

ALLEY Rundown – September 13 - 14, 2025

Bible Story: Joshua and the Spies • *Numbers 13–14*

Conversation Starter: When is it hard to trust God?

Bottom Line: God can give you courage when others are afraid.

Monthly Memory Verse: *When I'm afraid, I put my trust in you.* Psalm 56:3 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bag of “building supplies” per group

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Hey, everyone! Welcome! I'm SO pumped you're here today as we kick off a whole new month all about COURAGE! We're calling it 'On the Move' because sometimes, being brave means taking a step, making a move, even when it feels tough or you don't know the way.

And sometimes, the tasks ahead of us feel . . . well, HUGE! Like trying to build something amazing out of practically nothing. Which brings us to our first challenge of the month! It's called the 'Giant Task Team Build'!

Quickly encourage the kids to gather in their small groups. Give each small group an identical bag of unusual building supplies—e.g., straws, paperclips, tape, index cards, blocks

Alright teams, listen up! Your mission, should you choose to accept it—and you kinda have to—is to use ONLY the supplies in your bag to complete a GIANT task! In the next five minutes (*adjust time as needed*), your team is to work together to build the TALLEST freestanding tower possible! That means it has to stand up all by itself. Got it? Tallest tower wins ultimate bragging rights!

Do you think you can do it? Great! Each small group, gather around your bag and pour it out to see what you have to work with. (*Pause as each small group pours out their bag.*)

Great! Now that everybody's got their supplies out, let's get ready to build. Ready . . . set . . . BUILD!

AUDIO: *Upbeat music*

When you feel like enough time has gone by, stop the game.

Time's up! Hands off your towers! Wow, look at these creations! Some of these look . . . interesting! Let's see which small group conquered the Giant Task!

Quickly judge the tallest tower and declare a winner.

Quick question—and just think about this in your head for a sec. If our whole group here had to decide right now on ONE topping for a giant pizza to share, what do you think would win?

Pepperoni or pineapple? Okay, let's do a quick vote just for fun.

All in favor of 'pepperoni,' raise your hand! Okay, hands down. All in favor of 'pineapple'?

Looks like (state the winner) wins!

Now, for something fun like pizza toppings, going with the majority is usually no big deal. But what about bigger things? Can you think of a time when maybe going along with the crowd, doing what most people are doing or saying, might not be the best or wisest choice?

Pause for thought, maybe take one or two brief answers if time allows.

It can be tough to stand apart from the crowd—especially if the crowd seems really sure about something, or maybe really afraid of something. It takes courage to trust what you know is right, or to trust God, when everyone else is panicking. So, my question to you is: 'When is it hard to trust God?'

Think about that. When is it hard to trust God? Maybe especially when the people around you are full of fear or doubt? Our story today is about a time exactly like that.

Before we jump into that story, let me tell you about something really amazing we're doing this year—we're going through the entire story of the Bible. One of the reasons God gave us the Bible is to get to know Him. So, as we go through the story God is telling, our intention is that we get to know Him better!

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

SLIDE: God's Big Story

Each week, we'll go through a story in the Bible that's part of the big story God is telling. We'll add that week to our timeline. *(Gesture to timeline.)*

But before we dive into today's story, let's catch up to see what has happened so far in God's Big Story!

Adam and Eve were the first people God made. God made them to be His close friends! But they sinned, and it pulled them away from God. God wanted them to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! God didn't go away, but people's hearts did. It was so sad. And everyone who was born after Adam and Eve was born with the same problem—they couldn't be close friends with God either.

And awful things happened to the world too. Pain, sickness, and death entered into it.

But God didn't want to leave things that way! So He started His great rescue plan. And this great rescue was going to come through a family! So God started His great rescue with a man named Abraham. God chose Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. God grew and grew and grew Abraham's family, and they became a whole bunch of people—God's people. Eventually, God's people were enslaved in Egypt. It was so sad and difficult. But then God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt to freedom! And he did! And that's where we are in God's Big Story. God's people were free!

Today we're moving right along in the Bible to the fourth book, Numbers. *(Hold up Bible.)*

This book of the Bible is called Numbers because it talks about counting God's people as they were traveling. Let's check it out.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (13:20)

When we think about Joshua and Caleb and the other spies, we can remember that God is always, always more powerful than anything we face. And if we think and think and think about God's strength and His power, our view of Him will grow bigger and bigger until the thing we're afraid of will get smaller and smaller in our minds! What we focus on matters. Other people might be scared, and that's okay. We can be brave because we know God is with us and He is more powerful than anything! God is the strongest!

We can ask the Holy Spirit inside of us for help when we need a reminder that we're not alone, or if we need a reminder that the God who is with us is bigger and stronger than anything we'll face. So, as you head to Small Groups, let's ask this question:

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

When is it hard to trust God?

Talk about those specific times with your group. When does the fear of the crowd, or the size of the challenge, make trusting God feel really difficult? And how can remembering that God is with us—the strongest of all—help us be courageous? Let's pray.

God, thank You for showing us through Joshua and Caleb that courage comes from trusting that You are with us and that You are stronger than everything—not from listening to the fears of others. Help us to see situations through the eyes of faith, focusing on Your goodness and Your presence with us—because Your presence with us is what's really true. Help us to trust You no matter what the powerful things in our life look like. Help us to remember that You are the most powerful of anything and You go with us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

We started supporting a new organization with our offering last month. We are going to help kids and adults who live right near us! Our mission is Shady Oaks Camp for People with Disabilities in Homer Glen, IL. Their mission is to give kids and adults the same kind of camp experience that kids without disabilities can enjoy.

SLIDES: Shady Oaks 5-8

I'm so excited that we are raising money to help Shady Oaks provide summer camps for people with disabilities!