

Alley Rundown-March 7th-8th, 2020

Bible Story: Everything Has Changed (Zacchaeus) • *Luke 19:1-10*

Key Question: What does it feel like to be forgiven?

Bottom Line: When you forgive others, it can change them.

Memory Verse: Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (*Colossians 3:13 NIV*)

PROMO: Camp Manitoqua (4th Graders) and CIY Mix (5th Graders)

“Hey 4th Graders! This is your last year to attend Camp Manitoqua. You don’t want to miss this chance to make new friends, and connect with God. Take a look at this!

CG: Camp Manitoqua Video

And finally, for all you 5th Graders, this is your chance to go to CIY Mix! Take a look!

CG: CIY Mix Video

All the information you’ll need is on these postcards (*show postcards*). Make sure you grab one on your way out today!”

Begin Rundown...

“Hey, everyone! So good to see you all here today in The Alley! So, I have a question for you all, right off the bat. What if forgiving others for the wrongs they’ve done to you also lifts a weight off their shoulders and changes them as well?” (*Allow response*) Big question, huh? Sounds like we need to head back to the Bible and discover something that might help us with this question. Let’s head to a moment from Jesus’ life when forgiveness led to some major changes for someone.”

“When this event took place, the Roman government was in charge. Because their empire was so massive, it was very expensive to run. Roads needed to be built. Government buildings needed to be constructed. Soldiers needed to be paid. To finance this massive operation, the Roman government taxed everyone within their nation. In other words, government officials collected a percentage of everyone’s income. To do this, tax collectors were hired to collect taxes from each town.”

“In Israel, where our story takes place, tax collectors were among the most unpopular people around. Tax collectors forced Jewish communities to pay taxes to a government that did not believe in the one true God. Rather, it supported and believed in false gods. Within Israel, there was a town called Jericho, and a man named Zacchaeus lived there. Zacchaeus is a long name, let’s call him Zach for short. Zach was the Chief Tax Collector, but more than that he was also Jewish. Most people viewed Zach as a traitor. Not only was he working for this government who had taken over, but he took extra tax money and kept it for himself.”

“Think about this for a moment. His career was marked by cheating people out of their hard-earned money. While everybody’s stack of coins was getting smaller, Zach’s stash of money was getting larger—much larger. As the Chief Tax Collector, Zach would have cheated strangers, friends, and even family out of money. Nobody would have trusted him or appreciated his presence around town. It would have been a lonely life to be one of the most hated men in Jericho.”

“During this time, Jesus was growing in His popularity. Prior to this story, Jesus healed a man who couldn’t see, healed ten men with a terrible skin disease, and fed 5,000 men with a single dinner. In addition, Jesus spoke with authority. He told important messages through parables or stories on difficult subjects like money, worry, or loving others. Large crowds gathered when Jesus was present to see what He would do or hear what He would say.”

"One day, Jesus traveled to Jericho. By the time He arrived, a large crowd had already formed. Let's stop right there, and let this week's episode finish the rest of our story. Take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:00)

This story demonstrates the way forgiveness can repair relationships and lift the burden. Yes, Zacchaeus was a bad man who was trusted by nobody. But it's important to note that Jesus already knew every wrong thing Zacchaeus had done. And yet, He still chose to stop at THAT tree. Jesus could have easily approached any other individual in the crowd, and there is a solid chance Jesus would have found a more respectable, decent and honest person than Zach. Jesus knew exactly what He was doing. He chose to forgive all the wrong Zacchaeus had done, and as a result, Zach was radically changed from the inside out."

"That's why we should try and do for others. I have a feeling we might also offer forgiveness because this is exactly how we want to be treated. As you head to Small Groups, think about this..."

CG: Key Question Slide

"What does it feel like to be forgiven? How great does it feel when a parent or brother or sister or friend says, 'I forgive you,' and really means it? Think about it. When we better understand this question, we will better understand the significance of forgiving others. You'll have time to talk more about all of this in Small Group. Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us show forgiveness to others. Let's pray."

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard, leads 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. 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)

CG: Worship Experience (Runtime 5:00)

NOTE: Students will stand and follow along with the Dance Moves to "Not the Same". Be an active participant during this time.

Dismiss to Small Groups.