

ALLEY Rundown – April 1-3, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Rise Again (Crucified and Risen) • *John 18:12–20:23 (John 16, Matthew 26)*

Today's Key Question: How do you celebrate Easter?

Today's Bottom Line: Celebrate because Jesus is alive

Monthly Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* Philippians 2:3, (NIRV)

SLIDE: Theme

"Happy Week before EASTER, everybody! Let's have a show of hands. How many of you are big fans of Easter? (*Allow response*) I agree with all of you! Easter is one of my favorite holidays because, after all, Jesus is alive! But Easter also gets me excited because of how my family has traditions to celebrate this special day.

Tell a personal Easter tradition from when you were younger.

"I'm sure lots of you have your own Easter traditions as well! Anyone want to share what they do to celebrate Easter? (*Allow for responses*)

"I love all the different ways you celebrate Easter. Did you know Easter is so much bigger than our town or state or even our country? People all over the world celebrate Easter in all sorts of different ways. For example, if you were to travel to the island of Bermuda, you'll find lots of people flying homemade kites. There's a story about a teacher in Bermuda explaining to a group of kids that Jesus' ascension to heaven looked like a kite climbing high in the sky. The community embraced this and started flying lots of kites. Pretty cool, right?

SLIDE: Image of Bermuda Kitefest

"In Florence, Italy, locals celebrate with a bang! They have a large, ornate cart packed full of fireworks. Someone leads it through the streets to a large cathedral while families dress in colorful 15th century costumes. A priest lights a long fuse and fireworks erupt from all sides of the cart! I love a good costume party with pyrotechnics!

SLIDE: Image of Scoppio del Carro

"Or how about this! If you travel to Poland for Easter weekend, you'll find a country-wide water fight. People try to soak each other with water-guns, buckets of water, water hoses, and anything else they can get their hands on during the Easter holiday! It's called Wet Monday, and wow! That sounds like a whole lot of fun!"

SLIDE: Image of Wet Monday

"When I hear about the different traditions in this crowd and all the ways Easter is celebrated across the globe, I remember that we're a part of something big! I mean HUGE! It's bigger than my family's Easter egg hunt. It's bigger than kites being flown in Bermuda. And it's bigger than the largest Polish water balloon battle. Easter celebrates something that happened for every single person, everywhere!

"Some of you are new to church. You might not know how Easter is a celebration of a Person named Jesus. Now for many of you, you've heard the Easter story before, sung songs that remember what Jesus did for us, and some have even acted out the events of that first Easter. Those who have come to the ALLEY for some time have heard us talk about the story before. Many of you know Jesus died on a cross, was buried in a tomb, but didn't stay dead! And we LOVE how so many of you believe this to be true.

"However, something really important can get lost each year in the mix of Easter egg hunts, pretty dresses, and resurrection rolls. It's a question we forget to ask ourselves to remind us of the importance of the holiday. The question is this: why is Easter so important?

“It’s a big question, one that the people who wrote down the stories about Jesus answered time and again. Let’s take a look at what they tell us about that first Easter.”

VIDEO: The So and So Show 15:44

“Jesus, the Son of God, chose to become a human and lived without sinning! Jesus walked here on earth to experience everything we do—joy and sorrow and pain and temptation, but He never did anything wrong. He was arrested on false charges. Even Pilate could find no crime committed by Jesus. The religious leaders wanted Jesus gone! With the snap of His fingers, Jesus could have had an army of angels protect Him from all harm. Regardless, Jesus chose to die in an incredibly painful way—on a cross. However, Jesus didn’t stay dead. Rather, He came back to life!

“It’s true—we are celebrating the fact that Jesus came back to life, proving He’s the Son of God! But it’s bigger than that. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the debt of our sins! When we believe in Jesus, God accepts Jesus’ perfect life in place of all the wrong we’ve done! There is nothing we’ve done to earn this gift. It’s not about our grades or our clothing or our athletic ability or our family. God offers eternal life for all who believe Jesus is the Son of God and commit their lives to following Him! As a result, we don’t have to be afraid of death anymore! It means every wrong will one day be made right again! This is reason to celebrate!”

“Each of us celebrate different occasions—birthdays, winning the tournament, dance recitals, or passing your science test! Each of those are special days to throw a party. As we get ready to head to our Small Groups, I want you to reflect on the Easter story you heard. Think about this one question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“**How do you celebrate Easter?** Is it all fun and games? Do you gather with your family? Do you take the time to consider the significance of the story? Like I said earlier, I’m really excited you are here and for the conversations you are about to have with your Small Groups! Let’s pray together and praise God that Jesus is ALIVE!”

Lead the group in a prayer.

OFFERING:

As some of you may already know, we are highlighting some of our Parkview Global Missionaries from the beautiful country of Mexico. Here is a picture of our Missionary Friends Eli and Mandy Garcia!

CG: Eli and Mandy

Parkview has spent many years developing a very important partnership with an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries in Mexico. This group has been working in many of the under-resourced areas to plant churches, start schools, and care for the amazing people of Mexico. Here’s a picture of some of the kids at the school down in Mexico.

SLIDE: Kids at School (Image 6620)

So if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now knowing that it is going to help a lot of people just like you in the great country of Mexico!

“Happy Easter everyone I sure have enjoyed hanging out with all of you today. Let’s head to Small Group!”