

Alley Rundown—January 24th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Golden Slumbers (Parable of the Bags of Gold) • *Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)*

Today's Key Question: How can you use what you've been given?

Today's Bottom Line: Make the most of what you've been given.

Memory Verse: “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much...”
(*Luke 16:10a NIV*)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

WORSHIP: God So Good

Pray to close Worship Time

“Hey, everyone! It’s so good to see you all here today. Here’s something to think about: what would you do if you were given \$1,000? I’m talking cash in hand. A fat stack of twenties totaling a thousand smackeroos. What would you use your newfound riches for? Video games? A year’s worth of art supplies? Maybe throw half in savings and use the rest to buy candy and chips? Take a moment and think about it.”

Call on several kids to hear their responses.

“All great uses of a thousand bucks! Many of you would spend it on really great stuff! When I was in your shoes, I did the exact same thing whenever I got my hands on any kind of money.”

Share a personal story of a time someone gave you a moderate sum of money and how you spent it. Use this as an example, or put the below example in third-person and share it as a hypothetical situation.

“When I was a kid, my grandmother used to give me \$100 for my birthday every year. Sure, a hundred bucks might be a good deal less than a thousand, but it’s still some serious money to be carrying around at ten years old! My mom always told me to save it, but COME ON, mom! There’s no WAY I’m not going to buy myself something awesome! One year, I spent the full \$100 on Pokémon cards, bought the FULL SET right off the shelf. However, the joke was on me: the VERY NEXT WEEK, the new edition cards came out, and all of the packs that I bought were rendered completely uncool. Nobody wanted my OLD cards when they were all trading with the NEW stuff.”

“I burned myself pretty bad by buying all of those cards. I mean, I seriously regretted it afterwards. But nowadays, in retrospect, I understand why I bought all those Pokémon cards. I was thinking SMALL. At that moment, I wanted something that would make me instantly happy. I’m sure a lot of you have felt the same way. That bag of candy might taste better after you’ve enjoyed a nice, big dinner, but all you want to do is rip into that little bag of sugary goodness right NOW.”

“What if there’s a way to use whatever you have—money or gifts or talents—to do something even greater? What would it look like to use a \$1,000 or \$10 or your art skills or skateboarding talent to do something greater? Whether you know it or not, we all possess resources to do something bigger! Let’s take a look at a time Jesus challenged some people to do just that in this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:00)

“Let’s think about this story for a moment. Jesus talked about three servants who were given much while their boss, the rich man, was away. When the man came back, he celebrated the the two who multiplied their money and gave them more. But the rich man scolded the man who did nothing with what he had. The message of Jesus’ story was clear. Those who are responsible with what they’re given will be given more! But those who waste it will end up with nothing!”

“While Jesus told this story to the disciples, His words also make sense to us in 2021! Whether you know it or not, God has given us SO much. Now, maybe He hasn’t given you bags of cash, but He’s given you words to speak for Him. Maybe you’ve been given much influence in the lives of the kids in your class or on your team. Maybe you’ve been given the ability to cook really good food. Whatever God has given you, it isn’t something that should just be kept to ourselves. It’s meant to be shared! It’s important for us to make the most of what God has given us.”

“Jesus made the most of His time with people. Part of why I love this passage is because Jesus was using what God had given Him, the gift of storytelling, to encourage us to use what God has given us! He showed love to everyone and helped them understand what’s most important to God.”

“As we close our talk today, ask yourself this question.

SLIDE: Key Question

“How can you use what you’ve been given? Think about what exactly God has given you. Consider how God has wired you and gifted you. Imagine all the ways you can use those gifts and talents to show others how much you care about them and how much God loves them. And don’t worry if you’re having trouble thinking about what you’ve been given. You’ll have a chance to talk more about this with your Small Group in just a moment. Before we head out, let’s pray and thank God for the way He’s loved us and given us so much. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses kids to All Together Activities.