

Alley Rundown - August 17-18, 2019

Bible Story: Rain (Noah) • Genesis 6-8

Key Question: What is the hardest thing about following somebody?

Bottom Line: Trust and obey even when others don't.

Memory Verse: "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love." 2 John 6 (NIV)

"Hey, hey everyone. You know, it's funny how quickly things can snowball when you refuse to simply say 'no.'

(Share an age-appropriate personal peer-pressure story, or use the below template as an "Imagine if..." statement)

Take, for example, when I was in middle school, Pokémon cards were all the rage. Everyone was collecting and trading and battling, all the time, every day. We all had our own modest collections, but there was one kid in class who had collected every card, and when I say 'every card' I mean EVERY. CARD. He had every single one of the holographic cards, the rare cards . . . he even had cards in different languages, and he steadfastly REFUSED to trade with anyone! My friends and I were understandably jealous. One day when we were at lunch, my friends came up with a plan—when the Pokémon Master kid left his backpack at the table to go to the bathroom, we would sneak out a few of the cards to add to our personal collections. The group felt it wouldn't really cause anyone any harm because he had EVERY CARD! Now, I knew this was a bad idea. Stealing is obviously wrong, and if we got caught we could end up in trouble with the teacher—not to mention our parents—AND this kid would be really, REALLY mad at us. I watched as all my friends snuck over to his backpack and discretely took one or two cards. Before long, they all looked at me, egging me on to join their thievery. Before I knew it, I found my greedy little fist quietly and quickly reaching into his bag for one of his holographic cards. I bet you can guess what happened next—yep, right as I was grabbing one of the cards, the kid returned from the bathroom and caught me red-handed. I got in a LOT of trouble with the school AND with the kid AND with my parents! Because I couldn't say no and stand up for what I knew was right, I paid DEARLY.

"I think we all could agree following the crowd is too easy sometimes. It's easy to do whatever everybody else is doing, even if we don't want to do it. For some, it's even easy to follow the crowd even when we know what they're doing isn't right. Think with me for just a second. If everybody you like to hang around with plays a specific video game online together, there is a great chance they can convince you to join them, even if you don't like the game.

"The same is true for things you know are wrong, too. When all of your friends start talking bad about someone else, there is a solid chance you will tell the group your negative thoughts as well. When everyone in your class is passing around an answer key to a test to cheat, there is an increased chance that you'll look it over or maybe even write down the answers on your arm.

"Why is this? Why is it so easy to go along with whatever everyone else is doing rather than what we want . . . or what we know is right? Maybe it's because we all want to be liked by those around us. Maybe we don't want to be rejected by our peers. Regardless, many times, we feel an obligation to do whatever the crowd is doing. But we don't have to fall into this trap. There's a better way.

"And the best place to find that better way is in the pages of the Bible. The people who wrote the Bible included some amazing stories about times when God asked people to stand out from the crowd and do something that wouldn't make them too popular with those around them. Like our episode addresses today. Let's take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 15:30)

"The entire world around Noah was broken and running far from God. Nobody trusted God or following His ways. It's easy to assume Noah was just like everyone else who was making God sad. However, Noah was different. Noah did EVERYTHING just as God instructed! As a result, God chose Noah and his family to help Him start over. Noah trusted and obeyed.

“Following the great flood, God made a promise to Noah and his family that he’d never again flood the entire earth. God put a rainbow in the sky and explained that the rainbow would serve as a sign of God’s covenant, a forever promise with the whole world. God can be trusted no matter what because He keeps His promises. God kept another promise with us when He sent his Son, Jesus, to be the savior of the world. When we place our faith in Jesus, God promises to forgive you for all the rules you’ve broken or will ever break.

“Trusting and obeying leaders in our life is not easy, especially when others around us choose their own path instead of obeying their parents, coaches, and teachers. That’s why Noah is a great example for all of us today. When we go against the crowd and do what’s right, we can avoid danger and trouble! When we obey, we can show others in charge that we respect them. We can even be an example to others for what it looks like to make the wise choice and trust and obey. As we head to small group, think about all the leaders you have in your life—at school, at home, on your team, after school, at church. All of us are surrounded by people working to positively influence us. As you think about those people, ask yourself this question . . .”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What is the hardest thing about following somebody? Think about it. There’s not really a ‘right answer’ is there? Each of us might answer that question a bit differently. But it’s something we need to think about if we want to be a person who stands out from the crowd. You’ll talk more about all that in Small Group. Before you head out, let’s pray and thank God for being so trustworthy and keeping His promise to us.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard, lead Offering and Worship Experience, then dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: Kenyan Facts

“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. We have a picture of some facts about Nairobi where (campus child) lives! If you brought an offering today, you may place it in our Alley Offering Bin (point children to location of bin)

CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG

...when the 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 (Acts 20:35)

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin)

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

NOTE: Students will stand and “follow” directions given on the video.

Dismiss to Small Groups