

ALLEY Rundown – November 22nd- 23rd, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Esther • *Esther 1-10*

Conversation Starter: When has someone stood up for you?

Monthly Memory Verse: *Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NIV)

1. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: “Block Sort” Activity Pages (2 sets per group)

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Instruct each team to sit together.
- Give each group a set of cards from the “Block Sort” Activity Page.
- Say, “You’ll work as a team to sort these cards! Think about which words describe someone who is putting their confidence in God, like Esther from our Bible Story. As your team chooses a word, use it as a ‘block’ to help build a castle or tower in the middle of your team!”
- Remind the kids that some words describe someone whose confidence is in God, and some don’t.
- As they finish, review the chosen words and discuss why each one fits (or doesn’t).
- Discuss why the other words do not fit.

2. Take a Snapshot

Application Activity

What You Need: Floor tape

What You Do:

- Mark a start line in your group area.
- Invite the kids to stand behind it.
- Stand a few feet away.
- Explain that you will read scenarios one at a time.
 - Everyone who thinks they could do that challenge for someone with God’s help will take a step forward.
- The kids will continue to take steps forward after you read each scenario.
- Frequently ask kids to share why they would or wouldn’t do it, and how God could help.

Challenge Scenarios:

- Invite a new kid to sit with you at lunch.
- Stand up and say something when someone is being teased.
- Share something important about your faith with someone.

- Say “I’m sorry” first, even when it’s hard.
- Include someone who is often left out.
- Pray for a friend, out loud.
- Start a lemonade stand to raise money for a good cause.
- Help a kid on your basketball team who is having trouble with their free throws.
- Join someone who is eating lunch alone in the cafeteria.
- Pause your game to go check on a classmate who is upset at recess.

Talk Together

- How does it make you feel when someone stands up for you?
- Explain that we aren’t meant to do life alone, which means we are to help each other when we need help. God wants to help us live confidently in Him so we can stand up for others—so that more people will come to know Him!
- Explain that we don’t have to stand up for people alone. When we choose to follow Jesus, God’s very Spirit moves inside of us. Throughout the day, He will say to our heart, “Hey, do you see that lonely kid over there? Let’s go sit with him.” God will show us what to do and help us do it!

3. Discussion Questions

- When has someone stood up for you?
- Why do you think it’s important to stand up for others, even if it’s risky or uncomfortable?
 - What might happen if no one stands up for someone who needs help?
- Just like Esther, God has placed you to live exactly where you are at this exact time—in your family, in your class, on your team, in your church. Since He has placed you exactly where you are to help, who do you think He wants you to help? What do you think He wants you to do?
- What do you think it sounds like or feels like when God is guiding you to help or stand up for someone?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse

What You Need: Bibles, Index cards (one per kid), Pens

What You Do:

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Isaiah 40:31.
- Give each kid an index card and a pencil.
- Invite them to write down one fear, worry, or doubt they sometimes have without putting their name on the card.
- Collect all the cards, shuffle them, and place them in a pile.
- Then, let each kid draw a random card (making sure they don’t pick their own).
- Take turns reading each card aloud. As a group, brainstorm words of truth from God’s Word (Isaiah 40:31 or other encouraging promises) that could help with that fear or doubt.
- Repeat until all of the cards have been shared.
- Encourage the kids that God can give them the strength and confidence to stand up for others!

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- “Dear God, thank You for all of my friends here today! Thank You for reminding us through Esther’s story that You put us in our worlds for such a time as this. Please help us listen to Your Spirit and see the people around us whom You are calling us to help. Remind us that You are always right there with us in everything You ask us to do! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share who God is calling them to look out for this week.

