

ALLEY Rundown – June 10th-12th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: I Can See Clearly Now (Ananias Helps Paul) • Acts 9:10-31

Today's Key Question: When have you faced a fear?

Today's Bottom Line: God can help you face your fears.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

SLIDE: Theme

“Welcome again to The Alley! Great to be here, and great to see all of your smiling faces once more. Before we get started, I'd like to welcome our brand-new 4th graders who weren't here last week to the ALLEY! Hey 5th graders, can you guys help me...what are some things we should make sure our fourth graders know about the Alley? *(Give kids time to answer. They may need prompting but make sure they cover:*

- *Where the bathroom is*
- *What they can do each week when they first come in*
- *Where they should sit*
- **EXPLAIN ALLEY CASH!**
- *God timecards...tell what happens when they return each week*
- *The So and So Show*
- *Where the offering goes*

“Let's talk about fear. There are for sure things I'm afraid of. What about you? Do you have any fears?”

Allow for a few responses. Comment and affirm each response.

“Yeah, I can see how those can be a bit scary! Let's try an exercise. On the screen, two 'fears' are going to appear. It's your job to pick the fear you'd rather deal with. To choose, move to one side of the room or the other. I'll point to let you know which option is which side! Ready?”

“Here we go! Would you rather . . .”

Help kids choose by indicating which one is which side of the room. Also, provide commentary for each slide, asking kids why they picked a certain one, and so on.

SLIDE: Would You Rather Slide 1 (*Basement OR Cabin*)

SLIDE: Would You Rather Slide 2 (*Math OR History*)

SLIDE: Would You Rather Slide 3 (*Clowns OR Gym Teachers*)

SLIDE: Would You Rather Slide 4 (*Spider on Your Face OR You Ate a Spider While You Were Sleeping*)

SLIDE: Would You Rather Slide 5 (*Huge Crowd OR Alone*)

SLIDE: Would You Rather Slide 6 (*Speech or Solo*)

“Interesting! Make your way back to your seats—and I've got one last one for you to ponder. You don't need to vote on this one.

As kids find their seats, put up the next slide.

SLIDE: Would You Rather Slide 7 (*Ignore OR Face Them*)

“How should you respond when you're scared? Do you ignore it? Run from it? Or should you face it? What if it's a chainsaw-carrying, horror-story villain chasing you through a cemetery? Or what if it's standing at the edge of the high dive? Are all fears equal? Should you face all of your fears head on?”

“These are interesting questions. Maybe you know what you *think* you should do, but maybe when you're actually in the situation, it's a different story. Thankfully we have *lots* of stories that can help with questions like these. Stories collected in this book right here. (*hold up Bible*) God interacted with people, and people were inspired to write it all down—and now, thousands of years later, we can read and learn and begin to understand answers to these types of questions!”

“Before we pick up right where we left off last week, let's catch up and remember where we've been.

Over the past year, we've been making our way through the Bible—all the way from the very beginning. We've seen how God sent Jesus to be our Savior. We've seen how Jesus died on the cross and then came back to life!

(*Hold up Bible.*) “Now we're here, in the book of Acts. In this book, we can read about the early church and how it grew. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the believers spread the truth about Jesus, and more and more people believed! Anyone remember the name of the guy from last week who was knocked on his knees on the road to Damascus?”

Allow for a response.

“You got it—Saul.

Let's check out what happened next by watching the SO and So Show...

VIDEO: So And So Show

“Saul's encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus is pretty amazing! His story is definitely a drastic story of change. I think that's why so many people had trouble believing it at first. How does a man who is that opposed to Jesus all of the sudden have his life turned around so quickly?”

“Ananias had to face that question. So did the believers in Jerusalem when Saul came back. Both Ananias and the rest of the believers had to consider the possibility that Saul was lying, a trick to get them to lower their guard so he could arrest them.

“They had heard—maybe even seen—the effects of Saul's terror and now they were supposed to accept him as a brother in Christ? To partner with him? To . . . love him? What if this was an inside job? What if this was just part of his wicked plan to take them down? Thankfully, Ananias trusted God and helped Saul to safety.

“You know, sometimes it's easy for us to make impressions about people or to believe that someone is too mean, too unkind, too rude, too—you fill in the blank—to change. However, God can change them in a flash. Literally.

“It's also easy to let fear drive our decisions, but like in Saul's story, when we understand who God is and what God can do, we can have faith and find the courage we need to face some really difficult situations.”

“Let's look at our June memory verse, Hebrews 11:1. This verse will help us remember what faith is all about.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1, NIRV)

“Today, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

“[Key Question] When have you faced a fear? Was it difficult? How did you do it? What options did you see in the situation? What helped you face this fear? We’ll dig into these questions more when we get to our Small Groups, but before you head out, let’s pray and ask God to help us see people the way that Ananias and Barnabas were able to see Saul . . . and for God to give us the faith and courage we need to face of our fears. Let’s pray.”

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

OFFERING:

We are going to raise money for something new this summer. For the next 3 months, our offering money will go to families in Kenya. They are experiencing of lack of food resources because of an on-going drought. And the food that is available costs a LOT of money! As you can see in these pictures, this is an area in Kenya called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

SLIDES: Kenya 1-4

We are working with an organization called Missions of Hope. Our money will help them make food baskets to bring to the families who live in Turkana. The food baskets will be such a blessing to the children and families in this community who have no resources! If you have any offering you can bring it up now.

CG: Summer JAM Slide

“It’s almost time for Summer Jam! It’s coming up very soon and we’re so excited to invite you to these 3 nights jam-packed with FUN and Adventure! You won’t want to miss it. Tell whoever brought you that you need to visit the Summer Jam Tent after our time together today to sign up and get your t shirt!”

****AT YOUR COORDINTOR’S DIRECTION, YOU WILL EITHER DIVIDE INTO SMALL GROUPS OR DO ACTIVITIES TOGETHER.**