

## Alley Rundown—October 10th-11th, 2021

**Today's Bible Story:** Change Your Mind (Matthew) • *Matthew 9:9-13*

**Today's Key Question:** How would you describe yourself?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Knowing Jesus changes how you see yourself.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14 NIV)

**CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos**

**(Opening Activity) "Are You...?"**

**What You Need:** "Are You . . . ?" Activity Page (1 per Campus), four walls in the room predetermined as "A, B, C, and D"

**What You Do:**

- Identify the walls in your room as A, B, C, and D.
- Read a multiple-choice question from the Activity Page. (Or create your own questions based on what you know about your group and their interests/characteristics.)
- Tell kids to go to the wall or space representing the answer that most closely describes them.
- After letting them answer several questions, gather kids back in a circle to begin the Rundown.

Pro-Tip: Be prepared to share one or two positive words describing the kids in your group. This is an opportunity to encourage kids. For example: Joe is a great listener—he always listens closely when I give instructions. Or I notice how Lydia always helps me put away supplies—she is a great helper. Or Devon I notice how you speak to your little brother—you are very kind to him.

**Supplies Needed: Large Stack of Alley Cash (enough for \$3 per Kid)**

"How's it going, everyone?! Great to see you all. Let's start our talk today with a question. In a few short statements, think about this question:"

**SLIDE: Question 1**

"How would someone describe you? For example, 'tech wizard and gamer' or 'adventurous outdoorsy girl.' Or it can be a characteristic like 'an outgoing friend to everyone.'"

"Take a minute to come up with 2 or 3 statements and then be prepared to share them."

*Give time to come up with statements and share.*

**NOTE: For every answer a kid gives, give them \$1 in Alley Cash (you will TAX them on this later)**

“Those were awesome! Well done. But you know what I noticed? Most, if not all, of you focused on positive things about you and your personality—which is great! But...unfortunately, I’m going to have to tax you all for being too overly positive.”

***(Proceed to take at least \$1 dollar from each kid as a “Positivity Tax”)***

“I’m sorry. That’s just the way it has to be. As much as we might describe ourselves with our positive characteristics, I’m sure we have moments when all we can think about is our failures. Maybe they become all we see about ourselves and our failures overshadow what is so amazing about how God created us. Maybe we even start to believe that those are the only things that God can see also? How can we remember that even though we might fail, those failures aren’t what get to define us? Wow, that’s an important question we need to answer, stat. Last week, we dove headfirst into the truth that we’re created in God’s image, but I’m sure that we can find something about seeing ourself as God sees us in the Bible too.”

“Today, we head to the Gospels, which are the first four books of the New Testament in the Bible. The writers of the Gospels tell us the story about the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As many of you know, Jesus called disciples to follow Him, to learn from Him, and become like Him. But sometimes—many times actually—the disciples Jesus called were not the people most would expect. We will certainly see that today with the help of this week’s Episode. Let’s watch!”

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

***SLIDE: Question 1***

“We started by asking ‘How would someone describe you?’ The answers from a tax collector and a Pharisee couldn’t be more different. But what if we changed the question? Instead of ‘How would someone describe you?’ let’s ask, ‘How does God describe you?’”

***SLIDE: Question 2***

“Loved by God. Created in God’s image. Worthy of forgiveness. One who Jesus was sent for. All of these are true. True for Matthew. True for the Pharisees. True for you and for me.”

“Let’s be honest for a moment. Are we ever guilty of doing what the Pharisees did in this story? We make snap decisions about people or give them a reputation based on the mistakes they have made. We might say (*negative tone*) ‘Oh no, *that* kid! They never do ANYTHING right.’ But then we turn around and label others or ourselves by saying, (*positive tone*) ‘Oh, that kid? They do EVERYTHING right!’ It is easy to start believing these descriptions about other people or about ourselves. The tax collector is the villain and the Pharisee is the hero to most people. But Jesus said they BOTH need God. And God’s description of you is the only description that counts.”

“Loved by God. Created in God’s image. Worthy of forgiveness. One who Jesus was sent for. This is how God sees you. Is it how you see yourself?”

“Today as you go to groups, I think more about this question:”

***SLIDE: Key Question***

**“How would you describe yourself?** Have you ever been tempted to feel like the tax collector, like you’re too bad? Or the Pharisee, seeing yourself as too good? Think about those four statements. Loved by God. Created in God’s image. Worthy of forgiveness. One who Jesus was sent for. How does that change the way you describe yourself? You’ll have a chance to talk with your Small Group about all of this. Before we go to groups, ***I’m sure you all despised me as a tax collector. Just like the people despised Matthew in his day. Well, here’s your Alley Cash back...***

***(Give kids their Alley Cash back)***

Let’s pray and thank God for loving us and sending Jesus to rescue and forgive us. Let’s pray!”

*Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, take 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