



WEEK TWO - SEPTEMBER 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

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

Key Question: *What keeps you from doing 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 3:23 NIrV*

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

Basic Truth: *I need to make a 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.

8:50-9:00 | 10:20-10:30 | 11:50-12:00 - FREE PLAY

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - PRESERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Get Your Head in the Game

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

What You Need: Die; Timer on a Phone

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to take off their shoes and put them a pile in the center of your environment.
- Lead the kids in a race to see which small group can find its shoes first. The first small group to get all their shoes back on their feet first wins.
- Before you start, explain that there is a catch: not all small groups will start at the same time; some groups will have to wait.
- Instruct each Small Group to roll a die to determine how long they must wait before they can start the race. Suggested delays are listed below, but depending on the number of kids, you may want to alter the delay times.
 - Roll a 1 = 10 second delay
 - Roll a 2 = 20 second delay
 - Roll a 3 = 30 second delay
 - Roll a 4-6 = no delay
- During the race, call out times to let groups know when they can start.

What You Say:

"It had to be hard to wait to look for your shoes, especially when your friends didn't have to wait. Sometimes waiting is a good thing [Transition] but let's head to Large Group to hear about when we shouldn't wait to do something."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What keeps you from doing what needs to be done?. Sometimes we are unaware a need exists. Other times, we actually see the need, but for whatever reason, never get to it. This week, we want preteens to think about the things that get in the way of taking initiative and figure out a plan for how they can get the job the done.*

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

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy & facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: "Excuse Cards" Activity Pages; pens

What You Do:

- Pair kids up.
- Ask teams to pick an "Excuse Card."
- Explain that excuses can keep us from doing what needs to be done.
- Instruct teams to read their "Excuse Cards" and for the scenario on their card to brainstorm a list of excuses that might keep them from showing initiative.
- Kids can write their ideas on the back of the "Excuse Cards."
- When teams are finished, discuss their lists.
- Potential discussion questions could be:
 - Are any of the excuses similar? Which ones? Why do you think it is a common excuse?
 - What about if it is someone else's job? For example, it is your brother's job to walk the dog. Is that an acceptable excuse for not taking the dog for a walk? Why or why not?
 - What about if you just didn't see something needed to be done? For example, you were busy with your friends at lunch and you just didn't see the kid who was sitting alone. Is that an acceptable excuse for not asking him to join your group? Why or why not?
 - Can you think of any excuses that are acceptable for not doing something? What are they?

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What keeps you from doing what needs to be done? What excuses do you typically use?
 - Nehemiah had no training to rebuild a wall. His job was to taste the king's food, not to do construction. What can you do when you see something that needs to be done but it is not your job and you have no training how to do it? (Think about what Nehemiah did when he got to Jerusalem. This is an opportunity to talk about how important it is to ask God for help, observe, evaluate a situation, collect data, pray some more and then act.)
 - When have you felt like there was a really hard job to be done, but you were in over your head and didn't know how to even get started?
 - When have you felt in over your head just because the job was too big?

3. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: "Verse Bricks" Activity Page; dice; hole punch; brads; markers

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle and place the "Verse Bricks" in center.
- Give each kid a die.
- Explain that the object of the game is to collect all the "Verse Bricks" cards as quickly as you can.
 - Kids roll a die and do the following, based on the number they rolled:
 - Roll a one - Select a "Verse Brick" and give it to a neighbor
 - Roll a two, four, or six - Select a "Verse Brick" for yourself. Don't wait—grab one.
 - Roll a three - Do three jumping jacks and roll again
 - Roll a five - Wait to get a "Verse Brick" - Count to fifty by fives before grabbing one.
 - After doing the action indicated by the number rolled, they roll again and repeat the process.
 - The first kid to collect all five cards wins!
 - Keep playing until everyone has collected all 5 cards.
- When everyone is finished, instruct kids to punch a hole in the corner of their cards and create a booklet by attaching the "Verse Bricks" together with a brad.
- Discuss the verses with the group. Potential discussion questions could be:

- When God wants you to show initiative, He equips you with what you need. Read each verse and ask what the verse says God will provide?
- Is there a verse you really like? Why or why not?
- Why do you think there is a graphic of a tool on the "Verse Bricks"? (Scripture is a tool God gives us—we can use scripture to help fight against excuses that may keep us from showing initiative)

4. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: "Verse Bricks" from previous activity

What You Do:

- Challenge kids to select a verse from their "Verse Brick" booklet to memorize this week.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say

"Dear God, just like Nehemiah, we know You will equip us with whatever we need to do what needs to be done. Sometimes, it is easy to think of an excuse to not show initiative. God, help us to remember You will give us help to overcome any excuse. If we need strength, You will give it to us. If we need wisdom, You will provide. When we are scared, You give us a spirit of power, love and self-control. We thank You for Your Word that is a tool to help us remember how awesome You are and how You are always there to help us show initiative. Amen."