

# ALLEY Rundown – October 19 - 20, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** You'd Better Think (David Spares Saul's Life) • 1 Samuel 24

**Today's Key Question:** When have you had self-control?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Think before you act.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.*  
2 Peter 1:3a (NIV)

**CAMPUS SUPPLY:** Easel sized sticky note paper, an easel and markers

**PRE-SERVICE VIDEO:** *Dude Perfect*

**SLIDE:** *Theme*

What's going on, everyone! Welcome back to the Alley and if this is your first time here, we are so glad you chose to hang out with us today!

We're spending the month having fun with games and game shows, and just like every other week, I'm thinking we need to kick off by playing one of them.

Growing up—and even still today—I love Pictionary. It's so fun! I'm not the greatest artist, which makes it even more entertaining. I draw a cat and my partner shouts out, 'Table!'

So let's play Pictionary!

Here is how we'll play. I'll divide the room in half to form two teams. Then we will choose one person to come up and draw. That person will try to draw that word out, without talking, and the first team to guess it gets a point. Continue doing that until all of the words are drawn or you run out of time.

## Suggested Pictionary Word List

*King  
Running  
Cave  
Robe  
Sword  
Arrow  
Hill  
Stone*

That was so fun! You all are incredible artists—way better than I could do with my cat table.

I loved games when I was your age. I still love games, but as a kid with less responsibility, more free time, and a bunch of awesome friends, playing games was so fun! I used to play board games like scrabble and monopoly with my friends. Or we would go outside and play kickball or basketball (You can tailor this to fit your own experience.)

The same things still happen. Kids still get together and play—it's just different. Discord, online games, mobile games . . . everything's a bit more digital.

While a lot of what I remember as a kid, hanging out, having fun, was positive, there were a few times I can remember that were pretty tough. Like when someone cheated at a game or didn't play fair.

I remember that I could get so angry in situations like those. And I had such a hard time figuring out how to deal with the problem and what to do to fix the situation with my friends.

And I get it—being a kid your age isn't always fun and games. Anyone at any age can deal with stress and hardship and people who can hurt us sometimes. It can really make us mad, right? When things are unfair, when people are mean, when you get singled out . . . we end up feeling angry. We can't help how we feel, but . . . are there some ways of dealing with that anger better than other ways of dealing with our anger?

Is there good anger? Anger's an emotion, like all the others, but is there any way to make anger positive? Or is it always bad and should be controlled or avoided altogether? Good questions, but those questions can be difficult to answer without a bit of help. Thankfully we've got this (*hold up Bible*) as a guide.

In fact, people who wrote the Bible actually have a lot to say about what to do with our anger. They had some experience with anger and learned some things. Thankfully, God inspired them to write it all down so we could learn some things too. Let's check the So and So show....

#### **VIDEO: The So and So Show (14:19)**

It had to be hard for David to show respect to Saul. Saul was the reigning king of the nation of Israel, and in his jealousy, he was trying to kill David! But did you see David's response? He didn't match Saul's wrongdoing. When given the chance to get back at Saul, he passed on it.

The simple question is, 'Why?' Would we do the same in his situation? When someone wrongs us, often the first thing we want to do is make them feel as badly as they made us feel.

But David had a deeper understanding and an even deeper respect for God. He recognized that even though he would soon be king, Saul was *still* Israel's king. God's anointed. And it was not David's place to harm him.

The last part of this story just might be the most amazing. Saul's response.

*Open the Bible to 1 Samuel 24:17-19 (NIV) and read.*

*You are a better person than I am," he said. "You have treated me well. But I've treated you badly. You have just now told me about the good things you did to me. The LORD handed me over to you. But you didn't kill me. . . . May the LORD reward you with many good things. May he do it because of the way you treated me today."*

Instead of bloodshed, instead of further conflict, David's actions changed the heart of the king. Saul recognized the wrong he did because of the right David did. The respect David showed for Saul opened

Saul's eyes to what he had done. In other words, David's self-control actually revealed to Saul what he had been doing wrong.

Like David, we can show self-control when we stop to think first—and ask God to help us do what's best. As difficult as that may be, and as strongly as you want to get back at someone, this story shows what a wise and careful response can do to de-escalate a situation and change the entire direction.

Maybe someone says something mean to you and your first reaction is to fire back an even more hurtful word or phrase. Maybe you've been unjustly accused of something you didn't do and your first reaction is to yell and scream and get back at whoever is accusing you.

What would it look like to stop and ask God to help you do what's best? God can give you the power to show self-control when you ask.

As you head to your Small Groups today, consider this question:

**SLIDE: Key Question**

**“When have you had self-control?** Talk about any examples you can think of where you wanted to do one thing but chose to stop and think first. If you're having a difficult time thinking of some examples from your own life, that's totally fine. You'll have a chance to chat about all of this and more when you get to Small Group. Before that, let's pray and ask God to help us take the time to stop and do the right thing.

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

*Lead the group in a prayer related to what they just heard.  
After prayer, dismiss the kids to their Small Groups.*

**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!

**SLIDE: Theme**