

Alley Rundown-February 22nd-23rd, 2020

Bible Story: All for Love (A Woman Pours Perfume on Jesus at Bethany) • *Mark 14:1-9 (Supporting: John 12:1-8)*

Key Question: How can you show love to God?

Bottom Line: Love God with everything you've got.

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)

"What's up, what's up? If you've been around this month, you know that love and showing love to others is a big deal! Love is all about going out of your way to show someone you care. What's interesting, though, is that we give love differently to different people. Let me show you what I mean. Everybody, circle up with some friends nearby."

Allow a moment for everyone to circle up in their groups.

"Discuss with your groups: how you would show love to your mom if you had all the time and money in the world?"

Allow a moment for groups to discuss. After some time has passed, call on a couple of groups to hear some of their ideas.

"Cool ideas. What about your grandfather? How would you show love to him?"

Allow a moment for groups to discuss. After some time has passed, call on a couple of groups to hear some of their ideas.

"Love it. Now, if you had all the time and money in the world, how would you show love to your sister or brother?"

Allow a moment for groups to discuss. After some time has passed, call on a couple of groups to hear some of their ideas.

"Those were some cool ideas. One more! How about your pet, like a dog or cat—how would you show love to them?"

Allow a moment for groups to discuss. After some time has passed, call on a couple of groups to hear some of their ideas.

"Wow! Some of you really, really love your pets! But isn't it cool to hear how we give love differently to different individuals. While some receive a nice vacation, others receive a new chew toy. Some would receive a big hug, and a few might get a handwritten note. Now it's one thing to show love to people and pets we can see and hang out with, but think about this for moment: how would you show love to God? I mean, we can't see God like we can see friends. We can't touch God like we can touch our cat. We can't hear God all the time like we can our sister or brother. And yet, loving God was something Jesus talked about a lot."

"It's kind of difficult to think through what we can offer to God that He doesn't have or need. God wouldn't want a vacation to the beach . . . He created the beaches. He would have no need for a new car. God probably wouldn't have a need for a picture of you as He knows you better than anyone. And I seriously doubt God would want a pamper day at the spa. So this begs the question: how can we show God that we love Him?"

"That's a big question, and like we say around here, when you have a big question, the first place to look for an answer is the Bible, especially when it comes to discovering how we can show God that we love Him. There's actually a moment from Jesus' life where we get an idea of what loving God might look like by the way someone showed love to Jesus. Let's head to the Book of Mark in this week's episode to find out more."

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:00)

“This may seem like a strange story to some of you. After all, not many people break expensive bottles of perfume to pour on people’s head. But Mary showed how much she loved God when she gave everything she had to Jesus. She poured out all of this expensive perfume on Jesus to worship Him because she loved God that much! Others in the room might have disagreed with her decision, but Jesus found it beautiful. And remember what Jesus said? People all over the world would speak of her beautiful act . . . just like we are doing today!”

“Obviously, we can’t show God love by pouring oil over Jesus’ head, but there are things we can do today, tomorrow, and every day to let God know we love Him. When we take the time to read the Bible to understand Him and discover what God wants us to do, we show God that we love Him and want to spend time with Him. Praying throughout our day is a big way to let God know we love Him. On top of that, every time we show love to others or tell others about what God is doing in our life, we can reflect Jesus to those around us. When we do that, we let God know how much we love Him. Ultimately, when we give God everything we have, like Mary did in our story, whether it’s money or time or talents or praise, it communicates our love for God. All that to say, don’t hold back your love for God. With that in mind, as you get ready for Small Group, think about this question:”

CG: Key Question Slide

“How can you show love to God?” Think about the specific ways that you can show love to God with what you have and who you are. Think about how you can go all in on your love and commitment to God just like Mary. This might be tricky for some us, and that’s OK. You’ll have some time to talk more about this in Small Group. Before we head there, let’s pray and show our love to God by telling Him how awesome He is. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard, lead offering, in the 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. 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

CG: Worship Experience (Runtime: 5:00)

NOTE: Students will stand and sing “Good Good Father. Be an active participant during this time, and set the example for your group.

Dismiss to Small Groups.