

Alley Rundown - February 8 - 9, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Make a Difference (Moses and the Burning Bush) • Exodus 3–4:15

Today's Key Question: What's unique about you?

Today's Bottom Line: God made you to make a difference.

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 (NIV)

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.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Hey, everyone! How are you all doing today? This month we're taking a look at how God uniquely MADE us. Last week we chatted about how each of us is made in God's image. That means we're able to reflect God's love and care and creativity to the rest of the world. On top of that, we're not exact copies of each other. God made us with uniqueness. And as we discover the ways we're unique, we can also start using our gifts to make a difference.

As we get started this morning, I have a question for you. Who is someone who has made a difference in your life, and how did they do that?

Give kids a chance to share with the group about this for a moment.

Those were some great stories. I think we could all think of someone who's made a difference in our lives. Maybe a grandparent who shared their love of music and inspired us to play an instrument. Maybe it was a coach who spent time after practice helping us perfect our free throw. Or maybe it was a complete stranger who helped your mom figure out what was wrong when her car broke down on the side of the road.

Share a quick personal story of a time when someone made a difference in your life using their unique gifts and talents. Use the following as an example or as a hypothetical example with the kids.

I remember this one time when I was around your age I had to give a huge presentation for history class. I was so nervous. I was fine having a conversation with my friends, but speaking in front of my entire class felt like a nightmare! I was so worried that I'd mess up my words or trip as I walked up to the front of the room. One night while I was chatting about this with my family, my aunt, who had always been the lead in her school plays, stepped in to help me out. She offered to help me figure out what to say and how to say it. She used her gift of speaking in front of others to help me feel more comfortable speaking in front of the class.

When it came time for the presentation, I was still a bit nervous, but I felt way more confident to speak having practiced the presentation with my aunt. It turns out I wasn't that terrible at it! The presentation went great, and I learned that maybe speaking in front of others is one of my unique gifts, too. I ended up having more opportunities to speak throughout the years and even got to use that gift to speak to you on Sundays! It's awesome how God works like that sometimes.

But even though I learned about my own gifts that day, it was a while before I knew how I could use that gift of speaking to make a difference."

That might be how you feel right now. You might be wondering about your own gifts and talents. Maybe you know what they are but aren't quite sure how you can use them to help others or make a difference. Maybe you're just discovering your gifts and talents, or maybe you don't quite know what they are yet. You're wondering if you'll ever find something you're not only good at but also you enjoy doing and can use to help others.

First, it's totally normal not to know exactly what you're good at or how to use what you do know you're good at. That's part of the process of growing up. At the same time, it doesn't mean you do nothing, so what should you do? How can you use what you do know about your gifts and talents to make a difference in the world—or at least in your unique part of it?

It's an important question to ask.

THE SO AND SO SHOW (13:02)

This is such an incredible story. From the start Moses experienced a life like no other. He was an Israelite who was rescued by the Egyptian princess and grew up in a palace! He couldn't have known it at the time, but everything that happened to Moses, both good and bad, helped make him ready to make a difference. Moses wasn't perfect, but God used him to change history!

When God wants you to make a difference, God will make a way for it to happen. Take a moment to think about the unique ways God made you.

SLIDE: Virtue

Remember, uniqueness is about learning more about yourself so you can make a difference. Part of that is discovering what you're good at and what comes naturally to you. You can use those things to help someone. And like Moses, sometimes, it's not so much what you're good at but your unique experiences that prepare you to make a difference. You might have gone through something that helps you understand what someone else is going through. You can be there for them and help them remember how they can trust God no matter what.

But you don't have to do this alone. When we follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live inside us. We can always rely on God's strength and wisdom and creativity to help us make a difference with the ways God has uniquely made us.

As you head off to Small Group, take some time to think about this:

Slide: Key Question

What's unique about you? Maybe it's the way you see and think about the world. Maybe it's the way you dance, play an instrument, or kick a soccer ball. Maybe it's the experiences you have had in your life this far. Whatever it might be, we all have something unique about each one of us! That's because we're made in God's image. But remember, if you're having trouble figuring out the way you're unique, don't worry. You have plenty of time to figure that out. Maybe you can even chat about that with your Small Group. They might be able to help you discover something new about yourself. Before we head to groups, let's pray and thank God for making us all so unique. Let's ask God to help us use those unique gifts to make a difference. 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, but remind kids who have offering to place it in the container.

SLIDES: Offering pics 1-4 (scroll through while describing the mission)

Each week in the City we collect money to support a Parkview mission that helps people in need. Starting in 2025 we are giving the money we collect to a church called La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay).

La Liberte' Church is in the Republic of Congo which is in Africa. The kids at the church live in an area where they don't have a lot of money, and sometimes don't have a lot of food for their family. When the kids come to church on Sunday, they feed them a hot meal. They feed around 700 children every weekend and each meal costs \$2.00. Our goal is to help feed as many kids as we can!

SLIDE: Theme