

Alley Rundown—August 21st, 2022

Today's Bible Story: No Matter What (The Fall) • Genesis 3 (*supporting: Genesis 2:15-17; The Gospels*)

Today's Key Question: Who has loved you even when you've messed up?

Today's Bottom Line: God loves us no matter what.

Monthly Virtue: Love—Showing others how much they matter to you

Monthly Memory Verse: *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.* 1 John 4:10 (NirV)

Dude Perfect Filler Videos

“Alley, I’m so glad to see you all here today! I have a question for you...how many of you have ever read, watched, or heard a story that totally threw you for a loop? (*Allow Response*)

At first, you might’ve thought you knew where the story was headed. Judging by the plot and the characters, things may have made sense to go a certain way. However, things don’t always go as planned, do they? Stories take a turn. Choices turn out to be different than we thought.

“And this happens regularly in real life, too, doesn’t it? You might think you know how you’d act in a certain situation, but when you get there, you might act a completely different way. And sometimes, we know how we’re supposed to act, yet sometimes we do the exact opposite! Why is that? What is wrong with us?”

“Our story picks up right where we left off last week—and if you weren’t here, God has just created the earth, the sky, the heavens, all of the plants, animals, fish, birds, water, day, night, the whole deal—and then God created humans, man and woman.

“The setting is the Garden of Eden. The characters? Adam and Eve. The plot? Adam and Eve were to live in the Garden, walk and talk with God, and enjoy peace, harmony, and paradise.

“But as you just witnessed . . . the story doesn’t turn out exactly like you might think. Let’s begin!

“God created the entire universe out of a deep, deep love and then filled it with an explosion of creativity and life.

SLIDE: Truth Image 1

“Into that world, people were created in God’s image. God wanted a relationship with people. The people had the job of loving and caring for the world that God made. God placed these first humans, Adam and Eve, in a beautiful garden called Eden. It was theirs to enjoy as they cared for the world.

SLIDE: Truth Image 2

“Even though Adam and Eve were tasked with caring and ruling over the garden and all of the creatures within, who was totally in charge here?”

Pause for responses.

“Exactly . . . God was. God created everything, including the people. So as God created humans to thrive and shine in this beautiful garden, God also gave them some instructions to follow.

Open the Bible to Genesis 2:16-17 (NirV) and read.

“The LORD God gave the man a command. He said, “You may eat fruit from any tree in the garden. But you must not eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you do, you will certainly die.””

“How many of you would be like, ‘OK, hold up a second. Tree of good and evil? What’s good? And furthermore, what’s evil? Why can’t I eat that particular tree?’ TONS of questions, I’m guessing. However, let’s focus on a few facts: Did God provide them other things to eat? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! Every tree. Fruits, nuts, vegetables, a whole spread. Every tree except for one. There was one important tree that was off limits, but the rest was for them!

SLIDE: Truth Image 3

“What was with this tree? What made it so special?”

“This tree, other than being a cool looking tree with interesting fruit, was a sign of love and trust. God was telling them right away that this tree was not for them, and He was asking them to trust Him. ‘Trust Me about the tree; you don’t want it,’ God was saying. ‘Love Me enough to leave the tree alone. Believe I will care for you and that you don’t need this tree.’

“But all it took was one, simple conversation to turn this story in a different direction. Let’s pause and find out what happens next with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:00)

“Did you know that Jesus is sometimes known as ‘The Second Adam?’ Where Adam fell short, Jesus stood tall.

“Jesus was tempted by the same deceiver in the desert for 40 days, but He didn’t give in.

“Where Adam and Eve disobeyed God and took matters into their own hands, Jesus followed every command of His heavenly Father for His entire life.

“When Adam and Eve heard God, they hid, ashamed. Jesus is God’s Son and called out to the shamed and the hidden, teaching them, healing them, and leading them.

“Adam and Eve went to a tree and found death. Jesus hung crucified on a tree and found life everlasting for all of us.

“God was fixing that story that was messed up so long ago. He was fixing our story. He never stopped loving people—and Jesus made a way to bring people back to God again!

“And, you know what? I don’t want you to EVER forget how much God loves you. There will be times when each of us messes up—just like Adam and Eve did.

“And just like when God never stopped loving Adam and Eve, God never stops loving us!

Jesus is the greatest proof of this. Jesus came to bring us, all of us, back to God. And God is also making a way for us to have right relationships with one another again. We get to live by a much better story—the story that God is now telling through Jesus!”

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

SLIDE: Key Question

“**Who has loved you even when you’ve messed up?** Think on that for a moment. We’ve all messed up. We’ve all fallen short. We’ve all made decisions that we wished we didn’t. But who has forgiven us for all of our mess-ups? And more to the point, if you can think of something specific or a specific time it’s happened, *how did you feel?* You’ll discuss this further in your Small Groups, but before we go, let’s pray. Let’s let God know how we’ve messed up. Let’s tell God about the times when we’ve fallen short and thank Jesus for taking on our sins and shortcomings so that we might be forgiven. 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, you are helping many people in Malawi to have clean water to drink and cook with. So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!”

CG: Malawi Wells Pictures

CG: Malawi Wells Video (Runtime: 2:00)