

Alley Rundown - September 15-16, 2018

Bible Story: Won't You Please Help Me? (Nehemiah Helps the Poor) • *Nehemiah 5:1-12*

Key Question: Who do you see being treated unfairly?

Bottom Line: Don't wait for someone else to help people in need.

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? So...there's this really cool idea I've been reading about recently. How many of you have heard of something called a 'Buddy Bench'? (*Pause for response.*) Teachers and principals have been trying out Buddy Benches in schools all across the country—maybe they've already put one at your school! For those who are unfamiliar, the "Buddy Bench" is a brilliant idea to help everyone have a friend to play with during recess."

"Let's say you're new to a school or, worse, you recently had a big falling out with your bestie. Either way, it leaves you with very limited options of people to hang with during recess. So...you make your way to the Buddy Bench. The Buddy Bench is a way to help others. When someone doesn't have friend to hang out with, the bench signals to everybody else that he or she could help. I absolutely love helping others . . . most of the time."

"Full disclosure: there are times I hesitate to help. For example, there was a kid at my school who didn't have many friends. In our defense, the kid was mean and lied a lot. Nevertheless, I did feel bad when I saw him playing by himself. In my heart, I knew what I SHOULD do, but if I played with him, I ran the risk of people thinking less of me or even losing some of my own friends. And because I was so focused on my own needs, I never took the time to help this kid."

"Maybe this is true for you as well. I'm sure most everyone in here likes to help others. However, when we focus on ourselves, we run the risk of not lending a hand to help someone else. [*Name of Host*] didn't invite me to play soccer because it could have interfered with HIS FUN. I didn't invite the kid who had a mean reputation because it could mess up MY friendships. You don't share your extra nerf guns with your neighbor because she could break YOUR toy."

"But what if there was another way? This month we've been following the story of a man named Nehemiah. Let's see what happened when he faced a similar situation."

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:30)

"Let's not forget. Nehemiah had a *really* big job to do. The reconstruction of his city projects was a huge burden and time consuming. His job didn't include listening to the problems of the Jewish people living in Jerusalem. In Nehemiah's situation, it would have been easy to write the problem off; he was there to rebuild a WALL. Someone else could help these people, but Nehemiah did not pass the problems of the people to someone else. He saw their needs, and he DID something about it!"

"And you know what? You can help others, too. Maybe your school doesn't have a Buddy Bench, but if you keep your eyes open, I bet you can spot someone who's in need of a friend. Then you can BE a friend to that person in a way only you can be a friend."

"Yes, it's easier to ignore those who need help, especially when we are only focused on ourselves. But please remember this: people need your help, and maybe it's help that only you can give. Don't ignore those in need. Figure out a way you could help others. This requires us to look out for people who have needs."

"It could be your little brother, someone in a different grade, or a person on a different volleyball team. When you see that person in need, take initiative. Stop what you're doing and do something about it. Lend a helping hand or be a shoulder to cry on. Stand up for someone who needs a hero. Don't wait for someone else to help. As you're headed to Small Group, consider this question."

CG: Key Question Slide

“Who do you see being treated unfairly? If you can’t think of anyone, just start looking for someone. Or ask your parents to help you brainstorm. People need help . . . your help . . . all the time. Before we head to Small Groups, let’s spend some time worshipping God with our offering and attention.”

OFFERING TIME:

Homer Glen: Victor

New Lenox: Daniel

Orland Park: Michael and Valerie

CG: Picture of Child

CG: Mission of Hope 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 Mission of Hope International where *(campus child)* goes to school! 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 (3:00)

Supplies Needed: “Wall of Initiative” Poster, Bricks Cards (1 per student), Pens, and Tape

NOTE: Students will spend a couple minutes writing down things that want to take initiative to do this week, and will place it on the “Wall of Initiative” Poster in your Environment.