ALLEY Rundown – November 28th- 29th, 2026

Bible Story: God's Plan to Send Jesus • John 1:1-5,14; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 7:14-15
Conversation Starter: What are you hoping 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! I'm so glad you're here today! We have been in our series the 'Great Gratitude Challenge'! And we are going to go deep today! But before we jump in, let's have a little fun together!

Go ahead and find someone near you. On the count of three, you're both going to say your favorite pizza topping. Ready? One, two, three, go! Did any of you say the same thing? If you did, give each other a high-five! If not, that's okay; you're still welcome to be friends!

Let's try another one. Say your favorite season. Ready? Go! How many of you said the same thing this time? Awesome!

One last one. Are you a morning person or a night owl? Say your answer…now! Awesome! Go ahead and find your seats because it's time for our game!

Now, let me ask you all a question. What's the longest you've ever had to wait for something?

Maybe it was Christmas morning. Maybe it was your birthday. Maybe it was finally getting that game you've been saving up for. Maybe it was a package that seemed like it was taking forever to arrive. Whatever it was, waiting isn't usually very much fun. Sometimes it feels like the more excited you are, the slower time moves.

Let's see how patient this room is. Raise your hand if you've ever waited a week for something. Keep your hand up if you've waited a month. How about six months? What about an entire year? A whole year can feel like forever when you're waiting for something you really want.

The truth is, nobody likes waiting. We like things to happen now. We want answers now. We want things to work out now. But life doesn't always work that way.

Today, we're going to look at a story that involves waiting...a lot of waiting. In fact, the amount of time might surprise you. Let's check it out!

VIDEO: The So and So Show

Today's story reminds us that just because we can't see God working doesn't mean He isn't. God was working during every one of those seven hundred years, even when His people couldn't see it. Every promise He made was leading to Jesus.

That means our hope isn't based on our circumstances getting better tomorrow. Our hope isn't based on everything going the way we planned. Our hope is built on the fact that God has already proven He keeps His promises. He kept His greatest promise by sending Jesus.

So when you're waiting, don't confuse God's silence with God's absence. He hasn't forgotten you. He hasn't stopped working. He is still faithful, and He is still carrying out His good plan, even when you can't see it yet.

Today, we discovered that hope isn't just wishing everything will work out. Hope is trusting that God will always do what He says He will do. Throughout history, God proved that He keeps His promises, and the greatest proof of all is Jesus.

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

SLIDE: Conversation Starter **What are you hoping for?**

Maybe you're hoping to make a team, hoping a friendship gets better, hoping someone in your family is okay, or hoping something difficult changes. Whatever it is, know that you don't have to keep those hopes to yourself. As you head to your groups today, take a chance to be honest. Share what you're hoping for, listen as others share, and encourage one another. You never know how God might use your group to remind you that you're not alone. And remember this: we can thank God even while we wait because He has already given us Jesus. He is our sure hope.

Let's take a moment to pray together.

Dear God, thank You for being a God who always keeps Your promises. Thank You for sending Jesus, just like You promised. Thank You for giving us hope that is stronger than wishful thinking because our hope is found in You. God, sometimes waiting is really hard. Help us remember that even when we can't see what You're doing, You are still with us and still working. 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 was taken from a team from our church that just finished installing a brand new well. Listen carefully as the man is a little hard to understand.

Missions video 3

Amazing right? The money we raise for these wells really make a BIG impact the villages in Malawi!