

ALLEY Rundown – August 30 - 31, 2025

Bible Story: Joseph • *Genesis 37, 39–45*

Conversation Starter: When has something bad turned into something good?

Bottom Line: You can trust God when things get tough.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1 (*NirV*)

LG SUPPLIES: 2 spools of yarn per service

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Hey there! We're in the last week of our series 'Origin Story,' talking about God's one big story! But this has been a pretty great month, right? Before we get into the Bible story for this week, let's go ahead and play a game!

All month our theme has had to do with super heroes! Today's game is themed around the Black Panther and his cat-like reflexes.

Here's how you'll play! I have two spools of yarn here, and in just a second I'm going to choose two of you to come up and try to unravel this.

Here's the twist—you can only use one hand to do it. Do you think you can do it? Let's go ahead and pick two volunteers.

Choose two kid volunteers to come up front.

All right! Thank you for volunteering! Go ahead and put one of your hands behind your back. Are you ready? Let's start in 3 . . . 2 . . . 1 . . . GO!

Make comments on how they're doing. You may need to help them if they get too tangled in the string!

Amazing job! You really showed your cat-like reflexes! You can go ahead back to your seat!

Have you ever tried something you didn't like, but now you love? Like maybe it was a vegetable that you didn't like when you were younger, but now you love it? Or maybe there's a game you weren't that into, but when you tried it again, it was awesome! What is something that used to be bad but then became good?

I think we can all think of a time when something bad ended up being really good. But has there been a time where you were stuck feeling like you were in a bad season of life and didn't know how to get out? Maybe you have had bad thing after bad thing happen to you, and you felt like it was never going to get better, or maybe it's just the same thing and it's taken forever for you to get over it? Well, today's story we'll hear about a man named Joseph who had bad thing after bad thing happen to him over and over again.

But before we get to Joseph's story, let me tell you about an awesome thing we're doing this year! We're going through the entire story of the Bible! We are!

Why, part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can get to know Him! So as we go through the stories of the Bible this year, hopefully we'll learn about Him!

We're going to go through God's Big Story! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: God's Big Story

Each week we'll be able to see the big story God is telling in the Bible! So, let's pick up where we left off in God's Big Story!

VIDEO: The So and So Show (17:47)

Over and over in Joseph's story, the Bible says: 'And God was with him.' The same is true for you. When you follow Jesus, God's very Spirit lives in you—God is not just with you, but He's in you! God is with you when things are tough, and you can trust Him.

When you're in a hard situation like Joseph was, and you don't know what to do, the best place to start is by talking to God in prayer and asking Him to help you remember that He is with you and you can trust Him. He is working for good in the hard things in your life, because being good is all He knows how to do.

As we go to small groups today, let's think about this question!

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

When has something bad turned into something good? Maybe it was a hard class at school that you hated going to, but when you think about it over the year, it taught you a lot. Or it could be if you are tired from doing basketball drills over and over again and get better at basketball. One of the best things that happened was also one of the most difficult—it was Jesus when He died. Jesus came and gave His perfect life to break the curse, pay for sin, and allow each of us to be close to God again.

But some people thought that when He died, that was it. It seemed like the story was over. But it wasn't! Three days later, Jesus rose back from the dead, talked to hundreds of people, and sometime later, He went back to heaven. His death—what was so, so difficult—saved everything. God was working in the most difficult. Let's go ahead and pray.

SLIDE: Theme Background

God, thank You so much for this month where we got to know You more. Thank You for this great story that reminds us that no matter what is happening, we can trust You because You are always good and have a good plan. Thank You for your best plan, sending Jesus to fix everything we broke—including our closeness with You. When life gets hard, teach us how to trust You. We want to live, fully trusting Your goodness. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

In The City, 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. And Scott, the director of Shady Oaks Camp wants you all to hear how thankful he is for our help! Let's check it out.

VIDEO: Scott

Go home and see what you can do to earn money to help Shady Oaks Camp!

SLIDE: Theme