

Alley Rundown—July 17th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Have a Little Faith in Me (David and Jonathan) • 1 Samuel 18–20, 2 Samuel 9 (Supporting: 2 Samuel 4:4)

Today's Key Question: How can you be someone people can count on?

Today's Bottom Line: Be faithful so others can count on you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God began a good work in you. And I am sure that he will carry it on until it is completed. That will be on the day Christ Jesus returns.* Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“Hello, everyone! Question for you as we get started today: do you ever think about friends and friendship? Think about your own. Maybe you have a huge group of friends you hang out with. Others might only have a few close friends. And some of you might say that you have one best friend and only a few people you like hanging out with from time to time. I've found that as I've gotten older you end up with only a few friends who you'd tell your biggest secrets to without worrying whether or not they'd blab them to others. Even now, I'm totally ok with having only a few close friends, especially because I know my friends are people I can trust with anything!

“What about you? What kinds of things make for a really good friend?”

Take responses.

“Excellent responses. Now for the flip-side. When are friends not so great? What are characteristics of a friend you might want not want to hang out with?”

Take responses.

“Yeah, if I knew someone like that I think it'd be hard to be friends with them, too.”

“Let's think about these lists for a bit. When you compare them to each other, they're almost opposite, right? (*Use positive traits.*) On one hand people who are kind and generous might listen to your problems, help you when you need it, and keep their promises.

“On the other hand, (*Use negative traits.*) people can let you down. They can 'forget' to invite you to their party. They talk behind your back. They ghost you when you need a listening ear, and break their promises.

“In short, 'good' friends are people you can count on for things. This probably isn't new information to you. Even at your age, you know the difference between good friends who have your back and not-so-good friends who don't. We know which one we should be for others, but my question to you this morning is this: how come we often don't choose to be that sort of person—a person who can be counted on?”

“Maybe you are an incredible friend: You say what you mean and mean what you say. You are kind and thoughtful to other people. You the type of person that other people can count on. Or maybe you're the opposite of that. Or maybe you're not the worst sort of friend, you just don't always choose to treat others the way you want to be treated.

“Either way, we can all learn how to be people who others can count on. But I guess the next question is HOW do we do that? How can we—more often than not—become someone who other people can rely on? On top of that, WHY is it such a big deal to be true to your word?”

“These are definitely great questions to think about, and thankfully we can discover some answers when we crack open this. (*Hold up the Bible.*) This book is full of truth, written by people who experienced God firsthand. It’s the coolest form of time travel, when you think about it—we’re learning and experiencing things that happened thousands of years ago! Let’s check it out with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 15:00)

“What an amazing story, right? David and Jonathan were faithful friends throughout the worst of circumstances. Can you imagine if you had a friend like David? Or even a friend like Jonathan? Or imagine if you could be a friend to someone else like David or Jonathan were friends to each other! Faithful and loyal to the very end. Like Steve Rogers was with Bucky. ‘I’m with you to the end of the line.’ Or Samwise with Frodo in Lord of the Rings.

“The truth is that with God’s help we can absolutely be that kind of friend to others. An easy way to start is to try talking to them and not about them. Speak well of people when they’re not there. But also, be faithful to them. Keep your promises and don’t flake out. Keep confidences when your friends trust you with things.

“Being a faithful friend simply means that you show others that you can be counted on. And honestly, we don’t have to look much further than Jesus. Jesus was faithful to the job God had for Him. He is faithful in His love for us. Jesus proved we can trust God no matter what. We can always count on God in all things—even to help us be faithful friends to the people in our life.”

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

SLIDE: Key Question

“How can you be someone people can count on?” Think about your friends, your close friends, right now. What can you do to show them that 1) they’re valuable, and 2) you can be trusted and counted on? How can you focus on them, listening to what they need, instead of always fighting for what you want? How can you find the strength to step out of the way and support them in whatever they need?

“You’ll talk more about this with your Small Group, but before you head out, let’s pray and ask God to help us be faithful to the people in our life. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING:

As you may know, all this Summer we are raising money to dig water wells in the Country of Malawi. When you bring your offering in, not only are you showing Kindness, but you are also helping many people in Malawi to have clean water to drink and cook with. So if you brought offering today, you can bring it up now!

CG: Malawi Wells Pictures