

ALLEY Rundown – January 13- 14, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Never Enough (Bigger Barns) • *Luke 12:13-21*

Today's Key Question: What do you have that you can share?

Today's Bottom Line: Share what you have.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large. Luke 16:10a (NIRV)*

LG Supplies: Muddy Buddy answer sheet and a pen (one for each small group, each service)

Divide Kids into small groups before you start Large Group today.

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everyone! So excited to be back for another great week together. Hope your new year is off to a great start and you're making some good headway on those New Year's resolutions. This month we are talking about responsibility.

Now, I know what you might be thinking. 'Responsibility?! Are you kidding me? Why do we need to talk about responsibility?!' And you know what? Those aren't terrible questions to ask. But here's the thing . . . as we start a new year, it can be important to set goals and make a plan to grow and get better at life in the new year. Maybe you have chores, pets you take care of, or even a pet project (*point to the Theme Slide*) like a hobby, sport, or skill you're hoping to improve.

So let's jump into our morning with a game that's all about Pet Projects . . . specifically, PETS! Who has a pet at home? (*Get response*) Awesome! Maybe you have a dog or cat or . . . tarantula, but whatever the pet, you have to take care of it. Here's a game all about pets . . . I call it 'Muddy Buddies!'

SLIDE: "Muddy Buddies"

First of all, make sure you're sitting with your Small Groups. Leaders, grab an answer sheet and a pen, and get ready!

Each group gets an answer sheet numbered 1 through 10 and a pen. Choose one person per Small Group to write the answers down.

Alright, here is how this game will work. Have you ever accidentally let your pet cat or dog . . . or llama into the house with muddy footprints and they left tracks throughout the house? Oops! It's an unfortunate thing that goes along with having a pet. But how many of you think you could identify some pets simply by their tracks? (*Get response*) Well, let's give it a try.

A set of pet tracks will appear on the screen. DO NOT yell out the answer. Instead, write it down as a group. We'll go through all 10, then we'll go through them again and see how you did! You can mark if you got it right or wrong. By the end we will see what group really knows their pet tracks. Got it?

SLIDES: Animal Track Slides #1-10

Keep the game moving. After each new slide appears, give them a brief time to discuss, and then a "3-2-1" countdown to write an answer down. After you go through the Animal Track slides, go through them again revealing the answer slide. Remind them to check if they got it right and X if they got it wrong. Provide commentary along the way and allow groups to say what they wrote down before revealing the answers. Determine a winner at the end. (Who got 4 or more right? 5 or more right? etc.)

SLIDES: Animal Track Answer Slides #1-10

(After the game) Well done! You all really know your muddy footprints! Looks like you've had to clean some of those up before. Well, no cleaning up footprints this morning.

As we get started, I've got a question. How many of you have a collection of some sort? Baseball cards, board games, comic books? Who collects something? If so, what?

Communicator takes several responses as there's time. Comment appropriately as kids share.

SO fun! Alright, those collections sound awesome. You all collect some super fun and interesting things.

As we can see, people collect all sorts of things: action figures, LEGO sets, fancy jewelry, or even sports cars! When we see people and what they collect, we might be inspired to start a collection of our own or maybe take better care of a collection we've already started. At the same time, seeing the way people collect things in their lives might prompt us to ask some questions.

Think about this for a second. Do you think people can possibly get a little extreme or become obsessed with their collections? Can it all get too much? It's one thing to have a collection of fun things like comic books or records, but it's another thing to only ever think about getting more and more of them. What happens when our collections become all we think about?

It's fun to have LEGO sets. But LEGO can be more fun if we share and enjoy them. It's totally fine to have a lot of comic books, but what if I never read them and they just sit in a box untouched? Why should we have them in the first place? Since we were little, we've been told we should share what we have to help others. We know it's important, yet when it comes to many of the things we own, we keep them to ourselves and rarely share what we have. But what if taking responsibility of what God has given us sometimes means that we share what we have to help others? Even if it's just sharing our stuff so people can enjoy it as much as we do.

These are important questions for us to think about. And remember, when we have questions like this, we have a great starting point for where we can find answers: the Bible! Remember, in the Bible we can find truth from God to help us make wise choices, even when it comes to our stuff. Let's head there now and see what wisdom we can discover. Check this out...

VIDEO: The So and So Show (11:26)

You see, the man had worked so hard at getting more and more and more, and he never thought that maybe all those crops were not just meant to make *his* life easier but that the crops could be shared with others to help make their lives easier. Instead of building bigger barns to store more than he could possibly EVER have used, he could have given away all that he didn't have room for! Instead of only making his life better, he could have used what he had to make the lives of others better, too. Sadly, though, he didn't.

Listen, it doesn't have to be grain or the amazing thing you collect. We have a responsibility to share what we have when we have an opportunity to share, rather than clinging so tightly to it that we never want to give it away.

Everything we have is a gift from God. Everything! None of it really belongs to us. If we think of our stuff that way, then it's much easier to be generous and share what we have with others. That's one of the biggest ways we can show others that God loves them.

Listen to what Jesus said in our memory verse, Luke 16:10.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large. (Luke 16:10a, NIV)

Let's show we can be trusted by living the way Jesus said to live. Today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

What do you have that you can share? Think through some of the things you have at home or school: What might be something you can use to help others? How can you make the lives of the people around you better with what you have to share? Don't worry if you need help thinking through these sorts of questions. You'll get the chance to chat all about this with your Small Group. Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us be responsible with what we have! Let's pray!

SLIDE: Theme Background

Large Group Leader leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

OFFERING

Guys, I am so proud of you! We totaled up all of the money we send to Missions of Hope last year from our Parkview Kids Weekend Offering. **We raised \$3,583.80!** and they were able to buy 100 food baskets with that money! Way to go helping kids on the other side of the world in Africa!

I'm excited to tell you about a brand-new ministry that we are going to be supporting with our offering until the summer. It's called **Morning Star Mission** and it's located right near here, in **Joliet, Illinois**.

SLIDES: Morningstar pictures (scroll through as the leader talks about the mission)

Since its beginning in 1909, Morning Star Mission has had one main goal — to help people in need. Morning Star Mission helps people who are struggling to have enough money to live. They have a shelter that gives them a place to live if they don't have a home. People in the community can go to the mission to get clothes and food if they need it too. AND they tell people about Jesus and his love for them while they are helping them, how cool is that?

Morning Star doesn't just stop there. They have many programs that they offer people to help them get in a better financial place so that they don't need the help anymore. Morning Star is a mission that is changing lives in our area!

If you brought any offering today, bring it up before you head to small groups.