

ALLEY Rundown – May 9th- 10th, 2026

Bible Story: Philip and the Man from Ethiopia • Acts 8:26-40

Conversation Starter: What questions do you have about God?

Monthly Memory Verse: *Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up.* • Galatians 6:9 NIV

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Hey, everyone! What's up? I'm really glad you're here today. If this is your first time in The Alley, welcome! I'm so pumped you're here. And if you've been coming for a while, welcome back! Today we're in Week Two of our series called 'TREK.' The full title of our series is, 'TREK: Don't Stop, Don't Give Up—God's with You!'

When you hear the word 'trek,' what comes to mind? Go ahead and shout it out!

(Pause while kids shout out answers.)

Yeah! Hiking, backpacks, long walks, getting tired, maybe even wanting to quit halfway through. A trek isn't quick or easy. It's a journey, and journeys take time, effort, and commitment. That's what this whole series is about: not stopping and not giving up, even when things feel confusing or hard.

And to get us ready for today's expedition, we're going to play a game called 'This or That: TREK Edition!'

SLIDE: *This or That: TREK Edition! Title*

This game is super simple and super fun ... and everyone gets to play! Here's what's going to happen: I'm going to show you a slide with two pictures on it. If you'd choose the picture on the LEFT side, run to the LEFT side of the room (*point*). But if you'd choose the picture on the RIGHT side, run to the right side of the room! Maybe you've got questions. Maybe you want more information before you choose. That's okay. Just go for it anyway!

Let's try one. Everybody ready? Okay, tie up your hiking shoes and buckle on that backpack! Here we go!

SLIDE: *Game Slide 1 (Rock Climbing or Hiking Around a Lake?)*

Here's our first choice. This or that: Rock climbing? Or hiking around a nice, calm lake?

(Encourage kids to run to their preferred side of the room. Wait a few seconds while kids gather on either side of the room.)

Oh, well done! You all did a great job! Now make sure you don't accidentally rock climb OVER someone while you're running to your spot. Okay, let's do another one. You can stay where you are or run to the other side of the room!

SLIDE: Game Slide 2 (*S'mores or Hot Dogs?*)

This or that: S'mores or hot dogs? Which one are you picking?

(Encourage kids to run to their preferred side of the room. Wait a few seconds while kids gather on either side of the room.)

Woohoo! You guys are getting the hang of this! Let's do another one!

(Go through the following slides. Make sure to read each choice out loud for kids who can't read yet.)

SLIDE: Game Slide 3 (*Tent Camping or Camper?*)

SLIDE: Game Slide 4 (*Fishing or Swimming?*)

SLIDE: Game Slide 5 (*Summer Adventures or Winter Adventures?*)

SLIDE: Game Slide 6 (*Watch Birds or Catch Minnows?*)

SLIDE: Game Slide 7 (*Build a Campfire or Build a Sandcastle?*)

SLIDE: Game Slide 8 (*Play Games or Star Gaze?*)

SLIDE: Game Slide 9 (*Sunset or Sunrise?*)

SLIDE: Game Slide 10 (*Mosquito Bite or Poison Ivy?*)

I want us to pause for a moment and focus on something important—this month's Memory Verse! This verse comes from the book of Galatians, when Paul was helping Jesus-followers understand what it looks like to live God's way in everyday life. He wrote something really honest: doing good can get tiring. Not because it's bad, but because sometimes you don't see results right away. Sometimes you do the right thing, and it feels like nothing changes. Let's look at this verse together.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Let us not become tired of doing good. At the right time we will gather a crop if we don't give up. — Galatians 6:9 NIV

I want to start today's story by showing you something. Imagine this message pops up on your phone out of nowhere from a parent or grown-up. There's no explanation. Just this random message with no context.

SLIDE: Teaching Slide 1 (*"Hey, you should probably do that now."*)

Um, what? Be honest, what's your first thought?

Raise your hand if your brain immediately goes, ‘Do what?’ Raise your hand if you’d scroll up to see if you missed a previous message. Raise your hand if you’d start mentally replaying everything you’ve done today and think, ‘Did I miss something?’

(Pause while kids raise their hands.)

That exact feeling—having the words but not understanding the meaning—is right at the center of today’s true story from the Bible.

But before we get into our true story from the Bible, let me tell you something amazing that we’ve been doing all school year long! In fact, we’ll be done with it in a couple of weeks!

We’ve been going through the Bible cover to cover, reading the key stories!

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. At this point in the Bible, Jesus had risen from the dead, He returned to heaven, and He sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of His followers. His followers were learning how to live with His Spirit inside of them. Let’s check it out.

VIDEO: The So and So Show (12:22)

As we wrap up today, here’s what I want you to remember: following God doesn’t always mean you understand everything right away. Sometimes you only see part of the path in front of you. Sometimes you have questions you don’t get answers to right away. But this story reminds us that God is still at work, even when the full picture isn’t clear. Just like Philip kept going and the Ethiopian official kept seeking, you can keep following God, even while you’re still figuring things out.

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

SLIDE: Conversation Starter

What questions do you have about God?

Today, we talked about two people who were both missing context. Philip didn’t know why God sent him to the desert road, and the Ethiopian official didn’t understand the Scripture he was reading. But God was already working in both of their stories. At the right moment, God brought them together, and what didn’t make sense before suddenly became clear.

A lot of the time, our lives feel like that too. We only see what’s right in front of us—the questions, the confusion, the parts that don’t quite add up yet. But this story reminds us that God sees the whole picture. He knows where the road leads, even when we don’t. And He’s patient with us while we keep learning, growing, and following.

So as you head to small groups, think honestly about the questions you're carrying right now. Not the easy ones, the real ones. Share them. Talk about what it looks like to keep following God, even when answers don't come right away.

Let's pray together, friends.

God, thank You that You're patient with us. Thank You that You don't ask us to have everything figured out before we follow You. You know the questions we carry, the things that confuse us, and the moments when the path ahead isn't clear. Help us trust You when we only see part of the picture. Give us the courage to keep taking the next step, even when we don't understand everything yet. Remind us this week that You're with us on the journey, You're at work, even when we can't see it, and we don't walk alone. We love You, and we choose to keep following You. In Jesus' name we pray. 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: 1-4

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. Help us raise money to provide wells in the communities in Malawi. We want you to go home and ask what YOU can do to raise money for these families in Africa!

SLIDE: Theme