

Alley Rundown - June 16-17, 2018

Bible Story: Clip My Hair (Samson) * *Judges 13–16*

Bottom Line: God is stronger than anyone.

Key Question: What happens when you trust yourself more than God?

Memory Verse: “I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” *Psalms 27:13 NIV*

“What’s up, everyone? Welcome to another exciting weekend in the Alley. So far, this summer has been a blast. I’ve loved exploring this idea of what it means to live fully alive as we follow Jesus! We’ve used a word a few times that helps us understand what it means to live fully alive; it’s confidence. And speaking of confidence, have you ever had a moment where maybe you were a little too OVER-confident? You didn’t quite take something as seriously as you should have because you just trusted yourself maybe a little too much?”

(share a personal example of a time that you trusted yourself too much)

EXAMPLE: “I can remember when I was in middle school and there was this big Spanish test. Everybody was making such a big deal about it . . . the teacher kept saying we should take time to fill out our study guides. Well, I was all, ‘Yo Hablo Good Spanish,’ so why do I need to study? On test day, I walked into that classroom, sat down at the desk . . . and had NO idea what any of the words on the test meant. It was no bueno, people. No. Bueno.”

“You ever have something like that happen? Trusting yourself too much is sometimes too easy to do! But what happens when we do this? For starters, we start to live our lives like we can do everything on our own. We become really confident in our own abilities, even when deep down we know we probably shouldn’t have that much trust in ourselves and what we think we can accomplish on our own. But if we can’t always trust ourselves, who can we always trust to help us?”

“That’s a big question. And when we have questions like that, we should look some place with the answers. And the best place to start is God’s Word, the Bible. Let’s dig into this week’s episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:23)

“You know, when you have strength like Samson and can do the crazy things he was able to do with his power, it can be easy to forget where that strength actually comes from. Samson got a bit overconfident in his strength and believed that nobody could stop him. I think that was why he finally told Delilah his secret. *(As Samson)* ‘Nobody can ACTUALLY stop me, right?’ But he had forgotten that it really wasn’t *his* strength . . . it was God’s. In the end, Samson got it though. He prayed and asked God for the strength, and God came through.”

“It is easy to become overconfident in ourselves, especially when there is something we are really good at. Like my story at the top, maybe we think we are so good at a school subject that there is no reason to study. Or maybe we are trying out for the school musical. We think *(with attitude)*, ‘I’m easily the best singer trying out. The main part is mine,’ and so we don’t prepare. Or we’re on a sports team and we get beat because we thought the other team was going to be so easy that we didn’t take it seriously.”

Here's the thing, though: if we do this with tests and tryouts and teams . . . is it possible that we do this with God, too? Maybe we have a tough situation we are going through and we think, 'I'm able to figure this out on my own. I don't need to pray.' But if God is more wise and powerful than all of us, why wouldn't we trust Him?"

"I think this is an important idea to discuss; good thing you're about to head to Small Group! As you group up today, I want you to think about this:

CG: Key Question Slide

"What happens when you trust yourself more than God? What happens when you decide that your way is better than God's or that you simply decide not to ask God for wisdom in a particular circumstance? Take time to really think about this question. And if you're not sure how you might answer that, don't worry. You'll have time to chat with your small group leader and think about some great ways you can remember to put your confidence in God. Before you head to groups, let's worship God with our offering and our time..."

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

"Offering Time is important here in the Alley, because it gives you all an opportunity to worship God by giving your money generously. 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 and place it here (*show offering container*). If not, that's ok too. You can bring an offering next week. The Bible tells us this about bringing our offerings to Him..."

CG: Offering Verse JPEG (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

(Invite students to bring their offerings forward)

CG: Worship Experience (Runtime: 5:00)

NOTE: Students will stand and sing to the song "Every Beat".

Dismiss Children to Small Group