



## WEEK FIVE - SEPTEMBER 2018 - PRETEEN (456)

**Bible Story:** *Rebuild This City • Nehemiah 3-4*

**Key Question:** *What is God doing in your life that you can celebrate?*

**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 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 - FREE PLAY**

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

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## **1. Just for Fun**

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

**What You Need:** "Party On!" Activity Cards

**What You Do:**

- Play a guessing game similar to Taboo.
  - Each card contains a "holiday" in October.
  - The goal is for the group to guess what the holiday is without the "clue giver" using any of the off-limit words.
  - Explain that the "holidays" are not necessarily familiar days of celebration and the answers can be crazy.
  - Each card contains an answer and a list of taboo words that cannot be used in the clue.
  - The "clue giver" selects a card from the deck.
  - The "clue giver" can say anything except the taboo words or anything resembling the holiday in question.
    - For example, if the answer is "National Firefighters' Day," the taboo words could be: truck, Dalmatian, house. You cannot say, "Puts out fires" or "Drives a fire truck," but you could say, "Puts out flames on burning places."
  - The "clue monitor" reads the card and makes sure all clues given are legit.
- To begin, select one kid to be the "clue giver" and one kid to be the "clue monitor."
  - Both kids look at the "Party On!" card.
  - If the "clue giver" says a taboo word, the "clue monitor" says "BEEP" loudly.
  - The "clue monitor" then becomes the "clue giver"
  - The card is put at the bottom of the deck and a new card is drawn.
  - If no taboo words are said, the kid who correctly guesses the holiday becomes the next "clue giver" and a new "clue monitor" is selected from the group.

**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:**

**Key Question:** *What is God doing in your life that you can celebrate?. Initiative can actually be fun. When we're aware that God is doing something in our lives, we can take initiative and make a big deal about it! But first, we have to see what God is doing. We want preteens to realize that all the good things happening in their life are from God. They can make a plan to celebrate them!*

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

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## **1. Take a Snapshot**

### **[Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Paper squares; markers; Bible

### **What You Do:**

- Divide the kids into teams of three.
- Give each team a stack of 2x2 paper squares and writing utensil.
- Write "GOD" on the paper squares, putting one letter on each square and line up the squares in front of each team. (Enlist kids' help with this part.)
- Explain that when you say "GO" teams will come up with words to build on the word "GOD," like you would in Scrabble or a crossword puzzle.
  - Kids will write their letters on the paper squares to add words to their crossword boards. For example, using the "D" in "GOD" they could form the word "DEITY" or using the "O" they could form the word "AWESOME".
  - All the words created should relate to God.
- After time is up, allow teams to share their words.
  - Score one point for each word that the majority agrees is related to God.
  - Score one point for each original word that no other team has.
  - Highest score wins.
  - Encourage teams to defend their word selections. If someone can quickly find Scripture to support his word, award the team an extra point.
- If possible, leave the grids intact to be used during prayer.

## **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 are some ways we can celebrate or praise what God has done in our lives?
  - How can we remember to see what God has done in our daily lives and remember to thank Him?
  - How can we celebrate what God has done even if we were hoping a situation would go differently? For example: You study super hard for a test and you get a lower grade than you wanted.

### **3. Verses to Take With You**

**[Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Paper; Marker; Bibles; Timer on mobile device

**What You Do:**

- Pair up kids and give each pair a piece of paper and pencil.
- Give teams one to two minutes to make a list of as many songs as they can with the word "God" or "Jesus" in the lyrics.
  - The team with the most legitimate/real songs wins.
  - You will be the judge on which songs count.
  - Kids can defend their song choices and may even have to sing or hum a few bars for you.
- Give kids a Bible and find the table of contents.
- Ask for a volunteer to explain what the table of contents is for.
  - One of the books contains the words to songs written before Jesus was born.
  - The songs were sung as prayers, during worship celebrations, to praise God, and to teach people about God's ways.
- Challenge kids to identify the "song book of the Bible." (Psalm)
- Look up Psalm 19 as an example of a praise psalm and read a few verses aloud.
- Let kids look through Psalm 19 as you ask:
  - What is being celebrated about God in this Psalm? (His Word, His creation, God is everywhere, etc.)
  - Dig deeper: What words does the Psalmist use to define God's Word? What does the psalmist say about God's Word? How can we praise God for His Word? What are words the psalmist uses for God? (God, LORD, my Rock, my Redeemer)
- Working as a group or individually, challenge kids to create a song, a chant, or a cheer praising God.

- Encourage them to use some of the words from the grid on the "Take a Snapshot" activity or to use one of the examples from the Bible Story Extension.
- Allow time for the kids to share their songs or cheers with the group.