

Alley Rundown-February 1st-2nd, 2020

Bible Story: You're the Inspiration (No Greater Love) • *John 15:12-13*

Key Question: What makes you feel loved?

Bottom Line: Love others because Jesus loves you.

Memory Verse: This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10 NIV)

Supplies Needed: Conversation hearts (1 box per Campus), Sweet Tarts (1 box per Campus), heart shaped box of chocolates (1 per Campus), Wild Cherry Life Savers (1 bag per Campus), and Valentine's heart lollipops (1 per student, per service)

NOTE: This week, prior to heading to Small Group, children will participate in a hands-on Worship Experience which you will lead. Instructions are at the end of this Rundown.

"Hello everyone! OK, so in just a few days we'll be celebrating a "lovely" holiday? Can anyone tell me the name of that holiday? (Pause for response.) That right! Valentine's Day is quickly approaching, and I need your help. Every year we have a debate in my family over the best Valentine's candy. Some say its conversation hearts while others say a heart-shaped box of assorted chocolates . . . and the list goes on! To settle the dispute, I want you to weigh in on the very best candy for the season of love. You up for that? (Pause for response.) That's what I thought."

"I have searched, scoured, and brought you what, in my humble opinion, are the top five different Valentine's candies. I'll read the name of each candy first. While I read the names, decide in your head which is your favorite. Are you with me? (Pause for response.)"

Pick up and display each candy individually for the students to see and mull over. Candies include conversation hearts, Sweet Tarts®, heart shaped box of chocolates, Wild Cherry Life Savers and Valentine's heart lollipops

"At this point, you should have already decided your top choice of candy! As I hold up the choices this time, cheer as loud as you can for your favorite. I've heard you get loud before, so I know you can be loud now! The loudest collective cheer will be voted the best Valentine's candy and settle the long-standing family dispute."

Pick up and displays each candy individually one more time. The loudest collective cheer (or applause, or grunt, or howl, etc.) will be voted best Valentine's candy.

"And that settles it! We have our winner! Voted the best Valentine's candy is easily [Insert name of top candy]! Does everybody agree [Insert name of top candy] is the best? (Pause for response.) I didn't think so. But that's candy for you! Not everyone has the same preference or love for the same candies."

"While we don't all agree on the best type of candy, I think we can agree that the sugary goodness of the candy that we love leads us to horde it, keep it for ourselves, and not share it! It's safe to say many in this room would go CRAZY for their favorite candy and might do just about anything for it because they LOVE IT SO MUCH! But what do we do for people we love?"

"I'm guessing that everybody in this room has someone they love. It could be a coach, a parent, an aunt, grandparents, best friend, and the list goes on. Maybe you love all those people equally. As you think about someone you love, how do you show them your love? When we have questions like this, the first place we should look is the Bible. Throughout history God has interacted personally with people. Many of them wrote down what they experienced for others—like us—to learn how to make wise choices with our lives. That's what this week's episode is all about. Let's watch!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:00)

“To summarize how Jesus loved others, He simply put others first! He put other people’s needs before His own. The best picture of Jesus putting others first came at the end of His life. When Jesus died on the cross, it was done for everyone. Jesus gave His life for us because He knew every single one of us had a need—the need to be made right with God. Because He laid down His life, we can have a relationship with God that will last forever!”

“Let’s take a look at what Jesus said: (*Read directly from John 15:12-13*) ‘*Here is my command. Love one another, just as I have loved you. No one has greater love than the one who gives their life for their friends,*’” (NIRV).

“When Jesus spoke those words, He was talking to His disciples, but this was also a message for us about how we need to love one another. This kind of love is a bigger love than our love for Valentine’s Day candy. It’s the kind of love we offer to people we care about like our moms or favorite aunts. We are called to offer this love not just to our family and friends but also to people we disagree with, people who are rude to us, or those we feel like we would never get along with. We are told to love them the same way Jesus loved others. Based on what Jesus said, what matters most is you and I going out of our ways to put others first just like Jesus did! He set the example by putting us first, and it’s our responsibility to follow Him.”

“Following Jesus is not always easy. Often making the choice to love others the way Jesus loves us is to start thinking about the way we feel when someone shows love to us. That’s why as you head to Small Groups, we want you to think about this question:

CG: Key Question Slide

“What makes you feel loved? Think about the different ways we talked about earlier. Some of you feel loved when you get a gift or receive a note. Others when you get a hug from a family member or someone spends time with you. When you know how you feel loved, you can think about the way you can show love to others. If you’re not sure, you’ll get a chance to talk about it with your Small Group. Before you head to group, though, let’s pray and thank God for loving us so much and sending Jesus to be our Savior. Let’s pray.”

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

CG: Offering Video (Runtime: 2:00)

WORSHIP EXPERIENCE: Nuts about Jesus!

What You Need: Bible, balloons (1 per student, per service), hex nuts (1 per student, per service)

What You Do:

- **Give** a balloon and hex nut to each of the kids.
- **Show** the group how to push the hex nut through the opening of the balloon until it drops into the bottom.
- **Instruct** kids to blow up their balloons but not over-inflate them, as they will easily burst.
- **Inflate** 2 balloons for yourself, but don't add a hex nut to 1 of them.
- **Instruct** kids to tie off the end of the balloon.
- **Demonstrate how to grip** the balloon at the knotted end and swirl it in a circular motion. The hex nut may bounce around at first, but it will soon begin to roll around the inside of the spinning balloon and make noise.
- **Set** the balloons aside.
- **Spin** the empty balloon in front of the kids pointing out that there's no sound coming from it. The obvious reason is that it's empty. There is no hex nut inside.
- **Remind** kids that in order for us to love the way God does, He needs to be living inside of us. And when His love lives inside of us, we should make a joyful noise of worship to Him!
- **Look up and read** John 13:34-35.
- **Ask:**
 - According to John 13:35, how will people know that we are followers or disciples of Jesus?
 - Why should Jesus followers be the most loving people of all?
 - If we don't love others does, that mean we're not followers of Jesus? Why or why not?
- **Remind** your group what it means to be a follower of Jesus by explaining that God loved us first, best, and forever.
 - He wants a relationship with us, but sin keeps that from happening.
 - God gave His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins.
 - Jesus made a way for our sins to be forgiven by taking the consequences we deserve.
 - When we believe that Jesus died in our place, God forgives our sin and gives us the promise of having a relationship with Him forever.
 - He gives us the Holy Spirit inside of us to help us live for God and love others.
- **Encourage** any questions kids may have about what it means to know Jesus. Before leading any kids to take steps toward salvation, consider what you know about their families and if parents would want to be present for those moments/conversations.