

ALLEY Rundown February 3-4, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Show Me the Way (The Kindness of Jesus) • *Matthew 8:1-4, Matthew 19:13-15, Matthew 9:10-13*

Today's Key Question: What does kindness look like?

Today's Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to be kind.

Monthly Memory Verse: *You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if there were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient.*

Colossians 3:12 (NirV)

PRE-SERVICE: Dude Perfect

SLIDE: Theme

Welcome, everyone! I love seeing you here today, and this is one of my favorite times of the week. When I'm here in the Alley, I'm totally comfortable! I've been here before, I've done this a bunch of times, and I know exactly what to do.

I know where to find the Alley Shack. I know where all the games are. I've got my script, my Bible, and my people around me to help out. I'm confident because I've been there, done that. It's way easier to do something when you've done it before, right?

Honestly, though, there are some situations where I'm not so confident. Deep sea scuba diving. Never done that. Hibachi chef, no clue how to flip the little shrimp into my hat. Put me somewhere remote in the great outdoors? Let's just say I'd have difficulty knowing what to do in that situation. Although I love a cool beanie and lightweight puffer vest as much as the next person, I haven't spent enough time outside to know what to do when an emergency arises.

What about you? What's your outdoor knowledge? Let's test it out!

*Ask the next set of true/false questions. Have kids vote by **standing if they think it's true and sitting if they think it's false.***

First question. True or False:

SLIDE: True or False Question 1A

If you are approached by a bear, quickly run and climb the nearest tree.

Allow time for the group to stand or sit.

The correct answer . . . is false!

SLIDE: True or False Question 1B

Many bears will chase if you run, and they are excellent tree climbers. Rather, if a bear keeps coming closer to you, stand your ground, talk forcefully, look big, and use bear spray if necessary. You know . . . because everyone randomly carries bear spray.

Next question! True or False:

SLIDE: True or False Question 2A

If you run out of water, go to the nearest lake or stream that looks clear and take a drink.

Allow time for the group to stand or sit.

The answer . . . is false!

SLIDE: True or False Question 2B

You can get super sick by drinking out of a lake or stream. There's so much gross stuff in there that you can't even see—and before you drink something that will make your rear end explode, you'll have to take steps to clean the water. Filter it, boil it, something. If you don't, you'll end up in a situation that is no fun . . . at all!

Next one. You ready? True or False:

SLIDE: True or False Question 3A

If you're lost in the woods, water and shelter are more important than finding food.

Allow time for the group to stand or sit.

It's true!

SLIDE: True or False Question 3B

You can survive over a week without food but only a few days without water. Plus, shelter is needed to keep you warm, dry, and maybe even off the ground.

Two more! True or False:

SLIDE: True or False Question 4A

If you're not sure about eating something out in the wild, like berries or mushrooms, watch to see if an animal like a bird or squirrel eats it. If they do, it will probably be safe for you to eat, too.

Allow time for the group to stand or sit.

The answer is *totally* false!

SLIDE: True or False Question 4B

Please do not ever eat berries or mushrooms just because you saw Bambi eating it. The Amanita Mushroom, beautiful and orange, are eaten by lots of different kinds of wildlife, but they're absolutely toxic to humans!

Last one. True or False:

SLIDE: True or False Question 5A

If you need to make a shelter, the best place for it is on top of a hill, visible, in a clearing, so you can spot potential rescuers coming.

Allow time for the group to stand or sit.

The correct answer is false!

SLIDE: True or False Question 5B

You might think it's a great idea to get out in the open, on top of a hill, but not so much. It's smarter to place the shelter in a location that will NOT be exposed or blown over by the wind. The nights can get crazy cold—and being unprotected will make things even more miserable!

Fortunately, most of us may never be on the type of expedition that will demand you know how to fend off a bear. Or which mushrooms are okay to eat. Or what to do if you run out of water. However, all of us are on a different kind of expedition.

Life. Figuring out how to live it, live it well, and follow Jesus through all of it.

One of the ways to navigate life and one of the things that helps with pretty much every situation is kindness.

If I were to test your kindness knowledge, I'm betting each of you would score really high. There's no doubt you know lots of ways to demonstrate kindness toward friends, strangers, and even your siblings, hard as that may be sometimes, the little stinkers.

But if you know *how* to be kind, and even *when* to be kind . . . why do you often choose to do the opposite? If you're not using it, why is it so hard to let your little brother play your Switch? Why do you argue with friends and classmates over who's first in line? Why do you feel the need to one-up each other all the time? When there's an open seat next to you on the bus, why can't the new kid sit down?

Great questions. (*hold up Bible*) And thankfully, we've got a great source to find some answers. One of the coolest parts of the Bible is studying the way Jesus lived His life. When we look at the things Jesus said and did, we can better understand how to treat others. Let's dig in and discover how Jesus showed kindness throughout His life. Check this out...

VIDEO: *So and So Show* (16:43)

Jesus didn't just spend His time hanging out with people who were important or had it all together. Each of these true stories give us a glimpse into the heart of Jesus. Those with contagious skin diseases, young kids, and distrusted tax collectors were not out of reach from the Son of God! Quite the opposite. Despite their social standings and reputations, Jesus chose to demonstrate kindness to these people.

And His kindness didn't stop there. When Jesus died on the cross, He demonstrated the greatest example of kindness this world has ever seen. It's odd, thinking that what Jesus did for us on the cross was *kind*. Maybe you think of 'kind' things as holding the door open for someone, sharing a pencil, or letting someone else pick the largest piece of pizza.

But with Jesus, He never does anything halfway . . . or small. In the ultimate display of kindness, He bore the punishment for our sins so we didn't have to. In doing so, Jesus paid the debt even though we did nothing to deserve it. An ultimate example of kindness.

By studying His life, we're shown how to treat other people. It's easy to be kind to others when you like them. But Jesus made it clear—kindness is for everyone. *Everyone*. This means we can keep our eyes open for people who are often overlooked. You can select the least skilled basketball player first at recess instead of waiting to pick them last. You can step away from your friend group for a moment to introduce someone standing without any friends. And, yes, you could even let your little brother play your video games.

Take a look at our memory verse for the month,

SLIDE: Memory Verse

You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if there were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient. Colossians 3:12 (NIRV)

As we head to Small Groups in just a bit, we want you to consider this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

What does kindness look like?

I realize some of you may have trouble coming up with examples of kindness. However, don't worry! We are so excited you are here to participate in discussions with your Small Group Leaders in just a bit. They can help you come up with examples. But before we leave, let's pray together thanking God for Jesus and the example of kindness He was for all of us!

SLIDE: Theme Background

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

OFFERING

What mission are we supporting this year? Yes, Morning Star Mission! Morning Star helps people who are struggling financially. They help them with necessities AND they help them with whatever it is they need to get in a better place and support their families. All kids need supplies to help them succeed in school. The program Morning Star has to help kids get supplies is called *Jump on the Bus*. If you have your offering, bring it up as we watch this video.

VIDEO: Jump on the Bus

So, let's help the kids be ready to jump on the bus this year! Missions of Hope prepares all year to be able to help underprivileged kids start their school year off right. So when you are at home this week, look at all of your blessings, and think of what you can do to raise some money for kids in need in our area!

SLIDE: SuperStart!

Wait! There's one more thing I have to tell you about, it's called Super Start! It's coming up in March and you won't want to miss this yearly event. It's an overnight event just for you - where you'll get to play games, eat, make new friends, and hear an awesome message about how much Jesus loves you. Check out this video...

VIDEO: SuperStart!

You'll receive a card with all the details on your way out today. Sign up today!