

## Alley Rundown—June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Today's Bible Story:** What Is Love? (We Love Because God Loved Us) • 1 John 4:9-13

**Today's Key Question:** How can you love others like God does?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Love others because God loves you.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself.* Galatians 5:22-23a (NIRV)

**CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos**

**CG: Summer JAM Slide**

*"Summer JAM is coming up very soon and we're so excited to invite you to 3 nights jam-packed with FUN and Adventure! You won't want to miss it. Visit the Summer Jam Tents after our time together today to sign up!"*

"Hi, everyone! I've got an idea: let's make a few lists of things you love! We'll do it by category. Let's start with . . . Foods. What foods do you all love?"

*Take answers from the group. Then share an odd food craving that you loved when you were younger, something similar to the following paragraph.*

"When I was your age, I loved putting Doritos on my sandwiches. My mom always put both in my lunch, but I would open up the sandwich, spread out the Doritos like pepperoni, then eat the whole thing that way. And only Cool Ranch Doritos. All other flavors are inferior."

"What about movies? What movies do you love? (*Write down responses*). What YouTubers do you love? MrBeast? Mark Rober? That one guy who uses a hydraulic press to crush everything? (*Write down responses*.) Last one, what about mobile or video games? Which ones do you absolutely love?"

"Okay, so it's obvious we love all kinds of things. Pizza, Marvel movies, Minecraft, getting our nails done, just to name a few.

"How about people? I'm not just talking about people in your family; you kind of *have* to love those people by default, even though your brother or sister might frustrate you from time to time. No, I'm talking about PEOPLE, OTHERS, in the general sense. Like, we SAY that we love others; in fact, that's what Jesus tells us we should do. But what does it mean to LOVE others? After all, some people are hard to love. And even the people we WANT to love, we might not know how to even do that.

"Since this is something Jesus talked about, it's definitely an important question to figure out. Thankfully, we can look in the Bible and discover more about what it means to love others the way God loves us. Let's head there now with the help of this week's Episode!"

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:00)**

"Jesus. At the perfect moment in history, God sent Jesus. Jesus was the perfect messenger at the perfect time, and He showed everyone what it truly meant to love God and be loved BY God. Not only that, but a huge part of Jesus' message was about how to show God's love to others. Check this out:

*Open the Bible to 1 John 4:9-13 (NIRV) and read.*

*“Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him. Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another. No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us. Here’s how we know that we are joined to him and he to us. He has given us his Holy Spirit.”*

“God sent Jesus because He loved us. At its most basic level, God’s love is a gift. When you think more about it, it’s also a template, or an example, of what love actually, truly is. God loved us, so God gave.

“Since God loves you that much, you can ‘make waves’ by showing love to others. You can totally apply that to your lives. You can show others you love them by giving. Time, talent, first controller on the Switch, a better seat at the movies, whatever. Love is all about giving. Plain and simple. At its core, it’s treating others how you want to be treated, but it’s more than that. You show love by giving without thought or expectation of return.

“God loved you enough to send Jesus to the world. Jesus showed how great His love was by giving His life for your sins. When you believe in Jesus, not only do you have a relationship with God that lasts forever, but God gives you the Holy Spirit to help you through life.

“Remember, No one has ever seen God. But if we love one another, God lives in us. His love is made complete in us. It’s right there in 1 John 4:12. Other people can see God through US when we show them love. And that love will spread.

“As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

**SLIDE: Key Question**

**“How can you love others like God does?** How can you give like God gives? How can you care like God cares? If you’re not sure how to answer that, don’t worry. You’ll talk more about that when you get to Small Group. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus. Let’s ask God to help us figure out how we can love others! Let’s pray.”

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

## **Offering:**

“All Summer we are giving our offering to help dig water wells in the Country of Malawi! When you bring your offering each week, it will go to making sure that the people of Malawi will be able to have clean water to drink, cook with, and more. So if you brought your offering, you can bring it up now!”

**CG: Malawi Wells Pictures**