

Alley Rundown - October 28 & 29, 2017

Bible Story: Real Treasures of Heaven (Treasures in Heaven) • *Matthew 6:19-24*

Bottom Line: Live like you know what really matters.

Key Question: How can you live for what really matters?

Memory Verse: “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.” *Luke 16:10a*
NIV

CONNECT TIME: Trash-ketball (Once Service Time Begins) (ALL LEADERSHIP IN THE ROOM PARTICIPATES)

What You Need: Paper from recycling bin and 2 trash cans/buckets

What You Do:

- **Divide** your small group in 2 equal teams.
- **Ask** volunteers to help scrunch up recycled paper into balls.
- *Note: If you are playing seated in chairs, then also put the 2 trashcans at either end of your space up on a chair or table so that the “goal” is higher. If you are playing with students sitting on the floor, then the 2 trashcans can be up or down on the floor as well. It works either way.*
- **Explain** that you’re going to be playing a game of Seated Trashketball.
 - They are trying to score by shooting the ball (recycled paper balled up) into one of the trashcans on either end.
- **Tell** each team which trashcan is their “hoop.”
- **Challenge** them to take a minute to pick a spot for their chair to stay or a place on the floor, reminding them that once they start playing, they cannot move—they must stay seated.
- **Demonstrate** how they can pass the paper ball to each other, trying to get it closer and closer to their hoop, until it’s passed to someone close enough to the trash can to be able to shoot and score for their team.
- **Encourage** the other team to try to intercept or knock down the ball so that they can pass it to one of their teammates and try to score on their end instead.
- **Set** a timer for 3 minutes and then give them a chance to re-set—to move their chairs or place on the floor after strategizing with their team.
- **Play** as many rounds as you have time for or declare the game over when one team reaches a certain number of points by scoring: for example, 10.

Pro Tip: For the last round, you could put more than one ball in play at one time, which will make it crazier and get more people involved.

Wrap Up & Say:

“It doesn’t take fancy equipment, cool uniforms, or a big gym to play a fun version of basketball. What other people see as trash and a trashcan, we know can be something else! Today’s Bible Story helps us to think about storing up treasure in heaven like you were trying to stuff those trashcans with recycled paper balls to win the game. Let’s head to Large Group to hear more.

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LARGE GROUP WELCOME:

“Hello, my people! How are you all doing today? See these here (*Show kids the car keys.*)? Know what these are? (*Get response.*) Yes, of course—they’re keys. But not just any keys, they’re car keys! Show of hands—how many of you can’t wait until you can drive a car? Yeah, it is probably one of the most exciting moments in a teenager’s life, and even though it’s a few years away still, I want you to imagine it with me for a moment. You walk out of the DMV where they have just issued you your own driver’s license. You are officially a licensed driver! When you get home that night, your parents hand you a small, wrapped box. You open it up, and inside you find a set of car keys. But they’re not just any keys like these ones to my (*Insert name of Communicator’s car*). You discover a-whole-other level of car keys.”

CG: Porsche keys

“You notice on the label that there is a logo that says “Porsche.” These are the keys to a Porsche 911—Turbo S Cabriolet—your dream car.”

CG: New Porsche 911 Turbo S Cabriolet

“You have had posters on your wall of this car since you were little. You never imagined that one day you would have one—but there . . . in that box . . . are the keys to unlock your dreams! You quickly grab the keys and race out the door to the driveway to just lay eyes upon your new, sweet ride. But as you open the front door, you find this waiting for you.”

CG: Rusty old Porsche 911

(*Playing off of the reaction of the audience*) “What?! No, that’s actually a Porsche 911! What’s the problem then? Why would you be that upset?”

Allow for responses.

“The problem is that you had your heart set on something shiny and new and what you got was old and rusty. It may be the same car, but it’s *not* the same car.”

“Okay, let’s imagine another scenario that might hit closer to home. You’ve begged your parents for a phone of your own, and *finally* they decide you are old enough. You search online for through all of the different phones and colors and decide on this one:”

CG: Picture of new iPhone

“Classic black is your style. The guy at the Apple Store hands you the nice new box. You take it home for the box opening—even your best friend comes over! Everybody watches in anticipation as you open the box, only to find this . . .”

CG: Picture of smashed iPhone

“NOOOOO! But wait; it is an iPhone, isn’t it? It is what you wanted. What’s the big deal? What’s the problem?! (Beat) Well, the problem is that you had your heart set on something shiny and new, and what you got was smashed and broken. It may be the same phone, but it’s *not* the same phone.”

“In both cases, you had this nice, shiny new thing in mind, but what you got was a broken-down, useless version of it. The second one hardly even resembled the first!”

“And maybe you don’t want a new Porsche 911 Turbo 2 Cabriolet or a new iPhone. But I bet if I gave you a pen and a sheet of paper and told you to write down things you want, you’d have no problem thinking of ideas—things that if you got them and they were not what you expected or they arrived broken beyond repair, you’d be SUPER upset. And this isn’t just you; this is your Small Group Leaders and I, too. We all have things we want. (Optional: *Talk briefly about something you want.*)

“And maybe how we all feel about this causes us to ask a bigger question: is it wrong to have money . . . or to save up to buy new stuff . . . or to even *want* new stuff?”

“When I have questions like this, the first place I should look is God’s Word. All month we’ve been talking about places in the Bible where the writers gives us clues to how God wants us to take care of our stuff. And today is no different. Let’s take a look at this month’s final episode...”

CG: Week 5 Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:49)

“In the Gospel of Matthew, we find a famous teaching Jesus gave on a mountainside, telling all those listening what it means to love and follow God. Check out what Jesus says . . . ”

CG: Matthew 6:19-20 NIV

“(Reading directly from Matthew 6:19-20 NIV) “Do not gather for yourselves riches on earth. Moths and rats can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, gather for yourselves riches in heaven. There, moths and rats do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them.”

“Jesus starts by talking about two kinds of riches—riches on earth and riches in heaven. Riches on earth are what we’ve been talking about—it’s the money and the stuff we spend our money on. And Jesus says that these things eventually break down. They rust, they rot, and they can be stolen. In other words, they are . . . ”

CG: Temporary Slide

“Temporary. Here today—gone tomorrow. New today—rusty tomorrow. Shiny today—broken tomorrow. Temporary.”

“But Jesus then points us to riches in heaven. These are the ‘things’ that can’t rust or fade or break. In other words, they are . . . ”

CG: Eternal Slide

“Eternal. They never rust or fade or break. They go on forever. Eternal.”

“But there is a bigger issue at play here, and we see it as Jesus continues His teaching.”

“(Reading directly from Matthew 6:21 NIV) ‘Your heart will be where your riches are.’”

“See—Jesus knew something really important that He wanted His followers to understand. When we talk about money and stuff, it is more than just about money and stuff—but these things actually have a way of influencing the way we feel and act and what we believe. And if we’re not careful, these things can actually get in the way of how we can serve God.”

“This whole month we’ve been talking about what it means to take care of what we have and to recognize that everything belongs to God. Our time is God’s. Our money is God’s, and our stuff is God’s. But life is about more than what we can see. And Jesus tells us to store up treasures in heaven . . . to live not for what is temporary but for what is eternal.”

“So as we wrap this month up, let’s take a look at this week’s Worship Experience video.

CG: Worship Experience Video (October 28th-29th)

NOTE: Students will be given the opportunity to stand up and dance along with a fun choreography video. This is simply intended to get them active and moving, due to the previous Worship Experiences of the month being quiet reflections. Be an active participant. As students see you participating, they will be more inclined to do so themselves.

(VIDEO WILL DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)