

Alley Rundown—September 11th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Liquid (Isaac's Wells) • *Genesis 26:1-22; 26-31*

Today's Key Question: How do you react when things don't go your way?

Today's Bottom Line: Trust God no matter what

Monthly Memory Verse: *Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 (NirV)*

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

"Hey, everybody! So glad to see you all here today. So...when I was younger, I loved the fall because it always brought the County Fair into town. Sure, the rides were sketchy and the food was greasy, but I didn't care. It was a place for my friends and me to run free and have fun. My favorite part of the County Fair were the carnival games where you had the chance to win those really big stuffed animals that NOBODY WINS! Does anybody know what I'm talking about? *(Pause for response.)*

"Kind of like life, right?! We walk into situations thinking they will be a cinch, but they turn out to be much more difficult! You started this school year thinking it would be a breeze until you learned your best friend is moving to another state. That's really hard! You walk into the football game confident but leave the game early with a painful injury. This is NOT the outcome you wanted! Difficult situations occur unexpectedly all the time. When they happen, where do you go for support? Who do you trust during hard situations? Friends? Your parents? A teacher? And what about God? When you're getting thwarted in difficult situations, how do you trust God?

"Sure, it's easy to trust God when life is smooth! When you score the big shot, pass the hard test, or learn your aunt's cancer is in remission, it isn't difficult to trust God! But it's a much different story when you're facing a serious situation. Some of us may turn inward and retreat from others. Some may distract ourselves by staying busy with sports. Some may go straight to our best friends. But what if we really trusted and talked to God even when life becomes difficult?

"Wow. That's a big question. Thankfully, we have a big book full of other books that can offer us some help. You probably know that I'm talking about the Bible. The Bible is full of all sorts of different writings that show us how God was faithful to so many people. They trusted God. God inspired them to write down what they learned so we can trust God too. Let's check out this one story right now with the help of this week's Episode!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:00)

"Wasn't Isaac's story interesting? There was a season when life was going pretty well. The crops were sprouting! The livestock herds were growing! The neighbors were peaceful. However, three different times, Isaac was forced to pack up his family and everything he owned to move.

"That would have been really hard! Yes, Isaac could have fought back and resisted the Philistines! However, this could have caused an ongoing conflict between the Isaac and the Philistines. Instead, Isaac trusted God no matter what. As a result, the Philistine King showed up to make peace!"

“Isaac’s story reminds me to trust God even when I face difficulties. I doubt your neighbors will force you out of your house because they want your water, but you might get sick before the piano recital. Your science test might prove to be more difficult than you prepared. The hardships you face matter, and how you respond in those moments matters, too. It’s so important during our toughest times that we can trust God in ALL situations. We can turn to God when we don’t know what to do! We can turn to God when we don’t know what to say! Your situation might not turn around as quickly as you’d like, but God will be with you and can comfort you with love throughout it.”

“In The Alley, we believe there is no person or thing more important than God! One of the best reasons you can trust God is because God sent Jesus for you and me! When you put your faith in Jesus, it shows that you trust God!”

“God never promises life will be easy even if you put your faith in Jesus! However, God does promise to never leave you. As we wrap up large group, we want you to think about this one question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“**How do you react when things don’t go your way?** What does it mean to trust God in those situations? These might be difficult questions for you to answer. That’s ok. How to trust God is something we learn throughout our entire lives! I’m still learning it, too! You’ll talk more about all of this in Small Group, too. As we head there, let’s pray and ask God for help working together with others. 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 TIME:

Who?:

Eli and Mandy Garcia

Vida Nueva Ministries in Piedras Negras, Mexico.

I want to remind everyone about the new mission our Alley offering will be supporting. We have global partners in Mexico and their mission is called Vida Nueva. Vida Nueva has built an entire set of schools in the city of Piedras Negras, where kids of all backgrounds can come and learn. They also receive meals and hear about Jesus. They are kids just like you, and they get the support they need from our partnership with Eli and Mandy Garcia.

Vida Nueva also starts churches in many of the cities in Mexico. That’s why when you bring your offering in this month, you are helping people in Mexico learn how much Jesus loves them.