



## WEEK TWO - SEPTEMBER 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *I'm Working on a Building · Nehemiah 2:11-18*

**Bottom Line:** *Don't wait for someone else to do 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 week two, we find out what Nehemiah does with what he found out about the wall in Jerusalem. In Nehemiah 2:11-18, we see that he took initiative and set out to fix the wall. When no one else would step up, He went straight to King Artaxerxes and took action. And it's that initiative that inspires the entire community to get involved.

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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**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Explain that these things (light bulbs; cars; airplanes; phones; etc.) weren't always around; someone had to invent them.
- For instance:
  - Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.
  - Thomas Edison invented the lightbulb and movies.
  - Karl Benz helped invent the car.
  - The Wright Brothers are credited for inventing the airplane.
- Who else do they know of or have they heard of who has done great things?
- Have they learned about anyone in school or at church who did something amazing?
- Invite kids to put their offerings in the container.

### **2. Best Thing Ever!**

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

**What You Need:** Play-Doh

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a piece of dough or clay.
- Ask them to each make something they think was the best thing ever invented.
- When they have finished creating, let them share what they made and why they think it is the best thing ever.

**What You Say:**

*"You guys definitely had some good ideas and strong opinions about the best things ever invented. Some of those things are necessary for our everyday lives, and some of those things just make our lives a lot easier or more fun. [Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about a man who saw something that needed to be done and did it, just like the people who invented these things."*

**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:** *Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. When kids see something that needs to be done, they might think that someone else will take care of it. But what would happen if our kids saw it was possible for them to be part of the job? We want kids to realize that when they see what needs to be done, God might be telling them they can be the one to do it. And if they can't do it all on their own, they can ask someone they trust for help.*

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

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## 1. Imagine If

### [Bible Story Review]

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

**What You Need:** Colored pencils; paper

### What You Do:

- Help kids imagine what would have happened if things HADN'T gone the way they did in this story:
  - What if Nehemiah's family hadn't moved away? (They might have been there when the wall was destroyed)
  - What if the king hadn't given Nehemiah permission to leave? (The wall might not have been rebuilt; maybe he would've snuck away anyway and gotten in trouble)
  - What if Nehemiah had seen the rubble and decided it was too much and the wall couldn't be rebuilt? (The wall might not ever have been rebuilt)
  - What if the wall had never been rebuilt? (The city might have been attacked)
  - What if Nehemiah had tried to rebuild the wall totally on his own, without any help? (He never would've finished; he could have been hurt)
- Next, talk to kids about some modern day things and what it would be like if they had never happened.
  - What if running water was never invented? (We would have to get our water from a well)
  - What if cars and trains were never invented? (We'd have to walk everywhere)
  - What if electricity had never been invented? (We'd have to use candles for lights)

- What if computers had never been invented? (We'd have to write letters and look for information in books)
- Then pass out paper and colored pencils.
- Ask kids to draw a picture of the room they are in. Instruct them to make it as detailed as possible.
- On the back of the pictures, tell kids to draw the room again, but imagine all those things we just talked about were real—there's no running water, no cars, no electricity, no computers, and none of the other "inventions" that might be in the room such as staplers and pens.

### What You Say:

*"We are pretty fortunate to live in a time when we have so many things around us that make our lives easier, safer, and more fun. When Nehemiah rebuilt the wall, he took the initiative because he knew it would make his city safer. His story reminds us of our Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** If Nehemiah had waited for someone else to do it, the wall might never have been rebuilt. Just like if the person who invented electricity hadn't done that, we might be sitting here in the dark! **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you saw something that needed to be done and you did it without being asked.)** When I did that, even though no one had asked me to, I felt good because I knew it needed to be done and now it was taken care of. This week, try to keep an eye out for ways you can help too, even when you don't have to."*

## 2. Don't Tip the Scale

### [Application Activity]

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** "Don't Tip the Scale Diagram" Activity Page; jumbo popsicle stick; Dixie cups; tape; pennies or other small objects

### What You Do:

- Using the Activity Page as a visual example, tape two Dixie Cups to each end of a jumbo Popsicle stick.
- Then balance the stick on an upside-down third cup.
- The object of the game is to tip the "scale" by making your side heavier before the person on the other side does.
- Start with two kids and let them face off to add pennies or other small objects to the cups one at a time.

- Kids can only be holding one object at a time, so they must pick one up off the table every time they want to drop one in (to prevent kids from dropping a whole handful in at one time).
- Get kids started each round with an, "On your mark. Get set. Go!"
- When the cups fall or the scale gets tipped, reset the game and let two more kids face off and have a turn.

### What You Say:

*"In this game, if you had waited for someone else, you would've lost. You had to take the initiative to keep putting the pennies in the cup or the whole thing would topple. Just like it's important that we **[Bottom Line] don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** If we wait for someone else to do things, they might never get done and then there would be consequences for that. For instance, if your dad was in charge of the laundry, but he waited for someone else to do it, there might never be clean clothes. Or, if your soccer coach just sat on the sidelines and expected you to figure out how to play or what to work on, you would probably never get better at soccer. What are some other things that are important for us not to wait for someone else to do?" (Allow for responses like picking up our bedrooms, taking the dog outside, feeding the fish, tying a little brother or sister's shoe.)*

### 3. Pray & Dismiss

#### [Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bible

#### What You Do:

- Hand out a Bible to each kid.
- Help kids find the book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament.
- Let kids hold the Bible while they pray over the book of Nehemiah.

#### What You Say:

*"God, we thank You that You have given us examples in the Bible of people who weren't perfect but who did what needed to be done anyway. Thank You for telling us all about how Nehemiah showed initiative. As we go about our weeks, help us to remember this week's **Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** Amen."*

*As adults arrive to pick up, let kids tell them to ask adults about what work they do in their day-to-day lives.*