

ALLEY Rundown – May 4- 5, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Light My Way (God's Word Is a Light) • *Psalm 119:105*

Today's Key Question: How can you hear from God?

Today's Bottom Line: Practice hearing from God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4:8 (NIV)*

PRE-SERVICE: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

What is going on, my friends Welcome to a brand-new month here in The Alley! This Month, I can't wait to spend some quality time together learning, digging into questions, and figuring out how to make a plan, work that plan, and grow in Christ. It's going to be a good time!

Before we get started, I'd like to try a quick challenge. I brought along a few pictures to show you . . . and I have some questions.

SLIDE: *Photo of a Flashlight*

This contraption. What is it? (*Allow for responses.*) Yes! It's a flashlight. What is it primarily used for?

Allow for responses.

Shining a light on things, finding your way in the dark, surviving a horror movie, all good things. (*pause*) What about this?

SLIDE: *Photo of the Sun*

Allow for responses.

Yep . . . that is the sun. Center of our solar system. Super hot. Don't look at it for too long. And what is its purpose? What does it do?

Allow for responses.

Getting a tan, waking you up too early on a Saturday, Vitamin D. Perfect. Nailed it again. And . . . this one?

SLIDE: *Photo of a Lighthouse*

Allow for responses.

Boom. A lighthouse. What does this do? What's its purpose? (*Allow for responses.*) Saving ships from crashing into rocks, signaling that the shore is nearby, being an amazing photo opportunity.

Outstanding. Alright, one more.

SLIDE: Photo of a cellphone with the flashlight on

Allow for responses.

Besides accidentally bumping it on, what do you use this for? (*Allow for responses.*) Taking pictures, reading in the dark, holding it up at a concert or sporting event. A flashlight, the sun, a lighthouse, a phone . . . what did all these have in common? (*Allow for responses.*) Yes! Pretty simple, right? They are all lights. (*pause*) What about this?

SLIDE: Photo of a Bible

Don't answer this out loud, just think about it. (*Point to the picture*) What is this . . . and what do you use it for?

What exactly is the Bible? Just a book? More than a book? It's not like it has a plug on it or a battery pack . . . but is it a light? A different kind of light, maybe? And even if it IS a light, how do we even use it AS a light?

Great questions! But guess what!? We're not the first people to talk about the Bible, God's Word, as a light. In fact, the writers of the Bible themselves had a lot to say about this. So, let's head to the Bible and discover what they said about that.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (17:51)

SLIDE: Theme

Since God's Word is a light that guides us, we should probably make it a part of our lives. After all, no one wants to knock into walls. Part of that is coming here together each week where we learn together. But let me also challenge you to read it, memorize it, talk about it! The more you let God's Word into you, the more it will shine through you to those around you as well.

There are so many cool ways to experience God's Word: a book, an app, a podcast. You can read it, take notes, discuss it, hear others do the same—and God has an amazing way of bringing the truth found in the Bible back to us at times when we most need it, to help guide us.

You can also hear God speak through wise people in your lives who love Jesus and can share the wisdom they've learned from walking the path of life.

And honestly, sometimes we just need to quiet all the noise . . . turn off the power buttons, close the door for a little bit, and take time to be still with God's Word.

This month's memory verse comes from 1 Timothy 4:8, which is a letter the apostle Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy. Here it is:

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. (1 Timothy 4:8, NIV)

That's so good! We can ask God to help us to be committed as we train and grow stronger in our faith.

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

SLIDE: Key Question

How can you hear from God? How can we listen to God's Word and learn from it? And not only learn from it but put it into practice? How can we let the light of God's Word shine a light on our way and guide us? Let's pray.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Pray with your group.

OFFERING

What mission are we supporting this year? Yes, Morning Star Mission! Morning Star helps families who are struggling financially. One of the programs they have to help kids get the school supplies they need is called Jump on the Bus. If you have your offering, bring it up as we watch this video...

VIDEO: Jump on the Bus

Morning Star Mission prepares all year to be able to help kids in need start their school year off right. So, let's keep up the giving and think of ideas to raise money to support Morning Star Missions.

SLIDE: Theme