

Alley Rundown - May 3 - 4 2025

Today's Bible Story: Living Hope (God So Loved the World) • *John 3:16-17*

Today's Key Question: How has God met your needs?

Today's Bottom Line: God took care of our greatest need.

Monthly Memory Verse: None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. Philippians 2:4 (*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, there, friends! It's so great to be with you today! It's the start of a new series here in the Alley, and I can't wait to jump in and get started. It's called . . .

SLIDE: Theme

Eye Spy: Get a clue about what to do! Now, maybe you've seen *I-Spy* books or have played a game of I-Spy at school or on a long road trip. But this month, we're taking I-Spy to another level, starting with a challenge I'm calling 'Get a Clue!' I need two volunteers who think they have good detective skills.

SLIDE: "Get a Clue!"

Host chooses two volunteers and brings them up to the front. Introduce them to the rest of the group.

Here's how it works. On this sheet I have a clue card each with five clues for an everyday object you see in the world and may need from time to time to accomplish a task. I'll read one clue at a time. Raise your hand if you think you know what it is. Guess correctly and you win that round. The sooner you get the clue, the more points you get. The person with the most points at the end wins! Any questions? Great, let's play!

Read through each one at a time, starting with clue 1 and going through clue 5. After each clue, offer the volunteers a chance to guess. If they get it correct, award the number of points 5 through 1 consecutively. (5 points for answering after the first clue, 4 points for the second, etc.) If neither can guess the object after all 5 clues, give the rest of the group a chance to guess.

Clue Card One:

ANSWER: Bottle of Water

Clue 1: Part of a cycle that never ends, rising and falling since the Earth began.

Clue 2: Carried in clouds, flow through valleys, and are stored deep underground.

Clue 3: Often sold in a clear container, but my true form can take many shapes.

Clue 4: Found in rivers, lakes, and streams, but today, I'm in your hand.

Clue 5: The label might say spring, sparkling, or purified, but the inside is always made from the same thing.

Clue Card Two:

ANSWER: A Pencil

Clue 1: This has a core but no heart, and it's used to create rather than destroy.

Clue 2: It's ability to be used shortens with every task.

Clue 3: It wears a wooden jacket and leaves a mark wherever it goes.

Clue 4: It's sharp at the start, dulls when it's used, and can be renewed with a twist or a shave.

Clue 5: It's often topped with a tiny companion to fix any mistakes.

Clue Card Three:

ANSWER: Cell Phone

Clue 1: It's a link to the world yet depends on invisible waves.

Clue 2: Its face shows infinite possibilities, but it's fragile if you drop it.

Clue 3: It holds the power of a computer but was once only used to talk.

Clue 4: It connects millions of people across the world, but it fits in a pocket.

Clue 5: It rings, buzzes, or beeps to get your attention, but it can stay silent on long airplane rides.

Clue Card Four:

ANSWER: Jacket

Clue 1: This protects you from sudden chills when seasons change.

Clue 2: This isn't best for snow nor for sand, but it's perfect in-between.

Clue 3: This has pockets for your hands and a zipper to keep the breeze out.

Clue 4: It's shield against the rain, but it's not as heavy as a coat.

Clue 5: This is only used part of the year, and it's often forgotten about in the summer.

Clue Card Five:

ANSWER: Headphones

Clue 1: This lets you hear the world, but only the parts you choose.

Clue 2: This can always be heard but never speaks.

Clue 3: This connects to devices, wired or wireless, to deliver music and more.

Clue 4: These rest on or in your ears and create a bubble of personal sound.

Clue 5: These can be used for calls, tunes, or games—but only you can hear what they play.

SLIDE: Theme

Eye Spy: Get a clue about what to do. As you look at this, you might be wondering, why 'Eye Spy'? What does that have to do with anything? Well, that's actually a great question. And to answer that question, let me ask you another question. When has someone not only SEEN that you needed help but actually taken the time to help you? Maybe a teacher saw you were struggling with a math problem or a coach saw that your knee was causing you some trouble . . .

*Have a few kids share their story with the rest of the group.
Comment on them appropriately.*

Yes! Those are some great moments you all shared! Okay . . . now another question. When have YOU SEEN someone who needed help and taken the initiative to help them? Maybe you noticed a friend who forgot their lunch and you offered some of yours. Or maybe your sister was looking really bored and you stopped what you were doing to play a game with her . . .

*Have a few kids share their story with the rest of the group.
Comment on them appropriately.*

Great stories! I love that you all took the time to help people when you could. When you SEE something or someone that needs attention—a mess in your classroom, a friend who's sad, or an empty toilet paper roll in the bathroom—and you choose to DO something about it—help clean up, encourage the friend, find a new toilet paper roll—that's INITIATIVE.

SLIDE: Virtue

When people take initiative to fix the problems they see, it makes things a bit easier for others and themselves. It's a pretty big deal.

Now, one last question. But this time, just think in your own head about how you'd answer this question. Have you ever seen a problem and chosen to walk away from it rather than do something about it? I'll be honest, I know I have, especially when the problem looks difficult or messy or might take a long time and keep from what I want to do.

Of course, this might not be true of the problems we have personally. We'll often do whatever it takes to fix our own problems or the problems of people we love. Taking initiative then is a no-brainer. Like, we should see our messy room and choose to clean it up. We should notice that there are a lot of dirty dishes in the sink and take time to help our dad and wash them ourselves. We should be aware of how our words impact others and choose to think before we speak to show others we care about them.

But other people, other problems? You might wonder, 'Does it matter if we're the ones that see the problem AND fix the problem?' Like why should you be the one taking your time to notice problems that might not even have anything to do with you, not to mention taking the time and energy to work to solve those problems? It might seem like it's just too much.

These are important thoughts to think through. Thankfully, we have the perfect example of when this has been done for us. We find it in the pages of this book (*hold up the Bible*)—The Bible! Remember, the Bible isn't just ONE book, it's a collection of books, like a library! And each of those books, in their own way, points to the amazing love of GOD who took initiative and stopped at nothing to have a forever relationship with us. Let's check it out!"

The So and So Show (16:24)

You know, Nicodemus came to Jesus that night probably believing that he was right about a lot of things. And I'm guessing that conversation with Jesus turned his world upside down. But when we see how much God really loves us, and that this is not because of what WE have done but rather what GOD has done, it should change everything for us.

God's love for us is deeper than we can ever completely know or understand.

God knew that our greatest need is to be restored back into relationship. So, God made a way! God gave Jesus. And when we choose to believe in Jesus, we can live forever with God.

On top of that, we are made in God's image, and as we grow in relationship with Jesus, we begin to reflect more of who God is to the world around us. God took initiative when it came to sending Jesus for us. And we can reflect God's initiative with how we interact with people in our own lives.

SLIDE: Virtue

Remember, initiative means 'seeing what need to be done and doing it.' That starts with keeping your eyes open to see what the people around you need . . . and then doing something about it. Loving others is a way that we can show our gratitude to God for seeing our greatest need and taking care of it."

Today as you go to groups, think about this question:

Slide: Key Question Slide

How has God met your needs? We've talked a lot today about how God met our need for a Savior by sending us Jesus. Along with that, though, how has God met the needs you experience throughout your everyday life? Maybe it's how you have food at the table or friends who love you. But if you're not quite sure how to answer that question, don't worry. You'll have a chance to chat about that with your Small Group. Before you head out to groups, let's talk to God and thank God for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Let's pray.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

CHECK THE TIME: There should be at least 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.

Each week in the City we collect money to support a Parkview mission that helps people in need. Who remembers the name of the church we are collecting for? (*La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay)*). Who remembers where the church is located? (*In the Congo in Africa*) Here are a video of the kids at the church singing praise to Jesus.

VIDEO: *Kids Singing*

Remember: where they live 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*