

ALLEY Rundown – February 28th- March 1st, 2026

Bible Story: John the Baptist Is a Witness about Jesus • *John 3:22-36*

Conversation Starter: How can I show that Jesus is the most important in my life?

Monthly Memory Verse: *Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves.* • *Philippians 2:3 NIV*

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

What's up, everybody! Welcome to The Alley! I am so *pumped* to be here because we're starting a brand-new theme called 'Upside Down!'

The full title of this theme is 'Upside Down: Treat others the way Jesus treats you!'

Now, when something's upside down, it's not how you expect it to be, right? Well, this whole month, we're going to talk about how Jesus flipped the way people thought life should work. He showed us what it looks like to treat others the way *He* treats us.

And spoiler alert, when we start living like Jesus, it's not about *me first* anymore. I know sometimes that is hard to hear ... but Jesus showed us that we actually have the best life when we put God first. That might sound upside down, but it's exactly how Jesus lived.

Life can feel like that sometimes. We're trying to keep everything 'up,' our grades, our reputation, our friends, our image. But it's kind of exhausting trying to keep ourselves at the center all the time. This month, we're learning that following Jesus means turning things upside down.

It's not about keeping *me* lifted up ... it's about lifting *Him* up. And by doing that, we start learning to live a lot differently. This month's Memory Verse is *Philippians 2:3*!

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves. —*Philippians 2:3 (NIV)*

So let me see a show of hands. Who here likes to be noticed? (*Raise your hand and acknowledge as the kids raise theirs.*) Yeah! I mean, I get it. If we're honest, we like it when people see what we can do or say good things about us. That's pretty normal!

Let me ask you another question: Let's say you're really good at something—like art or basketball or math—and you were getting a lot of applause for it. But then, someone else came along, and people started cheering for that other person. How would you feel?

Yeah, that would be so super hard. This is where the upside-down way of Jesus comes in. What if life isn't really about making *ourselves* the biggest deal? What if it's about making *Jesus* the biggest deal?

That's exactly what today's story is about. It's the story of a man who could have made everything about himself, but instead, he pointed everyone to Jesus. His name was John the Baptist.

But before we look at that true story from the Bible, and see the totally upside-down way John the Baptist put Jesus first, let me tell you about something amazing that we're doing this year!

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

This week we're continuing our journey through the Bible. We're at the part in the Bible where Jesus was on Earth! And this interaction with John the Baptist happened while Jesus was on Earth. Let's check it out in the So and So Show!

VIDEO: The So and So Show (13:30)

So maybe for you, being humble can start with even some simple things:

- Letting someone else go first.
- Choosing to help instead of trying to look good.
- Talking to God before posting something for attention.

Every time you do that, you're saying, 'Jesus, You increase. I'll decrease.' And when we live that way, people don't just see *us*, they start to see *Him*.

So here's the question I want you to think about, not just right now, but all week:

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

How can I show that Jesus is the most important in my life?

Think about that. When you go to school, or hang out with friends, or scroll through your phone, what does it look like to make Jesus the most important?

Maybe it's letting someone else get the credit. Maybe it's giving up time to help instead of competing. Maybe it's choosing what's right even when nobody else is watching. There are so many ways.

But here's the thing, when Jesus becomes more important in your life, it changes *how you see everything*.

That's what I want you to talk about later in your group. Be honest. Be real. And don't be afraid to ask questions.

Let's pray together.

God, we love You. We want to walk in real humility. Help us stop trying to make ourselves the most important person in the story. Teach us to live upside down, to let You increase while we decrease. When we're tempted to make life about ourselves, remind us to lift You higher instead. And through our lives, let others see who You are. We love You, and we want more of You, Jesus. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

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: 5-8

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 like you see in these pictures. 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.

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!