

## Alley Rundown—January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** This Desert Life (Jesus Is Tempted in the Desert) • *Luke 4:1-13 (Matthew 4:1-11)*

**Today's Key Question:** What helps you make the wise choice?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The LORD gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth.* Proverbs 2:6 (NirV)

### CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

"Hey, everyone! So good to see you! All month we've been talking about knowledge: learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do. So, I thought it would be fun to test your knowledge about just how well you know this land we call the United States.

"Here's how this will work. I'll read a fact. If you think the statement I make is true, give two big thumbs up (*demonstrate*). If you think the statement is false, make a big X with your arms (*demonstrate*). Look at your neighbors and make sure they pick something! Got it? Here we go!

"First statement: You can get a unicorn hunting license in Michigan.

"Thumbs up for true or a big X for false! Everybody pick one . . . (*wait for response*). And the answer is . . . true! That is true, people! So, if you are a unicorn, it's best to avoid Michigan.

"Second statement: Chicago, Illinois, is the location of the first pizza restaurant in the U.S.

"Thumbs up for true or big X for false! (*Wait for response*) And the answer is . . . false! It was not in Chicago; the first pizza place was in New York.

"Third statement: it's illegal to carry ice cream in your back pocket on a Sunday in Georgia.

"Thumbs up for true or big X for false! (*Wait for response*) And the answer is . . . true! Any other day of the week, though, feel free to put ice cream in your back pocket. Just not on Sundays.

"Fourth statement: Alaska had a town with a cat for a mayor.

"Thumbs up for true or big X for false! (*Wait for response*) And the answer is . . . true. Stubbs the Cat served the people of Talkeetna, Alaska, back in 2014!

"And our final statement: Texas is home to 25% of the nation's llamas.

"Thumbs up for true or big X for false! (*Wait for response*) And the answer is . . . false! It's actually Oregon. Oregon is your place for llamas.

"Great job, everyone! But you might be wondering to yourself, why did we just do that?"

"Glad you asked. I admit, those questions were VERY random. And chances are, whether you knew—

or guessed—those were true or false, knowing the answers to those questions will not have a huge impact on your life, right? A lot of the knowledge we gather over the course of our lives feels like that sometimes. We know these trivial facts about where we live, sports teams we follow, or our hobbies. This knowledge matters to us, but it doesn't really change our lives. But then there certainly are times when knowing something really does matter, especially when it comes to our relationship with God. As we've seen this month, knowing what's true can make all the difference in the world. But how does it make a difference in our lives? Why is it worth it to keep discovering what's true about God and the world around us?

"That's a great question. And when it comes to great questions, we talk about how important it is to look at the Bible when it comes to finding answers to those questions. Remember, the people who wrote the Bible had personal experiences with God and were inspired to write them down to help others to experience and learn more about God. Let's head there now with the help of this week's Episode."

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 16:00)**

"This story is wild, right? Jesus stood toe-to-toe with the devil in the desert. But I think what is even more surprising was how Jesus responded to the devil's temptations with quotes from the book of Deuteronomy. We can imagine when Jesus was memorizing Deuteronomy way back when He was a kid. He might have had wondered—like we sometimes have the thought about the math or science lesson we're learning—'I wonder how I'll ever use this?' I know that seems crazy to ask about Jesus, but just go with me on this. Jesus was a human just like us. And as a human, maybe at the time He just didn't know what learning ALL of those verses would accomplish, and yet, in this moment of temptation, He was able to pull these verses out and the truth behind them and stand upon them.

"Many of you come here week in and week out, and who knows, maybe you try and talk your parents out of making you come. Maybe you'd rather sleep in or go to a friend's house. Or when you're here, maybe there are times we're learning a story that seems like it was from a time that was SOOOO long ago that it will never matter in your life. Or if you read your Bible on your own and don't understand what you read, you wonder, 'Is this really worth trying to figure out?'

"But what if each of these stories, each of these verses, and all of the time you spend with God is shaping the way you see God and the world around you so that you can get to know and follow God better? And what if all of the knowledge you're learning is growing in your mind and heart so that on the days when you need it most God will help you remember what you've learned? What if all of it is working together to help you make that wise choice when you least expect it?

"When you find yourself in a tough spot, you might not be able to grab your Bible or ask a wise friend. Jesus couldn't. But you can still be wise by learning truth from the Bible and by trusting in what you already know to be true about God."

"Today as you go to groups, think about this:

**SLIDE: Key Question**

**"[Key Question] What helps you make the wise choice?** What have you been learning that has made a difference in the choices you've made? How can you be prepared for the next choice you need to make? Think about it, but if you're not sure how you'd answer those questions, that's okay, too.

You'll talk all about this and more with your Small Group. Before you head out, let's pray and thank God for the truth found in the Bible. Let's pray!"

*Dismiss students to their small groups after prayer, offering and SuperStart! Announcement.*

**OFFERING TIME:**

We are giving our offering to our friends in Mexico through an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries. Unfortunately, many families in Mexico don't have enough money for food or education. Vida Nueva Ministries is dedicated to overcoming poverty through education. Here is a picture of one of their amazing teachers.

**SLIDE: Teacher in Classroom**

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. Isn't that great? So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!

**CG: SuperStart! Video Promo and Slide**

"SuperStart! is coming up very soon and you won't want to miss this overnight event just for you! If you haven't gotten the card with details, pick one up on your way out, and sign up today!"