

Alley Rundown - September 23 & 24, 2017

Bible Story: We'll Be There for You (Encourage One Another) • 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Job 2:11-13 (*Supporting: Job 1-2*)

Bottom Line: Friends encourage one another

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

1. Connect Time (Leader prep needed before service)

What You Need:

- 16 oz. water bottle – 30% filled (1 per small group, may need to replace, so have extra)
- One finalist from each Small Group
- 1 quart milk container – 30% filled for each campus
- Prize for an entire Small Group (12 Bottle Caps Candy per service)
- Upbeat music to use during the game
- Bottle Flipping Championship: Cafeteria Edition Slide
- 10-second countdown

CG: 10-second countdown

Welcome: "So how many of you still can't help yourself when someone gives you a water bottle? Oh, don't look at me with those questioning eyes. You know what I'm talking about!"

CG: Bottle Flipping Video

"That's right, ladies and gents: bottle flipping. This morning, much to the dismay of your parents, we will be flipping bottles. And I already know what you're thinking, (*high pitched voice*) "Everybody and their nanna has flipped bottles." That would be correct! Friends, brothers, moms, neighbors, celebrities, celebrity cats, and even the entire Chicago Bulls bench have all flipped a water bottle. BUT! Have you ever played in THE ALLEY BOTTLE FLIPPING CHAMPIONSHIP – CAFETERIA EDITION? I didn't think so. That is exactly what we will be doing today."

CG: Bottle Flipping Championship: Cafeteria Edition Slide

"For this game, we will need to narrow the field. I realize that all of you think you're the greatest bottle flipper ever to flip a bottle. But this morning you'll need to prove it. So I hope you brought your game faces! I need everyone to get into his or her Small Group to determine the best bottle flipper in your circle. How? Everyone in your group will get one toss of a water bottle. If you don't stick the landing, you are eliminated. If you are one of the fortunate ones to land the bottle upright, there is a great chance you will move to the championship round on this very stage.

There can only be *one person* from each small group to move to the championship round. Make sense? (*Allow response*) Great! Let's flip!"

Leaders distribute a 30% full, 16 oz. bottle of water to each group. The best bottle flipper from each group joins Host on stage. Play fun music in the background while the Small Groups narrow down whom they'll send to the championship.

SFX: Upbeat Game Music

“Congratulations for making it to THE ALLEY FLIPPING BOTTLE CHAMPIONSHIP - CAFETERIA EDITION! You may be wondering what makes this a cafeteria edition. As you all know, cafeterias are known for their hot meals AND cartons of milk. For the championship round, you will be tossing a 32 oz. milk bottle instead of your water bottles. To make your cafeteria workers proud, you will need to be the first person on stage to flip the milk carton upright. If you succeed, you are THE ALLEY FLIPPING BOTTLE CAFETERIA EDITION CHAMPION! *(To the Audience)* Don't forget to encourage your friends on this stage. If the person from your small group wins, your entire small group wins a prize. Any questions? *(Allow response)* Good. Enough talking. Time for flipping.”

Leader hands milk bottle to first finalist. Each should have one shot at landing it, until there is one winner. First person to successfully land the milk carton upright wins. Leader goes crazy when the first bottle lands upright.

“WE. HAVE. A. CHAMPION! That performance would have made any cafeteria worker well up with tears and grant you a second helping of Super Sloppy Joes! In lieu of that dish, you and your entire Small Group get some old-school candy...Bottle Caps! Let's give it up for all our contestants for a job well done! *(Allow response)*

Leader distributes prizes, and sends volunteers to their seats.

“Great job everyone! Well, we're so glad you're here today. I have a question to kick us off this morning. How many of you have ever had a bad day? *(Allow response.)* Of course! All of us have! *But* has anybody in this room had a day you'd consider to be worse than a bad day? Yeah, some of you know what I'm talking about. If you haven't, here's an example that happened to me.”

NOTE: Here would be a good place for you to include a personal story about the worst day you've ever had.

“Now, let's have a show of hands. How many of you have had a terrible, rotten, no good, very bad day? *(Allow response.)*

Allow a couple of minutes for students to share their really bad days. Communicator calls on a couple of kids willing to share their really bad day.

“Oh, wow! Those are some terrible days!”

“Well, like it or not, bad days are coming. You can't hide from them. You can't out-run them. You just have to face them. But some bad days . . . are really, really bad. So the question is not how can we avoid them? The question is what do we do about them? How can we get through them without going crazy? Is there anything or anyone that can help?

“There was a guy in the Bible who had a REALLY bad day. Like a million times worse than any bad day you could think of! Let's take a look at this week's Episode...”

CG: Week 4 Lesson Video

“Job had it rough, but what I love about this story is the way Job’s three friends sprung into action. They did not wait for Job to call on them. Nor did they wait after hearing the news about Job to give him space ‘til life calmed down. They were present with their friend who had an incredibly bad day.”

“Earlier, we established we all have had bad days. And some of us have had a terrible, rotten, no good, very bad day like Job. Every person in this room knows what it is like to have a miserable day. Parents get divorced. Folks move. You fail a test. With that sinking feeling in mind, is there anything we could do when we see someone going through a bad day? Is there anything we could say to comfort them?”

“Check out what Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5:11, *(Open Bible and read) So encourage one another with the hope you have. Build each other up.*”

“When we believe in Jesus, we have something extra to help us encourage others who are hurting. We have hope! Hope that one day all suffering and hard times will be over when God makes everything new again. When we have hope in Jesus, we can encourage others and offer them that same hope. We can be positive and build them up. Maybe it’s not words we offer but a hug. Or maybe like Job’s friends, we can just be there for our friends. Just being with them might be just encouragement and hope they need to get through whatever they are facing. Let’s pray...”

PRAY: Jesus thank You so much for loving us, and for encouraging us with Your friendship. Help us all to encourage those around us when they are having a bad day. Help us to be the best representations we can be to the people around us. In Jesus Name, Amen.”

(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)