ALLEY Rundown – November 14th- 15th, 2026

Bible Story: Every Good Gift Is From God • James 1:17; Philippians 4:8
Conversation Starter: What can you thank God for?
Monthly Memory Verse: *Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows*. • James 1:17 NIrV

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS: Dude Perfect

SLIDE: Theme
Hey, everybody! Welcome to The Alley! I'm so glad you're here today!

We're kicking off a brand-new series called The Great Gratitude Challenge. The rest of this month, we're going to discover what happens when we stop focusing on what we don't have and start noticing all the good things God has given us. Gratitude isn't just something we feel once in a while. It's something we can practice every single day.

Speaking of challenges, I need your help settling a very important debate. If you could only keep one of these forever, which would you choose?

Unlimited pizza, or unlimited dessert? Team Pizza, let me hear you! And now Team Dessert! Alright, one more. Would you rather have every homework assignment magically disappear forever, or never have to clean your room again? I think some of you answered that before I even finished the question!

It's funny how quickly we can think about the things we wish we had. Today, though, we're going to flip that around. Instead of focusing on what we don't have, we're going to spend a few minutes noticing what's already good.

You know, one of the best ways we can keep learning about God is by spending time in His Word. The Bible helps us know what's true about God, about ourselves, and about the way He wants us to live.

That's why every month we memorize a new Memory Verse. The more we fill our minds with God's Word, the easier it becomes to remember His truth when we need it the most.

Let's check out the rest of this month's Memory Verse.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Every good and perfect gift is from God. This kind of gift comes down from the Father who created the heavenly lights. These lights create shadows that move. But the Father does not change like these shadows' (James 1:17 NIrV).

Before we jump into our Bible Story, I need your help making a few important decisions. We're going to do some more really quick voting.

Would you rather get money for your birthday or one really awesome surprise gift? Raise your hand if you'd rather have the money. Now, who would rather be surprised with an awesome gift? Interesting!

Alright, here's another one. Would you rather get one giant present or 10 little presents? I think I know which one I'd choose. OK, one last one. Would you rather get a gift every single week or one gigantic gift at the end of the year? Those are some pretty good choices!

It's fun to think about getting gifts, isn't it? There's just something exciting about receiving a gift from someone who cares about you. Whether it's your birthday, Christmas morning, or a surprise you weren't expecting, gifts have a way of making us smile.

But have you ever noticed that some of the best gifts in life don't come wrapped in a box? A friend who makes you laugh when you're having a rough day. A family member who encourages you. The ability to play your favorite sport or instrument. A beautiful sunset. The air you're breathing right now. Some of the greatest gifts in our lives are the ones we don't always stop to think about.

So, here's the question I want you to think about today. Where do all of those good gifts actually come from? Let's check out the So and So Show to learn more…

VIDEO: The So and So Show

Every day, you have a choice about what you'll focus on. You can spend your day looking through the filters of complaint, comparison, or fear, or you can choose to notice God's goodness. The amazing thing is that the more you recognize His gifts, the more you begin to recognize His heart. Every good thing points back to a good God who never changes. And when you remember that, you'll discover there's always a reason to thank Him.

So here's the question I want you to think about, not just right now, but all week.

SLIDE: Conversation Starter
What can you thank God for?

Maybe the first thing that comes to your mind is something big, like your family, your home, or your friends. Or maybe it's something small that you don't think about very often, like a warm meal, a good laugh, your favorite place outside, or even the breath God gives you every day.
As you head to Small Groups, don't just think about the biggest blessings in your life. Challenge yourself to notice the everyday gifts that point back to God's goodness. I can't wait to hear what you come up with!

God, thank You for every good and perfect gift. Thank You for the big gifts we notice right away and the everyday gifts we sometimes forget to see. Help us pay attention to Your goodness this week. When we are tempted to focus only on what is frustrating, disappointing, or scary, help us remember what is true. You are good. You are faithful. You do not change. 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!

Missions video 1

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