

Alley Rundown—April 10th, 2022 (EASTER LESSON)

Today's Bible Story: Back to Life (Crucifixion and Resurrection) • John 18:1–20:18

Today's Key Question: What does Easter mean to you?

Today's Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember Jesus is alive.

Monthly Memory Verse: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33b NIV

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

PROMO: Camp Manitoqua (4th Graders) and Students Camp (5th Graders)

“Hey 4th Graders! This is your last year to attend Camp Manitoqua. You don't want to miss this chance to make new friends, and connect with God.”

CG: Camp Manitoqua Promo

And finally, for all you 5th Graders, this is your chance to go to Parkview Students Camp!”

CG: Students Camp Promo

“Also, for all you 5th Graders, I am excited to let you know that “Level Up!” is just a couple weeks on Wednesday, April 27th. These nights are specifically designed with you in mind, to prepare you for all things Parkview Students. Don't miss these nights. They will be a lot of FUN!”

CG: Level Up! Promo

All the information you'll need is on these postcards (*show postcards*). Make sure you grab one on your way out today!”

“What's going on, friends? Happy Easter! I know it's not quite Easter yet, but we're going to celebrate it together today in The Alley. Why? Because Jesus is risen! We have such a good day in store for you as we celebrate. And that day starts with the an On-Screen Easter egg hunt. Let's see how well you can follow the eggs, and what is inside them. Check it out!”

CG: Easter Egg Hunt Version 1 VIDEO (Runtime 4:00)

NOTE: Interact with the kids and the video, and keep the energy high!

Begin Rundown...

“Great job everyone! Glad to see you all here today! I don't know about you, but for me, Easter brings a lot of memories with it.”

Note: The following story did not happen in real life. Below, let the kids in on the joke as part of the punch line. The more you can share this story and personalize it as your own, the better the bit will work going into the So and So Show.

“Many of those memories are good ones. But others . . . well, let me tell you about one. It was pretty rough, to say the least! Wanna hear about it? Alright. One Easter, when I was a kid, I must have been eight or nine, just a little younger than you . . . (*Tell dramatic story. Keep it light.*) my mom gave me an Easter basket. She gave us one every year with that plastic green grass and all sorts of candy goodies. But this particular year when little me ran to the kitchen for my Easter basket, what did I find? A basket? Check. Green plastic grass? Check! Candy? Where was the candy? Wanna know what I found wrapped in plastic grass—crackers, pretzels, and

two cans of tuna fish! Yes, you heard me correctly. Tuna. Fish. No chocolate eggs. No jelly beans. But actual cans of tuna fish!

“Well, an Easter basket is an Easter basket, so I made the best of it. Tuna on crackers for breakfast. Then, after eating both—yes, BOTH—cans of tuna fish, we left for church. But then . . . about ten minutes into the drive, we hit a pothole in the road. We heard a giant pop and knew immediately that our tire was toast. Mom pulled the car to the side of the road. You might think we could call someone, but this was in the days before everyone carried a cell phone with them. With no phone in sight, we abandoned the car and WALKED the remaining two miles to church. Let’s just say that two cans of tuna fish is not what you want to eat for breakfast before hiking the side of the road to church.

“We finally arrived at church. We were sweaty and late. Like, *really* late. Like, we had missed church entirely late. Thankfully, when we got to church a friend gave us a ride home. We figured we would have a nice Easter lunch and then go back and fix the car. My mom went to cook the ham and realized she had never taken it out of the trunk after grocery shopping. The same trunk of the car . . . with the flat tire that was currently parked on the side of the road on the way to the church that we missed because we walked two miles. So our Easter lunch for that day? You’ll never guess. Or maybe you might. That’s right. Tuna. Fish. Sandwiches!”

Pause for reactions.

“Okay, let me come clean for a bit. None of this actually happened. Maybe you already guessed that. But could you imagine if it had? I mean, could you imagine?”

“If you’ve been around church for a while, you might already know this, but people make a big deal about Easter. And because we make a big deal, many people have expectations for how to make Easter special. Maybe some of you have traditions like going to church, having an egg hunt, getting an Easter basket, or hosting a special meal with family or friends. And those things are so much fun to have as part of your Easter celebration. But if all of these things went away, or if they all went wrong, or if it was all replaced with tuna fish . . . would it change anything? Would Easter still be special? Would you still celebrate with joy and live with hope? Those are important questions to consider as we continue today. As we’ve already seen this month, life doesn’t always go as planned for the people who we read about in the Bible. But what they learned through the process can help us as we try and figure out the answers to our questions today—even on Easter!”

“Today we head to the Gospel of John. This week is actually referred to as Palm Sunday, the time when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Everyone hoped this would be the moment when Jesus would finally free them from the Romans and restore their place as a nation. But that was not the reason Jesus had come.

“Now, like many other Jewish people that week, Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples. Passover was an annual celebration to remember how God had freed the Israelites from Egypt many years earlier. After the dinner, they went out to the Mount of Olives. In the garden, Jesus wrestled with the events to come and prayed to His Heavenly Father. Let’s pause there and let this week’s Episode take over from here! Let’s watch!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:30)

“You know, for those who were there in the crowd that day when Jesus was sentenced to death, many wouldn’t have thought twice about the way that He was dying. Jesus wasn’t the first person to die on a cross. It was the Roman way of dealing with rebels and criminals—people who they saw as a threat to the peace of the mighty Roman empire. If you remember in the story, there were even two criminals next to Jesus. For many in the crowd that day, Jesus was just a guy who got Himself caught up in something bad, and that this was Rome’s way of dealing with Him.

“But we know it’s not as simple as that. Just like when Jesus stopped Peter in the garden from fighting back, at any time, Jesus could have stopped this. At any moment, Jesus could have called down an army of angels to defend Himself. He could have proven His innocence.

“So why didn’t He?”

“Because nobody was taking His life. He was giving it up. Jesus said these very words earlier in His life.

Open the Bible to John 10:18 (NIRV) and read.

“*Nobody takes [my life] from me. I give it up myself.*”

“But Jesus also said that after He laid His life down, He would take it back up again. He was referring to His resurrection.

“You see, Jesus wasn’t a criminal who got caught on the wrong side of a rebel plot. He wasn’t a liar who was finally trapped in His own lie. He was and IS the Son of God who came to lay down His life for you and for me, to rescue us so that we could have a relationship with God that lasts forever. Jesus is our true hope and our true freedom! And because Jesus rose again to new life, WE can now have new life by believing and trusting in Him. He is risen!”

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

SLIDE: Key Question Slide

“**What does Easter mean to you?** Despite all of our traditions and all of our expectations about what this day means, what is the hope we hold onto because of Easter? What is the truth about this important day that we are here to celebrate? Beyond the Easter eggs and baskets of candy, how can we celebrate Jesus no matter what is happening in our lives? If you’re not sure how you’d answer this question, don’t worry. You’ll have a chance to talk more about this with your Small Group. Before you head out, though, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Let’s celebrate that Jesus is ALIVE!”

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

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. Have fun in Small Groups!

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