

Alley Rundown - February 15 - 16, 2025

Today's Bible Story: All I Have to Give (Lydia) • Acts 16:13-15

Today's Key Question: What are your gifts?

Today's Bottom Line: Use your gifts 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, friends! Glad to see you all here today. To kick us off, I brought a few pictures with me. Can you help me brainstorm a little? Sweet. Here's the first one.

SLIDE: Firefighter

So, obviously this is a firefighter. Anyone know a firefighter in real life? (Invite responses.) That's awesome! Now, here's where the brainstorm comes in. What skills do you need to be a firefighter? What are some of the characteristics you would hope a firefighter has?

Kids answer. Write some of their answers on the whiteboard. Use their answers as you debrief with them. Use the following as an example.

Great answers! Yes, firefighters need courage and grit. They need to know how to handle the equipment and know how to climb a ladder. They need to be strong to wear that heavy equipment and carry the hoses and air tanks with them into the fire. They probably need to have some CPR or life-saving procedures. I'm sure there are even more skills that would be important for firefighters to know to be great at their job.

Let's try a few more . . .

Do the same for the following images, asking,

- *What skills/characteristics would be important for these jobs?*
- *Erase the whiteboard between photos.*
- *Go through as many photos as you have time.*

SLIDE: Nurse

SLIDE: Carpenter

SLIDE: Athlete

SLIDE: Computer Programmer

Excellent. Thanks for thinking through that with me! It's always interesting to think through the unique skills people need to do activities that many of us might take for granted. I love how God made each of us special like that. Okay, let's try one more . . .

Now, I don't have a photo for this next one, but still, I need your help with the same sort of question: What skills do you need to be a follower of Jesus? Are there things you must be able to do or things you need to know to be a Christian? Maybe this sounds like a trick question, but I'm serious. I mean, think about it.

We might have this idea that we need to act a certain way or know certain things before we can start following Jesus. But is that true? Are there skills we need to master before we're able to start following Jesus? Let's see what the SO and SO Guys have to say.

VIDEO: The So and So Show 14:05

You know, at the beginning we shared some very specific skills that some professionals have. And many of you have some of those skills along with so many other skills we didn't even mention. And that's great! On top of that, when we look to someone like Lydia, we can become inspired to trust God with those skills. What we saw in Lydia was her ability to take what she already had and use it to love God and serve others. Sometimes you just have to be creative!

Of course, the truth is you don't need a specific set of skills to follow Jesus. You can put your faith in Jesus just the way you are. But here's what's so amazing. When you do believe in Jesus, God can use your unique skills and situations to help others know Jesus and show them God's love.

Think about some of the ways that God has uniquely made you and the talents you already have. What would it look like to use those to love God and serve others?

Maybe you like to experiment with baking. Could you raise money baking something for a mission trip or to help out a struggling family?

Or maybe you love sports. Could you help teach a sports camp for kids in your neighborhood who aren't able to afford one?

What about those of you who are great at a subject at school? Could you help serve others by tutoring someone who is struggling in class? There are so many ways we can use what we have, to make a difference."

As you head to groups today, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

"What are your gifts? Think about how God created you. Think about your unique skills and talents. Think about what you just enjoy doing. Then consider how can you use what you have **RIGHT NOW** to make a difference. How can you love God and serve others through the gifts God has given you? If you're not quite sure, that's totally fine, too. We're still growing and figuring out how God has wired us. You can also talk to people like a family member, a teacher, or your Small Group Leader to help you discover some of this, too! Speaking of Small Group, before we head out, let's pray and thank God for creating us so uniquely to help those around us. Let's pray."

SLIDE: Theme Background

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

SLIDE: SuperStart!

There's one more thing I have to tell you about; it's called Super Start! It's coming up in March and it's an overnight event just for 4th and 5th graders. We will travel on a bus to a conference - where you'll get to play games, eat, make new friends, and hear awesome messages about how much Jesus loves you. Check out this video...

VIDEO: SuperStart!

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 Video

Go home and see what you can do to earn money to help! Every dollar you bring in goes right to feeding these kids in need!