

Alley Rundown - January 20-21, 2018

Bible Story: Who Are You? (Who do you say I am?) • *Matthew 16:13-20*

Key Question: Who can you talk with about God?

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Memory Verse: “Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.” *1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)*

Begin Rundown:

“I’ve got a question for all of you: what do you talk about with your friends? Think about all the topics you discuss with your friends that make you laugh, cry, and feel concerned. Go ahead and quickly discuss it with your small groups. Name one thing you discuss with your friends. I’ll come around in a minute and have a couple of people share from each small group. Go ahead!”

Allow groups about a minute of discussion. Once groups finish, allow a couple of groups to share what they discussed.

“You talk to your friends about everything! Video games, sports, TV, music, pets, school, new apps, more video games, and YouTube cat videos . . . Give me a show of hands. How many of you could talk about the nuances of Super Mario Odyssey with your buddies for literally hours? (Allow response.) No doubt! I’m in the same boat. It’s easy to talk to our BFFs about the things we love. Why? Usually it is because we want others to share our excitement for these things. When others share our love for our favorite things, it gives us something to talk about and somebody to cheer for together.”

“What about God? When you are talking with your friends at lunch or after practice, do you ever talk about God? Many in this room today would likely say they love God, and if we talk to others about the things we love, it seems fitting to frequently talk about God. But do we?”

“I have a hard time sometimes talking about God to my friends. I love God and know exactly what God did for me. However, talking about Him can be scary for me. For example, I have this friend who was going through a really hard time. She was upset and looking for answers and any kind of hope to cling to. It was the perfect opportunity to talk about the hope we can find in Jesus. When the chance came, I said, ‘Jesus wants to be your hope, and you can trust Him no matter what!’ (Beat.) Actually, I didn’t say anything about God. I *should* have said those things, but I froze.”

“I would imagine some of you get nervous talking about your faith in God with others just like me. Why it is so hard to talk about what we see, hear, and experience from following God? Some of you may know all about the awesome things God does in the world, but you’re not sure how to articulate or describe that to the people around you. Others of you may not know what to say because you don’t fully know what you believe. I want you to know that your small group is a safe place to ask questions. Asking questions is a great way to learn and help you talk about God.”

“Did you know that talking about God is actually a faith skill you can practice? Talking about our faith is something people who follow Jesus should know how to do. It’s important to be able to

articulate what you know is true about God so others can better understand. However, this is not an easy task. To get better at talking about God, we have to practice. We have to work it out. But what does this look like?

“Well, when we have questions about our faith, the best place to look for answers is the Bible. And today is no different.

“The people who followed Jesus wrote down stories from what they heard Jesus say and saw Jesus do. You can find these stories in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Today, though, we head to the book of Matthew where we find Jesus and the disciples traveling. Let’s take a look in this week’s episode...”

CG: Week 3 Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:19)

“Peter knew the true identity of Jesus. But what I love about the story is that Peter was willing to take it a step further than simply knowing the truth. Surrounded by his friends, Peter was willing to TALK about Jesus’ identity. Many of us in this room know lots about God, but that doesn’t mean it is easy to talk about God. In fact, I’d venture to say that there are lots of people in this room who have never talked about God to others away from church.”

“If we talk about God, we run the risk of somebody making fun of us. What if our friends don’t believe what we believe? Or if we ask questions about God, we run the risk of not looking Christian enough. But I like to think Peter wasn’t much different from us. The difference between us and Peter might just be . . . he spent time practicing and talking to others about God.”

“If you are a Christian, it is important to be able to talk about God. Each week we meet, you are in a Small Group. Part of the reason we do this is to give you a safe place to learn more about God and a safe place to ask questions about God. We want you to know what you believe, to be confident in the truth of God’s Word and who Jesus is. Then we give you a place to talk about God. If we practice our faith skills when it’s easy, we will know what to do when life gets hard.”

“When our confidence grows, so do the opportunities to talk about God. If you come across someone who needs a little clarity or a little love, you can tell him or her about God’s everlasting love. You can even invite your friend to church with you! You can tell your friends about the amazing things that God does in the world. And, again, if you ever have questions about your faith or the Bible, you can talk to your small group leaders, or your parents, or even me—we’re all here for you if you need that resource.”

“You’re going to be talking more about what it looks like to talk about God in your small groups.”

Before we head to Small Groups, we have a special announcement for you...”

CG: Parkview Kids Baptism Class SLIDE

“Coming up very soon, on February 11th, you are invited to be a part of a really fun class about baptism! If you’ve ever wanted to get baptized, or wondered what it means to get baptized, this is the class for you! If you’d like to come to the class, and learn more about baptism, talk to your parents about it after service. We would love to see you there!”

“Now, let’s take a look at this week’s Worship Experience...”

CG: Worship Experience (Runtime: 5:00)

NOTE: For this week's Worship Experience, students will vocalize names of people they can talk to about God, to you as their leader (you can write these names down), and you'll all pray together for those names during a 5-minute song. The video will come back after the song, pray, and dismiss students to small groups.

(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)