess games like tag or kickball. Not trying to toot my own horn, but it was uncommon for me NOT to be on the winning side. That is until this kid named Danny Scott moved to town. Everybody say, "Oh no!" *(Pause for response.)* Oh yes! Danny Scott moved to my town . . . into my school . . . into MY classroom and had the audacity to best me at every competitive opportunity that came up. This included the furthest jump out of the swings . . . most runs in the baseball game . . . least number of times tagged in the game of "it"—which was none for those who are curious . . . and even at dodgeball in PE."*

*"Picture the scene. It's the day before Valentine's. Our whole class went to PE where we learned we were playing dodgeball, which at the time happened to be one of my strongest sports to play . . . well, before Danny Scott moved to town. Our PE teacher split us into two teams. I was on one team, and Danny was on the other. When our teacher blew the whistle to play, out of nowhere, Danny launched a ball and hit me right in my FACE! To which, Danny began belly laughing at my pain. My pride was hurt, but I was still in the game*

*because he hit me in the face. But then . . . on the very next ball . . . Danny threw it as hard as he could and hit me . . . again . . . in the FACE! And once more, Danny laughed so hard I thought he was going to fall over. At this point, my face was stinging . . . my pride was wounded . . . but now it was time to get even. So as quickly as I could, I grabbed a ball and right before I could chuck it his way . . . Danny threw another my way. And for a third time in a row, Danny hit me square in the face with his cannon-arm. True story. Danny Scott was not my friend.”*

*“Now fast forward one day. Our teacher required us to bring a Valentine for everyone in the classroom . . . even if they hit you in the face three times in a row . . . laughing each time . . . besting you at your best sport. Basically, I was forced to write a kind Valentine to give to my worst enemy. And to be honest it felt sort of like pouring hand sanitizer on an open wound—not fun and the very last thing I wanted to do in fifth grade.”*

“Let’s be honest for just a moment. Situations like that can feel like the WORST! Yes, we all know we are supposed to love everybody. Yes, we know we should be kind to everybody. But what about those we don’t get along with? What about the people who are rude or mean or unkind or you fill in the blank? Are we *really* required to love those people as well? Like *really*? Surely there are some exceptions.”

“Questions like that aren’t new. Every day people have had to decide whether or not to show love and kindness to everyone including their enemies, even people we read about in the Bible. Let’s see if we can learn anything from our episode today. Let’s watch!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:30)**

“While we were still sinners, Jesus died on the cross to pay the debt for our sins. Because of Jesus’ love, we can have a relationship with God even though we don’t deserve it. Jesus not only died for you, but He died for your enemies, too. We should follow Jesus’ example and love others well.”

“But this isn’t easy, is it? In fact, I bet you can think of some times when loving people you don’t like too much seems impossible. So, as you head to Small Group today, think about how you’d answer this question . . .”

**CG: Key Question Slide**

**“When is it hard to love others?”** When we start to realize the moments when it’s hard to show love to certain people in our lives, we can make a plan for how we can respond to them in those moments. But to do this well, we have to rely on God. Like we’ve already said, this doesn’t come easily, but when we show love to our enemies, we allow others to see Jesus in us! You’ll get the chance to talk more about this in Small Group. But before we head out, let’s pray and ask God to help up love our enemies. Let’s pray.”

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. Lead offering 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. If you brought an offering today, you may place it in our Alley Offering Bin (point children to location of bin). If not, that’s ok too. You can bring an offering next week.

**CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG**

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin)

**NOTE: No Worship Experience this week due to Connect Time.**

*Dismiss to Small Groups.*