

# Alley Rundown - September 29-30, 2018

**Bible Story:** Rebuild This City (Wall Is Rebuilt) • *Nehemiah 3–4*

**Key Question:** What is God doing in your life that you can celebrate?

**Bottom Line:** Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

**Memory Verse:** “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...” (Colossians 3:23a NIV)

**CG: Baptism Class Promo JPEG**

Promo: “If you have ever wanted to be baptized, wondered what it means, or how to take that next step in your friendship with Jesus, Baptism Class is for you! Our next class is October 14<sup>th</sup>, right here at (your campus)! Talk to your parent/guardian about signing up today.”

**CG: Alley After Hours Promo JPEG**

Promo: “Alley After Hours is coming up on November 2<sup>nd</sup>! It is a great time, with lots of fun, food, games, and even some prizes! Don’t miss it, and don’t forget to invite a friend that has never been here before!”

“Hey everyone. Ok, before we get started, it’s time for something a little new here in the Alley, the “Alley Cash Call”! Before every service we will open the Alley Shack, and close it when we start. Also, every time you come here to the Alley, you’ll have a chance to earn more Alley Cash in these ways...”

**ALLEY CASH CALL: \$1 New Kids, \$1 Bible, \$1 Brought a First Time Guest, \$3 God Time Sheet**

**NOTE: Hand Out Alley Cash according to the above criteria.**

**Transition...**

Ok Alley. Answer this question in your head—what is your least favorite subject in school? It can be any class with any teacher, but it needs to be the one you dread. Everyone got a class? (*Pause for response.*) Great! Everyone circle up and share your least favorite class with your small group.”

*Allow groups to briefly share their least favorite subject. Get input from the students and affirm their responses.*

“For me, it was math. Always math! Language arts and social studies were a breeze, and science was actually pretty fun. But all those little . . . numbers and equations didn’t really add up for me, if you’ll pardon the pun. Math was the biggest roadblock from me getting on the honor roll.”

“When I was around your age, I was determined to overcome my hate for arithmetic and get on the honor roll by acing the first test of the year. The strategy I deployed was extensive. Every day after class, I stuck around to ask my teacher extra questions. I double-checked all my

homework to get twice the number reps. At the Boys and Girls Club I used a tutor for extra help. I even met a new friend there who was in my grade and also disliked math. We worked well together. On top of all that, I asked God for help. And honestly, I prayed a lot. Growing up, I remember my parents telling me to go to God with my worries . . . and this was a big worry.”

“The day of the first exam arrived. All the questions seemed easy. I breezed through the questions quickly and confidently. Two days later, I got my test back. Anyone want to guess my grade? (*Pause for responses.*) I got a “C”! UGH! That was NOT the grade I prayed for. It was completely disappointing. I remember wondering how God could let my effort be rewarded with an underwhelming “C.” However, when I was sulking in self-pity, I felt like God reminded me it wasn’t a total bust. I had reason to celebrate—I didn’t fail, and I did better than I’d ever done before!”

“Too many times in life I pray and pray to God but fail to thank Him for what He does in my life. Sure, I prayed long and hard for God to help me get a better grade that didn’t happen. But God did help me focus my attention on math. This never happens! Now, did I thank God for giving me focus? Nope.”

“God placed a couple of patient adults in my life to answer my questions. Did I thank God for giving me mentors? I didn’t. God also helped me meet a new friend whose loathe for math matched mine. But did I thank God for introducing me to a new friend? Sadly, I didn’t do that either.”

“Maybe you’re like me. It’s easy to go to God when we need something like our cat to get well or our friend’s family not to move away. Going to God when we want something like new football cleats or headphones is also easy. But it is hard to remember to celebrate all God does for us. I wonder why it’s so easy to overlook the great things God does in our lives.”

“Today we finish up talking about Nehemiah. Let’s check out what God did for His people and how they gave God credit.”

### **CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 14:41)**

“At the beginning of this story, Nehemiah cried out to God for help. The problem was huge, and danger was imminent for the people of Jerusalem. Nehemiah jumped at the opportunity to help others, and God took the opportunity to show His power. Something very good happened to the Israelites, and they were made aware that God helped. And when they were told that God wanted them to celebrate, I love their reaction. They did! And they took the time to say thanks to God for all that He had done. Instead of ignoring God’s part in the work, they celebrated all of the good things God had done and honored Him.”

“Don’t miss this point. This is our job as well. Every day good things happen, and every day we should celebrate the good that comes from God. It’s true that you’re probably not building a massive stone wall around your house with God’s help. But there are days God makes it possible for you to meet a new friend. There are days God gives you the determination to complete a huge school project. There are days you have fun with your brothers and sisters. In those moments of good, don’t neglect your responsibility to celebrate and tell God thanks.”

“If nothing else, we can always celebrate God because of what He did for us when He sent His Son, Jesus, down to earth. Jesus lived a perfect life without sin. He spoke words of wisdom and performed many miracles we can still read about today. When He died on the cross, He paid the

price of our sins and gave us new, clean hearts just like His. Through Jesus we can have a relationship with God, and THAT is a HUGE reason to celebrate.”

“God deserves our praise. So today, we feel like we should celebrate.”

“As you head to your small group parties, think about this question.”

**CG: Key Question Slide**

**“What is God doing in your life that you can celebrate?** It doesn’t matter if it is big or small. It just matters that we celebrate! Let’s spend some time celebrating God with our offering and attention!”

**OFFERING TIME:**

**Homer Glen: Victor**

**New Lenox: Daniel**

**Orland Park: Michael and Valerie**

**CG: Picture of Child**

**CG: Kenyan Flag**

“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 the Kenyan Flag 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:** *Squishy Bricks, Black Permanent Markers*