

ALLEY Rundown – May 6-8, 2023

Today's Bible Story: All Around the World (Great Commission and Ascension) • *Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11*

Today's Key Question: How can you share God's love?

Today's Bottom Line: Share God's love with others

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

SLIDE: Theme

"Welcome back to the Alley. It's May, summer is around the corner, and I'm *really* excited about what we have planned for today! Let's get started with a question right off the bat. Find someone next to you and discuss this for a moment. What comes to mind when I say the word . . . 'love'?"

Pause for a brief discussion between partners.

"Okay, let's hear from a few of you. What comes to mind when you think about the word love? Anyone want to volunteer a thought or three?"

Take a few answers from the group.

"One of the main themes throughout the whole Bible is love—ideas like God is love, love your neighbor, love God, love life, love never fails. And that's just getting started. But I wonder—do you *have* to love everyone? Like, *everyone*? Sometimes I really wonder, is that what God is really asking us to do? Because if so, I've got some legit questions.

"What about the people who cut you off in traffic? The people who rudely bump into you like they don't care about your personal space? The people who put their feet up on the back of your chair in school? Or the people who are just hard to get along with sometimes?"

"Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of people on this planet who I'm sure are fine, but aren't there some who you would just rather avoid? Do we *really* have to love everyone? Here's the thing. I know that most of us would answer, of course, God wants us to love everyone! But the truth is, we don't always live like that, do we?"

"That's why questions like this are so important. They allow us to push at a part of life we tend to take for granted. When we start asking questions like this, one of the first places we should check out is the Bible. In the Bible, there are all sorts of wisdom from people who experienced God in their lives and were inspired to write down what they learned. And now, thousands of years later, we can have a relationship with God and discover the best way to live just by checking out what they wrote down. Let's hear a story that deals with sharing God's love and, more importantly . . . with whom."

VIDEO: The So and So Show 14.45

“Jesus told His followers—which includes US—to make disciples wherever we go. That just means we tell people about Jesus AND try to live like He lived . . . loving God and loving others in everything we do. EVEN those people that are hard to love. Live with confidence the way Jesus taught us to live. Others will see the way you act and might want to know more about Jesus.

And the great thing is, we always have God with us to help. Which is why this month’s memory verse is a great one to learn,

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“So we 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

“**How can you share God’s love?** What are some ways, even small ones, you can show God off to others? Think about situations where you could show a bit of patience, or kindness, or love, or maybe times when you could choose goodness instead of adding to the problem. How can you act, what things could you say, or what things could you do to show God’s love? You’ll talk about this more with your Small Groups, but right now, let’s pray and ask God to help us see how we can share Jesus’ love with the world. Let’s pray.”

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

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!

Have fun in small group.