

# Alley Rundown—August 28th-30th, 2021

**Today's Bible Story:** Brand New (Renew Your Mind) • *Romans 12:2*

**Today's Key Question:** How are you wiser than you used to be?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Never stop growing in wisdom.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. James 1:5 (NIV)

## CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“Hey, everybody. Thanks for being here! How about a show of hands? How many of you have a grandparent, an uncle, a neighbor, or somebody else who says *(best elderly voice)* ‘I remember when you were a “wee wittle baby. Now you’re getting so big!’” *(Pause for response.)* Yes! They probably still pinch your cheek, too! Sorry about that; it’s just a part of life. You start out in this world an adorable, crying, wrinkled baby, and you grow into young men and women. Then people older than you will comment on how much you’ve grown!”

“Obviously, we can all spot a baby human when we see one, but I’m wondering if you can identify other creatures before they grow up. On the screens, I will place an image of a baby critter. Within your small groups, we want you to quickly discuss to identify it! Make sense? *(Pause for response.)* Great! Here’s the first image.”

## SLIDE: Animal 1a: Baby Panda

*Allow 30 seconds to let groups to discuss after each round. If time permits, call on groups to guess. Reveal adult image after discussion.*

## SLIDE: Animal 1b: Panda

“Good guesses. The image is that of a baby giant panda! It definitely looks different as a newborn! Let’s move to the next picture.”

## SLIDE: Animal 2a: Baby Flamingo

## SLIDE: Animal 2b: Flamingo

“Believe it or not, that is a baby flamingo! It looks way different without the pink feathers and really long legs. How about this one?”

## SLIDE: Animal 3a: Ladybug Larvae

## SLIDE: Animal 3b: Ladybug

“This one caught me off guard. I was expecting a butterfly. Regardless, good guesses. It is a ladybug larvae. And finally, how about this baby?”

## SLIDE: Animal 4a: Newborn Hedgehog

## SLIDE: Animal 4b: Hedgehog

“This little guy looks like it had a run-in with a cactus, but it’s a newborn hedgehog! It sort of looks cute.”

“Thanks for guessing the images. Each one of those creatures grows into something that looks completely different. The baby giant panda starts out small and helpless, but it grows into something big and furry that can eat up to 84 pounds of bamboo every day! It doesn’t happen overnight; rather, it happens over time.

The same thing can be said about all of you here today in The Alley! You ARE getting tall like the older people in your life point out! And you know what else? You will continue to grow! Your feet will get wider. Your arms will get longer. You’ll get hair in your armpits! Your armpits!!! Your voice may even change! Everybody in this room has thought about growing up. You wonder what it will be like driving. You think about what sports you’ll be playing in a few years.”

“Pondering these things is good and normal. But have you ever thought about what it looks like to grow in wisdom? Is it possible to grow wiser in your thoughts and actions in junior high? Impulsively, we want to answer yes! If so, then how? How do we grow wiser tomorrow than we are today? Many of us want to make better choices, but how do we know we can make the wise choice?”

“Well, we can find wisdom in all sorts of places, but the first place we should look when it comes to questions like this is the Bible. Today we’ll do just that. Let’s head to this week’s Episode to find out something pretty great about growing in wisdom.

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:00)**

“We are called to live differently than the world. When you look at the life of Jesus, that’s exactly what He did. While the world said to hate your enemies, Jesus said to pray for them. While the world said the person with the most power is the most important, Jesus said the greatest person is the one who serves. For us to live differently, we must completely change our thinking.

Like we read in Proverbs 3:5,”

*Open the Bible to Proverbs 3:5 (NIRV) and read.*

“*Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding.*”

“In other words, trust and depend on God more than any other voices in your life. When we do that, our thoughts will shift towards God and what He says is true!”

*Open the Bible to Romans 12:2b (NIRV) and read.*

“*And you will agree that what he wants is right. His plan is good and pleasing and perfect.*”

“All of you have grown over the years. No longer are you a baby needing to be burped after each meal. Many of you burp on your own hourly. Your parents don’t swaddle you to help you sleep. Yes, you’ve grown physically, but we want to ask this question as we head to Small Groups . . .”

**SLIDE: Key Question Slide**

“**How are you wiser than you used to be?** Think about the decisions you make now. How are they different than the sorts of choices you made last year? How do they show you’re growing in your relationship with God? If you’re not sure how you’d answer that question, that’s OK, too. You’ll chat more about it in Small Group. Before you head to groups, let’s pray and ask God to help us keep growing in wisdom and our relationship with Him.”

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard.  
Communicator, lead offering, then dismiss kids to Small Group.*

**OFFERING:**

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here's a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri, New Lenox: Daniel, Homer Glen: Victor