

Alley Rundown - September 9 & 10, 2017

Bible Story: Take on Thee (Accept One Another) • *Romans 15:7, Acts 9:26-28 (Supporting: Acts 9:1-25, 26:12-18)*

Bottom Line: Friends accept one another.

Key Question: What does it mean to accept a friend?

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

CONNECT GAME: Brown Bag Special

Supplies Needed:

3 Brown Bags with Food Items (Some Good, Some Bad) (1 Set per Service)

Blindfolds/Bandanas

Trashcan (in case of the famous "gag reflex")

Host selects 3 pairs of friends from the group. Host hands each pair one blindfold.

NOTE: Inform children that may have any food allergies to sit this game out.

CG: Brown Bag Special Slide

"This is a game called BROWN BAG SPECIAL, and boy . . . it is *special*! I don't know much in this world, but I do know we all love friends and love to eat. And this game involves the best of both worlds. On the table behind you are a number of brown bags with some kind of delectable morning delight inside. Some of the food options are tasty while some are . . . well . . . let's just say not so tasty."

"To play this game, one friend will wear a blindfold. One of you will not. The person who's not blindfolded will search through the brown bags for the best food for his or her friend to eat. The blindfolded person then has to guess what the food is; only after tasting it first. But like I said, this could be something good orrrrrr not so good to eat. The friend who selects the food will then feed it to his or her blindfolded friend. After the blindfolded friend tastes the treat, he or she must guess the food they tasted. These blindfolded friends have nothing to worry about, right? I mean, they did say they "completely and utterly" trust their friends, so what could go wrong? This should be fun.....Who's first?"

CG: Upbeat Game Music

Game Host instructs pairs to talk through who will wear the blindfold. Host has the first pair take a turn at the brown bag special. To foster the element of surprise, do not allow the blindfolded student to touch the food at all. Repeat until all pairs have had a turn.

"That's what I'm talking about! Some of you have awesome friends with good taste in food. Others may want to reevaluate whom you call a friend . . . Kidding! Thanks to all of our volunteers for being good sports and playing our game, BROWN BAG SPECIAL. Give it up for all our friends who gave this game a try.

"Hey, everybody! It's so good to see so many of you this morning. My name is [Name of Communicator], and to kick us off this morning I have a bit of a confession. Now, this is not something I run around telling everyone, but this feels like a safe place. Before I share this, my only request is

that no one laughs at me. Deal? *(Allow response.)* OK . . . *(draw this out for humorous effect)* Here it goes . . . sometimes . . . I cry during television commercials. There. I said it!"

"Now, hang on a second. Before you all start judging me, I'm not crying at the lame car dealer commercials or the overly aggressive lawyer advertisements. It's only the really sweet ones. And don't act like you've never shed a tear during a commercial break! I mean, just look at these!"

CG: Amazon Prime Dog and Baby Commercial

"Or how about this one?"

CG: Amazon Prime Horse Commercial

"So good, right?! IT JUST MAKES YOU AN EMOTIONAL WRECK! Why did I just show those commercials?! Well, one—I must be a sucker for punishment. Two—they had something in common besides the fact that they were ads for the same company. Can anybody tell me what was the same about both clips? *(Allow response.)*"

"Both videos have a character who feels left out. The dog felt left out of the family after the baby arrived because the child was scared of the dog. But everything changed when the owner purchased that crazy lion's mane. And the miniature horse felt left out of the herd. So the owner inserted a GIANT doggie door so the horse could feel included at the house instead."

"Have you ever experienced anything like that? Clearly, you're not a dog or a miniature horse, but maybe they ran out of seats at the lunch table where all your friends eat. Maybe you did not get invited to the sleepover. Maybe you found out that a bunch of your friends went to the movies, but they never told anything about it to you."

"It's true. Feeling left out can be very lonely. We might not know what to do or what to say when that happens to us. Or even more so, how can we respond when we see that happening to someone else? I mean it's not like we can just hop on Amazon Prime and send a gift to everyone who feels left out. That would get SUPER expensive, am I right?"

Well, did you know that people we learn about in the Bible felt left out from time to time? This week we're gonna check out a guy by the name of Saul. Now, if you were here last week, we talked about another guy named Saul. Different guy. That was King Saul, and he lived centuries before the Saul in today's story. Got it? Good! Let's dig into Saul's story."

CG: Lesson Video

"As followers of Jesus, our job is to demonstrate the same kindness that Barnabas extended to Saul to others around us who are left out. We can follow Jesus' example and welcome others into our groups. Many of us know the feeling of being left out that Saul experienced. Chances are if you want to be accepted for who *you* are, maybe it starts with you accepting others the way *they* are."

"What does it mean to accept a friend? When you get to group, talk about this to kick off your time together. Like we saw through Saul and Barnabas, this isn't always easy. Let's pray."

PRAY: "Jesus, help each and every one of us here to be more like You. Help us to make room at the table for others, and to be more accepting of people that are different than we are. We love You. In Jesus Name, Amen."

(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)