

ALLEY Rundown September 7 - 8, 2024

Today's Bible Story: More Than Enough (Jesus Feeds 5,000) • *John 6:1-13*

Today's Key Question: What do you have that you can use to help others?

Today's Bottom Line: Use what you have to help others.

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 Supply: Box of objects: one of each - a box of crayons, post-it notes, a ping pong ball, tape, a random fidget, a timer

Welcome, friends! It's so fun to join you today in the Alley. My name is [Name of Communicator], and I can't wait to dig into the Bible with you today. But before we do that, I need you to put on your creative hats.

In my prop box, I've got several completely random objects. In a moment, I will hold each object one at a time high so everyone can see it. These everyday items should be fairly recognizable, each with its own specific purpose. When you see the object, I want you to think about how you could use the object to help someone else in need. Make sense? *(Allow response)* If you have an answer, raise your hand. I'll call on several kids for each object.

Communicator pulls out objects one at a time and holds them up for the audience to see. Communicator calls on several kids after each object is displayed, and affirms their answers.

Great thoughts everybody! All of you took time to consider how to help someone else with simple items one could find in most homes. I completely agree with your answers. One could absolutely use their crayons to write an encouraging note to their teacher. A ping-pong ball could be used to create a brand-new sport with a brand-new friend for someone who could use a new friend. Spare tape could be used to help repair the hole in your classmate's final draft that's due. Again, all ideas were great.

It's always good to get a chance to think about the ways we can help others! Too many of us make excuses for why we can't help others in need. Even someone as old as me has a ton of excuses! Like. . . 'I don't have time to help out.' Or 'I don't have the money to meet their need.' Or even, 'I have never met that person, so why would I help them?'

Likewise, many of you probably have your reasons for not helping someone out. Maybe you've thought to yourself, 'I'm too young to make a difference. 'Or I don't have money to meet their need.' Or maybe, 'I have to go to practice and can't help.'

But what if the excuses we tell ourselves aren't exactly true? What if we could make a big impact on the lives of others by simply changing the way we view the things we already have? These are great questions for us to think about today.

In fact, these are the sorts of questions people have been talking about for thousands of years, even back during the time of Jesus! And our story from the Bible reminds us about a few things related to trusting God with what we have to help make a difference in the lives of others. Let's check it out!

VIDEO: The So and So Show (12:21)

I love this story! The massive crowd who was following Jesus was hungry! The disciples recognized there was no logical solution to feed such a large mob of people quickly. It seemed hopeless. But Jesus didn't turn the people away so they could find food on their own. Instead, a young kid was willing to give what he had so that Jesus could do something incredible.

This story stands out because many of us believe we don't have much to give. But like the boy in our story, we can trust God to use what we have for something incredible. I'm not suggesting that you bring loaves of barley and catfish in to eat at school tomorrow. However, we can pause to evaluate what we do have that God could use to bless others around us.

Maybe your friend's mom is running late. You could let your pal use your phone to check on their mom. You may have extra time on Saturdays to pick up all the trash at the park you frequent. All those crayons in the junk drawer at your house could be used to write an encouraging note to your teacher, who really needs it.

Some may feel like you don't have much to offer. But when you choose to trust Jesus and offer what you have, He can use it to meet the needs of others in bigger ways than we may see or imagine. When you have Jesus in your life, you always have something to offer to others. Jesus showed compassion to the crowd. Likewise, we should show compassion to others by sharing what we have. We do this not so we can get any glory. Rather, we do it to point others to Jesus!"

As I think about the way Jesus used the boy's meal, I can't help but think about all the people we've got in this room today. In this room, kids live in different neighborhoods, attend different schools, eat at different restaurants, and play sports in different leagues. Collectively, we interact with tons of different people each week. It's fun to think about the impact God could make by using the people in this room.

As we get ready to move to our Small Groups, I want you to consider a really important question.

SLIDE: Key Question

What do you have that you can use to help others? Whether you're helping someone at your school, at the park, in the store, or within your own home, God has given you ways and opportunities to help others out. Hold onto your answers until you get to your Small Groups. I can't wait for you to discuss this with your leaders. Before we leave this space, let's pray and ask God to take what we have to bless others around us!"

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!

SLIDE: Theme