

Alley Rundown-January 25th-26th, 2020

Bible Story: (Reason to Believe) Jesus and John the Baptist • Matthew 11:1-6

Bottom Line: If you don't understand something about God, ask.

Key Question: When you have questions about God, who can you ask?

Memory Verse: "For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."
(Proverbs 2:6 NIV)

ANNOUNCEMENT: SuperStart! Promo

"Hey Alley! Every year, we all gather together, fill up some buses, and head to an awesome overnight event called, 'SuperStart!'. Fun, Friends, Worship, Faith, and Play! It's all there! Take a look!"

CG: SuperStart! Promo (Runtime: :15 seconds)

CG: SuperStart! JPEG

"If you're interested in going to this awesome event, talk to your parents about it, and make sure you take one of these postcards (*show postcard*) home with you today! It has all the information on it that you need. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible!"

Begin Rundown...

NOTE: Please hang your "Question Mark Poster" somewhere visible in your room. It will be used for the Worship Experience this weekend.

"What's going on, my people! Such a good day in store for you. Can you believe we are wrapping up January today? It's been an awesome month, and today is certainly no exception. Question for you: what is something that you couldn't figure out how to do but then you figured out a way to get help to make it happen? OK, take a moment to answer this. TURN and TALK with the person or people next to you."

Turn and talk.

"Alright, let me hear some of your responses!"

Allow several kids to share and interact with them. Then share a personal, age-appropriate story, similar to the one below, that answers the question above.

"Those are great. For me, there was one time I was trying to fix a problem with the window on my car, but I couldn't figure out how to get the inside panel off the door. I didn't want to just start BREAKING things, so I did what every good mechanic does, I'm sure—I Googled it and watched a YouTube video! Sure enough, my problem was solved and I was able to fix the issue."

"Maybe you didn't understand how to beat a level on your video game, so you watched someone else beat it. Maybe you didn't understand something in class, so you raised your hand and asked the teacher. We have all sorts of different ways of figuring out things we don't understand."

"But what about when we don't understand something about God? What do we do when we have questions or doubts or confusion about God? Who do we go to then? It's not like we can go out for ice cream and have a face-to-face conversation with God, right? How do we deal with our questions about faith and church and the Bible and Jesus? First of all, know this: your questions about faith are important, so you can't just ignore them. You need to ask them. But finding people you can trust with these questions can be hard sometimes, so what do we do? Thankfully, we can look to the example of all sorts of people mentioned in the Bible who at one time or another had some questions about what God was doing. Let's find out what one of them did in this week's

episode. Take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:00)

"It's crazy to think that John had a moment like this in prison. And maybe we want to try and explain it away a bit because sometimes we see our questions as a weakness. But John definitely had some real questions about the way that things were going, and he wanted some answers."

"You ever been there? You ever have something going on in your life that you don't understand and you just have no idea where to start . . . and you can't just Google it or watch a YouTube video?"

"And what about when those questions are about God? That can be pretty scary."

"Let me ask YOU a question: where did John start when he had questions and doubts?"

Pause for responses.

"That's right, he started with Jesus. I'm sure if he wasn't in prison, he would have gone himself, but he sent his disciples *directly* to Jesus. Now I know what you're probably thinking. 'I can't go directly to Jesus and talk to Him like John's disciples did!' Well, yes and no. Sure, Jesus isn't walking around like He was when John was alive. But Jesus is still alive! And as He promised, He has sent His Spirit to be with us. God hears each one of us when we talk to Him. And He has given us His Word, which is alive and active. There are so many ways that God makes Himself known and available to us!"

"But there is even more. God has put important, godly people in your lives, followers of Jesus who you can look up to and ask questions when you might be struggling."

"I think it is really important for you to take a look at your life and identify at least one of these people right now. So, today as you go to groups, I want you think about this question."

CG: Key Question Slide

"When you have questions about God, who can you ask? Maybe it is a family member like a parent or an aunt or uncle. Maybe it is your Small Group Leader. It might be a teacher or a coach. When we struggle . . . when things don't quite go as we expected and it makes us question or doubt what we thought we knew, God has put these people in our lives to help guide us as well. In Small Group, you'll talk more about the people who you can ask when you have questions about faith. Before you head to Small Group, let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus and for always being willing to help us find answers to our big questions. Let's pray."

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and worship experience, then dismiss kids to Small Group.

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 2:00)

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

Supplies Needed: Post-It Notes, Pens, and Question Mark Poster

NOTE: Students will cover the question mark poster with any questions they have about God. Please collect these post-it notes to be given to your Campus Kids Director.