

# Alley Rundown - April 26 - 27 2025

**Today's Bible Story:** All I Ask (Jesus Appears to Thomas) • *John 20:19-29*

**Today's Key Question:** What questions do you have for God?

**Today's Bottom Line:** Whatever happens, remember God is bigger than your questions.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *"In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."* John 16:33b (NIRV)

**LG Supplies:** several index cards and two containers

## **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.*

***Have kids fill out the "Why/Because" index cards on the way into your environment that day. Have a stack of cards that kids write a single question beginning with "Why?" (Why is the sky blue? Why do bikes have wheels?). They put the completed card in a box/bowl. Have another stack where kids write an answer starting with Because (Because he sat on the cat! Because it tasted terrible!) It does not need to answer the question they asked. Put these completed cards in a separate box/bowl.***

Hey, everyone! I hope you had an amazing Easter last week! But just because Easter is officially over doesn't mean that we're done celebrating around here! Jesus is alive, and it changes everything . . . Jesus gives us hope that no matter what we face, even if we don't understand it, He is with us each step of the way.

I'll be honest, it's a bit hard to believe we've reached the end of April! This has been such a great month celebrating the big picture God is creating with our lives through Jesus. Thankfully, though, it's not over yet! We still have so much happening around here today!

*Introduce WHY/BECAUSE cards. Kids should have filled these out as they come into the environment.*

*Note: Be sure that every child has had the opportunity to add a WHY/BECAUSE card to the box.*

When you came in today, you filled out these cards—'Because statements' and 'Why statements.' By the look of these stacks here, it seems like many of you have a LOT of questions. BUT it also seems like you might have a lot of answers, too. Can I have a Small Group Leader come help me out, and I'll explain.

*Invite a small group leader up. Give them the stack of WHY cards the kids wrote at the beginning. The large group leader will read the BECAUSE answers.*

"[Small Group Leader's name], do you want to ask me something?"

*SGL chooses a random WHY card out of the box/bowl and asks it out loud.*

"That is a great question. Hmmm . . ."

*Large group leader chooses a random BECAUSE card and responds.*

*Continue this pattern: SGL reads a WHY and LGL reads a BECAUSE. It should be completely random. Filter as necessary. After reading several, dismiss the SGL.*

That was a lot of questions! And let's be honest, the answers obviously didn't really make that much sense. That might be what life feels like sometimes, doesn't it?

We find ourselves with all sorts of questions, and not just ones like, 'What book should I read?' or 'What do I have for homework tonight?' But often our questions seem massive! Questions about why something bad might be happening in the world, why our parents are struggling to get along, or why you can't ever seem to understand your math homework.

Questions like these seem way too big for an answer or at least an easy answer. Maybe you're not sure if they're questions you should even be asking. And if you do ask them, who should you ask, and how should you ask them? This is especially true when it comes to our questions about God or Jesus.

So, what should we do when we have really hard questions about God or what God is doing in the world around us? You might be wondering if it's even okay to ask God questions. Like, do we hide them away and hope we find out an answer someday? Or do we risk asking the question, even if we're not sure how someone will respond to us? These sorts of questions are good questions.

What is so amazing is that God is bigger than any questions we could possibly ask. And it's important to remember that we're not the first people to ask God questions or wonder about what God is doing. Even people who knew Jesus personally didn't always understand what He was teaching and what He was doing . . . especially when it came to His death and resurrection. Thankfully, we have one of these moments recorded for us in the Bible. Let's check out the So and So Show to see how the guys will tackle this question.

#### **The So and So Show** 12:30

You know, there is one more thing that Jesus said to Thomas that is really interesting to read as followers of Jesus here today.

*Open the Bible to John 20:29 (NIRV) and read.*

*Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."*

You know what? Jesus was talking about people like us! None of us have ever physically SEEN Jesus. We haven't touched the wounds in His wrists or side like Thomas got to do. We haven't sat across the table from Him and enjoyed a meal like His disciples did on a number of occasions. And yet . . . many of you believe. You truly believe that Jesus is your 'Lord and God.' Jesus said those kinds of people are blessed. That is the kind of faith Jesus is looking for.

There will be times that you just have questions, just like Thomas did. Or maybe you just find something hard to believe. You might go through a really tough time that leaves you with more questions. You know what's really cool? Like we said, God is not scared of those questions—not one bit. God is big enough for them. Let your questions lead you TO Jesus!"

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

#### **SLIDE: Key Question**

**"What questions do you have for God?"** Think about the things you wonder about that sometimes make it hard for you to believe without seeing. Don't worry if you think your questions are too big or random or even silly.

Your Small Group is a great place to talk about the questions you have about God. And you'll definitely get the chance to chat about those and so much more. Before you go, let's pray and be thankful that God is big enough for ALL our questions!"

**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)**

One way we can all work together to help others in need is through our offering! 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**