



WEEK THREE - SEPTEMBER 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

Bible Story: *Won't You Please Help Me?* • Nehemiah 5:1-12

Key Question: *Who do you see being treated unfairly?*

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 three, we see a different part of Nehemiah's story. In Nehemiah 5:1-12, we discover that while everyone was building the wall, an issue arose. Some of the Israelites were severely mistreating each other. Even though Nehemiah was in charge of rebuilding the wall, he stopped the building of the wall to confront the issue. He cared enough about the people to help them figure out a solution.

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. Just for Fun

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

What You Need: Play Doh

What You Do:

- Ask: Did anyone memorize a "Verse Brick" from last week? If anyone did, encourage her to recite the verse she selected last week.
- Give kids some Play-Doh.
- Ask them to think of something they need and then create the object with Play-Doh.
- When their Play-Doh creations are complete, challenge the group to guess what each other created, i.e. what they need.
- After identifying each object, ask kids why they need whatever they created. For example: A toothbrush because you brush your teeth every day so your teeth don't fall out.

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: *Who do you see being treated unfairly?. Initiative isn't just about tasks that people need to accomplish. Often what needs to be done has something to do with how people are being treated and relationships that are broken. Preteens are becoming more sensitive to the needs of others. With this question, we can start helping them understand empathy and what they can do to help the people around them.*

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

1. 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:
 - When is it difficult to stand up for someone? When is it easy?
 - Can you think of a time you were treated unfairly and someone showed initiative to help you? What did they do?
 - Can you think of a time you saw someone being treated unfairly and helped him or her? What did you do? Did you wait to be asked? What happened?

2. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles; Timer on a Phone

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 25:35-36.
- Set the timer for either three or five minutes, depending on your group's attention span.
- Ask:
 - How could you show initiative to a kid at your school who forgot his lunch and is hungry?
 - How could you show initiative to a kid on your soccer team who forgot her water and is thirsty?
 - How could you show initiative to a kid at your school you don't know but is being treated unfairly in the halls at school?
 - How could you show initiative to a kid who has missed a lot of school because he has been sick?
- Keep the conversation hopping—when the timer is done, so is this activity! Limit responses to no more than 3 for each question.

3. 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:

- Tell kids to close their eyes.

- Explain that *God* created each of us in His image and *God* loves us all. Not only do we need to treat others fairly, but we need to keep our eyes open to see when others are being treated unfairly.
- Ask: Is there someone you know who is being treated unfairly? Someone at school, a friend, someone at church?
- Give kids time to reflect about who in their lives might be being treated unfairly.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say

"Dear God, You created everyone in Your image. People matter to You! It is our desire to honor You and to show initiative. God, we can think of situations where people are not treated fairly. Help us to stand up for those who are being treated unfairly. Open our eyes, God, to see people the way You do and to treat people the way You want. Amen."