

## Alley Rundown—May 8th-10th, 2021

**Today's Bible Story:** 'Til I Hear It From You (The Wise and Foolish Builders) • *Matthew 7:24-29*

**Today's Key Question:** How can you hear from God?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Practice hearing from God.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV*

**CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos**

"Attention all you amazing 5th Graders! This announcement is for you. Going on right now is an awesome opportunity for you to get a chance to check out JHM. It's called Level Up! Take a look at this video!"

**CG: Level Up! Promo Video**

**SUPPLIES NEEDED: Superhero Cards and Large Posters**

**CG: Superhero Images FRONT and BACK**

Hey Parkview Kids! All this Month, we are celebrating some of our Missions Partners here at Parkview that show their commitment and love for Jesus by sharing the Good News of Jesus all over the world. Let's meet our Superheroes we'll feature today!

(Read the Cards BACK and let the Kids know that they will be getting their Superhero Cards today)

At the end of our talk today, we'll also have a Superhero Race! Stay tuned! Let's get started!

**Connection Activity: Say What?**

"Welcome my people! We're running headfirst into our second week of May, and I'm trying to stick to my workout plan. Sticking to the plan isn't always easy. I don't know about you, but sometimes I can get pretty distracted."

"Does anyone listen to music while they're doing other things like exercising, doing homework, going to bed at night? (*Pause for responses.*)

"Yeah, I find that listening to music as I work out really keeps me motivated, but I guess that totally depends on the song, though. For example, I can totally work out to this:"

**AUDIO: Up-tempo workout music**

*If comfortable, start hilariously 'working out' to this music, getting more and more crazy as the music intensifies.*

"But not so much to this one:"

**AUDIO: Melodic classical music**

*Start to move really slow, pretending to fall asleep.*

"Yeah. It makes me want to crawl into my bed and take a nap. Are you up for a little musical game? (*Pause for response.*) Sweet! This game is called, 'Say WHAT?'"

**SLIDE: Say WHAT?**

“Here’s how we play! I will read out a set of lyrics from a popular song, and it’s up to you to give me the title and artist of that song! Sound easy? Pssh, this is The Alley, it’s never that easy!”

“All of the lyrics have been put in Google Translate, translated into various languages like Luxembourgish or Mongolian, then translated back into English. And let’s just say that things do get . . . ahem . . . changed in the translation. We’ll play guys against girls—let’s get started!”

“I’ll read the lyrics out loud, and the first to guess it correctly gets a point. The team with the most points at the end wins! Oh, and Small Group Leaders, feel free to jump in and help!”

*Play the game using the mixed-up lyrics on screen. Read them straight, without giving away the tune or rhythm of the song.*

**SLIDE: Game Slides 1-10**

“Great job, everyone! Now, let’s get started with our talk today!”

*Begin Rundown...*

“I have to say, I love having the chance to chat with you about what God’s up to, and I really love digging into the Bible, because that’s how I learn more about God and what God wants for my life. That’s right, I’m *[your age]* and I’m *still* learning.

“Did you know that people learn in different ways? Some people learn by seeing something, some learn by doing, and still others by hearing. Think about school. Do you have to try things out before you get it, or can you just pick it up from what the teacher writes on the board or screen? Which way do you learn the best?”

*Pause for responses then share how you learn the best; something like the paragraph below.*

“For me, I need to try it out. Get my hands dirty. I can look at something all day long, but until I actually do it, maybe even mess it up a few times, I might not remember what I’ve been taught.”

“Let’s try a little test. A little ‘social experiment’ of sorts. I’ll need half of the Small Groups to come to one side of the room and the other half to go to the opposite side of the room. I’ll have instructions for each group!”

*Make sure the kids are safe and physically distanced. Tell one group of Small Groups this next bit quietly so the other group doesn’t hear.*

“Find a partner, someone from the other side of the room, and talk to them about something you’re totally passionate about. Sports, video games, collecting things, cooking, music, school, you pick! Tell them all you know about it!”

*Walk to the other group of Small Groups.*

“Let’s take this group and split you in half. Half of the kids move over there, half stay here.

*Again, make sure the kids are safe and physically distanced. Tell one group of kids, that you just divided, this next bit quietly.*

“The kids over there (*point to the initial group*) will partner each of you from this group and talk to about something they’re really passionate about. I would like you to listen to them, go up to them, ask questions, and get to know as much as you can about what they’re passionate about! Be an active listener!

*Tell the other group, that you just divided, this next bit quietly.*

“The kids over there (*point to the first group*) will partner with someone from this group and talk about something they’re really passionate about. I would like you to start by listening, but stop after about ten seconds. Be distracted. Look around the room. Don’t ask questions. Don’t pay attention.”

*Walk to the other group of Small Groups.*

“Okay, first group! Find a partner from the other side of the room and do what I instructed you to do! Other groups, do what I instructed you to do as well!”

*Allow a few minutes for kids to talk and either listen or not listen. After some time, get everyone’s attention and have them move back to their seats.*

“A few questions for those who were talking to someone about something they were passionate about. What was your experience like? Did you have someone who listened to you?”

*Pause for responses and lead a brief discussion.*

“First of all, let me come clean. I told some of you NOT to pay attention or listen to the kids who were talking to you. It sounds like it didn’t feel so good to be on the other side of that. It also sounds like those of you who were talking with someone who was actively listening had a much better time! It’s super difficult trying to talk to someone who doesn’t listen, doesn’t respond, and doesn’t pay attention.

“Now think about prayer for a second? Can prayer ever feel like it’s just you talking without a response? How do you even know God is listening? Maybe for some of you, prayer feels like a one-way conversation.

“But how do you even hear God? Does God talk? Does God speak English for us and other languages for people who live in other countries?”

“Tough questions. And even tougher answers. Thankfully we have a guidebook that has some clues for how to tackle these sorts of questions. Let’s dive into the Bible and take a look at Matthew 7.”

“We’re picking up the story after Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and spent some time in the wilderness. Jesus returned to Galilee and gathered together His disciples. He then began teaching others what He knew about His Father, about loving others, and about the Kingdom of God. Since He is God, Jesus is crazy wise, and His understanding of the Scriptures, His knowledge about heavenly things, and His ability to explain everything were really amazing. Let’s take a look at this week’s Episode!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 15:00)**

“So check it out, everyone—we’re the house. *Our lives* are like the house. We can have people who cover us in prayer, like a roof, we can have nice, sturdy friendships, like the walls, we can even have a stocked kitchen where we fill our hearts and bellies with amazing nutrients and sustenance. Maybe the attic is our brains, because you know, they can feel mostly empty at times. You can have all of these amazing things, all of the walls painted brilliant colors and decorated with the best knick-knacks and have the biggest TVs and all of the gaming systems and (*clap to emphasize the bold words*) **none of it matters** if you **don’t** have a **foundation on Jesus.**”

“NONE of it. Your will power, your hope, your faith, and your very lives will crumble when the storms of tragedy strike because you *don't have a strong foundation.*”

“That’s what Jesus was getting at here. If you place your faith in Jesus, if you build your life on HIM as a foundation, when the storms come, when there’s a death in your family, when you don’t make the team, when someone you know gets sick, when you have to move to a new state, when you’re quarantined for a year because of some unseen coronavirus . . . you won’t crumble.”

“You’ll stand. You’ll remain. The storms will beat against the windows of your spirit but your house will stand strong. And here’s the kicker—you can hear this teaching all day long. But you don’t just need to *hear* it.”

*“You need to listen.”*

“As you head to your Small Groups, think about this:”

**SLIDE: Key Question**

**“How can you hear from God?** When it matters, when you need help, how can you hear His voice? If you’re not quite sure, that’s ok. You’ll get to talk about it more together with your Small Group. Before we head to groups, let’s pray and thank Jesus for being such a strong foundation. Let’s pray.”

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead the Offering Race Video then dismiss kids to Small Group.*

**It’s time for Week 2 of our Superhero Races. This week’s race pits Mindy from Guinea vs. Sam from Malawi! Who do you think will win? Let’s find out!**

**CG: Superhero Race 2**

**NOTE: Be sure to hand out this week’s trading cards to your kids at a time that seems appropriate to you.**

*Encourage Students to Cheer On which Missionary Partner Hero they think will win the Race, and if they brought an Offering they can place it in the Offering Bin at this time.*