

ALLEY Rundown – November 18- 20, 2023

Today's Bible Story: The One (Jesus Heals 10 Men) • *Luke 17:11-19*

Today's Key Question: What helps you remember to be grateful?

Today's Bottom Line: Take time to say thank you.

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

Note: Have kids get into small groups with their leader before you start Large Group.

SLIDE: Theme

What is going on, everyone? We are back again for another great week talking about gratitude! And today, let's start with a little activity I like to call, the 'Shout Out Circle of Thanks!'

SLIDE: "Shout Out Circle of Thanks"

Now, you might be wondering, 'What is a Shout Out Circle of Thanks?' I'm so glad you asked!

In just a moment, you'll form a circle with your Small Group. The person whose birthday is closest to today will start. You'll turn to the person on your left and say something you are thankful for. They will then turn to the person on their left and say something they are thankful for. They will then turn to the person . . . you get the picture. Sounds easy, right? Well . . . there's a catch. First, you can't repeat something someone else said. Next, you can't pause to think for more than a beat. And lastly, you can't say 'Umm.' If you do any of these *off-limit* items, you have to sit down in place right where you're standing. We'll see who is left in your group at the end as the most thankful. Got it? Alright, let's show some gratitude!

Make sure everyone has a circle to join. If the circles are too big, the game can take a long time.

(After the game) Wow! That was awesome! You sure have a lot of gratitude to share!

People help us all the time, don't they? A parent might fix us dinner. A teacher can help us learn. Coaches give us a chance to grow our skills. Not to mention all the people in our community who keep us safe or make sure we have what we need. Lots and lots and LOTS of people who on some level deserve our gratitude. But I have to ask. Do we HAVE to say thank you every time someone does something for us? Don't people assume that we're thankful for how they help us? Why is it important to tell people we're thankful?

These are great questions. We might all have different opinions about how we'd answer them, so let's take a moment and think about this and see if we can find some good answers. Thankfully, we have a great place to start: the Bible. In the Bible we find all sorts of people who experienced God and knew Jesus. They learned something, and God inspired them to write it down so others can learn something too. Let's check out one of those moments now.

VIDEO: So and So Show (14:44)

There's so much to love about this story. I love that Jesus found Himself in a place that others would often avoid. I love that when healing the men, He waited for them to take some steps of faith rather than just snapping His fingers and taking care of things instantly. But above all, I love that this story gives us a model for what it means to give thanks when something good happens in our lives.

One guy out of ten returned to say thanks. That tells us that maybe saying thanks isn't as natural as we think. Look around. What if our story today represented this room right now. What if, for every good thing God did for us, only one person out of every ten in here actually thanked Him for it. Interesting when you think about it like that, right?

See, when we experience a problem, the 'problem' is all we can think about. It might not be as bad as something like a skin disease, but maybe. And in that moment, all we want is a solution. All we want is someone to swoop in and fix it. We would do anything! But then, when something in our situation does change . . . when God does answer a prayer . . . when someone does help us out . . . what then? Do we just move on? Do we consider what was done for us? Do we, like the one, return to say thank you?

Maybe you have been praying for a family member for a while now because they are sick, and then their situation starts to improve. And one day the doctor gives the good news that they are all clear and healthy again. Certainly, say thank you to the doctor who treated them . . . but how can you turn to God and say thank You, too?

I don't think this story has to just be about the way God helps us either, although that is really important. Maybe you have a friend who helped you study really hard for a test because the subject was a struggle for you. They gave up a lot of their time and you ended up getting a great grade! Now can you return and say thank you to your friend for all their help?

There are moments in our lives when we can learn to better express thankfulness when it's easier to just move on to the next thing. Consider the people around you this week and consider the way God is working and then think about who you are more like . . . the nine who were healed and moved on . . . or the one who returned."

Today, as you make your way to Small Groups, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

What helps you remember to be grateful? How can you be sure that you are like the one who returned to show your thanks? Maybe you've never thought about that question before and you're not sure how to answer it. That's okay, too. You'll get a chance to talk all about this with your Small Group and come up with some great ideas. But we move on, let's pray for God's help to make us the kind of people who regularly return and say thanks! Let's pray!"

SLIDE: Theme

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

OFFERING

Take a look at video of an area in Kenya called Turkana that is very rural and the people who live there do not have much money for food.

Turkana video #1

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. If you have any offering you can bring it up now.

Slide: theme