

Alley Rundown - September 1-2, 2018

Bible Story: If I Had a Hammer (Nehemiah Hears about the Wall) • *Nehemiah 1:1–2:9*

Key Question: What around you needs to be done?

Bottom Line: Be on the lookout for what needs to be done.

Memory Verse: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...”

(Colossians 3:23a NIV)

“What’s up Alley? Good to see you all here today. Thanks to all of you who brought back your ‘God Time Sheets’ last week. Remember, these sheets help you grow closer to God, remember what you learned the weekend before, and also inform your families of what you are learning. Not only that, but for every sheet you bring back, you get \$3 in Alley Cash! Make sure you get this week’s sheet from your Small Group leader before you leave today.”

“Today we’re talking about taking initiative to get things done. If I’m being completely honest, when I was a kid, my little brother would dump his giant toy box in the middle of the living room. It would sit there for days. I’d see the mess, but I didn’t do anything about it because it was HIS mess. Or in the backyard, our beloved dog would drop giant doggie presents all over the grass. They were nasty little bombs just waiting to be stepped in. I would see the mess, but since they weren’t mine, why should I do anything about it?”

“I’m fairly confident I’m not alone in this room guilty of skipping out on messes. In all fairness, maybe you don’t really notice what needs to be done. It’s possible your sports equipment and big pile of your favorite books have been dumped all over your room so long you don’t even see them as being out of place. It’s normal. You hear your mom say, (*best mom voice*) ‘YOUR ROOM IS DISGUSTING! CLEAN IT UP! AND WHAT IS THAT SMELL?’ but you look around to see nothing wrong . . . and nothing smelling funny.”

“If you’re feeling guilty this morning about the mess in your room or for looking past the stacks of dishes in the sink, worry not! Today we have a great story for you. We’re going to talk about a dude named Nehemiah who saw a mess . . . a really big mess. And instead of ignoring it, he did something about it! Let’s check it out.”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 9:30)

“Too many times in life we are similar to the numerous people who walked past the vulnerable city recognizing a problem but then do nothing about it.”

“We see the dishes piled in the sink but think it’s Mom’s problem.”

“Trash is in the church parking lot but think it’s the pastor’s problem.”

“The floor under your baby sister’s highchair is getting sticky from food and drool, but we are perfectly content walking around the sticky area.”

“This is what happens when we focus on ourselves. We miss opportunities to serve others around us and neglect what needs to be done.”

“But what would our actions look like if we took on the attitude of Nehemiah? This requires us to LOOK and LISTEN for things to be done—even if the mess is not one we created. Is this easy? Nope. It’s hard to think less of ourselves and more of others! But Nehemiah sets a great example of going to God when he first heard of the problem.”

“Likewise, we can go to God to ask for help because God can give you and me the courage we need to do what needs to be done. Consider this question...”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What around you needs to be done? Maybe it’s something at school or home or at a friend’s house. It requires us to look and listen. Before we head to Small Groups, let’s take some time to worship God with our offering and attention.”

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: Nairobi Facts JPEG

“Offering Time is important here in the Alley, because it gives you all an opportunity to worship God by giving your money generously. Here at (*your campus*), we give our offering to help support (*your campus child*) in Kenya. Our offering goes to show kindness to them by buying clothes, and food, and other materials they may need. We have a picture of some fun facts about Nairobi where (*campus child*) lives! If you brought an offering today, you may place it in our Alley Offering Bin (*point children to location of bin*)

CG: Alley Offering Bin JPEG

...when the video plays. If not, that's ok too. You can bring an offering next week. The Bible tells us this about bringing our offerings to Him...”

CG: Offering Verse JPEG (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

(Invite students to place their offerings in bin)

CG: Worship Experience (Runtime: 5:00)

SUPPLIES NEEDED: 4 Stations Sheets (2 sets), Plastic Cups (100 per side), Math Problems Sheet & Pen, Ball Pit Balls, 2 Laundry Hampers, Alley Cash

SET UP NEEDED: Place 4 station sheets on each side of room, Place cups at each station 3, Place a Math Problem sheet and pen at each station 4 (replace each service), empty basket of ball pit balls on each side of the room, so empty basket remains to be filled.

NOTE: PAUSE THE VIDEO.

- **Be sure each station is set up and ready to go for every service**
- **Split your group up into 2 separate teams (amount of students per team is not important, just that there are two teams).**
- **Divide the room in half, and set up the empty laundry hampers in the middle of the room (one per team).**
- **Teams will work together to go through the 4 stations, one at a time, and then pick up all the ball pit balls on their side of the room and place them in their laundry basket to complete the activity.**
- **The team that completes all the stations and cleans up their area, wins \$2 in Alley Cash each.**