

Alley Rundown—September 18th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Fall Asleep (Jacob's Dream) • *Genesis 28:10-22 (supporting: Genesis 25:19-34; 27)*

Today's Key Question: Why are plans important?

Today's Bottom Line: You can trust that God has a plan.

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, everyone! It is really good to see you this morning dressed nicely with your hair combed and shoes on. Each of you seem ready for our time in The Alley! This tells me your plans of waking up, getting dressed, grabbing a bite to eat, and heading to church have been achieved! Few things get me excited like a successfully executed plan.

"Every day we accomplish tons of tasks through a plan. For example, if we want to improve our morning breath, what can we do? *(Pause for response.)* Right! We can brush our teeth with toothpaste. If we are hungry, what do we do? *(Pause for response.)* Correct! We grab a massive bowl and fill it to the top with ice cream with a sprinkle of beans! If we want to have some fun, what could you do? *(Pause for response.)* No doubt! We play Blindfolded Beans with our most trusted friends!

"But sometimes the plans go a little sideways and we have unexpected results. For example, after you set up your tent and campsite, you experience a sudden thunderstorm. You plan on attending your pal's birthday party by getting dressed and wrapping the present, but your mom's car won't start. You wear a pair of new shoes only to step outside for one of the rainiest, muddiest days of the year.

"Let's take a couple minutes to circle up in our Small Groups. Share a time you made a plan, but the plan didn't turn out as expected."

Allow a few minutes for Small Groups to share with each other times their plans changed. Ask for a couple of Small Group examples to be shared with the whole group.

"Those are great examples. Thanks for sharing. We all know having a plan is important. It allows us to prepare and achieve our desired outcomes. But as you've already discussed, the plans can change unexpectedly.

"When nothing is going our way, do we try to fix it ourselves? Do we find a warm blanket and curl up and cry? Or do we still trust God? CAN we still trust God when we're not satisfied with life?"

"These questions are totally fair to ponder and think about! Each of us will have plans that go awry, and some of those will be significant moments with lasting impacts. I'm really glad you're here today because we get to discover a story captured for us in the Bible that is huge reminder of how to respond in situations like this. Let's take a look with the help of this week's Episode!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 15:00)

"Wow. That was a lot. This story was dramatic with all sorts of twists and turns. Let's do a little recap. First, because he was the second born, Jacob was not entitled to the birthright, but He found a way to obtain it with a bowl of beans known as red lentil soup. The blessing from Isaac was intended for Esau, but Jacob received it with goat skin and good meat. Because of Jacob's deceit, his plans unexpectedly changed and he was forced to run for his life! But while he was fleeing, Jacob received an incredible reminder that God was still with him!"

“Plus, God promised Abraham He would bless the world through his family. Through Jacob’s vision, we can see God’s plan to fulfill this promise through Jacob.

“And do you know what? That’s exactly what happened. Hundreds of years later, Jesus was born into Jacob’s family line. Jesus was the One God promised who would offer salvation to all!

“Isn’t that incredible? Jacob was not even close to being perfect, yet God used him as one of the foundational parts of the plan! God has an ultimate plan to make things right in this world. We don’t know all the details, but we can trust the One who does! We get to join what God is doing to help change the world!

“So many times in life it’s hard to see the path ahead. When we face uncertainty or anxiety, it can be hard to know where to turn or who to trust. This story is a reminder for me that I can trust that God has a plan! When you’re in the middle of a massive fight with your friends, trust God has a plan and lean on God’s wisdom found in the Bible. When you fail to get chosen as team captain, trust God has a plan and support those who were chosen. If your parents are arguing again, trust God has a plan and call for God’s help!”

“God is in control. We don’t always get to know the details of God’s plan, but we do know God promises to make everything right in the end. As we prepare for Small Groups, think about this one question.

SLIDE: Key Question

“**Why are plans important?** This might feel like a simple question, but think about why we put so much work into planning what needs to be done. How can we trust that God’s plan is bigger than anything we could even imagine for ourselves? You’ll talk more about this in Small Group. Before we head out, let’s pray and ask God for help. Let’s thank God for always being so trustworthy! Let’s pray.”

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

OFFERING TIME:

Who?:
Eli and Mandy Garcia
Vida Nueva Ministries in Piedras Negras, Mexico

Remember, when you bring your offering in this month, you are helping people in Mexico learn how much Jesus loves them!

Unfortunately, many families in Mexico don’t have enough money for food or school, but with our help, our mission partners have built an entire set of schools! Kids just like you can come and learn- and they receive meals and hear about Jesus, too. It’s great to be partners with people all the way in Mexico to help the families in need there.