

Alley Rundown-February 8th-9th, 2020

Bible Story: I'm Yours (Jesus at the Home of Martha and Mary) • Luke 10:38-42

Bottom Line: Love others with your time.

Key Question: What keeps you from connecting with others?

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)

NOTE: Today, you will tell an imagined story about a Valentine's Day gone wrong where you neglect your guest because you're too busy. Feel free to personalize the story, but the plot line of the story is important to serve as a parallel to the Bible Story.

"What's up, everyone?! Pretty big holiday coming up, right? Valentine's Day! Seriously, it's one of my favorite holidays. You know why? Well, it's an opportunity for me to tell the ones I love the most just how much I love them! But more than that, it's a chance to SHOW them. Use your imaginations with me for just a second. I will be describing an imagined Valentines' Day, but I need your help determining if it is successful or not."

"Let's pretend my special Valentine's guest is coming over, my grandmother. Oh, how I love my grandmother! My grandmother tells the absolute best stories AND jokes of anyone I know. Whenever she comes over, I love nothing more than to sit and laugh till my side hurts. But I don't get to see her that often. So, when she does come, I want everything to be perfect!"

"I decided to whip up her favorite: spaghetti and meatballs. While I was cooking, though, she knocked on the door. But I wasn't quite ready for her, so I yelled for her to come in. I had her sit on the couch. Quickly, I grabbed the vacuum cleaner because the carpet was covered in dog hair. Then, while I was vacuuming, I realized I hadn't dusted in a long minute. So, I started dusting the furniture and window blinds! I glanced back at the kitchen and noticed a mountain of dishes in the sink. I rushed over, but because the dish washer was full, I began hand-washing the dishes. While doing the dishes, the food finished cooking. So, I went ahead and plated my grandmother's food for her to start eating. Unfortunately, I couldn't stop to eat because I hadn't even started on her favorite dessert, red velvet cake! I hit pause on the dishes and baked her favorite cake. While the cake was baking, I realized I did not clean the bathroom! But while I was in the middle of the toilet scrub, my grandmother called over and let me know she needed to leave to make another Valentine's day stop. So I quickly washed my hands, threw together the red velvet cake, and gave her a slice for the road. I waved goodbye as she pulled out of the driveway."

"Let's have a show of hands, how many of you feel like this was a successful Valentine's Day? (Pause for response.) Interesting. In my story, I do manage to pull together a spaghetti and meatball dinner with a red velvet cake for dessert. By some accounts, you might call this a win due to the fact that I completed the meal. But on the other side of the coin, in the story I didn't really spend any time with my grandmother. I never heard a single story or laughed at a joke before she needed to leave. Too bad I decided to clean the bathroom instead of sitting down with her to talk and laugh."

"Have you ever had a situation like this? Maybe you weren't cooking on Valentine's Day for your grandmother, but you might have had a friend come over to your house. Instead of playing catch or jumping on the trampoline with your friend, he or she watched you play Minecraft or Super Mario Odyssey alone. Or maybe you had some family spend some time with you over Christmas break. Instead of playing cards or putting a puzzle together with your cousin, you opted to read a book, completely missing the opportunity to love your cousin well."

"Sometimes distractions can prevent us from connecting with others. We might not do this on purpose, but these distractions keep us from spending time with the people we love. What's hard is that some of these distractions can be good things, right? Playing a video game here and there isn't wrong. Reading a book is a great activity. But how do we make sure that when it comes to loving others, we're focused on others rather than all the things we want to do or even feel like we *need* to do? That's a great question for all of us, huh?"

When we have questions like this, the best place to start is the Bible. And this question is no exception. There's a moment from Jesus' life that might help. Let's check it out together."

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 12:00)

"In life, it is easy to act like Martha. We give our attention and time to so many things. Often these things prevent us from connecting with others—including Jesus. But nothing is more important than spending time with Jesus. When we experience His love, we want to share that with others! However, this starts with giving our time to the One who matters most."

"One of the best ways we can love others and Jesus is by giving others our time. Being generous with our time is not always an easy task. We face all sorts of things that keep us from being able to spend time with others. As you head to Small Groups, think about this . . ."

CG: Key Question Slide

"What keeps you from connecting with others? What are the things in your life that keep you from spending time with the people you know? Maybe you might need to put down that book or video game controller or tech device. When we realize what's keeping us from connecting with others, we can figure out ways to set those things aside and make Jesus and others a priority. If you're not sure where to start, don't worry. You'll get the chance to talk more about this with your Small Group. Before you head to groups, we're going to spend some time connecting with Jesus through offering and worship. Let's pray."

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard, lead offering and worship experience, and 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). If not, that's ok too. You can bring an offering next week."

CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin)

CG: Worship Experience (Runtime: 5:00)

NOTE: Students will stand and sing "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong. Be an active participant, and example to your group, during this time.