

## ALLEY Rundown – February 7<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** The Most Important Commandment • *Matthew 22:34-40 (supporting: Exodus 20:1-21)*

**Bottom Line:** Love God. Love others.

**Conversation Starter:** How have others shown love to you?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you."* • John 13:34 NIV

### PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

### SLIDE: *Theme*

Hey, everyone! Welcome to another awesome day here in The Alley! I'm so glad you're here. Turn to someone next to you, give them a high five, and say, *'I'm glad you are here!'*

This month, we're continuing our series 'Like and Subscribe: Share the Love of Jesus.' When you're watching someone online that's awesome, you 'like' it, and you 'subscribe' to it because you don't want to miss one episode of awesomeness! And you also share it because you want your friends and family to experience it too!

This month we're talking about the great, great love of God! That's definitely something you don't want to miss an ounce of, and you definitely want to share it!

Today, we're going to see what Jesus said matters most: loving God with everything we are, and loving the people around us. Because real love changes how we treat people, how we speak, and how we work together.

This month's Memory Verse is John 13:34! Jesus said these words to us! I'll read them, and then we can say them together.

### SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you' — John 13:34.

Keep this verse in your heart this week. Maybe write it somewhere you'll see it or set a reminder on your phone to read it once a day. Every time you do, ask God to help you love like He does.

Alright, by a show of hands, does anyone have rules they have to follow in their life? *(Take some responses of rules.)*

We all have rules to follow. Do you like those rules? *(Pause for responses, they'll probably be negative.)* Ha ha, for sure! Some rules feel like they are so hard to follow!

At home, maybe it's: 'Make your bed,' 'Don't leave dishes in the sink,' 'No video games after 9 p.m.'

At school, it might be: 'Raise your hand before talking,' 'No running in the halls,' or 'Stay in your seat.'

Now, rules aren't bad. They actually help keep things safe and fair. But sometimes, it can feel like there are just too many to remember, right? You might actually want to do the right thing, but you're not always sure what matters most, it can start getting overwhelming!

And that's not just a you thing—people have been asking that question for thousands of years. In fact, when Jesus was teaching, people asked Him that exact question: 'What's the most important thing to God?' We read so much and see all these rules, well, which one is the most important?

Before we get into how Jesus answered, let me tell you about something awesome we're doing this year! We're going through the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover!

We're going to go through God's Big Story in the Bible together so we can learn about God! (*Gesture to slide.*)

**SLIDE: God's Big Story**

We're picking up in our story from the Bible. We are at the point in the Bible when Jesus was on earth. Jesus came to earth to show us who God is! Like we talked about earlier, we have a lot of rules to keep up with, and in Jesus' time, there were a lot of laws too. Let's check it out...

**VIDEO: The So and So Show (11:04)**

So if you ever wonder, 'What does God want from me?' Remember this moment. You don't have to keep track of 613 laws to stay close to Him. Jesus already made it clear.

Love God. Love others.

When you do those two things, you're living the way God designed you to live. You're showing the world what His love looks like. That's how we share the love of Jesus.

Before we head to small groups, I want to leave you with one last question to think about.

**SLIDE: Conversation Starter**

**How have others shown love to you?**

Maybe it was when someone forgave you after you messed up. Maybe it was when someone listened to you, encouraged you, or helped you when you needed it most. Maybe it was when someone prayed for you, included you, or showed up when you didn't expect them to.

However it happened, that moment was a reminder that God's love is real, and that He shows His love through the people around us. And that's a little key to help you see how you can show God's love to others this week.

So think about that as you head to small group today. How have others shown love to you? What are some of those specific moments or experiences that helped you see God's love more clearly? And how could remembering those moments help you share God's love with others this week?

Let's pray.

God, thank You for loving us first. Thank You for sending Jesus to show us what perfect love looks like. Help us to love You with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love others the way You love us. Give us the courage to show kindness, forgiveness, and compassion even when it's hard. We want to live the way Jesus taught us to. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen

## **OFFERING**

For our offering this year, We are helping a ministry called E3 which helps put in freshwater wells in Malawi. Having a well with clean water right in their village means women and children don't have to travel far away to other villages to get clean water.

Children help carry water too! They have to travel so far that they have to miss school sometimes. And if they used the dirty water that is in their village, they would get very sick.

Check out this video someone from our Parkview team took of kids experiencing a brand new well in their village!

### **Missions Video 2**

Help us raise money to provide clean water wells in the communities in Malawi who need them. We want you to go home and ask what YOU can do to raise money for these families in Africa!