

Alley Rundown - December 14-15, 2019

Bible Story: Born to Be Our Friend (The Coming Birth of Jesus) • *Luke 1:26-56*

Bottom Line: You can have joy because God is with you.

Key Question: What are some ways to find joy when you're afraid?

Memory Verse: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4 NIV)

ANNOUNCEMENT: Be sure that students know The Alley will not be meeting next weekend due to Christmas at Parkview. Encourage children to invite their friends and family, and attend one of the many services available next week.

“Hey, everyone! So great to be with all of you today. As we get started today, let’s dive into a story found in the book of Luke, chapter one. I’m pretty sure most of you have heard about this person before; her name is Mary. Yes, *that* Mary—the mother of Jesus.”

“Now, some of you may have heard about everything that happened leading up to Jesus’ birth. I could use your help telling it. When I get to certain points in the story, I’ll stop and ask a question for YOU to answer. Think you can help? Great! Let’s get started!”

“Mary grew up in Nazareth. Nazareth was a small town in Galilee . . . and to be honest, it wasn’t very impressive. It wasn’t the capital or center of all the towns. It wasn’t really seen as important.”

“Like Nazareth, Mary appeared to be ordinary. But Mary was engaged to marry a man named _____. Okay, here’s our first question. Take a look at the screen!”

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 1

“Is it? A. Larry, B. Joseph, C. Moses, or D. Randall the Magician.

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

“Great job! Yes! Mary was to marry a man named Joseph, not ‘Randall The Magician.’ Both Mary and Joseph were from the family line of King David. God had promised long ago that the Savior of the world, the Messiah, would be a descendant of David’s family. But when God made that promise, no one knew when the Savior would be born. But even though Mary and Joseph seemed pretty ordinary, God had an amazing plan for their lives.”

“One day, an angel named Gabriel visited Mary. Check out what Gabriel told her.”

“(Read directly from Luke 1:30-33) ‘Do not be afraid, Mary. God is very pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people.’”

“Can you imagine? Talk about life being unexpected! But when Mary heard this, she might have remembered the words a prophet who spoke about a child being born who would be the Prince of Peace. Who was the prophet who’s talked about the Prince of Peace? Take a look at the screen.”

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 2

“Was it A. Zebadiah, B. Bob McDonnell, C. Paul, or D. Isaiah?”

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

“Great job! Isaiah was the correct answer. This is what he said: ‘A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace.’ (Isaiah 9:6, NIV)

“Even though this was incredible news, Mary wasn’t too sure. In fact, she had some questions for Gabriel. She wondered, ‘How can this happen?’ (Luke 1:34, NIV)”

“Gabriel explained it will all happen with the power of God’s Holy Spirit. What seems impossible to us is never impossible with God. Gabriel also told her about her cousin who was also pregnant when it seemed impossible. Which leads us to our next question. This shouldn’t be too hard if you were here last week: Who is Mary’s cousin? Take a look at your options on the screen.”

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 3

“Is it A. Ursula, B. Elizabeth, C. Ruth, or D. Naomi?”

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

“Great job. Yes, Mary’s cousin, Elizabeth, was pregnant with a baby boy. The Angel Gabriel told Mary that God was with Elizabeth even though Elizabeth was old. And God would be there to take care of Mary even though Mary was scared. Mary believed what Gabriel said. She responded to him, (Read directly from Luke 1:38 NIV) ‘I serve the Lord . . . May it happen to me just as you said it would.’”

“Almost immediately, Mary packed her bags and went to go see Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s voice, Elizabeth’s baby jumped with excitement inside of her. Mary ended up staying with Elizabeth for three months, and during her time with Elizabeth, Mary wrote something. What did Mary write while staying with Elizabeth?”

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 4

“Was it A. A Song, B. A Poem, C. A recipe for awesome cinnamon rolls, or D. Both parts of a rap battle”

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

“That’s right! Mary ended up writing a song, not ‘both parts of a rap battle.’ Although, I might actually like to hear that. Listen to the words of her song. (Read directly from Luke 1:46-48, 52, 54-55)”

“My soul gives glory to the Lord.
My spirit delights in God my Savior.
He has taken note of me even though I am not considered important.
From now on all people will call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me.
His name is holy. . . .
He has brought down rulers from their thrones.
But he has lifted up people who are not considered important. . . .
He has helped the people of Israel, who serve him.
He has always remembered to be kind
to Abraham and his children down through the years.
He has done it just as he promised to our people of long ago,” (NIV).

"Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, then returned home, knowing that God would be with her every step of the way. Give yourselves a hand! We'll have one more quiz question after this week's episode. Let's take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 15:00)

"Mary had every right to be afraid. She could have been afraid of just the pain and uncertainty of being pregnant. She could have been afraid of what people might think about her, or she might have been afraid of whether or not she could have been a good mom to the literal Savior of the world! But thanks to the angel Gabriel and the help and kindness of her cousin, Elizabeth, Mary remembered that God would be with her every single step of the way."

"Okay, final question, and this one's an easy one. Take a look at the screen. Is God always with you?"

CG: Quizmas Quiz Question 5

"Is it A. Yes, B. Of Course He Is, C. Absolutely, or D. All of the Above?"

Ask kids the question on the screen. Poll the room and then reveal the correct answer.

"That's right. Without a doubt, God is with you. He's with you during times when you're sad. He's with you in times when you're uncertain or afraid. And He's with you during times of happiness and celebration, too. God made you a promise to be with you and to never forsake or leave you. God is a God who keeps His promises. We can trust God no matter what. As you head to your small groups, think about this."

CG: Key Question Slide

"What are some ways to find joy when you're afraid? Mary went to find comfort with a friend and to write a song. You may not do what Mary did, but what DO you do? Think about how you can refocus from worry about your situation to trusting God with joy. This is a tough one, but don't worry. You'll have a chance to talk all about this with your Small Group. Before you head to groups, let's pray and thank God for always being with 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

"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)."

CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG

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)

Supplies Needed: Ornament Craft Supplies (1 per student, per service)

NOTE: Students will take the time to decorate ornaments

Dismiss to Small Groups