

Alley Rundown—August 28th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: I Choose You (God Chooses Abram) • Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6

Today's Key Question: When have you made a plan?

Today's Bottom Line: God has a plan to show love to the world.

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

“Welcome, welcome, welcome to The Alley! It's the last weekend of the month, and we've saved something super cool for you. Before we get to it, I have a question. Have you ever had to step out of your comfort zone and do something that felt . . . risky? Or uncomfortable? Or maybe even downright scary?”

Take a few stories as you have time. Share a personal story of risking something or trying something new. It could be a story about being somewhere out of your comfort zone or having to make a choice that made you feel uncomfortable or scared.

“Unexpected things happen. There's a famous saying about it that says 'expect the unexpected.' Even the Boy Scouts' motto is, “Be prepared.” Life happens, things change, and it's not always what we expect or even what we want. Whenever unexpected things happen, they don't really seem like part of the plan, do they? But what if they *could* be seen as part of the plan? What if the thing you thought was so unexpected was exactly what needed to happen to get you where you needed to go in the first place?

“Good question. Let's look to see what we can learn from someone in the Bible who had something unexpected happen to them, too.

“Our story today is from Genesis, and wow, does this story take a hard left turn. But to move forward with the story today, we first need to look back. If you've been here the past few weeks you might remember how we discovered that God created the world and everything within it, and God saw that it was good, pleasing—paradise even. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden until they ate the fruit of the tree and disobeyed God's instructions. Sin entered the world, and people no longer had a perfect relationship with God or with each other.

“The sin that entered the world began to spread and work its way into everything. As always though, God had a plan, a plan to show mankind just how much He loves them and how committed He still is to the world and to the people He has made. And that plan started with a guy named Abram. You might know him as Abraham.

Open the Bible to Genesis 12:1 (NIRV) and read.

“‘The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father's family. Go to the land I will show you.”’

“No introduction. No, ‘Hey, how you doing Abe?’ Just, ‘Go.’ Leave everything—your homeland, your comfort, your security, and your safety.

“Understand this: in the ancient world there was no police or home security systems. You had to depend on other people, other members of your tribe to protect you and carry out justice if you were wronged. God was asking Abram to do something really big—to leave the security of the tribe and go it alone. Plus, we don't even know if Abram really knew much about God yet!

“So God spoke to Abram and asked him to leave everything without even telling Abram where he was going. Wow. I wonder how this is going to end up. Let’s head to this week’s Episode to find out!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 15:00)

“Abram and Sarai eventually *did* have a son. God made good on His promise. And the son’s name? Isaac. It means ‘laughter.’ Sarai named Isaac “laughter” because it was so funny that God had given her a baby even though she was super-old. Tell me God doesn’t have a sense of humor.

“When God has a plan, nothing can get in the way of that plan. But the hard part is we may not always be able to understand it. Things get delayed. There are wrong or seemingly wrong turns. There are ‘unexpected stops’ in the plan. I’m sure Abram had a lot of unexpected moments when he had to consider if he heard wrong or took a wrong turn. But in the end God was leading Abram right where He wanted him to be. God had a plan to show His love to the entire world. All Abram had to do was trust. And eventually, Jesus came from Abram’s family and completely blessed the world with the gift of His own life!

“Maybe you have had an unexpected stop along the way—a time that is hard for you to understand what God might be doing or how He could use it. Maybe you had to move away from the friends you loved to a new place to start over. Maybe you suffered an injury in the middle of a successful sport season. Maybe you hit a rough patch when it seemed like nothing was easy and it made you feel down. Sometimes our plans don’t go, well, as planned—and sometimes what we are experiencing seems like it makes no sense. In the midst of that, look for what it means to trust God, but also look at what it means to show love to Him and the people around you. It is possible that you ended up where you are for that very reason!”

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

SLIDE: Key Question

“**When have you made a plan?** And furthermore, what happens when the plans you’ve made don’t go according to plan? What happens when God interrupts your plans and takes you in a completely different direction? How do you respond? You’ll dig into these questions and more in your Small Group, but before we head there, let’s pray. Let’s let God know that you will trust and follow. God will lead you where you need to go. 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