

ALLEY Rundown – April 29-May 1, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Mercy's Shore (Jesus Restores Peter) • *John 21:1-19 (John 18:1-27)*

Today's Key Question: When is it hard to make things right?

Today's Bottom Line: Put others first by making things right.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* *Philippians 2:3 (NIV)*

SLIDE: Theme

"Hey friends. I am really glad to see you all today as we wrap up the month of April. All month we've been discovering more about humility—putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve. And, well, I've been doing lots of thinking this week about how hard it can be to put others first. Sure, it's easy to put someone you really love first, like your grandmother. But what happens if someone mistreats you or hurts you? Let me tell you what I mean.

Communicator tells an age-appropriate personal story about hurting someone. If possible, tell a story that is light or comical. Use the following as a model.

"I'll never forget one time I was fishing with my friend, Jordan. When I was in high school, I had a small aluminum boat perfect for catching fish on sunny days! One Saturday morning, the weather was perfect, so my buddy Jordan met me at the pond to get our lines wet and hopefully catch some fish! Once in the boat, we anchored near the shore in the shade of a huge oak tree. Jordan was sitting behind me in the boat and using a plastic worm as bait. I wanted to try my top-water lure, which has two tremble hooks. This means there are six barbed hooks on a single bait.

"On my very first cast, I accidentally hooked my friend's hat that he was wearing and threw the hat into the water. It was so embarrassing, but it got worse. Once we retrieved the hat, we anchored the boat again. On my very next cast, I accidentally hooked my friend's back! He was in so much pain, and I felt awful! I hurt my friend. We quickly paddled the boat to the shore and drove to the doctor's office where they were able to safely remove the barbed hook!

"Of course, it was not my intention to hurt my friend, but the damage was done! I was worried he wouldn't forgive me and might hold a grudge. The hat he wore was messed up, and now he had a gnarly scar on his back! This was a wild story, but the best part was when my friend forgave me!"

"Many of you are probably not surprised that Jordan forgave me. I mean, he was my good friend! Friends will need to forgive each other from time to time. However, I hurt my friend as an accident. I didn't intentionally set out to hurt him with my fishing equipment!"

"But what if someone intentionally hurts you? What should our response look like? I'm sure each of you have an example of how you've been hurt by another. Maybe your best friend shared that super-private secret with all of your classmates. Maybe you worked really hard on an art gift for your brother's birthday, and he just threw it away.

Maybe your classmates gave you a nickname that's mean and hurtful, but they won't stop using it.

"Each of these situations would be difficult and hard to forgive. It makes me wonder, what does it take to choose to forgive someone when they've hurt you?

"This is a great question—a question that people have been asking for a really long time. In fact, we even find the writers of the Bible wrestling with how to show love and humility when people hurt us. Thankfully, Jesus, when He was on earth, lived out our answer. Let's look at this story from His life now."

VIDEO: The So and So Show 15:44

"I really, really like this story because we get a glimpse of the character of Jesus. Let me explain. As one of Jesus' closest friends, Peter was convinced he would never deny knowing Jesus, but when Jesus needed friends most, Peter did just that three different times! When the rooster crowed and Peter realized what he did, I have to believe Peter felt awful! However, Jesus showed up on the same beach where Peter parked his boat. Jesus had a valid reason to be mad at Peter, but that did not happen! After filling up their fishing nets with a catch, like He had done at the beginning of their friendship, Jesus shared a breakfast with the men and Peter. Then Jesus initiated a conversation with Peter to make things right. Jesus still loved Peter. Jesus had forgiven Peter and invited Peter to care for the people who followed Jesus!"

"Each day, we'll face frustrations big and small. People will wrong you, and it's super-easy to stay mad. But even if you feel like you have the right to be mad, Jesus demonstrated another option. Jesus made things right between Himself and Peter.

"Maybe your friend promised to take you bowling on Friday night but took someone else instead. Instead of getting mad and ignoring them at school, you can go initiate a conversation. It's okay to tell them you were sad. But don't forget to tell them you still care about them and want to hang out."

"Or maybe your big brother promised to watch your last volleyball game! Instead of watching it, he stayed home to play video games with his friends. You're really mad because he always games with his buddies, but he never makes the effort to see you play! Instead of showing him anger, you can let him know you missed seeing him at the game and that you still love him!"

"And there's a great chance you'll be the one who wrongs others from time to time. If that happens, it's just as important for you to make things right!"

"Whether you've been wronged or you hurt someone else, the situation will be difficult. We must try to make things right even when it's hard! God gave us an incredible example in Jesus Who showed us how to forgive.

"We'll continue to talk about this story in our Small Groups, but we want you to think on this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

“When is it hard to make things right? We realize each of you are coming from different backgrounds and experiences. When you look at the difficulties you’ve faced, what are the situations that are hard to forgive? When are the times you really need God’s help to make things right? Before we leave, let’s pray together and ask God for help with this! Let’s pray.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

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!

It was awesome to spend time with you today, have fun in small groups!”