

Alley Rundown - July 28-29, 2018

Bible Story: Something to Believe In (Nothing Can Separate Us from God's Love)

• *Romans 8:38-39*

Key Question: How would you live if you believed what God says is true?

Bottom Line: Live like you believe what God says is true.

Memory Verse: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." *Philippians 1:6, NIV*

"Hey, everybody! It's so good to see all of you here today. I love being around people I love. I've always been this way—even as a kid. In fact, I used to throw a fit if I couldn't be in the same room as (loved one). I am *[insert accurate mileage]* miles away from him/her now, which makes me a little sad just thinking about it. What about all of you? Anyone else love being close to the people you love? *(Pause for response.)*"

"When we are far away from the people we love, we can simply hop on a bike or in a car and go visit them. We can make a call or send a text or even video chat so we feel better about the distance. I realize that I am over-simplifying this solution, but you get the idea. With the right mode of transportation or technology, you can visit or connect with anybody you love."

"But what happens when we feel distant from God? A phone call or a car ride usually can't fix that problem. I remember a time when I felt just that—far from God."

Share an age-appropriate story about a time you felt distant or far from God.

EXAMPLE: "When I was young, I found a stray kitten in my mom's garden. He was a scrawny little thing who was just starting to walk on wobbly legs. The kitten was separated from his mom, and I spent hours trying to find its mother or any other kittens for that matter. With no luck, I named him Tater after the potato plant I found him under and took him to show my parents. While he was cute, he didn't look very healthy. My parents picked up a bottle and milk formula to feed the kitten. I did my best to nurse little Tater back into tip-top shape, but I went away for the weekend to visit my grandparents. When I came back . . . Tater had passed away. I was so sad. Tater was so little and so innocent—he never hurt anybody in his short, feline life. It was unfair! I felt like I failed. I felt alone. Nobody could really comfort me. I even felt far from God when that happened. In that moment, it felt like God was a million miles away. But when bad things happen in your life, the last person you want to feel distant from is God."

"Regardless, there are times in all of our lives when bad things happen. It's easy to feel alone and isolated from everyone, including God. Maybe your mom and your dad are separating. You asked God for comfort, but it felt like God didn't answer. Or you got in a fight with your best friend, and you felt like you'd been left along with no one around to turn to. Maybe you didn't make the swim team and you felt like a failure . . . like you let everyone down. Now you feel isolated."

"When you're struggling with the big events in your life, you may wonder if God even cares. It's times like these when you can turn to the Bible for guidance. Let's take a look at this week's episode!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:15)

“Paul offered the church in Rome a ton of truth and guidance in his letter. However, this morning, think about this fact: you can't be separated from God's love. Knowing God's Word will help us in times when we feel all alone. Whether you face illness, bullying, a bad hair day, a hard test, an angry friend, or anything else, it is impossible to separate you from God's love. Even when you FEEL alone and abandoned, like God doesn't love you anymore, remember that Paul tells us the feeling is untrue. The times you feel furthest from God are the times you should remember the most that God loves you and cares SO much! And on your very BEST day, Jesus is right there with you, too, loving you and celebrating your great day.”

“This is great news to hear today. Think about this question.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“**How would you live if you believed what God says is true?** How would you act or talk or play sports or make friends or whatever else if you believed what God says is true? How would you face difficult moments knowing that what God says is true? Let's spend some time worshipping God before Small Groups.”

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 place it in our Alley Offering Bin *(point children to location of bin)* when the Worship Experience video plays. 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 Video (Runtime: 5:00)

Dismiss to Small Groups.