

Alley Rundown—September 11th-13th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Help! (Nehemiah Helps the Poor) • *Nehemiah 5*

Today's Key Question: Who do you see being treated unfairly?

Today's Bottom Line: Look for ways to make things right.

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

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

"Hello, everyone! Before we get started, I just have a quick question. Has anyone ever been so focused on a video game and your mom or dad asks you a question, and you say, 'What?!' and they have to repeat themselves? Turn and talk to your neighbor about a time you've been so totally focused on something that your ears stopped working."

Allow time for kids to share. Take a couple examples to share with everyone else.

"Great stories! OK, here's one more question. Have you ever been in a situation where you're so focused on yourself that you forget that there's people around you? You're at layer 11 in Minecraft looking for diamonds, and you don't even notice that your cat is on fire next to you? Turn to your neighbor and talk about that one!"

Allow time for kids to share. Take a couple examples to share with everyone else.

"Wow, a lot of you have felt that way. I know how that is, too. Sometimes I get so wrapped up in what I'm doing I forget there are actually other people on the planet with me."

"You're thinking about what YOU need, what YOU want, and unfortunately you're not even considering the needs of other people around you. Why are we like that sometimes? Why do we think only of ourselves, and why is it sometimes so hard to reach out and help someone else—or even notice that other people need help?"

"These are hard questions, I know. It's a good thing we have a (*hold up the Bible*) great resource to help us figure these things out. Thankfully, we started talking about a guy last week who can help us this week, too. Anyone remember his name? Yeah, that's right! Nehemiah!"

"Let's just recap, in case you weren't here last week. Nehemiah found out that the wall around his home city of Jerusalem was in ruin. The city was in danger of more enemies. He took initiative to make it right. Nehemiah traveled all the way from Persia to Jerusalem. He surveyed the damage of the wall surrounding Jerusalem. He even gave a fantastic speech to the officials of the city and inspired them and the people to help with this huge project. And it was a HUGE project."

"Each family or group of people took a different part of the wall to work on, splitting up the huge job into more manageable tasks. They were really doing a fantastic job! However, not everyone thought this was a brilliant idea—or that they should be wasting their time doing it. Let's take a look at this week's Episode to learn more!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:00)

“Nehemiah had a huge job in front of him that needed all of his focus and attention. But even though he was faced with building the wall, he chose to address another problem that was right before his eyes. Nehemiah looked and saw that some of his people were being treated unfairly because they were poor. And he did something about it. He stood up for them and worked to make things more fair.”

“We should stand up for people who are being treated unfairly. Period. End of sentence. Kids, if you don’t hear anything else I say today, hear that. Treating others differently because of the way they look, or where they’re from, or how much money they have, or what they believe, is wrong.”

“Think about it—it’s the way Jesus saw people, isn’t it? He hung out with the tax collectors, the lepers, the people society shunned because they were different or had bad reputations. He showed people how valuable they were by loving them *no matter what*. And He inspired them to love others.”

“We can be just like Nehemiah (and act a little more like Jesus) if we take our eyes off of our own needs to actually see someone else’s.”

“After all, isn’t that how we want to be treated? As you make your way to your Small Groups, think about this:”

SLIDE: Key Question

“Who do you see being treated unfairly? What people need your help? And after you see them, *what are you going to do about it?* If you’re not sure how to answer that question, don’t worry. You’ll have a chance to chat more about it with your Small Group. As you head out, let’s pray and ask God for help seeing needs and having the courage to do something about them. Let’s pray.”

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering then dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here’s a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri, New Lenox: Daniel, Homer Glen: Victor