

ALLEY Rundown September 30-October 2, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Just the Way You Are (A Tree and Its Fruit) • Luke 6:43-45 (John 15:1-17)

Today's Key Question: How do you want people to describe you?

Today's Bottom Line: Be truthful with your whole life.

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

SLIDE: Theme

What's up, friends? I'm so glad to see you. I hope everyone's drive to The Alley was smooth and uneventful. You know, personally, one of my favorite parts of my day is driving not because I necessarily love driving so much, but I love car watching. On the roads, there are small sports cars to big semi-trucks and everything in between. Some cars drive slowly while others have seemingly one speed—FAST!

Regardless of the vehicle, all rides carry different goods. Some carry people. Some vehicles carry fruit or vegetables. Some deliver flowers. Some move building materials.

What I'd love to do is test your quick-thinking skills with a car trivia game called 'Good Rides.' We'll show several images of vehicles. You'll need to quickly determine what you think the vehicle is carrying and raise your hand. I'll call on the person who raises their hand first. Everybody understand? Let's play.

SLIDE: "Good Rides" Slides 1-5

Communicator calls on kids to guess the goods each vehicle is carrying. The goods include ice cream (ice cream truck), pizza (pizza delivery car), trash (trash truck), money (armored vehicle), and parcels (delivery truck).

Well done! Each of you know your trucks and the goods they carry.

While all the trucks carried goods, not all trucks carried desirable goods. I don't know a single person who wouldn't stand in line at an ice cream or snow-cone truck for a cold treat on a hot day; and I'm sure many of us have waited at the door for the delivery truck to arrive with a much-anticipated package. However, I don't know of anybody who enjoys driving behind a fertilizer truck or enjoys the smell of a trash truck.

If you were to have full access to the contents of one of these trucks, which one would you choose? *(Allow response)* I find it so interesting most of the room would prefer to dig into the ice cream truck or the delivery truck! Why? Because of the good stuff it contains.

Obviously, the goods placed inside a vehicle, whether desirable or undesirable, are the items that come out. What if this was true about us as well? What if the stuff we consume—whether it's movies, music, YouTube videos, books, friendships, sports—determines if you make wise or unwise choices with your actions? Let's think about this: Can the videos we watch or the people we have around us affect the way we treat others, speak to others, or love others? Are we filling ourselves with good things that will help us to become the person we actually hope to be? The person God wants us to be?

These are great questions. Thankfully, we have a great place to look for answers—the Bible! In the Bible, we find the authors have a lot to say about this topic. What God inspired them to write can give us a better understanding of how our surroundings can affect how we live. Let's get into one of those moments now!

VIDEO: So and So Show (11:50)

People notice ice cream trucks for all the right reasons—the good things stored inside them will eventually make their way out of the truck. People notice garbage trucks because of the smell—trash is stored inside and exits the truck at the dumpsite. The insides of these trucks are no accident. Someone intentionally stored up good or bad within each of them. Likewise, Jesus made it clear—nobody lives with integrity by accident. Every day we can choose to follow Jesus and remain connected to Him, the vine!

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)

I know I don't want to take a crooked path. I want to be truthful with my whole life. Let's think about this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

How do you want people to describe you? Maybe you would love your family to describe you as helpful, or your friends to notice your kindness, or strangers to point out your friendliness! More than likely, you want people to describe some good within you. In The Alley we believe Jesus can help with that! Before we leave to talk more about this in Small Groups, let's pray together and ask for God's help staying close to Jesus!

PRAY

OFFERING:

For the next three months, our offering money will go for food baskets to families in Turkana, Kenya. The food that is available costs a LOT of money and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

SLIDES: Kenya 1-4

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. And remember to pray for our partners there at Mission of Hope.