

ALLEY Rundown – October 14-October 16, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Keeping the Faith (Daniel's Integrity with Food) • *Daniel 1*

Today's Key Question: When is it hard to do what's right?

Today's Bottom Line: Do what's right wherever you are.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught.* Proverbs 10:9 (NIRV)

CAMPUS SUPPLY NEEDED: white board or large piece of paper

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, friends! Let's have a show of hands. How many of you have ever been on a road trip before? This road trip could have been to visit family, a family trip to the pumpkin patch or the big city, or maybe even your dad's work trip where you tagged along! (*Allow response*) Awesome! Road trips are marked by time in some sort of vehicle, and many of you know EXACTLY what I'm talking about.

Growing up, we went on many trips to the big city or to the beach. Although each destination was memorable and special, I especially loved each long drive in my family's van. My parents knew the best way to travel with kids included lots and lots of snacks. On our way, we would stop at a convenient store and pick out our favorite road trip food. It was the best!

Leader writes his/her junk food preferences on the dry erase board.

Let's take a minute to brainstorm the greatest road trip food of all time. Whether you've been on a road trip before or not, I want you to think of foods you love to munch on while on the go. If you have a favorite, raise your hand, and I'll call on you! Let's see if we can fill up this dry erase board.

Communicator takes a few minutes as time allows to brainstorm junk food and write on the board.

What an incredible list! All of a sudden, I'm feeling extremely hungry! Do me a favor and look over this list of road trip food. Do you notice anything interesting? (*Allow response*) Most of the options are unhealthy food preferences like chips, chocolate, and candy! The road trip food you prefer is very similar to the road trip food I loved growing up!

Although junk food is awesome, why don't many of us choose a healthy snack when we hit the road and travel? Everyone here knows healthy food is the responsible choice. So why do we defer to candy and chips? Most of us probably do this for two reasons. First, it's delicious! Second, it's easier and faster to stop at a convenience store overflowing with junk food rather than stopping at a grocery store with vast fruit and veggie selections.

Not sure about you, but if I'm honest, I often find myself guilty of repeatedly ignoring what's best for me. Obviously, this is bigger than junk food on a road trip. Sometimes I sit a little longer in front of the TV instead of going for a walk or jog. Or rather than waking up on time to read and study my Bible, I might sleep a little longer and skip time with God. Other times I get distracted by a sports app on my phone instead of having a conversation with the people around me.

I've got a sneaking suspicion I'm not the only one who does this! When you've got to wake up early the next morning, why do you choose to stay up way too late reading or gaming? When you've got a spelling test the next day, why do you opt to eat popcorn and watch a movie instead of studying? If given the choice, why don't we always choose what's best for us? Why do we choose the metaphorical 'junk food' of life?

These are some important questions. One that at some point in our life, we should try and answer. What's one of the best places to start when you have a big question? (*Get response.*) That's right! The Bible. The people who wrote the Bible actually have a lot to say about making wise choices that honor God with our lives. Let's check out one of those moments today!

VIDEO: So and So Show (15:21)

I love the fact that Daniel and his buddies didn't try to FIT IN. Rather, they did what was right and FIT OUT! In the process, they demonstrated a better way—God's way.

We have a memory verse this month that will help us remember what integrity is all about. It's Proverbs 10:9.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Anyone who lives without blame walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught. (Proverbs 10:9, NIV)

And as we get ready to head to groups today, think about this question.

SLIDE: Key Question

When is it hard to do what's right? Is it hard when you're alone in your room? Is it difficult when you're surrounded by friends? What about when you step into a new space surrounded by new people? Today in our small groups we'll talk more about doing what's right, and I'm really glad you're here for the discussions. Before we head to groups, let's pray to God and ask for help to make the wise choice and do what's right!

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

Before we head into small groups, we want to tell you about a special event.

SLIDE: Alley After Hours

We have an extremely fun night planned just for you on Friday, November 10th. Alley After Hours is ONLY for 4th and 5th graders and we are taking over the whole church!

It's one epic night of jumpy's, a glow room, epic ball, crafts, and prizes! Just bring yourself, all your friends and some money to buy candy and slushies, too. And the best part is - we will have an end of the night battle between 4th and 5th graders to see which one of our mystery leaders will be slimed!

It will be a night you won't want to miss, so register online today and be sure to tell your friends so they can register, too. You can grab a postcard on your way out!

OFFERING:

Where has our offering money been going to this year? Yep, to families in Kenya! They are experiencing lack of food resources because of an on-going drought. We are collecting money for food baskets to bring to the families who live in Turkana. If you have any offering, you can bring it up now while we watch this video of Turkana families receiving baskets.

Turkana video #2