



## WEEK ONE - SEPTEMBER 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *If I Had a Hammer* • Nehemiah 1:1-2:9

**Bottom Line:** *Be on the lookout for what needs to be done.*

**Memory Verse:** *"Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord." Colossians 3:23a NIrV*

**Life App:** *Initiative - Seeing what needs to be done and doing it.*

**Basic Truth:** *I need to make the wise choice.*

**Summary:** In our first week, we start at the beginning of Nehemiah's story in Nehemiah 1:1-2:9. We discover that Nehemiah was working for King Artaxerxes when his brother brought news from the exiles living in Judah. When he heard about the devastation in Jerusalem, Nehemiah was heartbroken. He recognized the huge need, but before he did anything he prayed. Nehemiah knew that whatever he would do, he'd need God's help to accomplish it.

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**8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES**

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### **1. Early Arriver Idea**

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others & build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids about a time when they saw something that needed to be done and did it without being asked. Did someone notice they did it? What was the reaction they got?
- Challenge them to imagine how their parents or grandparents would react if they cleaned up their room without being asked!
- Ask kids to take turns changing something in the room (or on themselves, like switching the shoes on their feet or turning a hat backwards) while everyone else closes their eyes.
- Then ask everyone to open their eyes and try to figure out what is different in the room.

### **2. What's Different?**

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation & discovery*

**What You Need:** "Spot the Differences" Activity Pages; "Spot the Differences Key" Activity Page; pencils

**What You Do:**

- Pass out the Activity Page to each child.
- Encourage them to circle the ten differences between the two pictures.
- See if you can spot them as well before looking at the Key!

**What You Say:**

*"Great job, friends! You had to be on the lookout to find the differences between these two pictures. [Transition] Today we'll hear about someone from the Bible who was on the lookout too. Let's go find out what happened."*

**Lead your group to the Large Group area.**

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9:10-9:45 | 10:40-11:15 | 12:10-12:45 - LARGE GROUP

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### OVERVIEW:

**Bottom Line:** *Be on the lookout for what needs to be done. "Before you can do what needs to be done, you have to see what needs to be done. We hope the story from Nehemiah inspires kids to be more aware of the needs around them. These don't have to be huge either. Our homes and schools are filled with opportunities where we can show initiative, we just have to be open to seeing them.*

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9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 SMALL GROUP

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### 1. Double Take

#### [Bible Story Review]

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing/building/designing*

**What You Need:** "Double Take" Activity Page; markers; paper

#### What You Do:

- Hand out the paper and set the markers where kids can all reach them.
- Place the Activity Page illustration somewhere everyone can see it, such as in the middle of your circle or taped to a nearby wall.
- Ask kids to copy the picture on the Activity Page by drawing it as best they can on their own paper.
- However, tell them to change a few things—maybe put a hat on one of the horses, make one of the men's beards a different shape, or color something a different color.
- When everyone is finished drawing, instruct kids to trade drawings with a partner.
- They should now take their friend's drawing and circle the things that are different from the Activity Page.

#### What You Say:

*"Those pictures were pretty detailed! Sometimes it was really silly and obvious what was different, and sometimes you really had to look closely. We've been talking today about how if you aren't paying attention, you won't be able to see what needs to be done. What did Nehemiah see that needed to be done? Did anyone come and tell him to rebuild the wall? If Nehemiah had only thought about his own job and his own life, would he have thought to go and ask for permission to rebuild the wall? (Allow for responses after each question.) [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time someone did something for you*

*without you having to ask them to.) At home and at school this week, try to [Bottom Line] be on the lookout for what needs to be done."*

## 2. Writing on the Wall

### [Memory Verse Activity]

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing/building/designing*

**What You Need:** Bibles; "Build It Up" Activity Pages; markers/crayons; scissors; tapes

### What You Do:

- Use the navigation tips below to look up Colossians 3:23a as a group.
  - *When finding verses with second and third graders, guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Colossians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the first part of verse 23 in chapter 3.*
- Read the verse together.
- Then divide kids into groups of three or four.
- Give each group an Activity Page or two, depending on how long your preferred translation of the verse is.
- As a group together, they should cut the bricks apart and then write one word of the verse on each brick.
- Kids can color the bricks a red rust color if they finish before the rest of the group.
- Bring the groups back together and have them tape the words on a wall in verse order. (If a wall is not available, kids can lay out their bricks on the floor or on a table and pretend their brick wall is vertical.)
- They can stack the words so the complete verse is written on the wall several times.

### What You Say:

*"This verse tells us that we should work hard at whatever we do, but we have to [Bottom Line] be on the lookout for what needs to be done so we know what work there is to do. We should always make sure we are not taking shortcuts when we are doing our work—whether it's chores or homework or a project—because God tells us that we should act like we are doing our work for Him and He always deserves our best."*

### 3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding & application*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Start off with the kids standing and facing a wall.
- Ask kids what they think Nehemiah might have been nervous about when he left the palace to go build the wall. What do they think he might have been afraid of?
- Pray together as a group, asking kids to hold their hands over their eyes like they are visors, shielding their eyes from the sun, looking at the wall that needs to be rebuilt.

**What You Say:**

*"God, sometimes it might be easier for us to look the other way or ignore the things that need to be done. However, we have learned today that we should **[Bottom Line] be on the lookout for what needs to be done.** Please help us to keep our eyes and ears open so we can help others and do what needs to be done. Show us that following You means helping others, and give us good attitudes this week to help those around us. Amen."*

***As adults arrive to pick up, have kids show adults the pictures they drew in "Double Take" and tell them about what's in the picture.***