

ALLEY Rundown – June 24-26, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Jailbreak (An Angel Helps Peter Escape from Prison) • Acts 12:1-19

Today's Key Question: What does it feel like to be stuck?

Today's Bottom Line: God is with you even when you feel stuck.

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, welcome, welcome! June is almost over. I have to say, I’m really enjoying the summer so far. What about you?”

Allow for a few responses. Affirm each response.

“Sometimes, though, I feel like . . . I don’t know, just kind of stuck. I want to do things, but don’t have the energy to do them. Anyone ever feel like that? Just kind of stuck?”

Allow for a few responses. Affirm each response.

“Sounds like I’m not alone. Turn to someone next to you and tell them about a time when you felt that way. Just at a standstill. Maybe it was a situation you didn’t know how to get out of, maybe you were actually stuck physically somewhere, like in an elevator!”

After a few minutes, get everyone’s attention. Consider having some kids share.

“We’ve all heard stories about people who were stuck and saved—like a soccer team in a cave, or people in an elevator. But what about when you just *feel* stuck? When life around you is moving at light speed, but you feel like you’re standing still? How do you get moving again when *you* feel stuck?”

“Good questions. And with questions like these, answers might not be found in the ‘Self-Help’ section of your school library. So the first place we should check out is the Bible. This book has all sorts of wisdom from people who experienced God in their lives and were inspired to write down what happened and what they learned. And because of that, we can have a relationship with God and learn the best way to live just by reading what they wrote down. The story we’re looking at today deals directly with those kinds of questions—of being stuck and how to get moving.”

“We’ve been traveling through God’s Big Story over this past year, through the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*)

“We talked about God’s Son, Jesus—how He died on the cross for our sins and then came back to life. We’ve seen how Jesus’ friends, the disciples, shared the good news about Jesus. They told other people about Jesus, and THOSE people put their faith in Jesus, too. Soon there were gatherings of people in lots of different places who decided to believe and follow Jesus. We can learn a lot about them from the book of Acts in the New Testament of our Bible, the same book we’ve been exploring all month. Acts picks up soon after Jesus resurrected and ascended back to Heaven.

“Then, God sent the Holy Spirit, and the early followers of Jesus, what we now call the church, grew like crazy in those early days. Unfortunately, not everybody was happy to see the church growing, especially the religious leaders who had Jesus put to death—as well as the Roman leaders who were responsible for keeping peace in the empire. As more and more believers spread the good news about Jesus, there was more and more tension with these leaders.

Let’s hear more about that in the So and So Show...

VIDEO: SO and So Show

“Of all the people to end up in prison! Yet in that moment, Peter had the opportunity to show genuine faith . . . that he could trust in what he couldn’t see because of what he had already seen. Even if this time spent in prison would be it for him, he knew that God was good and that Jesus would use it for good somehow. He could trust God’s goodness, even though he didn’t understand what was going to happen.

“My guess is that some of you have found yourself in some pretty tough spots already in life and you just weren’t sure how you were going to get out. Maybe there was a difficult family thing going on and you weren’t quite sure how it would all work out. Or maybe you got in trouble and didn’t think you’d ever be able to fix the broken relationships.

“Like Peter, we can trust that God can see what we can’t . . . the full and complete picture. And we can put our faith in God. We can trust that God is with us in the middle of it all and is always good to us.”

SLIDE: Memory Verse

It helps me to think about this month’s memory verse, “*Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.*” Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

“Today, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

“**What does it feel like to be stuck?** When have you most experienced it? What made it so hard to trust God? Let’s pray and remember how God is always with us. . . especially when we feel stuck! Let’s pray!”

SLIDE: Theme Background

*Leader leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.
After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*

OFFERING:

This summer, our offering money will go to families in Kenya. They are experiencing a food shortage because of an on-going drought. And the food that is available costs a LOT of money! Take a look at video of an area in Kenya called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

Turkana video #1

Our money will help the Mission of Hope organization make food baskets to bring to families who live in Turkana. The food baskets will be such a blessing to the children and families in this community! 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 this Tuesday and we’re so excited to invite you to these 3 nights jam-packed with FUN and Adventure! TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO SIGN UP AND GO TO THE BOOTH TO GET YOUR T-SHIRT! You won’t want to miss it. Tell whoever brought you that you need to visit the Summer Jam Tent after our time together.”

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