

ALLEY Rundown – November 11- 13, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Permission to Dance (David Dances) • 2 Samuel 6:12b-22a

Today's Key Question: How can you show God you're grateful?

Today's Bottom Line: Celebrate what God has done.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.* Psalm 136:1 (NIV)

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everyone! Welcome back to the Alley Hope you're having a great weekend so far! If you were here last weekend, you know that all month long we're talking about GRATITUDE!

Now, for today . . . let's spread some gratitude! Let's start by showing our thankfulness to a special group of people among us—our Small Group Leaders! They take time out of their busy lives and show up week in and week out. They come prepared to create an incredible experience for you. And on top of all that, they love Jesus and want to help you know more about Him!

Let's give them a SHOUT-OUT! Everyone stand and clap for your small group leaders!

This makes me think of a question... Could it possible to have too much gratitude? I get that a question like that might seem kinda strange to ask. But do we ever reach the point where our gratitude, our thankfulness is just too over the top? Is thankfulness something we should sometimes keep to ourselves? Maybe chill out on some of the excitement? Like, sure, we should be thankful, but maybe not THAT thankful? I don't know.

But that's one of the things that's great about coming here to the Alley. We think asking questions and not always being sure of things is the start of something great. That's why we ask a lot of questions around here. But we also know where we can find some great answers: The Bible.

Remember, the Bible was written by all sorts of people who experienced the power of God in their lives. God inspired them to write about their experiences so others could get to know God, too! And the writers of the Bible have a lot to say about gratitude and showing our thankfulness. Let's check out one of those moments now!

VIDEO: The So and So Show (12:09)

This brings us back to our original question, doesn't it? It might be easy to focus on the negative side of what Michal was saying. She thought that what David was doing was foolish . . . maybe it was odd and confusing to her. Maybe she thought kings shouldn't act like that, especially in front of a crowd of people. And so, she rejected it. But David loved God so much . . . he just couldn't help but express it in how he worshipped. And that worship showed up in a CREATIVE way.

Let's think about this together. Have you ever been so grateful that you lose control for a moment? I don't mean that you go all wild, more that you stop caring so much about what other people think or worrying about what else is going on. Maybe you scream or run and hug someone or cry? We see it at sporting events or competitions. Why not even more with God? God did way more for us than just get us a win or score a goal. Shouldn't we get really excited when we think about just how grateful we are for all that God has done through Jesus?

At the same time, it also doesn't need to feel forced. Showing gratitude doesn't mean that we have to constantly name everything we're thankful for all of the time. Many times, it's just having an attitude of gratitude. Choosing to be thankful when it is easier to be negative or complain. God takes great joy in our thankful heart.

Now, don't worry, no one is saying that you HAVE to dance. But maybe some of you can express your gratitude to God through music like singing or playing an instrument. Or maybe it's through art—creating something that reflects your gratitude to God. Or maybe it's just telling others about what God has done for you and letting them SEE the joy you have when you tell them.

Let's look at our verse this month.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever. Psalm 136:1 (NIV)

And today as you head to Small Groups, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

How can you show God you're grateful? How can we creatively express all that God has done and let others see the joy we have? Maybe you're not sure, and that's okay, too. I have a feeling you'll come up with all sorts of ideas with your Small Group. But before you head out, let's pray and ask God to give us hearts that are thankful . . . hearts that then flow outward into our words and actions! Let's pray!

Lead the group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

SLIDE: Theme

OFFERING:

Until the end of 2023, our offering money will go to families in Kenya, in an area called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

SLIDES: Kenya 1-4

We are working with an organization called Missions of Hope. Our money will help them make food baskets to bring to 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.