

# ALLEY Rundown – October 7- 9, 2023

**Today's Bible Story:** A Matter of Trust (Naaman and Elisha's Servant) • 2 Kings 5

**Today's Key Question:** Why is it important for people to trust you?

**Today's Bottom Line:** When you're not truthful, you lose trust.

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

## SLIDE: Theme

Hey! It's so good to see everyone today. I would love to start out today with a quick activity with two of our Small Group Leaders called 'Two Truths and a Lie.' Maybe some of you have played before. For the game, both of our volunteers will tell you three statements about their lives. Two statements will be true, and one statement will be a lie. You must determine which statements are truthful and which is a lie. Make sense? Awesome. Let's bring up our volunteers.

*Communicator brings up two to four volunteers as time permits. One at a time, volunteers say three statements about themselves. After each Small Group Leader speaks, Communicator polls the audience to determine which statement they believe to be false.*

Great job to all of you who tried to guess which statements were untrue. Plus, a huge thanks to our Small Group Leaders for not only participating in our activities but for being such trustworthy leaders in the lives of our kids. We appreciate you!

I've played the game 'Two Truths and a Lie' countless times over the years. It's a fun activity to get to know each other while also trying to figure out what really happened and what's made up! Some individuals are better at coming up with believable deceptions than others, which makes the game even more interesting.

The funny thing is: in 'Two Truths and a Lie,' you're rewarded if you can deceive your audience. That's really not how it's supposed to go in life though, huh? Most of the time, if you're caught in a lie, you end up facing the consequences of not telling the truth. Though the specific consequences may vary, one consequence is a given: a loss of trust.

When you say you'll show up to your friend's big game but don't, you'll lose trust with your friend. When someone turns in a research paper but copies the work from someone else on the internet, they'll lose trust with their teacher. If you tell your mom you're not sure what happened to all the potato chips but she finds the empty bag under your bed . . . yep, you'll lose trust with your mom.

I realize I'm probably not saying anything you don't already know. But I am curious as to why us humans can struggle with telling the truth when we KNOW we'll lose the trust of those around us if we get caught? Is it because we underestimate the consequences? Do we just not care about the consequences? Do we not really care for the people on the other end of our dishonesty?

Wow. Those are big questions! And the *truth* is, this is something all of us will struggle with. More than likely we'll each have moments in our lives when we can choose to be truthful or not. So what do we do about it? How can we get better at choosing to be truthful and live with integrity?

Thankfully, we have a source of truth: the Bible. Remember, the Bible was written by all sorts of people who experienced the truth of God in their lives. God inspired them to write down these moments so people could know more about God and how God wants them to live. These stories from thousands of years ago are still true today. Let's check out one of them now.

## VIDEO: The So and So Show (15:17)

I realize it's not always easy to be honest and truthful. Sometimes telling the truth can lead to consequences as well. However, it's never wrong to do the right thing. And Jesus demonstrated with His words and actions the importance of being truthful. In moments of difficulty, lean on God. Ask God for strength and courage to live with integrity!

Gehazi's story reminds me of our memory verse, Proverbs 10:9. Say it with me.

## SLIDE: Memory Verse

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

As we get ready to head to small groups today, we want you to think about this.

## SLIDE: Key Question

**Why is it important for people to trust you?** When you're interacting with others in scouts or in math class or at home, why should they believe your words? It's something to chew on. If you have no idea, no worries at all. Your Small Group Leaders are here today to help us answer this question and better understand this story. Before we head to groups, let's pray together to ask God for strength and courage to live with integrity!

*Communicator 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 10<sup>th</sup>. 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:

Until the end of 2023, our offering money will go for food baskets for families in Kenya. Take a look at this video of an area called Turkana.

## Turkana video #1

It's awesome that our money can help families who really need it. If you have any offering you can bring it up now.