

Alley Rundown - March 15-16, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Won't You Please, Please Help Me? (Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls) • *Nehemiah* 1–4; 6:15

Today's Key Question: How has someone helped you solve problems?

Today's Bottom Line: Work together to solve problems.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.* Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NIRV)

PRE-SERVICE VIDEOS (*Dude Perfect*)

Welcome the students and introduce yourself to the group. Set expectations for behavior during the large group. Review "Alley Cash" and bathroom procedures.

Welcome, everyone! Halfway through March, hopefully the madness hasn't gotten to you. Some of those basketball games have been pretty tense!

It's my favorite time of the week; we're reading and learning from the Bible, and I can't wait to discover which part we have to play today! Before we get started . . . have any of you ever heard of the old game show *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* If you didn't know the answer to a question, you had three saves to help you. You could narrow down from four answers to two answers to give you a 50/50 chance. Or you could cooperate with others by either polling the audience or phoning a friend to ask them.

Just so happens (*hold up stack of printed cards*) that I have some trivia questions right here in sets of three. Each one gets a bit more difficult as they go. I'll need a volunteer to come up and join me—and let's see if you and your friends can make it through all three questions!

Have a volunteer join you up at the front. Position them facing the Large Group and then continue.

You're allowed two 'saves.' The first is to ask the group, and the second is to 'phone a friend' or ask one single person in the room to help you! When you ask the whole group, it will just be all of them shouting out what they think is the answer all at once. (*Or raising their hands if shouting would be too loud.*)

One rule for everyone . . . to make it fair and challenging, you aren't allowed to look up answers on any phones! This must be based on what you know and that's it!

And remember, these questions get more difficult the longer we go. The first one is easy. The next one? Difficult. And (*looking at card*) the last one is labeled 'Nightmare.' Huh. That sounds ominous. Are you ready? Let's go!

NOTE: The Trivia questions on the printed cards are also listed below, in sets of three. They are labeled 'Easy,' 'Difficult,' and 'Nightmare.' The contestant is allowed to ask the Large Group to help or ask one person to help . . . but only once each round.

After each set of three, call a new volunteer up.

CARD 1: Trivia Questions

1. (easy) What is the largest planet in our Solar System? **Jupiter.**
2. (difficult) There is a classic novel in which a scientist reanimates a person from various body parts. The name of the book is *Frankenstein*. Who wrote it? **Mary Shelley.**
3. (nightmare) During the year, we change the clocks. Spring Ahead and Fall Back. It's called Daylight Savings Time. Who was the first person to suggest Daylight Savings Time? **D., Benjamin Franklin**
 - a) *Albert Einstein*
 - b) *Queen Cleopatra*
 - c) *Nikola Tesla*
 - d) *Benjamin Franklin*

CARD 2: Trivia Questions

1. (easy) What is Spiderman's true identity? **Peter Parker.**
2. (difficult) The world hosts the Summer Olympics every 4 years, each time in a different city. So far, which continent has hosted the most Summer Olympics? **Europe.**
3. (nightmare) In 2018, a bag of twenty-seven *what* was found by a fisherman in Siberia? **B., Human hands**
 - a) Diamonds
 - b) Human hands
 - c) Compasses
 - d) Photographs from the Titanic

CARD 3: Trivia Questions

1. (easy) In the game of pool, what is the standard color for the cue ball? **White.**
2. (difficult) In the game of Scrabble, how many points is the letter K worth? **5.**
3. (nightmare) What is emetophobia the fear of? **A., the fear of vomit**
 - a) The fear of vomit
 - b) The fear of trees
 - c) The fear of sharp objects
 - d) The fear of plastic

Wow, I'm thinking some of you for sure wouldn't have been able to get through those without some help. I told you some of them were a nightmare!"

It's too bad that you can't do the same during a math test. I'm guessing that test would go a lot better if you had someone to help you think about the answers or at least help you see if you're on the right track. Sometimes tests, quizzes, even just school in general can be pretty overwhelming.

So let me ask you. Where do you go when things feel overwhelming? When things feel huge and out of control, and you don't even know where to start . . . where does your help come from? Where do we go to get help? How do we even begin?

Great questions. In fact, it's questions like these that make me thankful we have the Bible. Remember, the Bible is a collection of history, stories, poems, and teachings written and captured by people who experienced the power of God in their lives. God inspired them to write down what they learned to help others get to know God, too. And we've got the perfect example today, learning about someone who was faced with what was pretty much an impossible task. A *huge* job. The kind of job that when you look at it, you think, *how in the world are we even going to come close to getting this done?* Let's dig in!

The So and So Show 13:26

Friends, this is one of my all-time favorite stories in the Bible. What an insane accomplishment building the wall was. Not only that, but they completed it *really* fast.

It was because they worked together. It was because they all understood the goal. It was because, as a leader, Nehemiah, with God's help, was able to take the humungous problem and break it down to get the job done one step at a time. We can learn to do the same.

God designed us to work together, not to be isolated from one another. Yeah, it might be tough, asking for help sometimes. But we can be like Nehemiah—he asked for help immediately when he saw how big the wall problem really was.

And lastly, discovering who you are in Christ, which might seem like kind of an overwhelming deal, will happen sooner if you get with others, build each other up, and talk about the difficult things.

Which is funny . . . that's just what we're about to do! We're going to get into groups and talk about these kinds of things. Some of the things might be difficult, but we're here for you. We're better together. Period.

As we head to Small Groups, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

“How has someone helped you solve problems?”

When have people stepped into your life to offer a helping hand, some advice, or gave you a plan to solve something you were going through? Before we head to groups and dive into all these questions, let's pray. Talking to God about our problems is a great first step to solving them. Let's pray.

SLIDE: Theme Background

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

CHECK THE TIME: There should be AT LEAST 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part, but encourage kids who brought offering to put it in the container.

OFFERING:

We are collecting our offering to support a mission partner called La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay) in Africa. La Liberte' Church is in a financially challenged area in The Congo. The kids at the church don't have access to a lot of food so this church feeds 700 children a meal every weekend! Each meal costs \$2.00 and our goal is to help feed as many kids as we can! Check out this video....

VIDEO: Offering Video