

ALLEY Rundown June 29-30, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Reason to Believe (God Will Give Us Joy) • *Habakkuk 3:17-18*

Today's Key Question: What can you celebrate today?

Today's Bottom Line: There's always a reason to celebrate.

Monthly Memory Verse: *A cheerful heart makes you healthy. But a broken spirit dries you up.*
Proverbs 17:22 (NirV)

LG Supplies: 2 kazooos per service

PRE-SERVICE VIDEO: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Good morning! Here's a giant welcome to each and every person sitting in The Alley! My name is [Name of Host], and today I am excited. We have been having a party all month long while we talk about having Joy.

A party isn't a party without some jams. Sometimes, I don't want to experience music digitally, like online, or Spotify, or something. Sometimes I want to hear it from live instruments. So, I went and bought a couple of the highest-quality instruments on the market. These bad boys are the top-of-the-line. Not only that, but I planned to hire professional musicians to bring these instruments to life!

Regrettably, I didn't get the needed approval to hire the musicians. But, as my father always said, 'When life hands you lemons, go eat something else.' So that's what I did!

I changed my plans, and instead of professional musicians, I figured we could have our own musicians right here, in this room! Would anybody like to see their amazingly gifted Leaders play an instrument in the form of a game called 'Ka-Zune'? And this time, it's the left side of the room versus the right side of the room!

SLIDE: *"Ka-Zune"*

Choose two Leaders to come to the front. If you don't have two leaders, pick two kids.

Can you put your hands together for our two budding instrumentalists? (*pause*)

Okay, 'Ka-Zune'—here's how we play. Each of you will get one of these. And we will divide the group in half so you will each have a kazoo playing representative.

Hand each volunteer a kazoo.

I know I said these were high-quality instruments. We're on a budget, here.

On this sheet is a list of song titles. You musicians must play the song on your kazooos—at the same time—and the group will try to guess. If you think you know the name of the song, shout it out! Points are given to the Small Group Leader's side of the room who says the correct song title first.

Let's play . . . 'Ka-Zune'!

Play the game. Show each song title, one at a time, to the volunteers. Once they've got the song title in their heads, on your "Go," have them start playing on the kazooos.

When someone guesses the song, that side gets a point. crown a winner after all song titles have been played.

GAME SONGS:

- Let It Go
- Happy Birthday
- Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
- Baby Shark
- Life is a Highway
- Row, Row, Row Your Boat

I have to say it's great to see a bunch of my favorite people sitting in the same room. This room is just a party waiting to happen! And apparently, all you need are some kazoos.

Speaking of which, I want your help thinking about parties. In your opinion, what are the best parts of a party? *(Allow response)*

Great thoughts! Seems like you've been to a few parties in your day. There are so many exciting aspects to any party, aren't there? And from the looks of it, we have some of our favorite parts of any festivity here on stage. There is food, drinks, balloons, even party favors.

Now, let's flip the question. What are the worst parts of a party? *(Allow response)*

Yeah, sometimes parties aren't all they cracked up to be. If you look around the stage, you can probably guess my least favorite part of a party. It's the clean-up. Ugh. Not fun at all. And now the stage looks like a complete mess!

Parties usually involve good people, good music, good company, and good times. When you're standing in a great party, it's easy to have a great time! But every great party must come to an end. In my opinion, the worst part of any party is cleaning up after everybody has left.

If you're anything like me, I'll voluntarily sign up for fun, but I have little desire to clean up a mess. I was the kid that hid in the bathroom when my parents told me I had chores.

All messes need to be cleaned up eventually, right? Well, what happens when *life* feels like a mess? How in the world do you clean that up?

This is an important question to address. Nobody in this room is immune from hardships. Life stinks sometimes. For everyone. It might stink for some of you right now.

Believe it or not, in the midst of all the mess, joy can be found. Even if your life looks like this stage behind me, there is a ray of sunshine. A silver lining. And we're going to use this (*hold up Bible*) to help us find it. The people who God inspired to write the Bible experienced all sorts of times when life didn't go as planned, when they were disappointed, when nothing felt worth celebrating. Thankfully, many of them included these sorts of moments in what they wrote to help us discover how to trust God and respond well in the face of a hard time in life. Let's check out one of those writers right now.

VIDEO: *The So and So Show* (16:06)

When you choose to take your focus off your problems and look to God, you can find joy. Joy doesn't always look like big smiles and laughter. In hard situations, it is okay to feel sad or even cry. But even through the sadness or tears, there's a potential to find joy. Joy is that thing that lets you know deep down in your heart that God can still do great things and that God can make something good come from what is hard now.

Centuries after Habakkuk, Jesus would show us this kind of joy. He faced many difficulties, but Jesus was still able to find joy in knowing God is always up to something good—even when we can't see it.

Friends, don't forget you can look at what God has done for you in the past. If you sit and think for a moment, you can consider the ways God has worked in your life. When you look at what God has done, is doing, and will do, you can always find a reason to celebrate.

I realize some people are facing various difficulties in this room. Despite your circumstances, I want you to consider this question:

SLIDE: Key Question

What can you celebrate today? It could be something small or big God has done in your life. Maybe it is something God is doing in your life right now! Where have you seen God do something awesome that is a reason to celebrate? Let's pray.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Large Group 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 families who are struggling financially. One thing you probably never worry about is having school supplies, but families in need want their kids to have the supplies they need to succeed in school, too. Morning Star Mission has a program 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 kids get ready to jump on the bus this year with all the supplies they need.

SLIDE: Theme

****AT YOUR COORDINATOR'S DIRECTION, YOU WILL EITHER DISMISS TO SMALL GROUP OR DO ACTIVITIES TOGETHER.**