

Alley Rundown—September 18th-20th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Ain't No Stopping Us Now (Nehemiah and Sanballat) • *Nehemiah* 2:19-20, 4, 6

Today's Key Question: What distracts you from doing what needs to be done?

Today's Bottom Line: Stay focused on what needs to be done.

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

"What's up Alley? So glad to see you all here today. So, to get started, here's one thing I've learned in life: It seems that every good story needs a few things to become a truly *great* story. One is a strong hero or heroine, also known as the protagonist. Someone who struggles and grows and learns and comes out triumphant in the end. Another thing that a story needs is the opposite of that.

SLIDE: Darth Vader breathing

"Recognize that sound? That's right, kids. Every story needs a good villain, also known as the antagonist. Can you think of some really great villains?"

Pause for some responses from the Large Group.

"Ooh, those are good ones. Well, bad ones, I suppose. Those villains, those antagonists, are there to stop the hero or heroine from accomplishing their goal. If the villain can get a hero to take their focus off of their goal, they've succeeded!"

"What about you? Anyone ever get distracted from doing something super important? You're trying to finish a project or clean your room but something takes your attention away? Tell me about a time when that happened!"

Pause for a few volunteers share stories.

"Funny enough, that reminds me of a children's book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. Has anyone ever read that one? If you give a mouse a cookie, he's going to want some milk to go with it. Then he'll need a straw. He'll want to make sure he doesn't have a milk moustache, but when looking in the mirror, he decides he needs a shave. Which means he'll have to sweep up the fur—but he might end up sweeping up the whole house and washing the floors. Which will make him want to take a nap."

"Wow, that mouse is distracted! What about you? Have you ever been pulled away from something you have to do, like homework, by the most random YouTube video? Have you ever been interrupted by something and you look up and you've wasted a whole hour? We get distracted all the time, don't we?"

"The answer to those questions are, of course, 'yes.' We *all* get distracted—even by things that might be good for us. So how we do keep focus on what's most important and get the job done? Great question. The cool thing is that the Bible shows us examples of this, too, and what our man of the hour Nehemiah did to block those distractions out.

Let's take a look at this week's Episode!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 13:30)

"You know Alley, I'm not sure if it's the same for you, but Nehemiah was interrupted and distracted at every turn. There were lots of things that could've taken his attention away. He could've felt completely overwhelmed by all the work and by the challenges he and the people had to face . . . but he led them to stay focused and trust God."

"And I think that's the key takeaway here—he trusted God. God's faithful, and He can give us the strength to finish His work. When distractions came, Nehemiah stayed focused and prayed to God."

"Nehemiah stayed, and Nehemiah prayed."

"When there's something you need to do, don't let random things distract you. Don't let people who are making unwise choices distract you. Ask God for help, and trust that He will give it!"

"As you head to your Small Groups, think about this question:"

SLIDE: Key Question

"What distracts you from doing what needs to be done? What are the things that you *know* you can't have around when trying to do something like homework? How can you recognize when something is just an interruption, versus something that's really important? You'll work to answer these questions and more in your Small Group, but before we head there, 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