

Alley Rundown—April 3rd, 2022

Today's Bible Story: You Raise Me Up (Lazarus Raised) • *John 11:1-45*

Today's Key Question: How do you react when bad things happen?

Today's Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

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!" begins in a few 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!"

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

ICE-BREAKER ACTIVITY: "Search and Find"

Supplies Needed: Note Cards and Pens

"Hey, everyone! I am so excited for another month here in The Alley. Let's kick off the month of April right with a little challenge that will test your skills of observation. How many of you used to rule those 'search and finds' or word searches in school when you were younger? Yeah, me too! Well, we have a 'search and find' to top them all. But we think you're all pretty smart, so we're NOT giving you the words ahead of time. When the slide comes on the screen, write down as many of the words you can find. There are NINE specific words we are looking for you to find. You'll have two minutes to see how many you can find. Let's see who can get them all."

Each kid needs a note card and a pen.

"Okay, be sure not to yell the answers out loud. And here comes the slide. And go!"

SLIDE: Search and Find Blank

After two minutes, call stop to reveal answers.

"Alright, let's see if anyone got all nine. Cheer if you got this first answer."

SLIDE: Answer #1: SICK (highlighted)

Go through the rest of the answers.

SLIDE: Answer #2: LAZARUS

SLIDE: Answer #4: JESUS

SLIDE: Answer #3: SISTERS

SLIDE: Answer #5: TOMB

SLIDE: Answer #6: RISE

SLIDE: Answer #7: BELIEVE

SLIDE: Answer #8: WEPT

“Did anyone get ALL nine? *(Pause for response)* Awesome job, everyone. Looking at those words, I’m pretty sure we’ll see some of them a bit later. But for now, let’s get started with our talk today!”

Begin Rundown...

“I’m so excited to begin another month together. Alright . . . now how many of you like puzzles? But are you fast at puzzles? How about if I were to ask you to complete a 10,000 piece puzzle without the picture on the box? Would that be hard? *(Allow response)* For sure. Without the picture, you hardly know where to start. You can’t tell where the pieces go. It takes forever to see how the pieces fit together to form a recognizable image.”

“This happens if we’re creating a puzzle without a guide. But have you ever felt that way in life? Hear me out. Throughout our lives sometimes we face moments that make no sense at all. They can be big things like all that’s happened these past two or three years with COVID-19. Or not-as-big things like not doing as well on a test you thought you’d get an ‘A’ on. While we’re experiencing them, we have no idea how they fit into the bigger picture of our lives. When we can’t see the bigger picture, we may start to feel like the situation is hopeless. We feel lost or confused. We may get frustrated or even angry. We might have no clue what to do next and have a whole lot of questions. When we face situations like this and don’t know where to turn, we should remember that we’re not alone. Lots of people feel this way, even people we read about in the Bible. When we read their stories, we can learn from their experience and how it can help us in ours. Let’s head to one story that has a lot to do with unexpected situations that are hard to understand.

“We find ourselves in the one of the Gospels today. The Gospels are the first books of the New Testament. The authors of the Gospels tell us all about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Now, as many of you already know, Jesus had close followers He called disciples, who were kind of like students. Jesus was also close to those He considered friends, like one particular family that lived just outside of Jerusalem in a town called Bethany. This is where our story begins. Let’s check out what the Gospel author, John, says about Jesus’ friends.”

Open the Bible to John 11:1 (NIRV) and read.

“*A man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived.*”

“So here we are introduced to the family. There were two sisters . . .”

SLIDE: Answer #3: SISTERS

“Mary and Martha. They had a brother named . . . *(Pause for response.)*”

SLIDE: Answer #2: LAZARUS

“Lazarus, right. And from the very start of the story, we learn something about Lazarus. What is that? *(Pause for response.)*”

SLIDE: Answer #1: SICK

“Lazarus was sick. John doesn’t tell us why or how, but it definitely seems like Lazarus was in really bad shape. Mary and Martha weren’t sure what to do. So do you know who they sent for?”

SLIDE: Answer #4: JESUS

“Right! In their moment of need, they could only think of one Person to call on. Check this out.”

Open the Bible to John 11:3 (NIRV) and read.

“So the sisters sent a message to Jesus. “Lord,” they told him, “the one you love is sick.”

“But then something a little strange happened. Check it out with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 15:00)

“Obviously, this story is pretty incredible. I keep coming back to how Jesus said, ‘This sickness will not end in death,’ but then later in the story Lazarus was in a tomb. This all must have seemed quite confusing. And then both Mary and Martha told Jesus things would have been different if He had been there before Lazarus died. I have a feeling many of us wonder the same thing. There are times when we want to see this full beautiful picture! Our life mapped out in a beautiful photograph or painting. But instead, we really can only see a small part of the big picture.”

“There are times when we can’t see the full picture. We don’t understand how the pieces are supposed to fit together because we really don’t understand what God is doing. Something bad might happen in our lives, and we think that’s the final picture. Maybe you end up having to move schools in the middle of the year, and it is really hard to leave your friends. And at the same time, you just can’t see how that piece could fit into a bigger picture. Or maybe you experience some loss, you find yourself like Mary and Martha, wishing God would have done something. It is just so hard to see a bigger picture. But a story like this can remind us that in these difficult moments, we can have hope. We can have hope, because God knows the final picture. We can believe that God is good and can be trusted. Our circumstances might not change, but God’s love for us never changes. We can find comfort in that.

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

SLIDE: Key Question Slide

“**How do you react when bad things happen?** Maybe we react a certain way because we can’t see the bigger picture at the time. Maybe it depends on who’s around us or how we expect God to work. We have all sorts of ways to respond to the circumstances that happen in our lives and to those we love. Our hope in God can help us respond well. You’ll talk more about this when you get to Small Group. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus to show us just how hopeful we can be in life. 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