

ALLEY Rundown – August 26-28, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Pure Imagination (The Tabernacle) • *Exodus 25:8-9; 28:1, 3; 31:1-11, 35:21, 25, 34; 39:42-43*

Today's Key Question: What are creative ways to honor God?

Today's Bottom Line: Use your imagination to honor God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)*

***Campus Team: you will need a larger dry erase board or big piece of paper**

SLIDE: Theme

Welcome to the Alley, friends! Before I came up here, I was thinking about the team we have in *The Alley*. We are blessed to have all the volunteers like _____ and _____ (*name a few small group leaders*)! Our team is full of incredibly awesome leaders who are really good at so many things. I want to take a minute to write down what our leaders are the best at doing.

Communicator asks a small group leader (or two) what are some things they are good at and writes them on the dry erase board or large paper.

These leaders are SO great! But what about you? When you think of your life and all the ways God has wired you, what are you really good at? Let me know your answer to this question by raising your hand.

Communicator calls on a few kids and writes down the appropriate answers. Communicator steps back and looks at the list and highlights several talents written down.

Wow! Look at this list. Clearly, we are sitting in a room full of talent!

The list on our white board is incredibly diverse! We've got athletes, artists, engineers, master LEGO builders, mathematicians, scientists, gamers, musicians, and the list goes on. Each one of us has been made to create in different ways. God has gifted you with the creativity to build, paint, solve, dream, and play in school, at home, or at work!

I realize we were unable to get everyone's talents on the white board, but I want you to think about what you're good at one more time. As you think about it, ask yourself this question: Are your talents just for you or should they serve a greater purpose?

In other words, if you are really good at sports, does your athleticism only exist to fill up your walls with trophies and medals, or is there a way to honor others with your athleticism? More specifically, is it possible to use your talents to bring honor to the One who gave you the ability—God? And if so, what might that even look like?

This is a pretty important question—one that people have been asking for thousands of years. Thankfully, in the Bible, we can read how people used their creativity to honor God. Let's check out one of those moments today!

VIDEO: The So and So Show (13:57)

For hundreds of years in the desert, the tabernacle served a major role in the life and culture of the Israelites. Not only was the tabernacle a place for the people to gather and worship God, but it was also a place where God dwelled. The tabernacle continued to serve this purpose until King Solomon built the temple to act as the central place of worship in Jerusalem.

Today, we come to church to gather with others to worship God, learn about God, and experience God. But this building is not the dwelling place of God like the Tabernacle was. After Jesus walked this earth and died on the cross for us, He sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within all of us! God dwells within us now! How awesome is that?!

This story is an amazing example of people working together and using their creativity and imagination to honor God. Although God provided the Israelites with specific instructions, God's people were able to dream up ways to execute the plan using their talents. For example, the craftsmen knew gold needed to be woven into the fabric of the high priest's garments. They needed to creatively experiment different ways to make gold in the garment a reality. Or when the curtains were made for the tent, the skilled weavers needed to create and pull together a huge amount of fabric. Folks needed to spin massive amounts of raw material. Then the people had the complicated job of weaving the yarn into fabric! But they were instructed to weave the image of cherubim into the fabric! This required skill and creativity!

Creativity is more than wild inspiration. In this story, we can see God's people leverage their creativity and skill through the planning, preparing, and executing God's plan for the tabernacle. When we look around this room, it is full of amazingly talented and creative people!

Like the Israelites in our story, we want you to use your imagination and skill to honor God. When you want to honor God in your neighborhood, it could mean thinking of ways to serve an elderly neighbor like redoing their flower beds. Or maybe you can make your little sister a one-of-a-kind coloring page of her favorite Bible story that she can color while she's waiting for you to come home from school.

Using your imagination to love God and love others better is one of the best things you can do! As we get ready to head to move to other activities, we want you to think about this one question.

SLIDE: Key Question

What are creative ways to honor God? You were made in the image of God, and there's nobody else on earth just like you! This means your creativity and skills and ideas are unique to you. There are creative ways you can honor God unlike anybody else in this world! We can't wait to see what you come up with. Let's pray!

SLIDE: Theme

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

OFFERING:

This summer, our offering money will go to families in Kenya. Take a look at this video of an area in Kenya called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

Turkana video #1

Our offering 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.