

# Alley Rundown - September 22-23, 2018

**Bible Story:** He Came in Like a Wrecking Ball (Nehemiah and Sanballat) • *Nehemiah 2:19-20; 4, 6*

**Key Question:** What distracts you from doing what needs to be done?

**Bottom Line:** Stay focused on 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 everybody here today. So, today we’re going to talk a little about staying focused on what needs to get done. To get started, I want everyone to look at this image on the screen, right in the middle, staying focused, and we’ll talk about what happens...”

**CG: Optical Illusion JPEG**

That was crazy right? Did the picture entirely change into one color? Raise your hand if it did. If it didn’t work for you, no worries. Today is all about being focused. Just like in that image changing to one color, when we stay focused on God, nothing else around us matters. He helps us up to take initiative to get things done.”

“So, let me ask you this Alley, what are some things that distract you? (*Allow response*) Anybody in here have trouble focusing on your homework? How many of you would say your afternoons sound something like this . . .”

“You sit down to knock out your homework, BUT you need a snack. When you get a snack, it makes you want to get a drink of water. When you spill your water on your shirt, you’ve got to change it. When you change your clothes, you spot your new video game sitting on your dresser and play it. When you play your game, it reminds you to call your buddy about a game cheat. When you call your friend, she invites you to her house. When you go to her house, you eat supper with her family. When you finish supper, you come back home to brush your teeth. When you brush your teeth, you decide it’s time for bed. When you get in bed, you are reminded you never finished your homework. Gahh, that sounded a bit like *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, didn’t it?”

“Our distractions come from all different directions. Sure, it can be hunger, video games, or a mouth guard lost in a disgusting trashcan. And a lot of the time the distractions aren’t things but people instead, like a best friend or big brother. In fact, today we’re going to continue our conversation about Nehemiah. More specifically, we will look at a time he was distracted by some people.”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:22)**

“It’s important to remind yourself to focus on the task at hand. To do this, you can always go to God and ask for His help to stand strong when others or things are distracting you. You can also ask a parent or really good friend to work with you. However, once the task is completed, allow yourself to be completely distracted and have some fun!”

“As you head off to Small Group today, think through your daily routine and ask yourself this important question.”

**CG: Key Question Slide**

“**What distracts you from doing what needs to be done?** If you are able to answer the question and minimize the distraction, think of all the many more ways God could use your help. Before we head to Small Group, let’s worship God with our offering.”

**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)*

**NOTE: No Worship Experience this Weekend. Dismiss students to Small Groups after Offering Time.**