



WEEK FOUR - SEPTEMBER 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

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

Key Question: *What distracts 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 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.

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: Mobile Device

What You Do:

- Tell kids to count to 25 out loud.
- Once they hit number 10, try to distract them by saying arbitrary numbers out loud.
- Ask:
 - What happened once I started saying different numbers?
 - Was it hard to stay focused on your counting?
 - Why do you think that is?
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Coordinate the teams to sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" in a "round" fashion.
 - One team starts singing and when they finish singing the first line, "row, row, row your boat," (and before they start singing "gently down the stream") the other group starts singing, "row, row, row your boat."
 - Go to <http://bit.ly/2L85RPQ> for an audio example.
 - Lyrics are:
 - Row, row, row your boat
 - Gently down the stream
 - Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily
 - Life is but a dream
- Ask kids if they know the following songs: "The ABC Song," "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," or "Baa, Baa, Black Sheep."
- Explain the three songs have the same melody but different words.
- Tell kids to choose one of the three songs and on your cue, instruct them to sing their song simultaneously.
- Encourage them to stay focused and sing without messing up and singing someone else's words.
- Repeat a few times.

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 distracts you from doing what needs to be done?. We've all started projects that end up unfinished because we were distracted by something else that was happening. We want our preteens to start thinking about some of those distractions. Some might be out of their control, but for the ones they can control, we hope they can leave with a plan to ignore those distractions and get their jobs done.*

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

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: *If You Gave a Mouse a Cookie; Papers; Markers*

What You Do:

- Divide the group into teams or let kids work alone if they choose.
- Explain to the teams that they are going to create a circular story, similar to the style of the book *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*.
- Read a couple pages of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*.
 - For an audio of the book, go to: <http://bit.ly/2J8pUNe>
 - For a text of the book, go to <https://bit.ly/2Mb2sUq>
 - If kids already know that the book begins the same way it ends, you can move on. Otherwise, let them read the entire book together or listen to the audio.
- Ask kids to identify some of the distractions the mouse encounters after he first asks for a cookie.
- Give teams paper and pencils to write their stories down.
 - If necessary, give teams a starting point for their stories.
 - If you start cleaning your room, then . . .
 - If you start your homework, then . . .
 - If you are taking out the trash, then . . .
- Allow teams to share their stories.
- Ask kids to identify some of the distractions found in the stories.

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:
 - Have you ever been doing something, maybe homework, when you get distracted and suddenly a half hour goes by and you haven't done any of your homework? Encourage kids to share times this has happened to them.
 - How can you know when you are being distracted?
 - When is it easy to get distracted?
 - What can you do to remind yourself to stay focused?

3. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Pair kids up.
- Encourage them to discuss what distractions they find difficult to avoid and why. Then ask them to pray for each other.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say

"Dear God, Nehemiah stayed focused on You and focused on building the wall. Even when others tried to distract him or when people around him were discouraged, Nehemiah stayed focus on what You needed done. God, help us be like Nehemiah. When we find ourselves distracted by others, distracted by (list some distractions kids mentioned during Small Group), remind us to turn to You. You are there for us just like You were there for Nehemiah. God give us eyes to stay focused on showing initiative! Amen!"