

Alley Rundown—May 1st, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Start Spreading the News (Great Commission and Spread of the Gospel) • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1 and 2*

Today's Key Question: When have you felt alone?

Today's Bottom Line: God is always with you

Monthly Memory Verse: *But those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NIRV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“What’s up, everyone? It is so good to have all of you joining us today. Whenever we get to gather in one big room, it’s a great day. Why? Because we’re together! Being alone is tough!”

“Think to yourself about the past few years or so. Have there ever been times you have felt so alone in what you were doing that you wanted to give up? Maybe you were the kid walking into a new school in a new town. Maybe you fumbled the football on your flag football team and the other team scored the game-winning touchdown. Maybe your mom asked you to clean the bathroom, without any help!

“Whatever these moments might look like for you, we can’t escape them. They will happen from time to time. We’ll feel completely on our own, and it will be hard. When that happens, what do we do? How do we face the difficult times? Do we give up or figure out how to show some resilience? Great questions!

“When we have questions like this, the first place we should turn is the Bible. Remember, the Bible was written by all sorts of people who had personal experiences with God. And God inspired them to write down those stories so we could learn from them all these years later. Let’s head to the Bible now with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:00)

“When Jesus gave the Disciples a big job to do, I can imagine some of His friends felt a little panicked about the uncertainty and maybe overwhelmed. I’m sure they couldn’t imagine doing this without Jesus to help them. However, Jesus didn’t leave His friends alone and blindfolded to complete the task. God had a plan that was much bigger than any of them could have imagined.

“Jesus promised to send some help for this big job. In Acts 1, we read what He said.”

Open the Bible to Acts 1:4a (NIRV) and read.

““Do not leave Jerusalem . . . Wait for the gift my Father promised.”

Continue with Acts 1:8 (NIRV) and read.

““But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will tell people about me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria. And you will even tell other people about me from one end of the earth to the other.”

“After this, Jesus was taken up to heaven. With that, the disciples were without Jesus by their side, and they had a huge job to work on. But just as Jesus told them, the disciples waited in Jerusalem. At this time, one of the major festivals was happening in Jerusalem called Pentecost. And within a short time, they discovered how Jesus would give them His power.

“In Acts, we read:”

Open the Bible to Acts 2:2-4a (NirV) and read.

“Suddenly a sound came from heaven. It was like a strong wind blowing. It filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something that looked like fire in the shape of tongues. The flames separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

“If that wasn’t enough, because of the Holy Spirit, many of Jesus’ followers were able to speak and understand languages they had not known before! This turned out to be pretty important. During Pentecost, Jews traveled from all over the world, filling the streets with families and festivities. These people spoke many languages from wherever they lived. They were hearing their own languages spoken! A huge crowd gathered. Sure enough, Peter, one of Jesus’ close friends, began to address the crowd. He told them about Jesus and what He had done. **God’s Spirit was so powerful that 3,000 people believed in Jesus and were baptized that day!**

“The early church grew quickly. The believers shared their lives—studying, worshiping, and eating together. Sure, they had challenges, but the believers knew that the power of God’s Spirit could carry them through anything! Obviously, this doesn’t mean life will be perfect and without challenges. But it does mean we don’t have to face them alone.”

“This can be difficult to think about; that’s why I’m really excited you get to spend some time talking through this with your small groups. As you head to groups in just a moment, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

“When have you felt alone?” Like it or not, every single person in the room will face challenges throughout their lives. Some of you may be dealing with something hard right now. We believe your small groups can be the best place to explore this topic more. You’re not alone. God is with you, and we are, too! Before we head out, let’s pray and thank God for sending us the Holy Spirit to help us face whatever life throws at us. Let’s pray.

Communicator leads 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