

ALLEY Rundown – July 5-6, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Forgive One Another (Jesus Forgives Peter) • *Colossians 3:13*

Today's Key Question: What makes it hard to forgive?

Today's Bottom Line: Forgive one another.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.* Romans 15:5, NIV

PRE-SERVICE VIDEO: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

What is going on my people! I am so excited to start another amazing month together here in The Alley! Last month, we went to camp to learn to live like Jesus. And we're headed back this month! So, pack your bags, campers. Okay, not literally...we don't have room for them. But it's going to be a great month around here!

I think you'll be so happy you came too, because we're going to have lots of fun discovering how to live and love others like Jesus. When we do that—when we live and love like Jesus—it can actually change the world! Now, that might sound hard but check out what the apostle Paul wrote in the book of Romans.

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had. —Romans 15:5, NIV

We'll talk more about that in a few minutes, but first, let's kick off our fun with a team competition!

Divide the room in half. Assign red and blue teams

We're going to play a game we like to call 'Reverse Charades'. It's a lot like regular charades, but instead of one person acting something out and everyone else guessing, everyone on your team will act something out and a leader will try to guess the answer!

So, when it's your team's turn, your team leader will stand on the stage, facing the audience. Then, behind their head, you'll see something on the screen. **Do not say what it is!!** Just look at the picture and start acting it out. If your leader guesses the answer correctly, you'll go to the next one. The team who gets the most correct answers in one minute, wins!

Okay, let's try a practice round to make sure everyone understands.

SLIDE: *Reverse Charades Slides*

Choose one Small Group Leader to represent each team as the guesser. Let each team do a practice round of guessing one word. Remind kids not to say the name of what they see on the screen, but to just act it out until the leader guesses it correctly.

Keep score, play as many rounds as time allows, and declare a winner for the day.

That was so fun! And congratulations to the (*Blue or Red*) Team for winning this week's competition. And if your team didn't win this week, don't worry! You'll have another chance to win every week this summer!

SLIDE: Theme Background

Our Bible Truth today will help us as we learn what it means to live like Jesus in the way we forgive one another! And it starts with a trip into the New Testament of our Bible...to a group of books we call the Gospels. The Gospels are another name for the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the New Testament.

Now, as some of you know, the Gospels tell about the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Our story today is going to take place after Jesus rose again from the dead, but we first need to set the story up a little with a few other stories from before Jesus' death.

Now I'm also guessing many of you know that Jesus did not travel alone, but that he was often followed from place to place. And of those followers, there were Twelve that spent basically every waking moment with Him. Does anyone know the special name we give for these twelve guys?

Allow for responses.

Right, we call them 'disciples.' A disciple was basically a student who gave up their life to follow their teacher. But it was deeper than that. There are several times that Jesus refers to these guys as His friends. I mean, think about it—they basically were together ALL THE TIME. And of those Twelve, there were three guys that Jesus was closest to—John, James, and Peter. And Peter is the focus of our story today. Let's check it out.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (15:56)

It can be really easy to keep track of all the things others do wrong to us. The truth is, things happen to us all the time that hurt us and upset us. Some of those things can be silly...like when someone says they don't like the color of our shoes. Okay, that hurts, but do we want to hold something like that against someone forever and refuse to forgive them? Or do we want to live like Jesus and forgive one another?

But some things can be really serious. We saw that with Jesus and Peter. And it can take some time to work through some of the pain that was caused. But if a person is a good friend, it is worth forgiving one another and working through it.

Now, there may come a time when you have a friend that hurts you SO bad...that you just can't be friends with them anymore. And that is okay. You might need wisdom from a trusted godly adult to help you with this. But regardless of what happens, you can still forgive them, because that will help YOU live with peace and freedom even if you don't ever hang out with that person again.

Do you know one of the coolest things about forgiving others? When we are willing to forgive, it is a reminder of what God has done for us. That is what Paul said, right. We forgive, BECAUSE we are...(wait for responses) FORGIVEN! Yes!

We have sinned and done so many things that God has asked us not to. But through Jesus, God has forgiven us. He has erased our debt. And when we forgive others, we are acting just like God does. So when we are tempted to hold on to our hurt or to make others pay for what they have done, consider the story of Jesus and Peter, and how you can be more like Jesus in forgiving someone for the wrong they have done. This is how we can live like Jesus!

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

SLIDE: Key Question

What makes it hard to forgive? I want you to talk about a time where you knew you should forgive someone but it was REALLY difficult. Before you go, let's pray and ask God to help us live like Jesus in the way we forgive one another!

SLIDE: Theme Background

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

OFFERING

In The Alley, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. For the rest of 2025 we are going to help kids and adults who live right near us! We are collecting our offering for Shady Oaks Camp for People with Disabilities in Homer Glen, IL. If you were at Summer Jam, you heard a lot about Shady Oaks. Raise your hand if you have ever been to any kind of summer camp? Well, this camp is just like that one, but it is set up for kids and adults who have physical challenges. Their mission is to give these kids and adults the same kind of camp experience that kids without disabilities can enjoy. Let's check it out.

VIDEO: Missions Night 1 (Runtime:)

Wow! You can see how much fun the kids and adults with disabilities have when they attend Shady Oaks Camp! What an amazing experience that is for them. We are raising money to support the camp in all they do for people with disabilities. Go home and see what you can do to earn money to help Shady Oaks Camp!

SLIDE: Theme