

ALLEY Rundown – June 3-5, 2023

Today's Bible Story: I'm a Believer (Paul Becomes a Believer) • Acts 9:1-9

Today's Key Question: What do you know about Jesus?

Today's Bottom Line: Knowing Jesus changes how you see things.

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

“Hi, everyone! Welcome to the ALLEY! First week of June, hopefully you're done with tests, done with school, and ready to get up, get out, and get going. Before we get started, I'd like to welcome our brand-new 4th graders 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 get started! I've got to tell you, I love optical illusions. You know, those pictures where you can see two different things, depending on where you look? Let me give you some examples.

SLIDE: Old Woman/Young Woman Optical Illusion

“How many of you see an old woman? How about a young woman?”

SLIDE: Spinning Vortex Optical Illusion

“This one is a bit trippy. If you stare, does the image move to you? Can you get it to stop? Try staring at the center, see if that changes things for you.

SLIDE: Horses Optical Illusion by Bev Doolittle

“How many horses do you see? *(pause)* What's wild is that the original painter won't even say how many!”

SLIDE: Hidden Tiger Optical Illusion

“Do you see the tiger? And *not* the one right in the front.

SLIDE: Cat on the Stairs Optical Illusion

“Wait. Is the cat going upstairs or downstairs?”

“Sometimes changing your perspective makes you see things that you didn’t see before, right? Changing perspectives with pictures is one thing—like seeing the arrow on every FedEx truck between the “E” and the “X” that you can never unsee once you see it—

Optional SLIDE: FedEx logo

“—but what about changing your perspective with people? You think you know someone, but when does your perspective change about them? What about mean people or people you don’t get along with? Or even better, what about famous people? You think you know them or have an idea of what kind of person they are, but that perspective can all change with literally one YouTube video, right? What is it that actually changes your mind?

“These are great questions. And thankfully we’ve got a great resource to answer great questions like these. (*hold up Bible*) This. Hundreds of stories, thousands of verses, all helping us understand the answers to questions that, at first, may seem difficult to understand. And to help us understand the questions for today, let’s take a look at what Luke shares with us in the book of Acts.”

VIDEO: The SO and SO Show

“When Saul left Jerusalem, he was absolutely convinced that he was headed the right way, doing the right things for the right reasons. As he neared Damascus, Saul was forced to face an important reality—forced right off of his ride and onto the ground.

“He hadn’t been doing God’s work. In fact, he had actually been working *against* God by opposing Jesus. If Jesus met Saul on the road to Damascus, it must mean that Jesus is alive, and if Jesus is alive, then everything Saul believed about Him was wrong.

“That day, on that road, Saul saw, maybe not with his eyes, but with a new perspective. And that new perspective changed everything.

“Things can happen the same way for us. Maybe not blinding light, but the sudden realization that we’re looking at things, situations, or people the wrong way? For sure. It’s happened to me, on more than one occasion.

“It’s possible that, like Saul, we’ve picked up some ideas about Jesus that just aren’t true. Or maybe we have developed some habits or unhealthy patterns, jumping to conclusions about others.

“Maybe we’re too quick to be unkind to certain people, using our words to hurt or insult instead of heal. We need a new perspective from Jesus in these areas. Sometimes God can speak to us through the godly people around us. God can speak to us through the Bible. There are many ways God can get our attention, but like Saul, we have to be willing to respond—even if we can’t quite see where we’re headed at first.

“Let’s look at our new 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, NIV)”

“Today, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

“[Key Question] What do you know about Jesus? Not just the correct ‘church-answer’ knowledge, but deep down. When you think about who Jesus is and what Jesus means to you, what, or who, has shaped your perspective? If you’re not quite sure how you’d answer that, no worries! You’ll talk more about it in a bit. Before we move on, let’s pray and ask God to give us eyes to see Jesus for who He truly is! Let’s pray!”

SLIDE: Theme Background

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