



## WEEK FOUR - SEPTEMBER 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *He Came in Like a Wrecking Ball • Nehemiah 2:19-20; 4; 6*

**Bottom Line:** *Stay focused on 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 four, we see how Nehemiah dealt with some distractions in Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, and 6. Not everyone liked what Nehemiah was doing. He had enemies who tried to distract the people from finishing the wall. But he saw through their plan and stayed focused on the job God gave him to finish.

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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**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Talk to kids about distractions:
  - What are they?
  - What distracts you the most?
  - How do other people distract you?
  - What do you do to get back on task after you get distracted?
- Play a game of Simon Says, letting kids take turns being "Simon."

**What You Say:**

"All month long, we've been learning about how Nehemiah rebuilt the walls around Jerusalem. [Transition] **Nehemiah faced some distractions too. Let's go find out what happened.**"

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

### **2. What's Your Number?**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Instruct kids to start counting as high as they can.
- As they are counting, randomly start saying other numbers.
- Then ask them all to stop and start over from one.
- This time, make them stop completely every few seconds while you say some random numbers, and then ask them to resume counting where they left off.
- *Variation: Tell kids to partner up. One partner will say random numbers to the other while she tries to count.*

**What You Say:**

"It was hard to keep counting with all those distractions getting in the way, wasn't it? [Transition] **Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about someone who had to stay focused so he could get a very big job done.**"

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:** *Stay focused on what needs to be done. From cleaning their rooms to finishing their homework, kids have all sorts of things that need to be done. But it often doesn't take long for cleaning a room to become playing with the toys you're supposed to be picking up. We hope kids will see that focusing on the task at hand is important. God has all sorts of jobs for us to do. We can trust Him to give us the focus we need to finish them.*

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

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## 1. Another Brick in the Wall

### [Bible Story Review]

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

**What You Need:** Red construction paper; markers; clear tape; masking tape

### What You Do:

- Hand out a piece of construction paper and some markers to each kid.
- Let kids decorate the construction paper with drawings that represent something about themselves.
- Encourage them to add things to the paper like what they like to do, what they like to eat, what they're good at, people in their family, etc.
- When kids are finished, let them take turns sharing.
- Then instruct them to fold the paper width-wise three times to make four equal sections.
- Pass out tape so kids can tape their paper into a brick shape.
- When everyone has a brick, use the bricks to build a wall (lean the bricks against a real wall for support).
- Tape the paper wall together with masking tape if necessary.

### What You Say:

*"When it was time to build the wall, Nehemiah took action. But it wasn't as easy as just picking up one brick and stacking it on top of the next one. Sanballat and his friends were determined to distract Nehemiah from what he needed to do. So, instead of listening to*

*their distracting words, Nehemiah prayed, and then he gave each family a job to do. Because everyone was using their gifts and talents to build the wall, there was a little bit of each family represented in the final product. The people focused on what they were doing instead of on the people who wanted to get in their way. Even when Sanballat sent threats, Nehemiah didn't get distracted by his fear and was able to **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on what needs to be done.*

**[Make It Personal]** *(Tell kids about a time you kept getting distracted, but ultimately you were able to focus and finish what needed to be done.) "Sometimes we have a job to do that we just need to finish. In those times, we have to put distractions aside and not be stopped from what we are doing. This week, when a distraction comes your way, turn away from what's distracting you and finish the task at hand."*

## 2. Don't Do As I Do

### [Application Activity]

*Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain & taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** "Don't Do As I Do" Activity Pages; scissors; timer

### What You Do:

- Let kids pair up and work with their partner to cut apart the Activity Pages and make a set of cards.
- Each set of partners should have one set of cards.
- Ask partners to stand and face each other with the stack of cards face down between them.
- When you say, "Go," each kid will choose a card from the top of the stack and do that action while facing their partner.
- Let kids keep doing the action for approximately 20 seconds and then say, "Stop."
- Let each kid draw another card, and repeat as time and interest allow.

### What You Say:

*"Great job! When you guys were doing those actions, you really had to stay focused on what you were supposed to be doing and not what the other person was doing. Even though you were looking at the other person's actions the whole time, you had to remember what your own action was. Sometimes it can be easy to look around at what everyone else is doing and let it be a distraction from what you are trying to do. For instance, maybe you are finishing up a test but someone near you is already done and they are talking. Or maybe you and your sister are supposed to be cleaning up your room, but your sister just wants to play with all the toys. We have to remember in these situations to **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on what needs to be done. When Nehemiah was distracted, he would pray and ask God to help him finish what he was doing. That is a good way for us to remember to*

*stay focused also. When you get distracted this week, remember to pray and ask God to help you keep going."*

### **3. Pray & Dismiss**

#### **[Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

#### **What You Do:**

- If possible, dim the lights in the room or turn off just half of them.
- Ask the group to give examples of distractions that come along and make it hard for them to get chores, homework, and other things finished.
- Talk to kids about quieting their minds and focusing on nothing but talking to God for the next few moments.
- Pray in a quiet voice.

#### **What You Say:**

*"God, there are so many distractions in the world—everything from noise to screens to other people. We even get distracted by our own minds and the thoughts that come in and out of them. Please help us this week to ignore these distractions and **[Bottom Line]** **stay focused on what needs to be done**. When distractions come, we pray that You would help us remember to ask You for peace and for focus. Amen."*