

## ALLEY Rundown March 21<sup>st</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** Mary and Martha • *Luke 10:38-42*

**Conversation Starter:** How can you make time for Jesus?

**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*

### SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everyone! Welcome back to another week of our theme for this month—'Upside Down!' How's everybody doing today?

Awesome! This month, we've been learning what it means to live upside down, to treat others the way Jesus treats us, even when that looks totally different from the way the world does things.

Today, we're talking about something really important—something that can actually flip the way we live every single day. It's all about making time for Jesus first. But before we dive in, we've got a crazy game to get us thinking about focus and paying attention. It's called 'Reverse Charades'! Is everyone ready to play?

### SLIDE: Reverse Charades Title

Here's how it works! I'm going to pick two volunteers to come up here. You'll be standing side by side, facing the audience. Behind you on the screen, there's going to be a picture. You can't see it, but everyone in the audience can! The picture has two things on it that are totally random and out of the box.

The audience's job is to act out what's on the screen without saying the words. You two will have to guess what the picture is based on what the audience does. Each round, we'll get two new volunteers to come up and try! Got it?

Okay, first I need two volunteers who want to do some guessing! If you want to guess, raise your hand!

*Choose two volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised.  
Invite them to come up.*

Okay, now that everyone is settled, let's play our first round. If you're in the audience, do your best to act out this picture for our volunteers!

### SLIDE: Reverse Charades 1 (Toaster on clouds)

*Audience acts out the charades image, and the two volunteers try to guess what it is.*

Nice! Let's give our two volunteers a hand! You guys crushed it! You can return to your seats!

Let's do another round! I need two more volunteers! Raise your hand if you'd like to volunteer!

*Choose two volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised.  
Invite them to come up.*

**SLIDE: Reverse Charades 2** (*Basketball player dunking a donut*)

Okay, if you're in the audience, do your best to act out this picture for our volunteers! Volunteers, you two try to guess what they're acting out!

*Audience acts out the charades image, and the two volunteers try to guess what it is.*

Awesome job! Let's give a big hand for our volunteers! You guys can return to your seats!

*If time allows, continue with more rounds. Ask for two new volunteers at the beginning of each round. The other rounds are listed next.*

**Optional Additional Rounds:**

**SLIDE: Reverse Charades 3** (*Cat astronaut*)

**SLIDE: Reverse Charades 4** (*Pizza skateboard*)

**SLIDE: Reverse Charades 5** (*Upside down house*)

**SLIDE: Reverse Charades 6** (*Elephant rollerskating*)

**SLIDE: Reverse Charades 7** (*Flying dinosaur superhero*)

Great job, everyone! You can all be seated. Now, that game might've felt a little crazy with people acting all around you while you were trying to figure out what was going on. It's kind of like life, right? There's always something fighting for your attention. But if you're not careful, you might miss what really matters.

Let's take a moment to look at our Memory Verse for this month. It's such a great reminder that following Jesus isn't about rushing through life or trying to be the best, it's about slowing down, being humble, and putting others and Jesus first. When we take time to focus on Him, everything else in our lives starts to fall into place.

**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 (NIRV)"*

Alright, everyone, by show of hands, who here gets easily distracted? Right, it's so easy! Let's say you are trying to do devotions, you get out your Bible, and you are ready to focus. And then all of a sudden you hear your brother turn on the TV, and you really want to watch, but you are trying to focus, and then all of a sudden you see a notification pop up on your phone or tablet—another distraction! And then all of a sudden, you smell the most delicious brownies someone is baking in the kitchen. There are endless distractions!

Ever have one of those days when it feels like the whole world is trying to get your attention? Like you can't focus for five seconds without something popping up?

The thing about distractions is that they don't always show up waving their arms and yelling. Sometimes they're actually good things, things we care about, things we want to do well, things that feel important in the moment. But even good things can pull our attention in a dozen different directions if we're not careful. And when everything starts demanding our focus at the same time, it becomes really easy to miss what matters most.

Before we get into our amazing true story from the Bible today, let me tell you about the amazing thing we're doing this year! We're going to read the key stories of the Bible from cover-to-cover!

We're continuing our journey through the Bible in today's story! We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on Earth! Let's hear about something that happened during His life!

**VIDEO: *The So and So Show* (7:52)**

Martha's story reminds us that sometimes we can be so busy *doing* things for God that we forget to actually *be* with God. She wanted to impress Jesus with her hard work, but all He really wanted was her attention. That's a big deal, because it means Jesus doesn't measure how much we do, He looks for how close we are to Him. It's pretty amazing that we can be in the presence of the Almighty God. Let's not miss it.

Making time for Jesus first doesn't mean you stop doing the things you love. It means you start by inviting Him into them. You can talk to Jesus while you walk to school, thank Him before a big game, or ask for peace before a hard conversation. It's choosing to pause before rushing into your day and saying, 'Jesus, I'm here.' The truth is, when you give Him your time first, the rest of your day shifts. You're calmer, kinder, and more aware of the people around you."

So this week, when your schedule feels full, when you're jumping from one thing to the next, remember this story. Remember Martha running around, trying to get it all done, while Mary just sat at Jesus' feet. It wasn't that Martha's work didn't matter, it just wasn't what mattered *most*.

When life feels loud or your mind feels crowded, try what Mary did. Pause. Sit still. Take a deep breath. Imagine setting everything else down—the noise, the stress, the expectations—and focusing on Jesus. He's already waiting for you, ready to listen, ready to guide, ready to give you peace.

Because the truth is, the world is always going to shout for your attention. But when you slow down and make time for Jesus first, you'll find something the world can't give you, the presence of God. Everything else might still be spinning, but you will be with Jesus.

So this week, choose what's better. Choose to make time for Jesus first.

**SLIDE: *Conversation Starter***

## **How can you make time for Jesus?**

So as you head to your small group, think about this: What would it look like for you to make Jesus the first thing, not the last thing? What's one change you could make this week to spend a little more time with Him, and see how it changes your day?

Before we pray, would you think about what your biggest distraction is right now? And would you give it to the Lord, and ask Him to help you make Him first in your life?

*Pause for a moment to let the kids talk to God, and then close in prayer.*

Jesus, thank You for showing us what really matters. Sometimes we get so caught up in doing things, that we forget to just be still and spend time with You. Thank You for reminding us, like You reminded Martha, that the most important thing is sitting with You, listening, and being close to You. Help us this week to slow down. Help us to turn off distractions and make space to talk to You. When our days feel busy or stressful, remind us to pause and remember that You're right there with us. Thank You that You love us, not because of what we do, but because of who You are. Jesus, help us choose what's better, to make time for You first. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

**SLIDE: Theme**

## **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 was taken from a team from our church that just finished installing a brand new well. Listen carefully as the man is a little hard to understand.

**Missions video 3**

Amazing right? The money we raise for these wells really make a BIG impact the villages in Malawi!