

ALLEY Rundown – March 7th- 8th, 2026

Bible Story: A Roman Commander Has Faith • *Matthew 8:5-13*

Conversation Starter: How do you show that God is important?

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*

LG Supplies:

- 1 paper that says "Parent"
- 1 paper that says "Friend"
- 1 paper that says "Teacher or Leader"
- 1 paper that says "Wildcard"

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everyone! Welcome back to another awesome week of 'Upside Down!' How's everybody doing today?

I'm so glad you're here because this month, we're learning about what it looks like to live differently, to treat others the way Jesus treats us. And today, we're talking about something that can really flip our thinking: remembering that God is most important, not us.

This whole month, we're learning how to live with humility, to think of others the way Jesus does. When we understand how much God loves us, it changes how we treat people and live every single day. 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)

Alright, let me ask you something. When something happens in your life—big or small—who do you run to? For instance, when something awesome happens, maybe you got a new pet or aced a test, who do you tell first?

Pause and let kids answer.

Okay, what about when something not-so-awesome happens? Like when you get in trouble, or something scary happens, or you feel left out. Who do you run to then?

Listen to a few responses.

Yeah, it's funny how that can change, right? Sometimes it's a parent, a friend, a teacher, or maybe even a pet. We're going to play a quick game to find out. It's called 'Who Do I Run To?'

Here's how it works. I'm going to tape these 4 signs in the corners of the room. Each corner of the room is going to stand for someone you might run to. We've got:

Corner 1: Parent

Corner 2: Friend

Corner 3: Teacher or Leader

And Corner 4 is a wildcard. That means anyone else you might run to who's not listed.

I'll read a situation, and you'll pick your corner fast. You'll have 10 seconds to decide. Ready? Let's do it!"

Read each round and pause as the kids run to the corner they want to choose for that round.

Round 1:

"When you're sick, who do you run to?"

Round 2:

"When you're scared, who do you run to?"

Round 3:

"When you've made a mistake, who do you run to?"

Round 4:

"When you need advice, who do you run to?"

Okay, that was awesome. And it's so great for us all to have people we go to. We should always have people literally in our corner! But here's the thing. There's one Person we can always run to, no matter what's happening. Anybody know who I'm talking about?

Exactly. It's God! No matter what's going on, He's always ready to listen, to help, and to guide us. And that's what today is all about—learning what it looks like to remember that God is the most important One in our lives.

Alright, so we just played 'Who Do I Run To?' and I want you to keep that question in your head as we go into today's story. Because sometimes, when life gets tough, we forget who to run to first.

Before we get into our true story from the Bible today, let me tell you something amazing we're doing this year!

We're going to read the key stories of the Bible from cover-to-cover!

Why are we going through the Bible? Is it because we really want to learn more about the Bible? Well, not exactly. Part of the reason God gave us the Bible is so we can learn about Him. He could have kept who He is a secret from us, a big mystery of the universe. But He didn't! He wants us to know Him, so He gave us the Bible. So as we go through the Bible this year, our hope is that we'll learn about Him!

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 continuing our journey through the Bible! We're at the part of the Bible where Jesus was on Earth! And today we're going to look at a conversation Jesus had with someone when he hit a moment he couldn't fix on his own ... and this person was a Roman commander.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (12:26)

So this week, when things get hard or feel out of control, I want you to remember the Roman commander. He had every reason to rely on his own power, but instead, he chose to trust Jesus. That is what real faith looks like. It's not about having all the answers. It is about knowing who to run to first.

When life feels upside down, when things don't go your way, or when it feels easier to worry or give up, stop for a second and remember who is really in control. Run to Jesus. Let Him lead. He is strong! He is the strongest!

The world tells us that we have to prove ourselves, that we have to stay in control. But Jesus shows us something different. He shows us that when we put God first, knowing He is most important, everything else finds its right place.

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

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

How do you show that God is most important?

Today we talked about a Roman commander who was in charge of all of these soldiers, yet he chose to trust Jesus instead of himself. That is a huge reminder for all of us. Because sometimes, without even realizing it, we start running to other things first—our friends, our phones, our plans, or even our own strength. But real faith starts when we realize that God is most important.

So think about this: How do you show that God is important? Maybe it's taking a few minutes to pray before your day starts. Maybe it's thanking Him before you post or text. Maybe it's showing kindness when you really don't want to.

Whatever it looks like for you, remember that you can show God is most important through the choices you make and the way you treat people. Just like the commander, you can trust that Jesus' words are true and His power is real. The same God who was in charge of the Roman commander's life is in charge of yours!

As you go to small group, talk about it. Be honest. Share what gets in the way sometimes, and talk about how you can make God first again this week. Because when we run to Jesus first, everything else starts to fall into place.

Let's talk to the God who is in charge.

God, we want to trust You, even when it does not make sense. Help us to remember that You are the most important part of our lives. When we are tempted to try to fix everything on our own, remind us to run to You first. When we start to worry or feel out of control, remind us that You are strong enough to handle it. We are choosing to trust You more this week. We want to put You first in what we say, in what we do, and in how we treat others. We love You, Jesus, and we want to follow You every day. In Jesus' name we pray. 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 1

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