

ALLEY Rundown – April 25th- 26th, 2026

Bible Story: Pentecost / Fruit of the Spirit • *Acts 2:1-41 (supporting: Galatians 5:22-23)*

Conversation Starter: When have you experienced joy in your life?

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

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

What is up, everybody? Welcome to The Alley! We've been celebrating all month long, because we're talking about the kind of joy that lasts—joy that comes from Jesus! Our theme this entire month has been, 'Block Party: Celebrating Jesus and Joy That Never Ends!'

Today we're talking about one of the most exciting moments in the whole Bible—when God gave His followers a powerful gift. But before we get there ... we're starting with something fun, fast, and full of celebration.

Before we move on, let's take a look at our Memory Verse we've been learning all month long. It's *Philippians 4:4!* This verse reminds us that joy isn't just an emotion that pops up on a good day. It comes from knowing who we belong to. When you follow Jesus, you're His. That means your joy is anchored to Him, not whatever is happening around you. Let's check it out. I'll say it, and then we can say it together!

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

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

I want to start today by talking about something I'm pretty sure most of you have felt before. Have you ever been at a birthday party before the party really starts? Like, you show up early, and it's just quiet music, maybe someone pouring chips into a bowl ... and you're standing there wondering, 'Uh ... did I come too soon?'

(If you can... Share a personal story about waiting for your birthday party or a friend's. Talk about the anticipation and how you wondered how it was going to go.)

Sometimes life feels like that—like you're waiting for something to happen, waiting for things to make sense, waiting for something big ... but you don't know when it's coming.

That moment, the calm before everything changes, hold onto that. Because today's true story from the Bible starts with a moment just like that.

Picture this: Jesus' closest friends were gathered together in Jerusalem. They were waiting ... and waiting ... and waiting. Jesus had promised them something huge—the Holy Spirit was going to come and help them, but He didn't say when or how it would happen.

Imagine the thoughts that might've been running through their minds: 'Did we miss it? Are we supposed to be doing something? What if this doesn't happen today? What if we're not ready?'

They believed Jesus ... but they also didn't know what to expect. They had seen Him rise from the dead, which was already next-level incredible, but now He had returned to heaven and left them with this promise: 'Wait. The Holy Spirit is coming.'

So the followers of Jesus were doing something really important. They were waiting ... and praying.

We're going to dive into the rest of our Bible Story and see what happened next. But before we do that, let me tell you about something amazing we've been doing this school year! We've been 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

Let's continue our journey through the Bible. Jesus had gone back to heaven and had told His friends to wait for the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem. It was the day of Pentecost, and many of the followers of Jesus were together and doing just that. Let's check it out.

VIDEO: The So and So Show

So now the big question is ... what does all of this mean for you? Because the Holy Spirit didn't just come for the disciples in that house that day. He came for every follower of Jesus, including fourth and fifth graders who are trying to figure out friends, homework, family stuff, sports, emotions ... all of it.

Maybe there have been times when you've felt a little uncertain, a little unsure, trying to figure out how to live out your faith. But when we're filled with the Holy Spirit, He works inside you and helps you grow real fruit.

And that fruit is the proof that the Holy Spirit is working. It's the kind of fruit that changes how you treat people. The kind that shows up when life gets tough. The kind that looks like Jesus. Let's read that verse again about the fruit the Holy Spirit grows in us.

(Open the Bible and read Galatians 5:22-23 NIV.)

The fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind.

That means ...

When you're tempted to snap at someone, the Holy Spirit grows patience.

When you want to get back at someone, He grows kindness.

When you feel stressed or overwhelmed, He grows peace.

When everything feels confusing, He grows joy.

When you want to do your own thing, He grows self-control.

So here's what I want you to understand: you aren't expected to do everything on your own. We have a Helper, the Holy Spirit, who gives us boldness and helps us love, forgive, and have joy that lasts.

As we wrap up today, here's what I want you to walk away with: the Holy Spirit gives you joy—not the kind of joy that comes and goes or only shows up on the good days, but joy that lasts because God Himself is with you.

If you are a follower of Jesus, God Himself lives inside of you through His Spirit. You don't go through life alone. So, go through life with Him. Talk to Him about everything. Ask Him to help you know what His voice sounds like, what His nudges in your heart feel like. He goes through everything with you, so ask Him to help you hear Him and understand Him when He is speaking!

We aren't doing life on our own; God Himself, the Holy Spirit, is with us, in us, helping us every step of the way. He goes with us through everything. And there is nothing more joyful than that!

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

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

When have you experienced joy in your life?

The joy the Holy Spirit brings goes deeper than feelings, deeper than circumstances, deeper than a good day or a bad day. So be honest in your small groups. Share some moments when you've felt joy, and even some moments when you haven't, because both of them matter. And the Holy Spirit wants to meet you in all of them.

Let's pray together.

Holy Spirit, thank You for being with us. We want to walk through life knowing that You are with us. Teach us how to listen to Your voice inside of us. We want Your fruit to grow in us—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Thank You for reminding us that we never have to do life alone. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

OFFERING

For our offering this year, We are helping a ministry called E3 which helps put in freshwater wells in Malawi. 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.

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.

Check out this video someone from our Parkview team took of kids experiencing a brand new well in their village!

Missions Video 2

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!

SLIDE: Theme