

ALLEY Rundown – August 10-11, 2024

Today's Bible Story: See Yourself (Speck and Plank) • *Matthew 7:1-5*

Today's Key Question: What are you learning about yourself?

Today's Bottom Line: When you see yourself clearly, you can make the wise choice.

Monthly Memory Verse: *If any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. He will give it to you. God gives freely to everyone and doesn't find fault.* James 1:5 (NIRV)

PRE-SERVICE VIDEO: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Hey, everybody! Welcome back for another week of undersea discovery as we Dive Deep to uncover wisdom for life in unexpected places.

We've got lots of fun planned, starting with this really cool game! Check out the screen to see if you can figure out these things you might see if you were to "Dive Deep" into the ocean.

VIDEO: *Under the Sea Screen Game*

I have a question for you. Have you ever been so focused on something about someone else that you miss something pretty significant or obvious about yourself? This sort of thing can happen with stains on our shirts and food on our faces, or maybe it's the way we treat others or the effort we put into our homework or extracurricular activities. We talk to others all about their issues without even noticing what issues we might have ourselves.

This actually brings up a good question about wisdom. What might it mean to have wisdom about ourselves? In other words, how might wisdom about myself impact how I see and even treat others?

These are important questions for us to consider as we look at how we can trust God, follow Jesus, and make wise choices with our lives. In fact, people have been wondering about these sorts of ideas for a really long time. Even the people who wrote about their experiences with God had something to say about it in the Bible. Let's head there now and find out more.

VIDEO: *The So and So Show* (14:31)

I love how practical Jesus' teachings can be. Jesus told us not to judge but then went on to tell us that we should remove the plank from our own eye so that we can clearly see the speck in our friend's eye.

Notice a couple things in this. I think Jesus was implying that the problem you need to deal with in yourself may actually at times be BIGGER than the thing you're tempted to judge in another person.

Think that ever happens? We judge someone for sharing something we said, but WE actually have a reputation of NEVER being able to keep secrets. Or we're upset because a sibling wouldn't let us borrow their favorite sweatshirt, but WE never let them use any of our stuff ever!

The other thing Jesus seemed to be saying is that there can be a place for helping others and showing them what they might need help with.

If someone is making a really unwise choice, we don't want to say, 'Well, I shouldn't judge them . . .' Your friend needs you! But just be sure to check yourself first to be sure your heart is right and you can see clearly.

So, before we go looking for the speck-sized problems in other people, we need to ask God to help us look at the plank-sized problems in our own life and start there. Only then can we see clearly to love our neighbor as ourselves."

As you go to Small Groups today, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

What are you learning about yourself? When you're willing to look at yourself rather than look at the speck-sized problems of others, what do you see? These are hard questions to ask ourselves, and we might not be sure where to even start. Don't worry, though, you'll get the chance to talk all about this with your Small Group. Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to search our hearts and help us see clearly who we are and where we can still grow in wisdom. Let's pray.

SLIDE: Theme Background

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:

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