

# Alley Rundown - September 8-9, 2018

**Bible Story:** I'm Working on a Building (Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall)

• *Nehemiah 2:11–18*

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

**Bottom Line:** Don't wait for someone else to do 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)

"Hey, everybody! As we get started, think of all the people you love. You know, friends, neighbors, or grandparents. No doubt you have a long list. My list is pretty long, too."

*Share a personal story about someone who makes a big mess they noticed but did nothing to clean it up. You can use the following as an "imagine if" scenario or use a similar idea from your life for the story you choose to share.*

"Imagine there was someone on that list who you LOVE but just has a bit of a quirk. Maybe it's your mom? Of course, you love her with everything you have. She's a great person with SO many redeeming qualities—BUT maybe she just CAN'T seem to get rid of leftovers! Imagine that one year for Christmas she made a big ol' spiral ham—so huge you only ate half of it. The rest of it went . . . you guessed it, right into the fridge. And in the fridge it sat. For days. For weeks! And every time you opened that fridge, the ham looked a little greener around the edges . . . but hey, you didn't put it in there. There was NO WAY you are going to touch that ham. Mom put it in the fridge. SHE should be the one to throw it away!"

"Then imagine that two months went by. The ham started to smell . . . pretty funky. But hey, that still wasn't any of your business; you could just hold your breath when you used the fridge. By this time, the ham is starting to look less like a ham and more like something dug up by archaeologists in an ancient Egyptian tomb. But you decided that, no, this is still not your problem. You figured eventually Mom would cave and clean up her mess. Ultimately, though, neither you nor your mom ended up throwing the ham out . . . because it had gotten so perilously, grotesquely repugnant. In the end, your dad took the initiative and threw the ham away."

"I don't know about you, but when I was growing up, this was my stance on the messes that I didn't create: if someone else made the mess, then the mess was someone else's problem! It wasn't mine to clean up. 'THEY' needed to take care of the mess, ESPECIALLY if they created it. You know what I mean?"

"Why should I get dirty? Why should I have to stop what I was doing because 'THEY' aren't responsible enough to clean? Like with the ham: I wasn't the one who put those leftovers in the fridge, so it's not my problem to deal with it! It was a 'THEY' problem."

"But what if everybody else's mess wasn't a 'THEY' problem? What if it was an 'I' problem? How would the dirty jobs of life look different if we helped others out instead of waiting for 'THEY' to clean them up? How would the ham story have ended differently?"

“Today we’re going to continue our journey looking at the life of Nehemiah. I want everyone to listen to how Nehemiah addressed problems he didn’t create. Let’s take a look!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 10:00)**

“Our actions can point others to Jesus by serving and helping the way He did—when He didn’t have to help. It is true that the mess may gross you out or be a huge job. In those situations, it’s important to remember that when God wants you to take something on, you can do it because He’s with you.”

“Think about this question as you head to Small Group . . .”

**CG: Key Question Slide**

“**What keeps you from doing what needs to be done?** Why don’t you jump to complete the work? If you’re not sure how to answer that question, don’t worry. You’ll talk more about it in Small Group, but before we leave, let’s 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: 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: 2 Sets of D-O-N-E Cones (4 cones in a set) (per campus), 10 Rings (per campus)**

**NOTE: Students will attempt to be the first team to ring all cones (D-O-N-E) with the provided rings. They will go one at a time, until one team wins. Play as many rounds as interest/countdown allows.**