

## ALLEY Rundown – November 2 - 3, 2024

**Today's Bible Story:** Good (Every Good and Perfect Gift) • *James 1:17a*

**Today's Key Question:** What good things has God given you?

**Today's Bottom Line:** God gives us good things.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Every good and perfect gift is from God. James 1:17a (NIV)*

**PRE\_SERVICE VIDEOS:** *Dude Perfect*

**SLIDE:** *Theme*

What is going on, everyone! I am so excited to start another amazing month together here in The Alley! As you might have noticed, this month is all about how we can make Special Deliveries with a little bit of generosity! This has me thinking of a question that might help us get in the right frame of mind.

Turn to the person next to you and chat about this: What's the best gift you've ever received? It could be something you got for a holiday or birthday, or it could be something you received at a totally random time of year! Whatever you felt was the best gift—ever! Chat for a minute about what comes to mind.

*Give kids a few moments to share with one another about their best gifts. As you have time, have kids share some of their best gifts and comment appropriately. If there's time, LG Leader can feel free to add a personal story about a gift they received.*

Of course, it's so great to think about all those good gifts and experiences that people have given to us. But . . . it does make me wonder something.

Think about this: where do those good things come from? Like who should get the credit? The place where those things were created? The store where they were purchased? Or maybe from the people who give them? Or is there something else we need to think about when it comes to the good things we receive? Like is there more happening than just the giving of a gift?

As we begin talking about the idea of generosity, these are important questions to ask. And important questions deserve for us to search for good answers! One of the best places for us to discover great answers to our most important questions is the Bible. Remember, the Bible was written by real people who had real experiences with God. God inspired them to write about those moments so people like us could get to know God, too. Let's head to the Bible now during the So and So Show.

**VIDEO:** *The So and Show* (12:25)

We might not always remember that every good and perfect gift is from above. What we experience throughout our lives certainly doesn't feel like a 'gift' sometimes.

Maybe you had your heart set on a certain part in the school play. You worked hard at memorizing the lines for the auditions and imagined yourself on stage taking the lead. But then you didn't get the part. Instead, you got a supporting role, which you really hadn't thought much about. At the time, that certainly didn't feel like a gift. But over time, you began to love the part you were cast in and you met some really great people who became good friends.

Or maybe your family had planned to go away for the holidays but because of some budget cuts, your parents just couldn't afford it this year. So, while your friends were all posting pics from sunny beaches, you were stuck in town for the week instead. During that week, however, your family was able to hang out with some other families who were still in town and even serve together at a local ministry for a day. You laughed a lot together and really enjoyed some quality time together.

Or maybe right now, you find yourself envying other people because they have talents and abilities that are really obvious and praiseworthy . . . maybe they're always getting complimented or encouraged for their gifts. And when you think about yourself, you aren't so sure what your gifts are yet or how they might be used. But what if God is preparing to use those gifts in a really powerful way in the future?

And the beautiful thing about all these good gifts from God is that they ultimately point us back to the good God who gave them. They remind us that God has already given us the GREATEST gift of all—Jesus, through whom we can have forgiveness and a forever relationship with God!

God gives us every good and perfect gift, and when we see those good gifts, we are reminded about their good Giver—our good and perfect God!

As you go to your groups today, think about this:

**SLIDE: Key Question**

**What good things has God given you?** Don't just think about the big, flashy things that God has given you. Take time to talk with your group about the good gifts from God that you may have overlooked. And don't worry if you're having trouble thinking of something; you'll have plenty of time to chat about this with your Small Group and get some ideas. Before you go, let's pray and thank God for giving us so much—especially Jesus!

**SLIDE: Theme Background**

*Leader leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.*

#### **OFFERING:**

We have been 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**