

Alley Rundown—April 24th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: All I Ask (Jesus Appears to Thomas) • *John 20:19-29*

Today's Key Question: What questions do you have for God?

Today's Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

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

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

CG: Students Camp Promo

"And finally, for all you 5th Graders, I am excited to let you know that "Level Up!" is finally here! This Wednesday, April 27th, you all are invited to join Parkview Students! 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!"

"Hey, everyone! Can you believe it is the end of the month already?! We've had a great month together, and we're not done having fun. I hope you all had a great Easter! How many of you like brain teasers? (*Pause for response*) Well, I have some for you. If you think you know the answer, go ahead and stand up. Let's see if these can trick you all!"

SLIDE: Puzzle 1

"You are in a place called Wally's World, and there is only one rule. There is a mirror but no reflection. There is pizza with cheese but not sausage. There is pepper but no salt. There is a door yet no entrance or exit. What is the rule?"

"You can talk about it with your group or someone near you. Try and figure it out!"

Allow for responses. Give hints if no one is getting it. Optional: offer some sort of prize to the person who gets the answer correct.

SLIDE: Puzzle 1 Answer (The rule = Each word in Wally's World must contain double letters.)

“That was a tough one! Let’s try another.”

SLIDE: Puzzle 2

“Billy left home running. He ran a distance and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?”

Allow for responses. Reveal answer. Optional: offer some sort of prize to the person who gets the answer correct.

SLIDE: Puzzle 2 Answer (The masked men were the catcher and umpire. It was a baseball game!)

“Alright I’ve got one more for you.

SLIDE: Puzzle 3

“What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?”

Allow for responses. Reveal answer. Optional: offer some sort of prize to the person who gets the answer correct.

SLIDE: Puzzle 3 Answer (SHORTER)

“You are kicking yourself now, right? Short . . . add two letters, it becomes shorter? Get it? Ok, well, now that our brains are thoroughly puzzled, let’s clear the cobwebs with today’s talk!”

Begin Rundown...

“Ok, so as ridiculous as those brain puzzle were, they’re actually not so far off some of the questions we face in life—we do all face difficult questions that don’t seem to have any answer to them at all. Or at least they seem like questions too big for an answer.

Sometimes we may even face moments when we’re not sure how to ask the question in the first place. When we have questions like that, things can seem pretty hopeless. So what should we do? Thankfully, we’re not the first people in the course of history who faced really tricky, confusing times in life. We’re not the first to ask hard questions. In fact, as we’ll see today, even the people who hung out with Jesus had some big questions and faced some serious doubts. We can learn from their experience and discover how we can respond when we have questions of our own. Let’s check this out together.”

“Today we head back to the Gospels, immediately after Jesus’ resurrection where we left off last week on Easter. You might remember Mary Magdalene had been to the tomb where she encountered the risen Jesus. She ran to tell the disciples what she had seen, but they would certainly experience it for themselves soon enough. Let’s check out this week’s Episode for more!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:00)

“You know, there is one more thing that Jesus said to Thomas that is really interesting to read as followers of Jesus here today.”

Open the Bible to John 20:29 (NIRV) and read.

“Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed.””

“Do you realize that is us? None of us have ever SEEN Jesus. We haven’t touched the wounds in His wrists or side. We haven’t sat across the table from Him and enjoyed a meal. And, yet, many of us still believe. We truly believe that Jesus is our Savior. That is the sort of faith Jesus is looking for.

“This doesn’t mean that you won’t face times, like Thomas, when you just have questions. Or maybe you’ll even find something hard to believe. You might go through a really tough time and it leaves you with questions. First of all, you need to know that having questions is totally normal. It’s ok to have questions, even big, difficult, hard to answer questions. It’s part of being a human. But more than that, God is not scared of those questions, not even one little bit. Let your questions lead you to Jesus. God is bigger than any question you can have. And if anyone can handle them, God can!

“God can bring people into your life to help work through your questions and doubts. People in your family, a pastor here at church, a friend, or your Small Group Leader. If you have a question, reach out to one of them or a trusted adult. Don’t be afraid to ask your questions.”

“Today as you head to Small Group, think about a question about questions.”

SLIDE: Key Question Slide

“**What questions do you have for God?** Think about it. If you could ask God about anything, what would it be? Don’t hold back. Remember that God is bigger than any question you might have. You’ll have a chance to share and talk more about these questions when you go to Small Groups. For now, though, let’s pray and ask God to help us find hope even when we have questions that seem too big to answer. And let’s thank God for Jesus who made a way for us to have hope no matter what! Let’s pray.”

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