

ALLEY Rundown – July 25th- 26th, 2026

Bible Story: The Story of the Widow Who Would Not Give Up • *Luke 18:1-8*

Conversation Starter: What do you need to keep doing?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

LG supplies: 3 regular sized cans of play doh & a table

PRE-SERVICE VIDEO: *Dude Perfect*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Hi, everyone! You made it! Welcome back to The Alley!

This whole summer, we've been going on a Kingdom Quest and discovering more about what it means to live in God's kingdom. The full name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

But what is God's kingdom? Well, God's kingdom is anywhere where God reigns! He is loving, joyful, kind, trustworthy, holy, and righteous—and all of these really great things. God's kingdom is good because the King is good. And we want God to spread this good kingdom everywhere because it is so good!

Okay, quick pulse check: Raise your hand if summer has already gone way faster than you wanted.

(Pause while kids raise their hands.)

Yeah. Same. One minute, you're on break, and the next minute, someone mentions 'school shopping' and ruins the vibe. Not today, though. Today, we're keeping the summer energy alive!

I want you all to do something really quickly. Turn to someone near you and tell them the most random thing you've done so far this summer. Go!

(Pause while kids talk to each other.)

Awesome! Okay, you guys, it's of course time for a game now! Today's game is called 'Speed Sculpt!'

SLIDE: *Speed Sculpt! Title*

Remember those Pre-K days, when you used lots and lots of Play-Doh®? Well, today, we're bringing it back! I need three brave volunteers who aren't afraid of Play-Doh® under their fingernails. Raise your hand if you'd like to play!

(Pick three volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised and invite them to stand behind the table. Give each volunteer a lump of Play-Doh®.)

Each of you has a lump of Play-Doh®. Here's your mission: I'm going to tell you something to sculpt, and you'll have 30 seconds to make it. Sound good?

Alright, sculptors, hands ready.

ROUND 1

Your first masterpiece: a slice of pizza.

Ready ... set ... SCULPT!

SLIDE: Slide w/AUDIO: Upbeat music

(Start the 30-second time on your phone. Kids sculpt with the Play-Doh® until the 30 seconds are up.)

TIME! Hold up your beautiful ... creations. Audience, what do we think? Cheer for the Play-Doh® sculpture you think is the winner when I hold it up!

(Hold up each Play-Doh® sculpture for the audience to see, and declare the winner based on the audience's reaction.)

Okay, that was incredible! Let's do another round!

ROUND 2

New sculptors! I need three more! Raise your hand if you want to play!

(Pick three new volunteers from the kids who have their hands raised, and invite them to stand behind the table. Give each volunteer a lump of Play-Doh®.)

Your challenge: a dog. Any breed. Preferably recognizable. Three ... Two ... One ... SCULPT!

(Start the 30-second timer. Kids sculpt with the Play-Doh® until the 30 seconds are up.)

TIME! Show the world your pet ... creature!

Love it! Now it's time to vote! Okay, audience, cheer for the Play-Doh® sculpture you think is the winner when I hold it up!

Let's go again! I need three more volunteers! Raise your hand if you'd like to play!

(Continue with more rounds as time allows. Select three new volunteers at the beginning of each round. Other things kids can create with the Play-Doh®: an airplane, person, a smiley face, a cup, a flower, a Bible.)

That was so much fun! Let's give it up for ALL our sculptors!

You ever notice how some things in life happen instantly ... and other things take forever?

You can access a movie you want to watch in seconds, but waiting for your microwave popcorn feels like a lifetime. Or you finish your test early, but the clock refuses to move. Or you're waiting for someone to text you back, and the three little dots just ... never appear.

And it's not just small stuff. Some things in life take a long time to fix or figure out. Maybe you've been trying to get better at something—like a sport, a class, or a friendship—and it feels like progress is happening in slow motion. Or maybe you've been hoping for something to change, but every day looks pretty much the same.

And when that happens, you start asking questions like, 'How long is this gonna take?' or 'Should I even bother anymore?'

And here's the thing: Jesus knew people felt that way—not just back then, but now. He knew life would hand us moments that take longer than we want, moments when we're not sure if anything is happening at all, moments when giving up feels easier than hanging on.

So one day, He told a story about someone who had every reason to give up ... but didn't.

VIDEO: *The So and So Show* (10:10)

In the story Jesus told, the widow had every reason to quit. The judge didn't care about her. He didn't listen to her. He didn't respect her. But she kept showing up. She kept asking. She didn't let silence stop her. And eventually, even *that* judge made things right.

And Jesus' point wasn't that God is like the judge. The point was the opposite. If a judge who doesn't care will eventually respond, how much more will a God who loves you, knows you, and listens to you respond when you keep coming to Him?

God isn't annoyed by your prayers. He's not bothered. He's not too busy. He's the God who invites you to keep coming close. And every time you pray—even when His answer feels slow, even when you don't see anything changing—you're choosing to believe. You're coming to Jesus because you believe in Him. And that means so much to Him.

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

SLIDE: *Conversation Starter*

What do you need to keep doing?

When Jesus told the story of the widow, He wasn't talking about someone with an easy life. He chose a character who had every reason to quit ... and yet, she didn't. She kept showing up. She kept asking. She kept trusting.

And every single one of us has something in our life that feels like it takes effort. Something that feels slow. Something that makes us want to stop trying ... or stop praying.

Maybe you need to keep having courage. Maybe you need to keep having patience. Maybe you need to keep believing God is actually listening. Or maybe you need some people around you who will help remind you not to give up.

Whatever it is for you, that's what your group is going to talk about today. Be honest. Be real. You don't have to have perfect answers. Just start the conversation.

Let's pray together.

God, You care for us so well. You listen. You see us. And You never get tired of us coming to You. Today, we wrote down things that matter to us—people we care about, things that feel heavy, things we hope for. Help us keep praying for those things, even when it takes time or when You answer in a way we didn't expect. Give us the strength to keep going. Give us the patience to trust You. And give us faith like the widow—faith that keeps showing up. We love You, and we trust You with every one of these prayers. We pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHECK THE TIME: There should be about 25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part, but remind kids who have offering to place it in the container.

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: 5-8

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 like you see in these pictures.

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. 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!