

Alley Rundown - October 7 & 8, 2017

Bible Story: So You Think You Can Use Your Time Wisely (Teach Us to Number Our Days) • *Psalm 90:12 NIV*

Bottom Line: Use your time wisely.

Key Question: How can you best use your time?

Memory Verse: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."
Luke 16:10a, NIV

Welcome:

What You Need: Labels with a single number on them (1-5) (One for each child)

NOTE: During **Connect Time**, students will receive their label with number.

"Now, you are probably wondering why you have a number on your name tag. Well, I am about to show you. I know it is the weekend, but we are going to do a little math. Don't worry! It won't be too hard. In just a second, I'll call out a number. As soon as I do, your job is to get with another group of people whose tags all together combined with the number on your hand add up to the number I called out. You'll have to be quick, because I'm going to count down, and whoever doesn't have a group or has the wrong sum will have to grab a seat. For example, if I call 11 and your tag has a 7, you either have to find four people with the number 1, two people with 2, a 3 and a 1 . . . you get it."

- *8 should be the lowest number you call*
- *Start with smaller numbers at first (8-15)*
- *Groups that believe they have the right sum should all put their hands up.*
- *Have Small Group Leaders walk around adding up groups*
- *If time remains, play again.*
- *Play until you get down to 3-4 kids*

"Okay, I promise that is the most math we will do this whole morning! Great job, everyone. You can have a seat."

"So, to kick us off this morning I have a little challenge for your small group. Each group needs a writer, so, leaders, please send someone up here to grab a paper and a pen then head back to your group."

Each group gets a paper/pen and chooses a writer.

"Okay. When I say go, you'll have one minute to write down "things people count." I don't mean things we count on, like a calculator, but numbers we keep track of. For example, some people count the cups of water they drink in a day. Get it? Okay. On your mark, get set . . . GO!"

Give groups time to write. If they're not done, feel free to extend everybody's time.

"And stop! I heard a lot of good examples. Let's share some. What are some things people count?"

Call on kids to share examples.

"Yeah, we count all of those things! Great ideas! (*Mention some specifics the students said.*) Days until Christmas . . . wins for our favorite sports team . . . points in a game we're playing . . . stars in the sky . . . steps on a Fitbit . . . the fact is that we count things all of the time. We're always keeping track of numbers that are important to us! And we don't just count these because we love math so much; we count things for a reason, right? We're excited for Christmas vacation, and the countdown is part of the anticipation. We count wins because we want to know how our team is doing and if they'll make the playoffs. Astronomers count stars because they wonder about all the galaxies in our universe. And if we count our steps, we know if we're closer to our fitness goals."

"But all this talk about counting makes me think. I wonder if there are things we should be counting that we don't. Is there something we could learn, some wisdom we could gain, by keeping track of something we might not have a clue is important."

"You may or may not know this, but the writers of the Bible counted all sorts of things, too—people, plagues, commandments, and miles to destinations. And in the Book of Psalms, we read about something we *should* count."

"We looked at the Psalms last week, too. You might remember that the Psalms are actually a collection of song lyrics that expressed worship, thanksgiving, pain, sorrow, and joy. Some asked God for wisdom and help with the things going on in their life. That's what this week's episode is all about. Let's watch..."

CG: Lesson 2 Video

"The truth is that our days are limited. And not just the number of days in our lives, but some of you can think of areas right now in your life where you have a limited number of days. Let me explain."

"How many of you play a sport? Your season will only last for a certain number of days. From the first day of practice until the end of the season, your days are set. What would it look like for you to number your days with your team . . . to do your best to practice hard, to be a leader and an encourager, and to give it your best on the field?"

"Or take school for instance. Did you know you're in school for like *1,500 hours* every year? Yeah . . . that's a lot of school. And school has taken up a good part of your life up to this point."

You have spent thousands upon *thousands* of hours sitting at desks, working on homework, reading textbooks. It is easy to feel like it will be like this forever. But guess what? There is an end to the number of days you will spend in school—well, unless you become a teacher, but then it's your own fault. So what would it look like to number your days at school . . . to give your attention in class, work hard and honestly on your assignments, and learn everything that you possibly can while you're in school?"

"Or how about your family. On average, you spend about *3,000 hours* every year with your family. I get it, though; some of you have siblings who drive you crazy. Or you may not always understand your parents' rules. But guess what? At some point in your life you won't spend that much time with your family. There's an end to the number of days you will spend in your house with your family. So what would it look like to number your days at home . . . to respect your parents and siblings, help out around the place, and do what you can to love your family well?"

"Let's take another look at this verse. Try and catch WHY Moses asked God to teach us to number our days."

CG: Psalm 90:12 Slide (NIV)

(Reads again from Psalm 90:12 NIV) "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom, (NIV). When we're able to recognize that we don't have unlimited days on this earth—or on this team, or in this school, or in our home, and so on—we're more likely to be wise about how we use them."

"Because that's the truth: we only have a limited amount of time. Some time we have little to no control over . . . we have classes, appointments, and practices. But some of time we have we get to decide how we use it. So here's my question for you to talk about in small groups:"

CG: Key Question 2 Slide

"How can you best use your time? One of the best ways to use your time wisely is to Worship God. So that's what we are going to do now before heading to Small Groups. Let's watch this..."

CG: Worship Experience Week 2 Video

NOTE: Students will write "Dear God..." letters while worship music plays. Students can find a spot in the room alone, or at the Small Group areas, to write their letters to God.

What You Need: Pens (1 per student) and Paper (1 Sheet per student)

(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)