

# ALLEY Rundown – January 31<sup>st</sup>- February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** Jesus Teaches Nicodemus • *John 3:1-21*

**Conversation Starter:** Where have you seen God's love?

**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*

**LG SUPPLIES: 2 stacks of paper, 1 red and 1 blue**

**4 smaller hula hoops labeled: family, friends, school, world**

**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! Go ahead and give someone near you a fist bump and say, 'I'm glad you're here!'

This month, we're diving into a brand-new series about how much God loves us, and how we can share that love with everyone we meet. It's called 'Like and Subscribe'—because when you come across a really cool channel or video, you don't want to miss it ... and you want to let other people know all about it too!

Think about how easy it is to share stuff online, a video, a picture, even a meme, with just one tap. Online and in our day-to-day lives, we can start living in and sharing Jesus' love! The love that makes people feel seen, valued, and cared for.

**SLIDE: Send It!**

**\*If you have a small space and a lot of kids, you can skip this game if you think it won't work ☺**

We're going to start with a game that's all about spreading messages of love and encouragement, kind of like sending out a good post or positive comment, but way cooler. We're going to send it by plane.

How many of you know how to make a paper airplane? Okay, I need six volunteers to come up here and make paper airplanes. If you'd like to volunteer, raise your hand!

*Choose six kids from the kids who have their hands raised and instruct them to come up on stage with you.*

**\*You can also do this with 4 kids or even 2 if you have a small group of kids.**

All right, let's split into two teams. Team Red and Team Blue!

*Split the kids into two teams. Place each team equidistant from the labeled Hula Hoops®. Give one team the stack of red paper, and the other a stack of blue paper.*

If you've got red paper, you're Team Red; blue paper, you're Team Blue.

Here's how 'Send It!' works: You'll have three minutes on the clock. During that time, your team will fold and launch as many paper airplanes as you can toward the zones up front. Your goal? Get as many planes as possible to land in one of the four zones: Family, Friends, School, or World."

Each of those zones represents a part of our lives where we can share God's love. Maybe that's how you treat your family, how you talk to your friends, how you act at school, or how you care for the world around you.

So think of it like this, every plane you send represents love in action!

Once the timer starts, make and launch those planes! You can make as many as you want, just fold fast and throw carefully. Our leaders will also help bring back in stray planes that didn't make it in the zones so you have more to throw.

Here's how we'll score it: at the end of the timer, we'll count how many red and blue planes landed in any zone. The team with the most planes inside the zones wins bragging rights!

Everybody ready? 3 ... 2 ... 1 ... GO!

#### **VIDEO: 3 Minute Countdown**

*Start the timer and start the game. Count the planes in the zones to determine a winner. If time allows, play more rounds.*

You know, it's fun to see how far those paper planes can go, some didn't even hit the target, but others made it all the way to the 'World' zone. And that's kind of like God's love!

When we share love, kindness, and truth, we never know how far it will go or who it will reach. That's what Jesus showed us—God's love doesn't stay in one place. It keeps moving, reaching, and changing people all over the world.

This month's Memory Verse is John 13:34!

#### **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.

#### **SLIDE: Theme Background**

How many of you love birthdays? Birthdays are great because they remind us of the day we were born. But here's something to think about: What if you could actually start over? Not just a new year or a clean slate, but a completely *new beginning*?

Because sometimes, even when we're trying our best to do what's right, something can still feel off. You might follow the rules, go to church, try to be kind, and still wonder, *'Is this really what it means to know and follow God?'*

That's where we find a man named Nicodemus in our true story from the Bible today. He did everything right on the outside, but there was something missing on the inside. Then one night, he met Jesus, and Jesus told him something that sounded totally impossible.

But let me pause on all of that really quickly. Before we dive into our true story from the Bible, let me tell you about something amazing 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**

Now, we're at the part of the Bible when Jesus lived on earth. He had lots of conversations, and today we're going to look at one. Let's pick up on that conversation Jesus had with Nicodemus.

#### **VIDEO: The So and So Show**

This whole conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus shows us lots of things that are incredible—one is Jesus' description of being born again.

When Jesus was explaining what it means to be born again, He was describing the kind of new life that only God can give, one filled with His Spirit, one that starts a friendship with Him. So, when you say yes to Jesus, you're not just believing in Him; you're choosing to start fresh. You're stepping into a new life where His Spirit fills you and His light can shine through you.

And something else amazing that came out of that conversation. This offer of a new start is for the whole world! Anyone can experience it. God's love is for everyone. For Nicodemus. For me. For you. For your friends at school. For people who live on the other side of the world. For every single person, in every single place.

Before we head to small groups, I want to leave you with one last question to think about that's about living in God's love.

#### **SLIDE: Conversation Starter**

#### **Where have you seen God's love?**

Recognizing ways you've seen God's love will help you do those things yourself. It can help you see God and give you ideas on how to share His love!

So, think about that as you head to Small Group. 'Where have you seen God's love?' What are those specific moments or experiences that helped you see God's love more clearly?

Let's talk to the God who loves you so much He gave His life to be close to you.

God, thank You so much for loving the whole world, and for loving us. Thank You for sending Jesus to show us what real love looks like. We're so grateful that You give us the chance to be born again, to

start new, to live in Your light, and to walk in Your love every single day. Help us see Your love this week, in the people around us, in the ways You take care of us, and in the opportunities You give us to help others. And when we see it, help us share it. We love You, and we thank You for always being with us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **OFFERING**

Do you remember what we are raising money for this year? Yep, Clean water wells in Malawi, which is a country in Africa. 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 then they don't have to walk back with heavy containers. Let's watch a video that will show women filling their bins with clean water from a brand new well that was just installed in their village!

**Missions video night 3 (runtime 1 min)**

Amazing right? Can't wait to see how these wells impact the villages in Malawi!