

Alley Rundown - February 1- 2, 2025

Today's Bible Story: They Say It's Wonderful (Fearfully and Wonderfully Made) • Psalm 139:1-14
(Supporting: Genesis 1:26-28, Ephesians 2:10)

Today's Key Question: How would you describe yourself?

Today's Bottom Line: God made you, knows you, and loves you.

Monthly Memory Verse: "How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well." Psalm 139:14 (NIRV)

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS (Dude Perfect)

Welcome the students and introduce yourself to the group. Set expectations for behavior during the large group. Review "Alley Cash" and bathroom procedures.

Hey, everybody! Great to see you. I'm so excited to begin another series together. (*Open toolbox*) And I've got to say this one is (*hold up a hammer*) building to be a great one! (*beat*) Seriously though, have you ever watched those 'How it's made?' videos? (*Get response.*) Yeah, me too! Those are always so fascinating to me. It's incredible to see how something giant like a skyscraper or something as tiny as a golf ball is made. To get us started for today, I have a few images of objects that might appear in a video like that. I wonder if any of you know how they're made . . . check them out.

Let's look at the first one . . . What's this?

SLIDE: Introduction Slide 1

Yes! It's a comfy armchair—love these things! What do you think these armchairs are made out of? (*Get responses.*) Yes! Wood, springs, some sort of cushy filler material . . . maybe some nails and screws and, of course, fabric to cover it all up. Great!

What skills might be needed to put one of these together? (*Get responses.*) Yes, the ability to use a hammer, maybe some design skills to create the idea for the chair or pick the fabric, maybe even some patience with the time it takes to get it all put together!

Maybe a different sort of question . . . how do people take care of chairs like this? (*Get responses.*) Yeah, they might have to wash them if they get spilled on. Or vacuum up some crumbs. Maybe keep them dry. Cool.

One last question . . . Not a trick question, but what purpose do these chairs serve? (*Get responses.*) Sure! You SIT on them. Or you lounge around in them. Maybe they can be a luxury pet bed for your dog or cat. Maybe they can be a place to set down your backpack after school. They can be used for all sorts of things. Let's look at a few other things.

Communicator goes through as many slides as time allows or as kids are interested. This can be a "turn and talk" with a neighbor or a discussion for the whole room to call out answers. Ask questions related to the following ideas:

What are the tools needed?

What are the skills needed?

What are the different materials needed?

How do people take care of them?

What purpose do these serve?

SLIDE: Introduction Slides 2-7

Thanks for chatting about that! You know, it's really amazing when you think about all the materials, time, energy, and *people* needed to make these objects. Of course, objects can't make themselves. Someone needed to come up with the idea, make the plan, collect the supplies and tools, and do the work to put those things together. And beyond how they're made, how they're used and cared for!"

So what about people? Way back when . . . who thought people would be a good idea? Who decided what we needed to live and survive? Who thought about our emotions and abilities? Who thought it'd be great for us to care for one another? Who takes care of us? And what should people be doing with their lives?

For some of you, those questions might sound strange. But people are unique, aren't we? We're different from objects. We're even different from plants and animals and mountains. On top of that, we're also different from each other. We all look so different from each other. We act differently from each other. We enjoy different things. We speak different languages. This all begs the question: Who had all of that in mind way before we can even know what happened to set humans in motion?

Well, that's a great question—definitely one worth asking. Let's head to The So and So Show to see what the guys have to say!!

The So and So Show (11:28)

You are unique! God didn't make you to be like someone else. God is excited about you being YOU. This isn't about something we need to do. It's about something we need to remember about what is true . . . God made us. God knows everything about us. And God loves us more than we could ever imagine.

We were made in the image of God. And God loves us so much that Jesus came so we could have a relationship with God that will last forever. On the cross, Jesus paid the price for our sins—the things we've done wrong. You don't have to DO anything to earn God's love. It's a gift. God made you completely unique, on purpose! Uniqueness is about learning more about yourself so you can make a difference.

As you head to Small Group today, I'd love for you to take time to think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

How would you describe yourself? What makes you unique? What are the qualities you have that can make a difference in the world? And if you aren't sure what makes you unique, that's totally okay. It's not always easy to discover what's unique about yourself. You can chat about it with your Small Group or ask someone who knows you well like a parent, grandparent, family member, or teacher. As you work at discovering how God made you, remember that God made you completely unique and special in your own way. Before you head out, let's pray and thank God for making us with so much love and care and purpose. Let's pray.

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:

Last month we started collecting our offering to support a new mission partner called La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay) in Africa. La Liberte' Church is in a financially challenged area in The Congo. The kids at the church don't have access to a lot of food so this church feeds 700 children a meal every weekend! Each meal costs \$2.00 and our goal is to help feed as many kids as we can! Check out this video....

VIDEO: Offering