

# ALLEY Rundown – September 16-18, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** I'll Stand by You (Barnabas and Saul) • Acts 9:26-30

**Today's Key Question:** When have you seen someone stand up for someone else?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Friends stand up for one another.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes.*  
Proverbs 17:17 (NirV)

## SLIDE: Theme

What's going on everyone? How's your weekend going? I am so glad you joined us in the ALLEY. To start today out, I need everyone to stand up. I'll give a simple stand up/sit down instruction. Just follow it EVERY TIME . . . got it?

Sit down if you like DC better than Marvel.

Stand up if you would rather play sports outside than video games inside.

Stand up if you have lived in the same place since you were born.

Sit down if you have moved during the last two years.

Stand up if you like group projects at school.

Sit down if you would choose cookies over ice cream.

Sit down if you went in some body of water this past summer.

Stand up if winter is your favorite season.

Stand up if you have ever gotten in an argument with a friend.

Stand up if you ever worked out an argument with a friend.

Stand up if a friend has ever stood up for you or you have ever stood up for a friend.

Stand up if you're still sitting down."

While you're all standing, think about something for a second. What does it even mean to STAND UP for a friend? Would anyone like to share what they think that means?

*As time allows take a few responses from the kids.*

Those are great thoughts! You can ALL sit down now. So, many of you said that you've had a friend stand up for you, or you've even had the chance to stand up for a friend. There are all sorts of reasons we might have to stand up for a friend, but this can be tricky, can't it? There's some risk involved. We may not know if we can really trust that the person we're choosing to stand up for is trustworthy. We may wonder if people will treat US differently if we stand up for someone else. These are real things to think about when it comes to the whole idea of standing up for others.

So, what do we do? What does it look like for us to take a chance and stand up for people we know and care about? Or even people we may not know so well, what do we do about them? These are great questions for us to think about today.

Thankfully, when we have big questions, we have a place we can look for big answers: the Bible. Remember, the Bible is full of wisdom written down by real people who had real experiences with God. And God inspired them to write about them so we can learn from them all these years later. Let's head there now and see what wisdom we can discover about standing up for others!

**VIDEO: The So and So Show (16:58)**

Saul, Paul—that can get confusing. Either way, from his story we can see how truly amazing it is when a friend stands up for another friend. In Acts, Luke didn't tell us what Barnabas saw in Saul. We don't know why he stood up for Saul. But at some point, he decided to trust God and put himself out there for the sake of another, and it made all the difference. Saul would go on to travel much of the known world sharing the message of Jesus and starting churches everywhere. But that started with simply being accepted as an apostle and leader in the early church.

Now, we might not be a part of something that feels SO huge . . . but are there times that standing up for someone still matters for us? Maybe you see a friend who is getting picked on or made fun of at school by other kids. That matters. So how can you stand up for your friend and get the help they need?

Maybe your friend was accused of doing something they didn't do and nobody will believe them. But you know the truth about them. That matters, too! How can you stand up for your friend and get the help they need?

Or maybe your friend is starting to get into some things that might not be good for them. You know you need to step in and help. That definitely matters. How can you stand up for your friend and get the help they need?

There are a lot of ways that we can stand up for others! A lot of the time, standing up for someone means talking to trusting adults and getting their help in order to make sure your friends are okay.

Today as you go to groups, think about this:

**SLIDE: Key Question**

**When have you seen someone stand up for someone else?** What was the situation? How did it make a difference? How might that situation help you when you see someone who needs help? If you're not quite sure how you'd answer those questions, don't worry. You'll have a chance to talk all about it with your small group. But before we head out, let's pray and ask God to give us the courage to be more like Barnabas with the Saul's in our lives! Let's pray!"

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*

**OFFERING:**

Until the end of 2023, our offering money will help families in Kenya. Because of the drought, it is hard for them to find food. And the food that is available costs a LOT of money! As you can see in these pictures, this is an area in Kenya called Turkana, and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

**SLIDES: Kenya 1-4**

Our friends at Missions of Hope will use our money to make food baskets for families in Turkana. It's a great way to show we care. If you have any offering, you can bring it up now.