

ALLEY Rundown – September 27th- 28th, 2025

Bible Story: Ruth • *Ruth 1 (supporting: Ruth 2–4)*

Conversation Starter: When is it hard to be brave when you don't know what's next?

Bottom Line: God can give you courage when you don't know what's next.

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

LG SUPPLIES: 4 signs to tape to the walls that say, BEACH, MOUNTAINS, CITY, SPACE STATION

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Hey, Alley Friends! Welcome to our final week of this courage series! All month long, we've been talking about being 'On the Move' and facing challenges with bravery!

Sometimes the biggest move, the bravest step, is the one you take when you have NO idea what's coming next. You just have to make a decision and go for it! That's kind of like our game today—it's the 'Destination Decision Dash'!

SLIDE: *"Destination Decision Dash"*

Designate four "Destination" spots in the room with the following four signs—"BEACH," "MOUNTAINS," "CITY," "SPACE STATION."

Alright, everyone! Listen up! I'm going to call out different travel scenarios or needs. Your job is to quickly decide which of these amazing destinations (*point to four signs as you name each one*)—either the beach, mountains, city, or space station—best fits that scenario, and DASH to that spot!

There might not be one perfect answer, so go with your gut! Last one to a spot or the one who looks totally confused might be out . . . just kidding! Or am I? Let's just have some fun with it! "First scenario: You suddenly have a free weekend, and you want to relax and enjoy the sunshine! Where do you go? GO! (*Pause while kids go to the areas they chose. Invite volunteers who want to share their reasoning for why they chose the destination they did!*)"

Call out scenarios like: "You want an epic adventure with amazing views!" "You only packed hiking boots!" "You want to see a million stars!" "You want to see some tall structures!" "You want to put your feet in something squishy!" Give them a few seconds to dash to a spot. Call a few rounds with different, fun scenarios.

Nice dashing, everyone! It's not always easy to make a quick decision when you don't have all the info, is it? But sometimes, you just have to trust your instincts and take that step into the unknown.

Our Bible Story today is about a woman who had to make a HUGE decision about her destination, with a future that was totally uncertain. 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. We're going to go through God's Big Story! (*Gesture to slide.*)

SLIDE: *God's Big Story*

Way back in the very beginning of God's Big Story, we learn that God made the very first people. Their names were Adam and Eve. They sinned, and it pulled them away from God. God wanted them to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore! 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! HeHe made people to be His very close friends. 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. Abraham's family grew and grew and grew—just like God had said—and became God's people. Eventually, God's people were enslaved in Egypt. But then God called Moses to lead His people out of Egypt to freedom. God had brought His people to freedom!

God had a beautiful land picked out for His people—the Promised Land! While they were on their way there, they chose not to trust God. It hurt Him so deeply. So they had to wait 40 long years to enter it. But after 40 long years, they entered the Promised Land! In order to settle in it, they had to get the evil people who were living there out! And they did.

God's people were settled in the Promised Land! And that's where we are in God's Big Story. Today, our true story from the Bible comes from a book in the Bible called Ruth. (*Hold up Bible.*) It's named after a very brave woman.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (16:28)

There will be times in your life—maybe you're facing one right now—where you just don't know what's next. Maybe it's moving to a new school, or your family is going through a big change, or you're trying something new that feels way out of your comfort zone. The future can feel like a giant, blank map.

But we don't face these things all by ourselves. When we follow Jesus, God Himself moves inside of us through His Holy Spirit. He is closer than close! So He goes with us every step of our lives. He is the strongest, and biggest, and most powerful, and He is always working for good. When we trust and believe that He goes with us, He can give us the courage to face what's in front of us when we don't know what's next. He goes with us in everything and that can help us be brave!

When we think about Ruth, we can remember that even if we don't know what's next, we're never going alone. God goes with us every step of the way. When we believe that He is the strongest, the biggest, and the kindest, and He is with us, He will give us courage to do whatever it is that's in front of us!

As you head to your Small Groups for the last time this month, really think about this Conversation Starter:

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

When is it hard to be brave when you don't know what's next?

What makes uncertainty so challenging? How can Ruth's story encourage you to trust God more when you're facing the unknown? Talk about it with your group. Let's pray.

God, thank You for Ruth, and her amazing example of loyalty and courage in the face of a really uncertain future. Teach us how to really believe that You are with us every step of the way. Teach us to

trust that even though we may be walking into something unknown, we are going with You. Your presence with us makes us brave. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

Our offering is going to 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. And the cool thing is that there are people who go to church here at Parkview who attend this camp! Let's meet one right now.

VIDEO: Missions Night 2

Wow! You can see how much Shady Oaks Camp means to Richard and his mom Sallie, and LOTS of people who live around here! I'm so excited that we are raising money to help Shady Oaks provide summer camps for people with disabilities! Bring your money up if you brought it.

