

ALLEY RUNDOWN July 13-14, 2024

Today's Bible Story: I Heard It Through the Grapevine (Wedding at Cana) • *John 2:1-11*

Today's Key Question: Who are the people who help you find joy?

Today's Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to have joy.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!*
Philippians 4:4 (NIRV)

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Welcome to the Alley, the biggest and best party around! How many of you enjoy a good party? (*Allow response*) Yeah, of course! Almost everybody loves a good party—the eats, the beats, and the treats.

But how many of you like actually planning a party? (*Allow response*) Wow, nice! Lots of you like planning things—or maybe you're not thinking about what all goes into getting things ready for a party.

If you think about the job, you'll quickly understand that party planning could be one of the most difficult jobs on the entire planet—mostly because there might be a lot of choices to make . . . Pizza or nachos? Soda or punch? Donuts or cupcakes? Vanilla cake or chocolate cake? Laser tag or arcade? Video-game-themed party or glow-in-the-dark party? Roller skates or ice skates? The list of choices could be endless!

To help us with this, I need a volunteer. Let's play a game I like to call 'This or That: Party Edition!'

SLIDE: *"This or That: Party Edition"*

Choose a volunteer to come to the stage. Host directs the volunteer with their back to the audience facing a TV or projector screen.

Welcome, [Name of Volunteer], glad to have your help today! On our screen you will see two options. Both will add fun and excitement to any party, but I'd like you to try to pick what you think is the best option. Think carefully because your choice decides the fate of the whole group behind you!

The whole group, without you seeing, will pick as well! (*To the Large Group*) Everyone hop to your feet! You'll pick which option by pointing left or right, toward the choice on the screen.

If [Name of Volunteer] picks the same as you, you stay in the game! If you pick the opposite, you'll have a seat. Simple, right? Let's get this 'This or That: Party Edition' started!

SLIDES: *This or That Game Slides 1-7*

Play the game. Go through each slide, having kids who don't pick the same as the volunteer sit down.

Continue until you declare a winner, and lead applause for the winner and the volunteer.

Party planning could end up being the hardest job ever—but if I ever need a party planner, I feel confident [Name of Volunteer] would do a spectacular job! One more hand for our volunteer and our winner!

God has created so many amazing things we get to experience every day, including laughter. Whenever I'm having a bad day—and I'm guessing this is true for you, too—it can completely turn around with a joke, a funny story, or even a crazy face.

It's no secret that life can be difficult. It downright stinks some days, doesn't it? We experience sadness, anger, hurt, and disappointment. There can be days when our best friends hurt our feelings, a loved one gets severely ill, we fail a test, we lose the game, or nothing we try works out the way we want it to.

Wouldn't it be cool to always have someone around who makes you laugh? Someone to help turn the situation around? As soon as a negative experience arrives, they could enter the scene, cross their eyes, and completely change the story.

Think about all the people you interact with regularly on an everyday basis. Who do you turn to when you're just not feeling it? When your day is ruined? Even when all of the ice cream is gone? Or who *SHOULD* you turn to when life isn't feeling so joyful?

This is a question worth considering. And it's a question people have been asking for a really long time—like thousands of years! Even the people who were around when Jesus walked the earth wondered about questions like these. Thankfully, they learned some things along the way, and God inspired them to write those experiences down so we could learn from them, too. Let's jump in.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (15:08)

If you stop and think about it, many people have taken time to share joy with you in your lifetime. Parents, friends, teachers, pastors, family, lots of people.

But maybe, just maybe, the one who can bring joy to others is you. You can be the person to change someone's day, to lighten a mood, to crack a smile.

I know you have some great examples of people who have brought you joy, just like Jesus did for this wedding party. As we get ready to head to our Small Groups soon, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

“Who are the people who help you find joy?” Whether you have only one good example or a long list of coaches, teachers, uncles, teammates, bring those names with you to your Small Groups. We can't wait to have you discuss those who help you find joy and how Jesus has shown us how to have joy. Before we head to Small Groups, let's pray and thank God for Jesus and the joy He brings to each of us.

Leader leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

SLIDE: Theme

CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part and just have kids bring up their money.

OFFERING:

We have started raising money for an organization called Hope Mobility. It was founded by Michael Panther who grew up as a child with a disability in Sudan. Check out Michael's story.

VIDEO: Michael's Story

Our focus will be raising money for wheelchairs for kids. Each pediatric wheelchair costs \$275 and we will see how many wheelchairs we can purchase to help kids in Africa!

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

SLIDE: Theme