

ALLEY Rundown – November 23- 24, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Show Me How to Live (Love in Action) • *1 John 3:16-18*

Today's Key Question: When has someone been generous to you?

Today's Bottom Line: Jesus showed us how to give.

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

SUPPLIES: 20-30 envelopes of mixed sizes.

SLIDE: *Theme*

Hey, everyone! So glad you're here today! Hard to believe we're at the end of November! But we still have an incredible day ahead of us as we make one last Special Delivery with a game I call 'Mailroom'!

SLIDE: *"Mailroom"*

I need TWELVE volunteers to make two teams of six. Who wants to play?

Host chooses volunteers and assembles them into two straight lines of six.

Alright, welcome to the mailroom assembly line. There's lots of work to do today, and you're the conveyor belt. See all these letters?

Host dumps a pile of envelopes (10-15) on the floor at the start of both lines.

One letter at a time, your job is to get each item from the start of your line there to the end of your line here. It must pass through all six people, but to find out HOW you'll pass the item through, you'll have to listen to my instructions. You can only move one item at a time, from start to finish. Everyone in the line, face forward please. Ready? Now begin by passing the first item over your head backwards . . . On your mark, get set, GO!

AUDIO: *Fun background music*

After a couple items go all the way through the line, change the directions. Here are some suggestions:

- pass through your legs
- close your eyes
- around the back once
- toss and catch with one hand (return to the start if dropped)
- Yell "HERE YOU GO!" upon each exchange

Play until the envelopes have moved from the front of the line to the back of the lines.

Great job, everyone! Our winners in the 'Mailroom' today were [Name of Team]. Let's give them a hand.

We've had such a great month together talking about how we can trust God with the way we show generosity! It's had me thinking about all the ways people have shown generosity to me over the years. Like this one time . . .

Share a personal story or a "What if" scenario about a time that someone showed generosity in your life. It doesn't have to just be about giving gifts. Be creative!

Maybe you've had an experience like that, too, or know someone who has experienced generosity so surprising that it stops you in your tracks and blows you away with gratitude that people could be so generous.

It's that kind of generosity that honestly reminds me of Jesus!

Jesus literally gave EVERYTHING, even His own life for us! I sometimes wonder: *How can I give like Jesus?* Like how can the way we show generosity reflect the same sort of amazing love that Jesus showed to us? That sort of giving seems rather impossible for us to even attempt. But what if God were to give us the strength to show some amazing generosity to people in our lives?

These can be good—but hard—questions to think through. And where is the best place to start when we have hard questions? (*Pause for responses.*) That's right! The Bible. The people who wrote the books of the Bible had personal experiences with God—several of them even knew Jesus! God inspired them to write down what they learned from these experiences so others could understand how to follow Jesus, too. And today's truth from the Bible will help us with these sorts of questions about what it means to show generous love like Jesus. Let's check it out!

VIDEO: Bible Story (15:50)

We have an incredible model for what it means to put love into action—Jesus gave Himself for us, and now we have countless opportunities to be like Jesus and give ourselves and our love to other people.

Of course, this will change depending on what the day brings . . . at home this might look like how you show love to your mom by cleaning the dishes instead of rushing to play your video games. At school, this might look like letting someone else take a turn on your favorite playground equipment before you. On the field or court, it might look like passing the ball to a teammate instead of trying to take the shot and getting the glory for yourself. And there are so many other places where you can share Jesus' love generously with others like church, in your neighborhood, or the local park.

The more we see people and look at their needs with the eyes of God's generosity, the more we'll see moments where we can love, not just by using our words, but by putting our words into action!

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

SLIDE: Key Question

When has someone been generous to you? Think about what their actions looked like in those moments. Was their generosity expressed through words only? Or did you experience their generosity through their actions as well? If you're struggling with an example, have no fear. You'll get to chat more about this with your Small Group and think through all sorts of ways people might have been generous to you! Before you head to groups, let's pray and ask God to help us put our love into action!

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.

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