

## Alley Rundown—July 31st-August 2nd, 2021

**Today's Bible Story:** Grow as We Grow (Jesus Grows in Wisdom) • Luke 2:41-52

**Today's Key Question:** What does it mean to be wise?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Wisdom is worth searching for.

**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. How in the world are ya? I'm curious. Have you ever thought about all there is to know in this world? That would be a ton of information, right? There is so much to learn, and so much we will never learn. Many of you have been in school for five, six, or even seven years, and you've gained tons of know-how from school, friends, books, and maybe YouTube. As we get started, let's put that knowledge to the test. I'll ask a question. If you think you know the answer, raise your hand. I'll call on some of you."

"Here's a geography question to start us off. About how many miles is Russia from the United States? *(Pause for response.)* Actually, a place in Alaska is only two or three miles from Russia! How cool is that? Any budding astronomers out there? Here's a question for you. If you traveled at the speed of light, how long would it take you to reach Pluto? *(Pause for response.)* It would only take four hours!"

"Here's a question for the animal lovers—specifically for the crazy cat people. How many muscles does a cat have in each ear? *(Pause for response.)* A cat has 32 muscles in each ear! That's 32 muscles working together to completely ignore you with! Last question for the bug enthusiasts. Approximately how many ants live on this planet in any given moment? *(Pause for response.)* Scientists estimate 1 quadrillion or 1 million billion ants live on earth right now! That's more than 1.4 million ants per human! That makes me squirm!"

"You all did a pretty good job. Even though you did not guess the correct answer every time, you were close. Now, what about some Bible facts? Maybe you come to church or talk about the Bible home and have moments where you can gain some knowledge about the Bible!"

*NOTE: You will probably have kids who do not know the answers to these questions. There could be several reasons for this, so be sure your response is encouraging and moves kids towards wanting to know more about the wisdom found in the Bible.*

"Like, does anybody know how many books are in the Bible? *(Pause for response.)* Correct! There are 66 books. Or how about: what kind of tree Zacchaeus climbed? *(Pause for response.)* Yes! Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree. Finally, what animal reached out and bit Paul when he was shipwrecked on the island of Malta? *(Pause for response.)* It was a snake!"

"Impressive! For many of you, these questions didn't faze you at all. It's obvious many of you have gained incredible amounts of knowledge and tidbits in life. If you were to tell your friends all the information you know about bugs, they might say, 'Stop flexing on me!' But others may say, 'Wow! You are wise!' But would that statement be accurate?"

“This month, we’re looking at wisdom, which is finding out what you should do and doing it. Does knowing all there is to know about geology or cats make you wise? It makes you smart, sure! But does knowledge make you wise? That’s a good question for us to ask. When we have good questions, we should head to the Bible. You know why? Well, the Bible is FULL of wisdom! Check it out in this week’s episode!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:30)**

“This is such an interesting story. The picture I have of Jesus sitting with the teachers in Jerusalem mirrors what happens here in The Alley. Each time we gather, you get to hang out with your Small Group. These groups are safe places for you to ask questions, join in the discussions, and seek out wisdom. Our Small Group Leaders bring fun and love and acceptance. Their age, life experiences, and pursuit of Jesus brings wisdom to the discussion. Yes, your leaders have lots of wisdom to share! It doesn’t mean they have all the answers to every question, but it does mean they are here to help you understand wisdom from the Bible as they have learned about it through the years.”

“Wisdom is a treasure worth seeking. Having wisdom isn’t the same as being smart. Surrounding yourself with wise leaders is a great place to seek out wisdom. This could be parents, Small Group Leaders, coaches, grandparents, or teachers. God gives us wise leaders so we have a safe place to go and we can tell them how we’re feeling or ask questions when we’re not sure of something. The Bible is another source of God’s wisdom. Maybe you have the app on your phone or you have a book like this (*referencing your Bible*). Wisdom gained from this book cannot be achieved by using it as a pillow and absorbing the information while you’re sleeping. We need to spend time reading it or listening to it! After that, we should take time to think about it, pray to God about it, and ask God to help us understand and apply what we’re reading. Gaining knowledge is good. It allows us to know facts and information and details about the world. But that’s not wisdom. As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:”

**SLIDE: Key Question**

“**What does it mean to be wise?** If wisdom is not just knowledge, how can you make sure you’re making the wise choice? Every single day we have an opportunity to make the wise choices and even the opportunity to make unwise choices. Seeking out wisdom from wise sources is key, which is why I’m so glad you all get to hang out more with your Small Group. Before you head out, let’s pray and ask God to help us find wisdom and make the wise choice with our life. Let’s pray.”

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and 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