

Alley Rundown – February 26th, 2023

Today's Bible Story: God is God (A Roman Commander Has Faith) • *Matthew 8:5-13*

Today's Key Question: How do you show respect to God?

Today's Bottom Line: Remember God is most important

Monthly Memory Verse: *Do to others as you want them to do to you.* Luke 6:31 (NIV)

Dude Perfect Filler Videos

SLIDE: Theme Background

"Hey, friends! I love coming into The Alley because we are able to talk about some really important ideas and have fun in the process! As we get started, let's try playing a game called This or That. It's a simple game where you have to make a decision with your legs. I will call out the names of two different people or things. You'll need to decide which is the most important between the two. Once you've made up your mind, walk to the side of the room that represents your decision. For example, if I asked who is more important, cats (*point to the right side of the room*) or dogs (*point to the left side of the room*)? For those who think cats are more important, you'll walk to the right side of the room. If your opinion is dogs, you'll mosey over to the left side of the room! Make sense? Great! Let's stand up and move to the center of the room. (*Allow response*)

"The first round is pretty simple. Who is more important: your teacher (*point to the right side of the room*) or your principal (*point to the left side of the room*)?

Communicator allows time for all kids to pick a side of the room. If there are kids who are having trouble or refusing to pick, encourage them from the stage to pick a side.

"Very interesting! What about this? Who is more important: your best friend (*point to the right side of the room*) or your siblings (*point to the left side of the room*)?

Communicator allows time for all kids to pick a side of the room. If there are kids who are having trouble or refusing to pick, encourage them from the stage to pick a side.

"I thought more of you would have said your siblings! Moving on! Who is more important: the coach (*point to the right side of the room*) or the star player (*point to the left side of the room*)?

Communicator allows time for all kids to pick a side of the room. If there are kids who are having trouble or refusing to pick, encourage them from the stage to pick a side.

"Wow! Your coach determines your playing time, but the star player helps you win! Tough choice.

"How about this last one? Who is more important: God (*point to the right side of the room*) or everybody else (*point to the left side of the room*)?

Thanks so much for playing! You can go back to your seats. Well, obviously the correct answer for the last question is God! We believe God should be the most important Person in anyone's life! But the question does make me wonder. Last week we looked at how we can show respect to all by spending time with them! This is easy to do because we can see the individuals around us. You can show your mom she's important by making her favorite cup of tea or coffee. You can show your teacher he's important by listening to all of his lessons! But what about God?

"We say that God is most important in our lives, but how do we show how much God is important to us when we can't physically see God with our eyes? Since God is supposed to be the most important Person in our lives, how do we show God respect? If you've ever wondered about questions like those, you have definitely come to the right place. We think questions are pretty great, but we also think it's important to search for answers for those questions, too. You might already have figured this out, but the writers of the books in the Bible have A LOT to say about how to show honor and respect to God.

Let's hear about one of those stories...

Lesson Video: (Runtime: 14:58)

COMMUNICATOR:

"When you consider how Jesus responded in this story, you can't help but see how He demonstrated that God is all-powerful with His ability to heal the servant. Jesus healed the servant without going near him! Plus, Jesus showed God's unconditional love when He helped a person who would have been seen as the enemy. The Roman commander believed that Jesus would be able to help and treated Jesus, the Son of God, with so much respect!

"This is the same truth we need to understand. The centurion could have let a number of barriers prevent him from ever approaching Jesus, but the Roman Commander didn't! He humbled himself to get Jesus' help and even said he wasn't worthy of Jesus entering his home. He respected Jesus by knowing the true extent of His power. The commander had faith that Jesus could heal his servant with a mere thought. The commander showed Jesus the ultimate respect! Likewise, we shouldn't let any barriers prevent us from spending time with Jesus because He's THAT important!

"Sometimes in life, you may think a quick prayer before your dinner or coming to church every so often is enough time to get to know and honor God. However, giving God the ultimate respect goes beyond this. A good start is making time with God a priority in our day. You can open the Bible and read more about God's Big Story to better understand the heart of Jesus. You can live like Jesus and treat others with love and respect.

"Sometimes we're guilty of forgetting that God is most important! However, if we pause to think about who God is and what God has done for us, it's hard NOT to show God the ultimate respect. As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“How do you show respect to God? This can be at church, at school, on the sports field, at home, at the grocery store, or any other place you spend your time. Do your words or actions show God respect? If you are having trouble thinking of examples in your life, no worries. You’ll have a chance to think more on this subject with your Small Groups and brainstorm ways you can show God even more respect. Before we get out of here, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus and ask God to help us show respect. Let’s pray.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group after offering and Superstart announcement.

OFFERING:

As some of you may already know, we are highlighting some of our Parkview Global Missionaries from the beautiful country of Mexico. Here is a picture of our Missionary Friends Eli and Mandy Garcia!

CG: Eli and Mandy

Parkview has spent many years developing a very important partnership with an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries in Mexico. This group has been working in many of the under-resourced areas to plant churches, start schools, and care for the amazing people of Mexico. Here’s a picture of some of the kids at the school down in Mexico.

SLIDE: Kids at School (Image 6620)

So if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now knowing that it is going to help a lot of people just like you in the great country of Mexico!

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 fourth and fifth graders in Naperville, 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!”