

ALLEY Rundown – April 18th- 19th, 2026

Bible Story: Great Commission and Ascension • *Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-11*

Conversation Starter: What does it mean to you that God is with you?

Monthly Memory Verse: *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIV

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

What is UP, everybody? Welcome to the Alley! We're in the third week of our Block Party theme, 'Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends'!

Today, we're learning that you can share the good news about Jesus. And to start our celebration, we're going to play a game with one of my favorite things to do at a block party...watch fireworks! It's called ... 'Which Firework is Different'.

In this game, we get to watch the coolest fireworks show ever. The fireworks will go boom ... pop ... swish ... right in the air!

Here's how it works: you will see 3 fireworks and you need to see if you can tell which one is different.

VIDEO: *Which Firework is Different*

That was so much fun! And you know what? Fireworks remind me of joy—big, bright joy. And we can have joy because Jesus is alive, and we can share His good news everywhere we go.

Before we move on, there's something super important we're focusing on all month long. It's our Memory Verse, and it reminds us where real joy comes from. Joy isn't just a feeling that shows up on a good day. It's not about everything going right or life being perfect. Joy comes from knowing who you belong to. When you follow Jesus, you belong to Him, and that truth brings a joy that lasts. So let's take a look at our Memory Verse together.

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful! —Philippians 4:4 (NIV)

Have you ever been in a moment where you could feel something big was about to happen? Like you're sitting in the gym during an assembly and suddenly the principal steps up to the mic and says, 'I have an important announcement.' Instantly, everyone sits up straighter. Or your coach gathers the whole team and says, 'Alright, listen up.' You don't know what's coming, but you can feel it. Moments like that make your heart beat a little faster because you know that what's coming next matters.

The followers of Jesus had a huge moment happening in their lives too. Jesus had risen from the dead, which is already the biggest plot twist in history, and then He had told them to meet Him on a mountain. Something big was coming!

But before we get into our amazing true story from the Bible, let me tell you about something we've been doing all year! We're reading the key stories of the Bible from cover to cover! And this month, we're almost through!

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 right along through the Bible. Today we're going to look at some important things Jesus taught after He rose from the dead. Let's jump into the Bible Story.

VIDEO: The So and So Show

Alright, let's take everything we just heard and bring it into real life—your life. Because Jesus didn't give the Great Commission only to the disciples on that mountain. He gave it to everyone who follows Him, and that includes you! So let's talk about what this actually looks like.

Sometimes it looks like: ...

Being kind to the kid who sits alone.

Encouraging a friend who's having a rough week.

Choosing honesty when everyone else is taking the easy way out.

Praying for someone because you care about them.

Explaining why you have hope when someone asks why you're not stressed.

Or simply saying, 'Yeah, I follow Jesus.' when it comes up.

Sharing Jesus isn't about being perfect. It's about being available. It's about trusting that if Jesus gave you this mission, He'll give you the courage and the strength to live it out.

But it can also mean that when the time is right, maybe you actually do share the good news of Jesus with someone else. You don't need to know every answer or fact. You can share the simple truth—we are sinners who need a Savior. Jesus is that Savior. He died on the cross for our sins so we can be close with God, and then He rose from the dead!

So as we wrap up today, here's what I want you to remember: **You can share the good news about Jesus.** Not because you have all the answers. Not because you're super confident every day. But because Jesus is with you, and He gave us the Holy Spirit, who gives you courage, strength, and the right words at the right time.

Before we head to small groups, I want to leave you with one last question to think about. It's our Conversation Starter for today.

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

As you head to small groups, talk about it. Be honest about where sharing Jesus with others feels easy and where it feels scary. And don't be afraid to ask questions. God is with you, and that's what makes sharing His good news possible.

Let's talk to the God whose love is so big He wants it to spread over the whole world!

Jesus, thank You. Thank You for dying for us to pay for our sins so we could be close to You. Thank You for loving us, and for promising to always be with us. Help us share about You. We want to follow You. Give us the courage to unmute Your love this week. Help our words, our actions, and our choices show others who You are. Thank You for being with us in every moment. 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!

VIDEO: Missions video 1

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

SLIDE: Theme