

# Alley Rundown - March 10-11, 2018

**Bible Story:** Walk on By (Isaac's Wells) • *Genesis 26:1-6, 12-22, 26-31*

**Bottom Line:** Prove you care more about others by walking away from a fight.

**Key Question:** How do you walk away from a fight?

**Memory Verse:** "So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another." *Romans 14:19 (NirV)*

**NOTE: WORSHIP EXPERIENCE GAME INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 3 (READ IN ADVANCE)**

*Begin Rundown...*

"Hey, everybody! Have any of you ever been wronged? I mean like *really* wronged! Has there ever been a time in your life when someone did something to you that made you want to fight?"

*Note: Leader can use this story as an example. Consider a personal example when someone wronged you as a kid and made you want to fight. If that is the case, change the story to reflect what happened to you personally.*

"I feel all of your pain. Listen to this. Growing up, I was an animal lover. I had dogs, cats, fish, and even birds. These were my most prized possessions. I fed them, cared for them, played with them, and even protected them . . . from my younger brother. My brother could be careless with the animals, so I did whatever I could to prevent him from knocking over the fish tank or tripping the cat. I remember one crisp, cool morning I had left the windows open in my bedroom. He came in and wanted to let the bird out of the cage. Because I needed to finish getting ready for school, I told him no. Anybody want to guess what my brother did when I left the room? *(Pause for response.)* That's right! He let the bird out of the cage. And like birds do, it flew all around the room! He quickly regretted that decision because he couldn't figure out how to catch the bird and put it back in the cage. He even grabbed a baseball bat to reach the bird if it landed somewhere high. Only, the bird got scared and wasn't landing. My brother panicked and started swinging the bat around the room. In complete freaking out mode, the bird saw a way out and slipped past the curtains out the window! Does anybody want to guess my reaction? *(Pause for response.)* I was SO angry! He didn't listen, and my bird was gone forever! I was seeing nothing but RED, and I let my brother have it! Good thing he dropped the bat out the window, too, or it could've been worse! My dad had to pull me off my brother to break up the fight!"

"That was a very, very bad day. Now, I realize he didn't want to lose my bird. He was just trying to get the bird back in the cage, but this did not change the fact I wanted pummel him!"

"I'm going to venture to say most people in this room understand my frustration with my brother. In fact, I would guess many of you have been so angry with someone that you lost it with tears, yelling, gnashing of teeth, and maybe worse. It could have been with your brother or sister, your parents, your friends, or a complete stranger, but we've been there."

"When we feel wronged, we are quick to react. If we do not get our way, we do not hesitate to let our feelings be known. Say your kid brother lets your bird fly out the window: it's time for PAYBACK."

“But . . . what if we could respond differently? What if we could walk away from the fight? What would it look like? How would it feel? How would it change our relationships?”

“Last week, we talked about Abram. God told him to move, and Abram didn’t flinch. He packed up his belongings and hit the road. Some time after Abram and Lot parted ways, Abram had a son named Isaac. Like his father before him, Isaac owned sheep and cattle. These livestock would need crops to survive. When the herds exhausted the grass, Isaac would pack up his family and servants and tents and animals and move to a new place.”

## **OFFERING:**

***Homer Glen: Victor***

***New Lenox: Daniel***

***Orland Park: Michael and Valerie***

## ***CG: Picture of Child***

“Before we take a look at this week’s episode, we want to give you all an opportunity to bring your offering to God. Here at (your campus), we give our offering to help support (your campus child) in Kenya. Our offering goes to show kindness to them by buying clothes, and food, and other materials they may need. If you brought an offering today, you may bring it up when the video plays. If not, that’s ok too. You can bring an offering next week. If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here (*show offering container*). Let’s take a look at this week’s episode...”

## ***CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:07)***

“Isaac was following God’s instructions living in this land. However, this did not stop people from challenging Isaac for the land and water he claimed. With each conflict arose an opportunity to fight, but Isaac opted to make peace with people instead of enemies. Was Isaac frustrated by the conflict? I would assume he was disappointed. However, he did not escalate the situation to screaming, fighting, or worse.”

“Can you imagine what would happen if you walked away from a fight with your siblings or your parents or your friends or not your friends? We know it is something we SHOULD do, but we don’t always make that choice. Often, those who walk away from an argument are viewed as weak or cowardly. However, if you choose peace before the situation spirals out of control, chances are the argument will be over before someone gets hurt.”

“Don’t get me wrong. There are times to stand up for yourself and notify adults of the situation such as bullying. However, most times a fight is not necessary. In fact, many of us get pulled into arguments that aren’t even our own. Some of us in this room are friends with those who are full of drama. When you talk with those friends, there is always some problem that seems to get bigger by the moment. As a result, *you* get sucked into the drama! This drama has no impact on anything important, and it isn’t even your problem. What if we didn’t pick sides and pit people against each other? What if we didn’t choose to fight for things that just aren’t worth fighting for? What if we chose peace?”

“What’s more important? What’s really worth fighting for? Your relationships with other people or winning a fight? When we fight for our relationships, it tells others they are important. It reflects a level of care and maturity that comes from God.”

“You may not know how to walk away from a fight. This topic is hard, and it’s why we are going to talk about this in Small Group.”

**CG: Key Question Slide**

“As you head to your Small Groups, ask yourself this question: How do you walk away from a fight?”

“But before you leave, let’s worship.”

**CG: Worship Experience (Runtime: 5:00)**

**GAME: Ropeless Tug-of-War**

**What You Need:** Masking tape

**What You Do:**

- Tell students we are going to play a game called “Ropeless Tug-of-War.”
- **Help** students form a line shoulder-to-shoulder from the tallest kid to shortest kid.
- **Create** a line with tape 10 feet in front of the kids and another line 10 feet behind the kids.
- **Count off** every other person. (1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2, etc.)
- All the twos turn around and face the opposite direction from all the ones.
- Kids **interlock** arms.
- When you say “Pull” everyone **pulls** forward trying to get the opposite team over their taped line. The team that pulls the other team (or the majority of the other team’s members) over their taped line wins.

**Wrap Up and Say:**

“When playing Tug-of-War, you really need to dig in and fight to pull your opponent over to your side. Fighting hard in a game is one thing, but sometimes you will need to figure out a way to walk away from a fight in order to live in peace. In our relationship with Jesus, we need to dig in just as hard. We need to fight against our desires to do the wrong things, or our desires to fight without someone else. We need to dig in and show God worship by loving others. Let’s pray...”

**PRAY:** Jesus, we love You. Thank You for showing us through this fun activity the importance of digging in and loving others. Help us to remember that we can worship you by walking away from a fight and choosing to live in peace with the people You loved. Help us to have a great Small Group time. In Your Name we pray, Amen.”

**(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)**