

## Alley Rundown—March 27-29, 2021

**Today's Bible Story:** I Will Wait (Palm Sunday) • *Matthew 21:1-11*

**Today's Key Question:** What are you waiting for right now?

**Today's Bottom Line:** You can celebrate even when you're waiting.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.* Psalm 27:14 (NIV)

**CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos**

**Pre-Service Connect Activity: Banana for Scale**

**NOTE: Begin this Activity 5-10 Minutes before your Start Time. Do NOT skip this Activity, as it is intended to help break the ice with your kids, usher in the FUN, and make the room welcoming and exciting upon kids arriving to their Service.**

**Supplies Needed: Slides on Computer**

***How to Play: Read the SLIDES and allow the Kids to Guess how many bananas long/tall each item is. Example: The Statue of Liberty? 259 Bananas Tall.***

“Hi, everyone! I’m so glad to be here with you! I was thinking this morning about how drastically our lives have changed over the course of the last twelve months. The pandemic changed everything. It’s still affecting us, and we’re still not back to normal—although ‘normal’ may be a total thing of the past.”

“In the quarantine, we couldn’t see our friends, we couldn’t go to school, we couldn’t even go to restaurant for our favorite burgers and fries! We were shut out from the rest of the world, just kind of waiting until we could go back and do what we normally do. In some ways, we might still be waiting for it to be over. So my question is this: what did you do while you waited?”

“I’ve heard stories and seen articles about how ‘this person learned a whole new language in the quarantine!’ and ‘this other person finally finished that novel they’ve been wanting to write!’ and I feel like a failure because all I can think of is ‘I changed out of my PJs today.’”

“What about you? What did you do, or what have you been doing as you’ve been sheltering at home?”

*Take a few examples from kids. Then, offer your own issues with impatience, something similar to the following:*

“I’ve been trying to read more. I’ve even been trying to become a more patient person, even though ZOOM is sometimes the most frustrating thing. I’ve gotten to spend more time with my family and we’ve definitely grown closer in the quarantine!”

“Thanks for sharing! It’s definitely been a weird time, hasn’t it? Some of us have been able to roll with the punches. We’ve loved the chance to be home. Virtual school has been a great change of pace. Other of us have struggled.”

Sure, maybe we've become used to not seeing others, just hanging out in your room, playing video games, and exhausted everything on Netflix and Disney+. But along the way, maybe you've felt a little nervous, lonely, or unmotivated."

"But no matter how you've coped with the past year, what if we all decided that this time of forced waiting could be an opportunity? What if there was a way not only to survive the waiting but thrive and grow in the waiting? What if there was even a way to *celebrate* while you're waiting? But when we're waiting, how can we find something actually *worth* celebrating?"

"Big questions, I know. Thankfully we've got the Bible to help us figure some of these things out! Today we head to the Gospel of Matthew—the first book of the New Testament. Matthew was one of Jesus' disciples. He was one of the 12 guys who followed Jesus around to learn from Him and carry out His mission. Matthew wrote down his experiences with Jesus to help others believe that Jesus was the One God promised to come and save the world. Let's take a look at this week's episode!"

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:00)**

"The people celebrated while they waited. Every year for Passover they ate, drank, laughed, reminisced, praised God, and celebrated. In the town of Jerusalem, they prepared for Jesus' arrival. They celebrated. And when He rode into town as the prophets foretold, it was a celebration like no other."

"One thing to remember is that God is still working *while* you're waiting. It's not like He takes a day off. He's still moving, still working, and still listening. I truly believe one of the hardest things to learn for you, for me, for anyone, is to be present in the moment, right here, right now. Too often we're stuck in the past wishing things turned out differently or stuck in the future, hoping things will turn out a certain way."

"The truth is that we don't have control over either of those things, not the past or the future. But what we do have control over is how we are living in the present, in the 'right now.' That's because **we can trust God no matter what!**"

"God is working while you wait. Instead of focusing on what you're missing or what you *wish* could happen, celebrate what God is doing in your life right now! Think about this question..."

**SLIDE: Key Question**

**"What are you waiting for right now?** Other than me to stop talking so you can go to your Small Groups. What is something you're waiting for? Is it good news? Is it an end to the pandemic? For school be over? You'll talk more about that during groups, but let's first pray and thank God for being with us while we wait."

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering time and dismiss kids to Small Groups.*

**Offering Time:**

"Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else's life better. For us, here in the Alley, we give our offering to an organization called

'Missions of Hope' to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God's love for them."

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

***Homer Glen: Victor***

***New Lenox: Daniel***

***Orland Park: Michael and Valerie***

***Direct Kids attention to the Posters in your Room***

"(Your Campus Child) lives in Nairobi, Kenya and goes to school at Mission of Hope International!"

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our offering container while we dismiss to Small Groups! (*show offering container*)."

*Dismiss to Small Groups*