

ALLEY Rundown – September 21- 22, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Carry You (Sharing God's Comfort) • 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Today's Key Question: How can you show someone you care?

Today's Bottom Line: Comfort others the way God comforts you.

Monthly Memory Verse: "Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16 (NIRV)

LG Supplies: 2 containers and Lots of glow necklaces

PRE- SERVICE VIDEO: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Welcome, everybody! I am excited to see ALL of you here today! My name is [Name of Host], and this is The ALLEY!

As you look around the room, you can notice all the amazing features of this space. There are sturdy walls, a ceiling with no leaks, and some nice furniture. Let's be honest, this town is full of buildings with very nice aspects of them. However, you can't go anywhere within a 30-minute radius of this room and find better lights! That's right, people! You heard me correctly. Just look at all these lights! The church has clearly spared no expense on brightening up this room!

Host points out the various lights in the room.

To highlight the amazing luminosity of this space, I wanted to play a game where you toss a bright, shiny light. Glow Necklaces! Does anybody want to play a game called 'Glow & Throw' where we toss glow necklaces?

SLIDE: *"Glow & Throw"*

Host calls to the front two adult volunteers. Both adult volunteers should bring up three kids. Each team is handed a container with an equal number of necklaces. Host directs the adult leaders to stand in the front.

To play 'Glow & Throw,' our leaders will be standing in the front with their arms extended out. The three kid volunteers for each leader will stand in a straight line about 10 feet away. The first person in each line will toss one glow necklace toward their leader. The leader will attempt to catch the necklace on their head or arms without moving their feet. After a kid tosses a necklace, they move to the end of the line to allow the next person to toss. After 60 seconds, the team with the leader wearing the most glow necklaces is the 'Glow & Throw' Champion! Any questions? (Allow response) Excellent! Then let's play!

VIDEO: *60 second countdown*

LIGHTS: *Dim the lights*

Host facilitates the game. Host encourages the kids to toss the necklaces quickly and rotate to the end of the line. Host should gauge the necklace supply for each team. If a team starts to run low, host should wrap up the game or collect glow necklaces that are laying on the stage.

LIGHTS: *Return to normal lights*

What a game! Our leaders had to flex their hand-eye coordination with dim lights and glow necklaces coming straight for their faces! Both of our teams did great! However, only one team can bear the title of 'Glow & Throw' Champions. It's time to determine the winner.

Host counts the necklaces for each team and announces the winner.

Well, hopefully everybody is having a good day because bad days are the worst! Growing up, I had lots of bad days. And when I had a bad day, you know what brought me comfort.... My cozy blanket! *(or you can say something else that brings you comfort).*

I always found my blanket warm and welcoming! Likewise, I can imagine a number of you have something or someone who can bring you comfort when you're upset.

Maybe a hug from your grandma can make you forget about your scary dream from the night before. For some, it's a furry pet that can give you a smile despite any drama you may feel at school. There may be a few in here who would never turn down the warm embrace of their favorite stuffie!

But I wonder . . . what if there was a way we could help comfort others on their worst day, kinda like my blanket comforted me? What would it look like for God to use us to bring warmth to someone else who feels completely lost? Is this even possible?

If you are curious to know the answers to these questions, I am really excited you are here! We love questions around here because they give us a chance to not only discover something new about ourselves but, more importantly, something new about what it means to trust God and follow Jesus. We do that by looking in the Bible. Let's head there now!

VIDEO: *The So and So Show* (15:20)

When Paul wrote the words in 2 Corinthians, he wasn't writing them just to be nice. He was telling the believers in Corinth something that's true about God. Comfort during troubling times comes from God. Notice Paul doesn't promise that all our troubles will go away as soon as we ask. But God will be with us and can provide comfort during hard situations. Sometimes God's comfort comes through others.

Here's something awesome to remember. Just like God can work through other people to comfort you, God can use you to comfort others! Many of you have received comfort from others. You have seen how God used the words and actions of others to help you. When we receive comfort, we learn how to give it to others.

One of your friends may have forgotten about a spelling test. Instead of playing basketball at recess, you could comfort them by reviewing the spelling words. Your big sister might have an argument with her best friend. Instead of playing video games in your room, you could offer to sit with her even if you aren't sure what to say. When your dad is frustrated with a situation at work, you can comfort him with your words of appreciation for how hard he works.

God sees when we're in trouble and gives us comfort and compassion. Because of that, we can offer compassion to others and help to meet their needs. It's like a gift we can give. Let's review Paul's words one more time.

Open the Bible to 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIRV) and read.

Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! He is the Father who gives tender love. All comfort comes from him. He comforts us in all our troubles. Now we can comfort others when they are in trouble. We ourselves receive comfort from God.

Don't forget that God can use you in big ways right now. God doesn't wait to work through people until they start middle school or start to drive. Each of you is fully capable of being used by God to bring comfort to others. As you think through your relationships with people at school or home or around town, I want you to consider this one question.

SLIDE: Key Question

How can you show someone you care? Maybe the answer is using your words to remind them that God is always with them. If you know the person well, you can remind them of another time they overcame something hard. Maybe the best way to help is to get an adult to assist you. Think of an answer to discuss with your Small Groups. But before we leave, let's pray! Let's thank God for being our Comforter in times of trouble and ask God to help us bring comfort to those in need!

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.

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!

SLIDE: Theme