

Alley Rundown—May 8th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Go the Distance (Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin) • Acts 3:1-4:21

Today's Key Question: When have you decided to keep going?

Today's Bottom Line: Keep going even when it gets tough

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 (NIV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“Hey, everybody. Wow, I’m so glad each of you have made it to The Alley today. Some of you just experienced an incredible week. Maybe you won the baseball tournament yesterday, or you nailed your first piano recital solo. If I just described your week, good for you! It would be so awesome if everyone’s week has been perfect. Unfortunately, that isn’t always the case. Chances are some of you might have had a more difficult week. Maybe you didn’t do as well as you thought you would math test. Maybe you learned a friend is moving away this summer. Maybe you just felt down and not motivated to do anything. These can be hard weeks for sure.”

NOTE: For the next part of the script, you’ll tell a personal story of giving up. The following is an example of the type of story to tell. Alternatively, you can share the following story as a hypothetical situation.

“In fact, I’ve faced some hard weeks, too! Growing up, I had a younger brother. There were moments growing up he was pretty cool. But most of the time, I thought he was a little annoying. Why? Because he always wanted to do what I was doing. If I was gaming, he would want to play the game against me. Of course, I let him play with me sometimes, and of course I always won. But other times I just wanted to play alone. If my friends and I were playing a board game, he would want to join in. Again, I always won. In fact, I don’t recall my younger brother ever beating me in anything . . . except this one time.

“In our backyard, we had a large concrete pad with a basketball hoop. I spent many hours working on my jump shot. This one time I was feeling nice and let my little brother play with me. He insisted we play one-on-one. I didn’t mind beating him one more time, so I obliged. However, this time was different. My brother was shooting lights out. In fact, he didn’t miss a single shot. His layups, jumpers, and even his ugly trick shots were all finding their way through the basketball net. Nothing, and I do mean NOTHING, was going my way. I dribbled the ball off my foot out-of-bounds. My brother blocked one of my layups. I would attempt to steal the ball and get burned in the process. Near the end of the game, it was plain to see he was going to beat me. And can I be honest really quick? I couldn’t bear the thought of losing to my little brother. It would be a dark stain on my big brother resume that would be unbearable. So—I did the unthinkable. I gave up. Actually, I drop kicked the basketball into the neighbor’s yard before we could finish the game. There was no WAY I was gonna let my brother ACTUALLY beat me.”

“Yeah, this was not my finest moment. Losing to my brother in basketball caused me to do something I rarely admit to doing—give up. I was in a situation that was not going my way and punting the basketball as hard as I could seemed like the best option.

In that moment, I did not have the resilience to keep playing. Nothing in me wanted to finish the game or even bounce back for a rematch. I was done.

“Of course, something like that feels silly—a pick-up ball game with a sibling. But what about a situation that feels more significant? Many of you have faced difficulties throughout your lives, and those moments were overwhelming. Sometimes facing hardships can feel like getting knocked down with no way to get back up.”

“Nobody desires to be knocked down in life, but it’s in those hard seasons when you had to make the conscious decision to either quit or persevere.”

“What are the things you face at school or at home that make you want to give up? We all have experienced and will continue to experience these moments, but when those experiences occur, how should you respond? Is giving up an acceptable response?”

“These are difficult questions to answer and require a fair amount of wisdom. Anytime I have big questions like this, I love to turn to the Bible. I’m really excited you’re here as we will look at a time when a couple of guys we read about in the New Testament who faced a difficult situation and were forced to decide if they should give up or keep going. Let’s check it out now with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:30)

“As you reflect on your life, I imagine you’ve had some really great moments full of fun and laughter. But you’ve also had moments of sadness and difficulty. I’d guess many of you decided to keep going during the hardship, even if you wanted to give up. As we head to our small groups, we want you to think about this one question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“**When have you decided to keep going?** Maybe it was a long time ago, or maybe it was last week. When did you decide to get back up after life knocked you down? I’m really excited about the conversations you are about to have with your Small Groups! Let’s pray and ask God for the strength to show resilience when we’re feeling knocked down. 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