

ALLEY Rundown – January 17th-18th, 2025

Bible Story: The Wise and Foolish Builders • *Matthew 7:24-27 (Supporting: John 10:27-28)*

Conversion Starter: How can you hear from God?

Bottom Line: Practice hearing from God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* • 1 Timothy 4:8 NIV

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Welcome, everyone! This month, we're learning about how we can follow a Game Plan when it comes to getting to know God more! And by following this Game Plan, we'll start growing stronger in faith every day.

There are four parts of this Game Plan to help you get to know God better—talking about God, praying to God, hearing from God, and living for God. This week, we're going to look at 'hearing from God'!

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

But first, let's look at our Memory Verse for January—that's God's truth from the Bible that we're going to try to get into our heads and hearts.

The Bible says that training to follow God helps us right now and also for the life to come. Hearing from God is part of that training. When we listen to what God says, our hearts grow stronger and our choices get wiser. This month's Memory Verse is 1 Timothy 4:8. Let's read it together.

Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. —1 Timothy 4:8

This connects to today's true story from the Bible where Jesus tells us that it's so important to hear His words and put them into practice. We listen to God and then we do what He says.

Let me ask you something: Have you ever tried to hear something important, but there was so much noise around you that you just couldn't focus? Maybe you were trying to study, but your phone kept buzzing. Or maybe your parents were talking to you, but you were halfway into your favorite video. You could hear them, but you weren't *really* listening. You can be honest ... we've all been there, me included. Nod if you've been there.

It's kind of like that with God sometimes, isn't it? We say we want to hear from Him, but life is loud. There's school, friends, notifications, sports, family ... It's not that God isn't speaking. It's that oftentimes we're not quiet long enough to notice.

Here's something I've learned: a lot of the time we need to tune in and pause, and listen.

And then when you *listen* to what Jesus says and actually *do* it, you start building something solid in your life. Something that can stand when everything else feels shaky.

But before we get into Jesus' words to us in the Bible today, let me tell you about something awesome we've been doing all 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

Let me catch you up on where we've been in God's Big Story so far!

You might remember that, in the beginning, God created everything. He made the world, the animals, people ... everything! God made the first people for the same reason He made all people—to be His close, close friends. But sadly, the first people God made chose to turn away from Him and sin. God wanted people to be close to Him, but they couldn't anymore. Pain, sickness, and death entered the world too.

But God didn't want to leave things that way. So He put His rescue plan in motion right from the start!

God was going to rescue everything through a family! God chose a man named Abraham and promised that his family would bless the whole world. Abraham had a great-grandson named Joseph, who became a leader in Egypt and saved his family—God's people. Over time, God's people grew but were enslaved by a new Pharaoh. 'Help us!' they cried out to God. God freed His people and brought them to the super-nice home He had designed for them, the Promised Land.

Some time after God's people were settled in the Promised Land, they asked for a king like the other nations around them. God gave them a king, and then many more kings (and one queen) followed. Sadly, after a long time of turning away from Him, God allowed His nation to be split in two—into the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. Prophets spoke for God saying, 'Come back to Me!' But the northern kingdom of Israel was destroyed, and the southern kingdom of Judah was taken captive. Oh no! After years in exile, some of God's people returned to rebuild their homeland, while others stayed in foreign lands.

During that sad time, God kept sending messages to His people about the Rescuer He had promised long ago. 'God's Rescuer is going to come like this!' the prophets said. But for years and years, nothing happened.

And then it did! God sent Jesus, the Rescuer we needed, just like He promised! While Jesus was on earth, He showed us who God is because He is God!

And that's where we are in God's Big Story!

We're at the part of the story where Jesus is on Earth and He's teaching us all about God and God's Kingdom! And Jesus would know about God and His Kingdom, since He is God's Son Himself!

Jesus was speaking to a crowd on a mountain. What Jesus taught at this time is often called the Sermon on the Mount. Near the end of His teaching, He told a story. Let's find out more in the So and So Show.

VIDEO: *The So and So Show (9:24)*

The first step to doing what God says is hearing what God says. God speaks to you in a lot of ways, but here are three key ones:

1. The Bible! God gave us the Bible to show us who He is. The Bible is also a guidebook to becoming more like Jesus.
2. Another way God speaks to you is through other people who follow Jesus. God might have something to say to you through the love and stories and encouragement of your dad, or grandma, or a Small Group Leader, or a friend who loves Jesus.
3. A third way God speaks to you is through God's Holy Spirit Himself. If you are a follower of Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you, and He might give you a certain phrase, or an image, or a sense of peace. He might bring a specific verse from the Bible to mind as you pray to God.

God gave us a clear plan. Hear His words and put them into practice. That is how we grow stronger every day, and that's how we stand firm when life gets stormy. This week, choose one real moment to hear and do. Maybe it's at school, at home, with a friend, or online.

SLIDE: *Conversation Starter*

How can you hear from God?

Think about this question now, and we'll talk more about it in Small Group. Be honest about what helps

Let's take some time and **practice hearing from God**. Close your eyes and bow your head. Just ask God to speak to you. Just pause and don't think about everything going on around you or what you are doing tonight or tomorrow.

Lord, we love You, thank You that You speak to us. The message You gave to all those people is for us too. Lord, we want You to speak to us, but we don't just want to hear You, we want to do what You say. We want to start putting Your words into practice because they are the best way to live. Teach us to follow You because we love You. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

SLIDE: *Theme*

OFFERING

In Parkview Kids, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. This year we are collecting our offering money to help kids all the way on the other side of

the world in a country in Africa called Malawi. Did you know that in this area many communities don't have access to clean water?

Slides: 1-4

We are helping a ministry called E3 which helps put in freshwater wells. 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, and they don't have to walk with heavy containers of water.

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

SLIDE: SuperStart!

Wait! There's one more thing I have to tell you about, it's called Super Start! It's coming up in March and you won't want to miss this yearly event. It's an overnight event just for you - where you'll get to play games, eat, make new friends, and hear an awesome message about how much Jesus loves you. Take a look at this video.

Video: SuperStart!

You'll receive a card with all the details on your way out today. Sign up today!

SLIDE: SuperStart!