

Alley Rundown – February 12th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: All About Love (Love Your Enemies) • *Matthew 5:43-47*

Today's Key Question: When is it hard to get along with someone?

Today's Bottom Line: Show respect even when you don't get along

Monthly Memory Verse: *Do to others as you want them to do to you.* Luke 6:31 (NirV)

Dude Perfect Filler Videos

SLIDE: Theme

“What's up, everyone? I'm so glad to see that each of you made it to The Alley safely! I'm having so much fun this month as we learn some 'Road Rules' and how to Ride with respect! Let me be honest for a second; when it comes to riding with respect, we don't always get it right . . . including yours truly.

Communicator shares a personal, age-appropriate road-rage story like the following.

“When I was in college, I spent more time on my bicycle than in my car. The parking lots were a nightmare, so I rode my bike to the dining hall, the rec. center, classes, and football games—wherever I needed to get to on campus. Rain or shine, if I needed to be somewhere I used my trusty bike! One day, I was riding my bike to class but got stopped at a red-light. When the light turned green, the cross-walk indicated I could cross the road on my bike. As I crossed, a car was turning into my path but didn't see me on my bike. As they turned, they came really close to hitting me before they slammed on their brakes. As they slammed on their brakes, I heard a loud horn!

“The horn echoed in my ear. I distinctly remember seeing the driver waving their fist in the air and giving me a dirty look—completely uncalled for! I had waited on the sidewalk for the light to turn green and the crosswalk indicator to tell me when to cross. This person was in a hurry, wasn't paying attention, and was annoyed they had to wait for me. I was not in the wrong, nor did I deserve the dirty look.

“Needless to say, I didn't handle this very well. I yelled back at him, said some things I regret, and gave him an equally dirty look. I took off on my bike as fast as I could. He was wrong, but I didn't have to respond with that much anger.”

“Growing up, my mom stressed the importance of respecting others. I'm sure you've heard something similar, too. In most situations, this was easy. But other times, not so much. I often wondered if I needed to respect everyone or just those who showed me respect. For example, I wondered what respect should look like for the individual who was exceptionally rude while I was riding my bike to class. Clearly, the last thing I wanted to do was show the person respect when I heard that horn.

“But was that the best, wisest way to respond in the moment? I know I'm not the only person in this room who has been on the receiving end of some disrespect. We might not have an 'enemy,' but we all have siblings, classmates, neighbors, and teammates who we don't get along with. These are the individuals who intentionally step on your brand-new kicks. These are the classmates who laugh at your new haircut. They are the teammates who yell when you drop the ball in practice.

“When you consider how they make you feel, should we extend respect to them or not? And if we are supposed to show them respect, how do we do that? How do we protect ourselves from getting hurt but also treat those people like they're humans God cares about?

“Those are really important questions—questions that people have been talking about for thousands of years, including the people who lived when Jesus was on earth. In fact, this was something Jesus Himself talked about. And for many people, what Jesus said wasn't what they expected. In fact, it was sort of the opposite.

Let's check it out!"

Lesson Video (Runtime 14:45)

"Jesus challenged all of us to love and respect others just like He modeled for us! This is what Jesus expects of us. When we show respect to those who don't treat us well, we're actually showing the world what God is like!

"This principle Jesus taught is applicable in all situations. As we find ourselves in difficult situations with others, we don't need to seek revenge on others. Now, I'm not suggesting you stay in a situation where you are being harmed. There may be times you need to tell someone it's not okay! You may even ask for help from a caring adult to fix the situation or to protect you. But I am talking about looking at what's going on around us and choosing to respond with respect.

"I'm not pretending this is easy, but we don't have to do the hard things in life on our own. Jesus' challenge isn't always easy. But when we follow Jesus, God's Spirit lives within us to help us speak well, do well, and pray for our enemies. Plus, we can always take a deep breath and ask God for help!

"Our lives will be filled with difficult people. How we respond to those people will determine if they see our anger or see Jesus' love through our response. As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

"When is it hard to get along with someone? Is it at school or the sports field? Is it in your neighborhood or at your house? Before we get out of large group to discuss this with our Small Groups, let's pray and ask God to help us show respect and demonstrate His love in all situations. Let's pray."

Dismiss students to their small groups after praying, offering and SuperStart announcement.

OFFERING:

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 yearly event. It's an overnight event just for fourth and fifth graders in Naperville, IL, where you'll get to play games, eat pizza, make new friends, and hear an awesome message about how much Jesus loves you. Sign up today!"