

ALLEY Rundown – September 28-29, 2024

Today's Bible Story: I Saw the Light (Jesus Is the Light of the World) • *John 8:12*

Today's Key Question: Where have you seen the light of Jesus?

Today's Bottom Line: Jesus is the light of the world.

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)

CAMPUS SUPPLY: Large Dry Erase board and dry erase markers

PRE-SERVICE VIDEO: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

What's up, everybody? It's great to see so many of you here today. Before we get started, I want to give a quick shout-out to our small group leaders and tech volunteer. Both are SO important to what happens here in the Alley! I'm grateful for the time and effort they share so that we get to know Jesus better! Can we give both of them a warm Alley round of applause?

Speaking of sharing, I could use your help filling up this dry-erase board. Think about all the things in life others share with you. The list could get pretty long. As thoughts come to your mind, raise your hand, and I'll call on you to share your thoughts. Speaking of which, I will write the first word on our board—thoughts!

Communicator writes the word "thoughts" on the board.

Communicator calls on kids to voice different things in life that others share with them.

List should be long and can include the likes of time, food, germs, memories, house, Wi-Fi, secrets, downloads, music, conversations, snacks, drinks, books, shoes, clothing, etc. Feel free to prompt kids with categories if they're having trouble brainstorming ideas.

This is a great list. Thanks for your help filling this board.

If you think about it, every single day people share things with us. It might even happen so frequently that we don't really think about it. Sometimes the list could include a piggyback ride on your big-brother's back. Or your mom could share her last bite of brownie with you! Maybe your big brother shares his favorite video game with you after school. Any one of those experiences would make your day better!

Other times, people in our lives may share unwanted stuff with us. This could be when your best friend shares with you one last goodbye hug before they move to a new town. Someone in your class could share strep throat with you! Maybe someone from your neighborhood shares insults with you about your appearance. Nobody in this room would want to experience that sort of sharing.

The point is sharing things—good or bad—with others is incredibly common.

In fact, there are some things we share that might be more difficult to see—like sharing Jesus' light. For those who have been around the church for a while, maybe you've heard someone say we should share Jesus' light with others, but you might wonder to yourself: *What does that even mean?* How do you share Jesus' light? Who do you share the light with? Does the light require batteries?

All these are fair questions. And good questions for us to explore together today! When we have good questions, we need some good answers. One of the best places for us to find answers is in the Bible. Remember, the people who wrote the Bible had personal experiences with God.

God inspired them to write about those experiences so others could get to know and discover more about God, too! Let's check out one of those moments now!

VIDEO: The So and So Show (11:40)

Jesus is the Light of the World! He did not come to the world just to be a good teacher or helpful neighbor. Although He was those things, Jesus came into this world to change it with His great love and compassion. The world needed Jesus to show us the way back to God!

The Bible is clear. Everyone has sinned and rebelled against God's ultimate goodness. That sin breaks our relationship with God. And there is nothing we can do on our own to fix it! It's like living in the dark. But God saw our need for a Savior and sent Jesus. Jesus, God's very own Son, came to take the consequences of our sins. When we turn away from the wrong things we've done and choose to follow Jesus, He restores our relationship with God, and the Light of Jesus shines in us.

The religious leaders tried to silence Jesus and killed Him. But Jesus' death wasn't the end of the story! After being buried in a tomb for three days, Jesus came back to life. The Light of the World could not be put out!

Jesus showed the world that His light is brighter than the darkness and more powerful than death. And He never intended to keep that light to Himself. Remember what Jesus said:

Open the Bible to John 8:12 (NIV) and read.

"I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life."

When we love others and have compassion for those in need, we shine Jesus' light! Before we head to Small Groups, I want each of you to consider this question.

SLIDE: Key Question

Where have you seen the light of Jesus? It could have been the time your teacher comforted one of your classmates when they got hurt. Maybe it was the love you felt when your grandmother made you her famous pie. Or you might have seen the light of Jesus in the way your Small Group leaders demonstrate patience each week with your group. Be ready to share your answers in Small Group. But first, let's pray to thank God for sending Jesus, the Light of the World, for us!

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.

OFFERING:

SLIDES: Hope Mobility 1-3

We are 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. Hope Mobility collects and distributes wheelchairs in Africa while teaching families and communities to care for and to include people with disabilities. 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