

ALLEY Rundown – March 10-11, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Let Go (Abram and Lot) • *Genesis 13:5-18*

Today's Key Question: Why is it hard to give up what you think is fair?

Today's Bottom Line: You can show you care by letting go of what's fair.

Monthly Memory Verse: *If possible, live in peace with everyone. Do that as much as you can.*
Romans 12:18 (NIRV)

PRE-SERVICE: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Hey, everyone! Welcome to The Alley! I'm so glad to be back with you again! If you're anything like me, you love a good 'Would You Rather.' Have you played that before? You know, like would you rather have a nose that's a foot long or have feet that smell things?

I love it, too! Here in The Alley we play something similar. It's called This or That. Let's try!

Have kids vote by moving to one side of the room or the other, depending on their choice.

Okay let's start easy. Mexican food (*point to the left*) or Italian food (*point to the right*)? Empanadas or Fettuccini? *This* or *That*? And . . . go!

Pause as kids vote. Time permitting, call on a few kids to defend their decisions.

I've got *lots* more. Are you ready?

Play This or That by using the suggested list below. Feel free to add your own, or have choices specific to your own area (Cubs or White Sox, etc.).

Possible This or That List

- The beach or the mountains
- Play sports or play video games
- Learn a new instrument or learn to dance
- Math or reading
- Marvel or DC
- Cats or Dogs
- Drive in a car or fly on a plane

Okay, final one. Eat a pound of asparagus or a pound of lima beans!

Pause for reactions.

Yeah, I know. Those aren't great options, but you have to pick one of them!

You can head back to your seats.

Whew! Have you ever faced a choice like that? Okay, maybe not exactly like choosing to eat asparagus or lima beans but one where you had to choose and *neither* one was great? What do you do?

How do you even pick? Choose one way, it's bad. Choose another way, it's just as bad. Maybe the correct decision is to not decide at all . . . but isn't that just prolonging things? When you're stuck between a rock and a hard place, what do you do?

It's a tough question, for sure. Thankfully we've got this (*hold up the Bible*) to help us navigate those tough questions. The wisdom written throughout this library of books and letters and poems is priceless, and we're about to find some of that wisdom to help us make peace. Take a look.

VIDEO: Bible Story (14:40)

Abram found himself in a tough spot with his nephew, but I love how he didn't hold tightly to what was his but instead offered it to Lot to keep the peace. After all, Abram was the guy God spoke to in the first place. The land was promised to him. Instead of keeping it, he gave it away to keep the peace.

Abram showed incredible trust in God. First, packing up and leaving without question. Second, giving away a promise believing God would take care of him. In the end, God kept that promise in some incredible ways I'm sure Abram never could have dreamed of!

I'm guessing you have found yourself in a place where keeping the peace meant deciding to put someone else first. Maybe it's not your night to unload the dishwasher or your turn to clean up after the dog, but you know that it'd be helpful. You could complain and put up a fight about 'what's fair' or just take the time to help.

Maybe you worked really hard on your team to become a captain but someone else is just as deserving—and you could choose to give someone else the opportunity to succeed.

There are times when something isn't fair and needs to be made right . . . and you just might need the help of an adult. That's okay, too. But when you're faced with your own This or That, think about what it means to care for others, even if that means giving up what you think is fair.

Today as you head to your Small Groups in a bit, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

Why is it hard to give up what you think is fair? How have you experienced this before? Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us be more like Jesus, Who was willing to give up everything to make peace with us! Let's pray!"

SLIDE: Theme Background

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

OFFERING

There is a ministry that we are supporting with our offering until the summer. It's called Morning Star Mission and it's located right near here, in Joliet, IL.

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!

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!

SLIDE: Theme