

## Alley Rundown - January 27-28, 2018

**Bible Story:** Pennies for Heaven (The Widow's Offering) • *Mark 12:41-44*

**Key Question:** How can you live for God?

**Bottom Line:** Practice living for 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 (NIRV)*

### WELCOME:

"You know, I gotta say . . . after a few weeks of exercising with you guys, I'm starting to get a little bored. Most workouts are just too easy. It's just not challenging enough to test my chiseled physique any more. I need a new arsenal of difficult exercises to excite my bulging muscles (*flex gratuitously*). Who's with me? Let's take this to the audience. Do any of you know exercises that are really, really, ridiculously challenging? (*Allow response.*) Excellent! Tell me the worst exercises you know!"

*Take answers from the audience—expect suggestions like "push ups" or "burpees" or "wall sits" or "lunges" or other terrible exercises.*

"Man! All those sound awful! They sound terrible! Those are the worst! (*Beat.*) Speaking of the worst, does anybody want to play a game? (*Allow response*) Glad to see so many of you wanting to participate because this game will require everyone. I came onto this stage with a plan to host a game full of boring, mediocre exercises. HOWEVER, my plans have just changed! The exercises you just shared would make my game MUCH better and take it to a WHOLE-OTHER LEVEL! The name of the game is The Worst Relay EVER!"

"The game is simple. Each small group will do 5 (or 10 depending on time) reps of each exercise written on the **dry erase board** in the order it is written . . . starting with the top. Everyone in your small group must do the exercises. They don't have to be perfect—you just have to try them! Not only that, they must do all the exercises at the same pace. That means, Small Group Leaders, call out the number with each rep and everyone else keeps up. Furthermore, the first group to complete The Worst Relay EVER will win the title of . . . THE WORST SMALL GROUP EVER, a title all of you will, no doubt, be clamoring over."

"Let's all gather in our groups. Briefly come up with a team name . . . such as the BONE CRUSHERS! Do whatever you have to do to get into to the right mindset for the worst exercises!"

*Allow time for groups to gather and discuss team names. Quickly, let each group share their team name, then do the exercises as a group. NOTE: Some girls may be in dresses or heels, so they are more than welcome to sit out the exercises.*

"Have you ever heard the phrase 'going all out' while someone is doing a task? (*Allow response.*) *Going all out* means to work with all one's might or at full speed or to be incredibly

determined. Usually we will go all out when we play sports or when we are learning a new instrument or when it's crazy hair day at school. Most of the time, it makes sense to 'go all out' in certain environments or locations."

"Consider going all out when playing football. You would likely run extra sprints to give you the edge in chasing down a deep ball. You would drill your coach with a ton of questions about proper techniques or routes. And, of course, you would throw your body around the entire field to get better. You would go all out on the football field. It would be weird to go all out playing football in the grocery store or your mom's dining room, right?"

"What if you wanted to go all out playing your brand new, extra-loud trumpet? You would likely take private lessons to hone in on your technique and ask your band director if you could stay late after band practice to work on your new songs. You might even show up early to the band hall to go over sheet music. However, it would be weird to go all out playing the trumpet at your grandmother's house or in a restaurant, right?"

"But what if we wanted to go all out for God? If band stuff usually happens in the band hall and football usually happens on the football field, does God stuff only happen at church? Do you only worship God when you're here in The Alley? Do you only talk about the Bible when you're in Small Group? Do you only pray to God when you're here at Parkview?"

"Well, I hope not! Our faith isn't supposed to be something that *stays* in the church. In fact, our faith comes with us everywhere we go! It's with us at home, school, the sports fields, and beyond! It's our job as Christians to GO ALL OUT with our faith and be ready to grow or share it wherever we go! But what does that look like? What does it mean to go all out for God?"

"Well, I'm glad you asked. Today we will be looking at a lady who went 'all out' for God . . . and it's probably not someone you'd expect. Part of her story can be found in the book of Mark. Mark was one of the first followers of Jesus. He hung out a lot with Peter and the rest of the disciples. He loved what he learned about Jesus so much that he wrote down the stories so people like you and me could learn about Jesus, too! Let's take a look in this week's episode..."

#### **CG: Week 4 Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:30)**

"It's true the wealthy people Jesus observed would have given significantly more than the poor widow, but it would have been a small fraction of their wealth. In other words, they gave lots because they had plenty of money, but it didn't really cost them. The widow, on the other hand, didn't have much, so what she gave mattered. A lot. She gave LITERALLY everything she had to God. She went ALL OUT! It was this reason that Jesus said she gave more than anyone else."

"If you really want to grow stronger in your faith, you must learn how to LIVE ALL OUT for God. And what that means is that everything you do . . . everything you say . . . and everything you give are all for God. To live all out means you are taking everything you know about God and applying it to all aspects of your life. Your faith should invade school, sports, free time, slumber parties, snowball fights, mealtimes, and any other aspect of your every day."

"This won't be easy. Let's say you're at home. I don't know about you, but whenever my parents used to ask me to do things around the house, they'd have to ask me approximately thirty-six thousand times before I actually did anything. When you're living for God, though, you can take

care of things around the house BEFORE your parents ask you. You take the initiative to get it done.”

“Or perhaps you’re involved in some after-school sport like soccer. Sure, you can do your team well by maintaining good sportsmanship during soccer practice . . . but what about displaying good sportsmanship to the opposing team during a game . . . when you get kicked in the shin? To show God’s love to your opponents even when things don’t go your way is living all out for God.”

“Living for God is something you’ll work on your entire life. Even adults continuously work to live out their faith in all areas. Some moments you will succeed. Other moments you will fail. It takes commitment . . . it takes practice.”

“I’m excited you’re here today because this is an opportunity to talk through what it looks like to live all out for God just like the poor widow. I have a feeling that your Small Groups can think of some amazing ways you can LIVE ALL OUT for God. So as you head to small group, think about this question . . .”

***CG: Key Question Slide***

**“How can you live for God?”**

***CG: Key Question Countdown (Runtime: 3:00)***

**(Take 3 minutes before Small Groups to talk this out with the students)**

**(PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)**