

ALLEY Rundown July 29-31, 2023

Today's Bible Story: The Other Side (Heaven) • *Revelation 21:3-5a*

Today's Key Question: What do you think heaven will be like?

Today's Bottom Line: God will make everything right in the end.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift.* Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

SLIDE: Theme

Good morning, friends! It's hard to believe we're wrapping up this month today—but we're going out with an awesome story today. Maybe even the most awesome story ever. Before we get to it we are going to start out with our key question...

SLIDE: Key Question

What do you think heaven will be like? Who will be there? What will it look like?

Give kids time to answer

It's nice to talk about what Heaven is like, especially when life here on earth can get pretty difficult.

When life does get hard, it can be difficult sometimes to have faith. Life is full of ups and downs, good times and bad times, but really, how do we know what it's going to be like in heaven with Jesus? No one knows what it's *actually* like, so how do we know, for sure?

And while we're here on earth, how should we live? How can we have hope? What should we be doing with the one amazing life we have?

These are pretty big questions. Maybe even a bit big and a bit deep to be thinking about on a Sunday morning in July. But it's important since we're talking about faith and hope, and everything you're learning and believing all leads to one point—and thankfully we've got the Bible as a guide. We'd be totally lost without God's Word to guide us! Check this out...

VIDEO: the SO and So Show

It can get really easy to get overwhelmed by the brokenness we see around us in the world sometimes. Family members get sick. People get hurt or feel lonely. There's violence and war on the news constantly. There's just so much that can make us sad.

But here's the Good News—you can have hope. Because John was given a picture of the future, we now have been given a look at our future, too. And it is better than we could imagine . . . better than we could ever draw out or attempt to capture. God has not left us alone in this world. God is with us and has a plan to put an end to the pain and make all things new.

What will it be like when that happens? It's hard to say exactly. Sure, we still have a lot of questions.

There is a lot we don't know. But we can focus on what we do know: for those who believe in Jesus, there will be life that lasts forever, no more pain or death. Where we will be fully alive, with God, in a way we can only imagine here on earth.

And all we have to do is accept God's gift so we can be in Heaven with Him.
It's like it says in our memory verse for this month, Ephesians 2:8. Say it with me.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

"God's grace has saved you because of your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift." (Ephesians 2:8, NIV)

Let's pray!"

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

OFFERING:

All summer, our offering money will go to families in Kenya. They have a food shortage because of a drought. And the food that is available is expensive! As you can see in these pictures, this is an area in Kenya called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

SLIDES: Kenya 1-4

We are working with an organization called Missions of Hope. Our money will help them make food baskets for the families who live in Turkana. The food baskets will be such a blessing to the children and families in this community! If you have any offering you can bring it up now.

****AT YOUR COORDINATOR'S DIRECTION, YOU WILL EITHER DISMISS TO SMALL GROUP OR DO ACTIVITIES TOGETHER.**