

Alley Rundown – May 13-15, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Level Up (The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost) • Acts 2:1-41

Today's Key Question: When have you needed help?

Today's Bottom Line: God sent the Holy Spirit to help you

Monthly Memory Verse: *So we can say boldly, 'The Lord helps me. I will not be afraid.'* (Hebrews 13:6a, NIV)

SLIDE: Theme

"Welcome to the Alley! It's the second weekend in May, and we're that much closer to the end of the school year. This month we're hoping to raise our game when it comes to confidence and living like we believe God is with us. As we jump in, let's make a list. I'm guessing most of you should be able to answer this:

"What is something that you can do all by yourself that you need zero help from some else to do?"

Take some answers and make a list on the left-hand side of the white board IF you have one, if not just listen to their answers.

"Those are great! Now, for the flipside of that: What are things that you *do* need help with, like something you can't do on your own that you'd have to ask someone else to pitch in to finish?"

Again, take some answers but make a list on the right-hand side of the white board this time. OR just listen to their answers.

"Excellent! Thanks for helping out. You all gave some really thoughtful answers on there!"

"We will all face situations on each side. We'll have moments when we face challenges that are easy to overcome, subjects that will get us excited about school, new skills that will take little effort to master. We'll also face moments when the problems we're facing seem impossible to figure out on our own.

"Wouldn't it be great if there was some machine or some tricked-out device that we could ask or a button we could press and it would solve all of our problems? I mean, how great would it be if we didn't understand something in math and could push a button on our desk and just like that (*snap fingers*) know how to divide fractions like a champ? Or if we weren't sure how to get along with a friend, we could ask some tech gadget and suddenly have the insight we need to stay best friends forever? That'd be pretty fantastic.

"Unfortunately, that sort of device doesn't really exist, does it? I mean, Google can help with a lot but definitely not everything we'll ever face in life. So what do we do? How do we handle these situations? We might even wonder if these are the sorts of things we can pray about and ask God for help with. We might ask if the situations and difficult moments in life are just something we need to deal with on our own. What then?"

"All good questions. And when we have questions like these, one of the first places we should check out is the Bible. In the Bible, we can find a library of wisdom from people who experienced God in their lives and were inspired to write what they learned so we can apply what they learned to our own relationships with God and journey to follow Him. Let's check out a story that talks about where our help comes from—and Who sent it in the first place. Let's check it out!"

VIDEO: The So and So Show 13:26

"At the start of this story, the disciples weren't quite sure how they would share the message of Jesus with the whole world. They didn't know how God would send the Holy Spirit. They might have even been a bit anxious about how all of this would happen. But in a moment everything changed! And there was Peter, sharing the truth of Jesus to thousands of people. But remember, this wasn't just him. Peter was doing this through the power of God's Holy Spirit. If Peter tried to do this on his own, he might have been too scared to speak or fumbled his words. But he relied on the Holy Spirit to help him, and all sorts of people heard about Jesus!"

“It’s the same way for us, too. When we choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to be with us, just like the Spirit was with the disciples. The Spirit comes to live inside of us! The Spirit nudges us in the right direction, gives us that ‘hold up, think about this before you do it’ feeling. And since the Spirit is always with you, you can know deep down that you’ll have the right things to say at the right time to help someone, show love to someone, and even change their life.

“With the help of the Holy Spirit, you can love God and love others. You can live with confidence, knowing that God’s Spirit is with you.”

I love the reminder from our Bible verse this month.”

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“So we can say boldly, ‘The Lord helps me. I will not be afraid.’ (Hebrews 13:6a, NIV)

“As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“**When have you needed help?** And I’m not talking about math homework . . . I’m talking about knowing how to be there for a hurting brother or sister, finding the right things to say to your parents when things are tense, or finding the courage to be open and honest when standing up to your friends when they’re not making the best decisions.

“Those times are when you might feel the most inadequate and stumble, but those times are also the times when God and the Holy Spirit are at their best. Let’s take some time and pray that we’ll remember how God’s Holy Spirit is with us, not just in the times of our greatest need but all the time. Let’s pray.”

Lead the group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

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!

“Great job! I sure have enjoyed hanging out with all of you today. Have fun in Small Group!”