

Alley Rundown—February 13th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: By Your Side (Jesus Talks with a Woman from Samaria) • *John 4:1-30, 39-42*

Today's Key Question: Who matters to you?

Today's Bottom Line: Show others that they matter.

Monthly Memory Verse: He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8 NIV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

CG: SuperStart! Video Promo and Slide

“SuperStart! is coming up very soon and you won’t want to miss this yearly event. It’s an overnight event just for you in Bloomington, IL, where you’ll get to play games, eat pizza, make new friends, and hear an awesome message about how much Jesus loves you. Sign up today!”

“Hey, friends! Good to see you all. Let’s start with a couple of questions. First, who is someone who has believed in you? And second, how did that person show you that you mattered? Take a moment, turn to your neighbor, and share a story about someone who believed in you. I can’t wait to hear some of your answers!

Kids turn and talk with groups. If time or setting allows, have a few kids or leaders share with the whole group. Share a personal story to wrap up the conversation, something along the lines of the following paragraph.

“Those were some great stories. You know, back when I was a little older than you, I had a teacher who really believed in me. He noticed that I could speak well. Actually, he noticed that I talked a lot in class and kept getting in trouble. He said instead of getting in trouble by talking that I should try completing in some speech competitions. He believed that I could use my voice for something great, not just to talk during class and get in trouble. I ended up doing pretty well in these competitions. Because he believed in me, I found out I had a talent. I even ended up going to college on a scholarship to be part of speech team. And now I get to speak in front of kids like you. How cool is that?

“I love sharing and hearing stories about people who’ve helped us. I mean, thinking about those people who have believed in us and make us feel like we matter? Well, that’s pretty special. It makes me think about how I do that for others. I’m quick to take someone’s encouragement, but how do I show encouragement to others?

“And even if I do show others encouragement and show them they have value, how do I figure out who to help? And it makes me wonder, do you think there are times when we treat other people like they are MORE deserving of compassion or like they matter MORE than other people?

“Before you answer that question for yourself, let’s a look at a moment we find recorded for us in the Bible.

After all, the Bible is a great place to start when we have a big question that impact our lives.

“Today, we head to the New Testament to the Book of John. Now, let’s get ourselves setup for the story by getting our bearings a little bit here. This is a map of Israel, where our story takes place.

SLIDE: Story 1

“Now, many of us are familiar with the town of Bethlehem in Judea. Why is that?

Pause for responses.

“Right! That is where Jesus was born! And several of us might also be familiar with Jerusalem in Judea. Anyone know why that city is important?

Pause for responses.

“Great job! Yes, that’s where the Jews would go and worship God. They’d go to Jerusalem because that’s where the temple was. In fact, Jerusalem was the capital of the region. Back to the map, if we travel all the way up to Galilee, we find the Sea of Galilee and a town called Nazareth. Who knows why Nazareth is important?

Pause for responses.

“Awesome! That’s right! Jesus grew up there! Excellent. Many of the Jesus stories we read about in the Gospels happen in the region of Galilee (*pointing*) and the region of Judea (*pointing*). But there’s another major area on this map. It’s this section in the middle—Samaria. Ever heard of it?

“Well, in Jesus’ time, this was not a friendly place for Jewish people like Jesus or the disciples. In fact, the Jews and the Samaritans pretty much disliked one another . . . a lot. The history of this tension goes quite a long way back, but the feelings were real. Let’s just say, when traveling between Judea and Galilee, many would do what they could to avoid traveling through Samaria. And if you didn’t have time to go all the way around this region, you went through it quickly and quietly.

“With that in mind, let’s jump into our story with the help of this week’s Episode!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:00)

“Did you catch that? The people came out of the town and made their way toward Jesus! Why? Because this woman went and told them her story. All of this started when Jesus was willing to look past what others would have seen in this woman and see that she mattered because she was a child of God. Jesus recognized her value even when nobody else did. This made an incredible impact. Not only did she personally change, but she also went and told her town and they came to meet Jesus. Just listen to this verse that comes later in the story.

Open the Bible to John 4:39 (NIV) and read.

“Many of the Samaritans from the town of Sychar believed in Jesus. They believed because of what the woman had said about him. She said, “He told me everything I’ve ever done.”

"This is incredible. This woman's testimony about what had happened led so many others to come and meet Jesus and learn for themselves about the living water that leads to true life! Did her life matter? Absolutely!

"You know, we all have people in our lives right now who, if they were honest, probably would say that they feel like they don't matter a whole lot. Maybe they compare themselves to those who are more popular or athletic or talented. Maybe they feel like they just come up short. Maybe that person is even you. But Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well helps us see that Jesus goes out of His way to show others that they matter, and we should, too.

"This could be kids you know at school, in your neighborhood, at church, or even in the place where you live. A person can look like they have all of the friends in the world, yet that same person can feel lonely and like they don't matter to anyone. When we show those people how much they matter, we never know the impact that it might have. For the Samaritan woman, it changed an entire town! Who knows, maybe for you it could change an entire family, or neighborhood, or school!

"Today as you head to Small Group, think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question Slide

"Who matters to you? Think about all the different people you meet throughout your week: people you know really well and others you may only somewhat know. Consider the ways that you might be tempted to pick who matters based on things that might not actually matter. Think about things in your life that might cause you to overlook others in your life. Think about the ways you can help others see how they matter to you and truly matter to God. If you're not quite sure how to answer those questions, don't worry. You'll have a chance to chat more about this and more with your Small Group. Before you head to groups, let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus to rescue us and show us just how much we matter, too!

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

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here's a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri, New Lenox: Daniel, Homer Glen: Victor