



## WEEK FIVE - SEPTEMBER 2018 - SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Rebuild This City • Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17*

**Bottom Line:** *Look for ways to celebrate what God has 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 final week, we head to Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15- 16, and 8:1-17 and read that God helped Nehemiah and the people finish the wall in only 52 days! They were able to celebrate all that God had done for them, not only during those 52 days but also throughout their history as His people. They heard God's word and remembered how God had been faithful to them. They had a lot to be thankful for!

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

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**1. Party Time!**

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

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Talk to kids about what kind of party they would have for their birthday if there were no limit to cost or location. Ask:
  - Where would it be?
  - What would be the theme?
  - Who would you invite?
  - What activities would there be?
- Let kids decorate the room with streamers and masking tape.
- If there are multiple groups in the room, help kids navigate the division of space.

**What You Say:**

"It looks like you guys are ready for a celebration! ,"

**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: Look for ways to celebrate what God has done. When we realize that God is doing amazing things in our lives, we can't help but give Him thanks. We pray that throughout this month looking at Nehemiah's story, kids will see how God helps them each and every day. We hope they learn to celebrate God's continued work in their lives.*

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

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**1. Word Bubble Praise**

**[Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** "Word Bubbles" Activity Pages; scissors; crayons

**What You Do:**

- Give each kid a "Word Bubble" to color and cut out. Keep the "Savior" page for yourself.
- As kids are working, explain that their pages contain a word that is true about God and is something we should celebrate.
- Read the words out loud if kids are unsure of what they say.
- When finished, let the kids hold up their words and read them together as a group.
- Go around the circle and read the words again, but this time instruct kids to say the words like a cheer or a chant, and pump their fists in the air.

**What You Say:**

*"Today we've learned to [Bottom Line] look for ways to celebrate what God has done. It's easy to celebrate God for all the wonderful things that are true about Him. God is (point to the word bubbles as you say them) kind, loving, patient, powerful, and good! He is our Creator, our protector, and our friend. God is awesome! But we're not done yet! God also sent Jesus to be our Savior! (Hold up the "Savior" word bubble). He showed initiative when he chose to send Jesus to give his life on the cross. Three days later Jesus rose again and proved that nothing could separate us from Him. That is certainly something to celebrate! I'm so thankful we don't have to search very hard to [Bottom Line] look for ways to celebrate what God has done."*

## 2. Duck, Duck, Verse

**[Memory Verse Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Bibles

**What You Do:**

- Use the Bibles to look up Colossians 3:23a and quickly review with the group.
- Ask kids to circle up. Select one kid to start the game.
- The selected child will walk around the circle while tapping each person's head as he says the words of the verse.
- When he gets the reference (Colossians 3:23a), whomever he taps must get up and chase him around the circle until one of them sits back down in the empty spot.
- The last kid standing starts a new round.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

**What You Say:**

*"We've had a great month learning about initiative. Every job, no matter how small, matters to God. Even when you're washing the dishes or feeding the dog, you can work at it with all your heart and honor God too. You can look down at your hands and say, 'Thanks, God for these super cool hands that I can use to do so many things,' or, 'Thank You for my eyes and nose that can see and smell my crazy dog!' Remember this week to [Bottom Line] look for ways to celebrate what God has done."*

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

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

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

**What You Need:** "Word Bubbles" from the Application Activity

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

- Encourage the kids to hold up their "Word Bubbles" as you pray together.
- Explain that you when point to them during the prayer, they will say the word on their bubble.

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

*"Dear God, thank You for being (point to each word bubble as the kids repeat the characteristics of God). Thank you most of all for sending Jesus to be our (hold up the 'Savior" word bubble) Savior! We want to look for ways to celebrate what You have done everywhere we go! In Jesus' name we pray, amen."*

*As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to hold up their word bubble and talk about how it is a characteristic of God and something to celebrate. Encourage your kids to continue to show initiative and to celebrate God for who He is and all He's done this week.*