

Alley Rundown - July 7-8, 2018

Bible Story: You've Got a Friend in Me (Philip and Nathanael) • *John 1:43-51*

Key Question: Who encourages you to trust Jesus every day?

Bottom Line: Find friends who help you trust Jesus.

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

CG: Future Force VBS Promo Video (Runtime: 1:00)

(Point students to look for VBS Central at your Campus to sign up for Future Force VBS. Cost is \$10)

Begin Rundown...

"What's up, everybody? I need some help today. I'm looking for a show of hands: how many of you like having friends? *(Pause for response.)* That's what I thought. Having friends is pretty popular. In fact, I'd venture to say everybody in this room loves a good friend! But what makes a good friend good? Do they need to be fun? Maybe do they need to make you laugh? Do they need to play the same sport as you? Gather together with some people next to you and discuss what you think makes a good friend good."

Allow groups about a minute to discuss desired characteristics in a friend. Once groups finish, allow a couple of kids to share.

"Excellent thoughts! Those are great qualities to have in a friend. Growing up, not all of my friends had those attributes. In fact, I had this one friend—*(share personal story of a friend that wasn't the best example, or use the example story below)*

EXAMPLE: "Maximo Fantastico." And while his real name has been changed, you might be able to guess by his fake name that Maximo was a pretty crazy and extreme dude. Maximo's the type of guy who, when playing Truth or Dare, would ALWAYS pick dare and ALWAYS go through with it. Maximo was the type of guy who would do a backflip off of the couch just to see if he could do it. Maximo's the kind of guy who would jump in the swimming pool in the backyard when it's 20 degrees outside because someone bet him two bucks that he wouldn't. He was a wild and crazy guy."

"I would say he was fun to be around . . . BUT he would always try to get me in on the crazy train. If I was eating a plate of nachos, Maximo would douse those babies in hot sauce and pour on a healthy serving of jalapenos . . . then call me a chicken if I didn't chow down. Maximo would talk people into a belly flop competition from the highest diving board so he could judge. And he would insist you were a baby if you choose not to do it."

"Today's episode is about good friends who point us toward Jesus. Let's take a look..."

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:45)

"All of us need people in our lives to encourage us to make wise choices and to follow Jesus. Which is why we need to ask ourselves:

CG: Key Question Slide

"Who encourages you to trust Jesus every day? You can go it alone in life and in your faith, and you might do all right for a while. But if you really want to grow and learn and see some amazing things, you'll find friends who help you trust Jesus. As you head to your small groups today, think about that question: Who encourages you to trust Jesus every day? Before we head there, let's take some time to worship God with our offering and our attention..."

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 us all an opportunity to worship God by giving our money generously. Here at (your campus), we give our offering to help support (your campus child) in Kenya. Here's a picture of where we are, and a picture of where (your campus child) is. Although we may never be able to travel to Kenya to meet our friend personally, when we give our offering, our friendship with them grows and it also makes God smile when we put others first!

CG: Pictures of Chicago, Kenya, and the distance between the 2

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 offering box (*point to offering box and indicate location*). If not, that's ok too. You can bring an offering next week and place it in our offering box at any time while we're together here in the Alley. The Bible tells us this about bringing our offerings to Him..."

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

(Pray over offering, the students and the week's lesson)

CG: Worship Experience (Runtime: 5:00)

Dismiss Children to Small Group