

ALLEY Rundown July 27- 28, 2024

Today's Bible Story: At the End of the Day (Heaven) • *Revelation 21, 22:1-5*

Today's Key Question: What's the best party you can imagine?

Today's Bottom Line: Celebrate what God will do.

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

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everybody! Thanks for showing up today. For the last several weeks, we have talked a *lot* about parties. We've discussed different types, foods, planning, the works—and today, I want you to brainstorm about something similar.

Imagine the best party ever. No budget, you can have anything you want there: food, chocolate fountains, an ice sculpture of your favorite animal, whatever you want.

"Maybe you're a giant inflatable unicorn dance floor kind of person. Maybe you're a bounce house filled with Pez kind of person. Whichever you are, dream big! What would your perfect party look like? Find someone near you and talk about it for a moment!

Give kids a minute to discuss the ultimate party.

Let's break this down! First, food. What's the ultimate food to have at your ultimate party?

Call on a few volunteers to share their ideas for the ultimate food.

Not bad, not bad. What about activities? What are the ultimate activities you could do at your ultimate party?

Again, take a few ideas from the Large Group.

Perfect, perfect. And who would be there? At this insane party of yours? Who would you invite?

Again, take a few ideas from the Large Group.

Whoa, lots of people. I like it. What about a theme? How would it be themed or decorated?

Take a few ideas from the Large Group..

Ooh, fancy. I'm loving this party more and more. Lastly . . . what to drink? And how to drink it? Fountain? Swimming pool? Fire hose?

For the final time, take a few ideas from the Large Group.

"Wow, that's crazy. This party would be bonkers.

If we were to have a party like we just described, it could quite possibly be the best party ever, of all time! Nobody in this room would want to miss it.

To pull off a great party like this, we would need to plan out a few more details, secure the funding, reserve the location and, from the looks of your suggestions, call the fire department and have a few helicopters on standby. Not saying it can't be done . . . but it'd take some time. So we'd have to wait a while.

Waiting can be hard! Nobody wants to wait, right? And it seems like we're waiting all the time for all kinds of things: for the latest and greatest video game to drop, for vacation to arrive, for the Pizza Rolls to be done in the oven . . . I bet a lot of us don't even let the microwave count all the way down to zero before whipping open the door to grab our Hot Pockets.

I've never met someone who loves to sit and wait for things.

I do have a question, though. Is it possible to still be happy in the middle of the waiting, even though something hasn't happened yet? I mean, can you still be excited the entire time while waiting for something, or does it wear off? Do you stop caring? Or maybe it's just not as exciting as first hearing or thinking about it?

Many would say happiness, or enjoyment, or joy isn't possible over something that's yet to come. I wonder, though, if that's actually true. Today we'll explore something God *will* do—something that hasn't happened yet—but is promised to happen in the future.

And we'll find out if it's possible to be excited until it comes to pass!

VIDEO: *The So and So Show* (14:46)

The ending of God's story is complex and difficult to imagine or even picture. The truth is that no one really knows what it's going to be like.

We don't have it all figured out. But what we do know, or what John tells us in Revelation, gets me excited. We know who wins the final battle. We know that light beats darkness. Ultimately, God will reign supreme in the end! He will remove all that is wrong. No longer will we have to endure the stuff that makes us feel sick or sad or worried or scared! Instead, God will make everything right!

But the end of God's story has not happened yet. It can seem far away. All of us are still living in a broken world where we face difficult situations. Each day, we face chores, homework, conflict, bullies, and sickness, and the list goes on. However, God is still at work in the world on our hardest days—even though we can't see God.

When we follow Jesus, we know that this is not the end. In fact, Paul once wrote,

*"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
and no human mind has known."
God has prepared these things for those who love him."*

That means God is preparing something that will be beyond our imagination for longer than we can even comprehend for those of us who believe and follow Jesus!"

And in the end, our place in the story will be amazing—it will be with God! All the things you love here on earth will be made brand-new. You may enjoy your talents and interests even more in Heaven! Regardless, it will be a party—a party bigger than anything, anywhere, ever.

As you head to your Small Groups, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

"What's the best party you can imagine? We talked about this at the beginning. Now that you've heard a bit about how it's going to be with God, maybe you might want to think a little bigger! You'll have a chance to talk more about this with your Small Groups in just a moment.

But first, let's pray and thank God for giving us a glimpse into the victorious end of the story. God has given us a reason to celebrate!

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

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

Do you guys remember where our offering is going to? Hope Mobility! They provide wheelchairs to people in Africa who needs them. We are raising money for pediatric wheelchairs. Getting a wheelchair can change a child's life! It means they can become mobile and do things they could never have done before, like go to school. Here is a video that some kids from Kenya made after being given wheelchairs from Hope Mobility.

VIDEO: Psalm 139

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.**