



WEEK ONE - SEPTEMBER 2018 - KINDERGARTEN/FIRST

Bible Story: *Walk This Way • Luke 2:41-52*

Bottom Line: *If you want to be wise, search for wisdom.*

Memory Verse: *Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord." Colossians 3:23a NIV*

Life App: *Wisdom - Finding out what you should do and doing it.*

Basic Truth: *I need to make the wise choice.*

Summary: In our first week, we start at the beginning of Nehemiah's story in Nehemiah 1:1-2:9. We discover that Nehemiah was working for King Artaxerxes when his brother brought news from the exiles living in Judah. When he heard about the devastation in Jerusalem, Nehemiah was heartbroken. He recognized the huge need, but before he did anything he prayed. Nehemiah knew that whatever he would do, he'd need God's help to accomplish it.

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

1. Early Arriver Idea

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- ASK:
 - What is one good thing and one not-so-good thing that happened this week?
 - Have you ever built something? What did you build? Who helped you build it?
 - What's your favorite thing to build with?

2. What's Different?

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

What You Need: "Spot the Differences" Activity Pages; "Spot the Differences Key" Activity Page; pencils

What You Do:

- Pass out the Activity Page to each child.
- Encourage them to circle the ten differences between the two pictures.
- See if you can spot them as well before looking at the Key!

What You Say:

"Great job, friends! You had to be on the lookout to find the differences between these two pictures. [Transition] Today we'll hear about someone from the Bible who was on the lookout too. Let's go find out what happened."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Be on the lookout for what needs to be done. "Before you can do what needs to be done, you have to see what needs to be done. We hope the story from Nehemiah inspires kids to be*

more aware of the needs around them. These don't have to be huge either. Our homes and schools are filled with opportunities where we can show initiative, we just have to be open to seeing them.

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

1. Build That Sticky Wall

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: "Bricks" Activity Page; crayons; clear contact paper; wall tape

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Pass out brick cutouts from the Activity Page to each kid.
- Let kids color the cutouts like a brick.
- Guide the two teams to line up about five feet from your sticky wall.
- Select a team to go first (you can flip a coin if necessary).
- Explain that each team will have a chance to answer a question from the story and if correct, add a brick to their team's side of the wall.
- Ask each team a review question from the list below.
 - If the team answers correctly, the first person in the line will walk to the wall and add a brick on their team's side.
 - Teams can answer questions as a group, but only the first person in each line will add the brick to their team's side.
 - If a team answers incorrectly, the other team has a chance to answer and then add a brick to the wall.
 - Tell kids to make sure to add bricks beginning at the bottom of their wall first.
- Continue play back and forth until you reach the end of the review questions.
- Review Questions
 - Who worked for King Artaxerxes? (Nehemiah)
 - What was Nehemiah's job? (He was the drink taster for the king)
 - What city was Nehemiah from? (Jerusalem)
 - Hanani came to give Nehemiah some bad news about Jerusalem. What was that bad news? (The walls were broken down and the gates had been burned)
 - Why was it bad that the walls were broken down? (Enemies could easily attack the city)
 - When Nehemiah first heard about the broken down walls, he was _____? (Sad, upset, worried)

- Nehemiah refused to eat when we heard the news and he prayed to _____? (He prayed to God for help)
- What did Nehemiah decide to do? (To rebuild the broken down walls.)
- Nehemiah went to talk to the king. When he approached the King, the King saw that Nehemiah was _____? (Sad)
- What did Nehemiah ask the king for? (Time to leave to do the work; letters from the king to make sure he could travel safely, and logs for building)
- When Nehemiah heard about the broken down walls, he decided to help. Why do you think he chose to do that?
- Today we learned that we should be on the lookout for _____? (What needs to be done)
- Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and _____? (Doing it)
- What might have happened if Nehemiah had decided not to help?
- What might have happened if King Artaxerxes had refused to let Nehemiah go?

What You Say:

"When Hanani told Nehemiah about the broken down walls and burned gates in Jerusalem, Nehemiah could have said, 'That's terrible! I hope someone else will clean that up.' But did he do that? No way! Nehemiah saw that there was a job to be done and he got busy. And we should do the same too! Sure, we won't need to rebuild a wall around our house, but we can be on the lookout for what needs to be done. There are jobs all around us that need to be done, and when we show initiative, we're choosing to get to work instead of waiting for someone else to do it. The key is to pay attention to the world around us so we can see the jobs that need to be done."

[Make It Personal] (Share about a time when you were a kid and you noticed something that needed to be done and you got busy doing it without being asked.)

2. Motions for Memory

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- *Use the navigation tips below to look up Colossians 3:23a as a group.*
 - *When finding verses with kinders, guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Colossians at the top of the page as you say "Colossians" aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 3 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the*

big 3 for the little 23; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse

- *When finding verses with first graders, guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Colossians in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Colossians starts with the letters C-O. When the kids find Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 23 in chapter 3.*
- Read the verse aloud several times together.
- Teach the following motions to the kids to help them learn the verse from memory. (These motions were designed specifically for the NIrV; adjust as necessary to fit your preferred translation of the verse.)
 - Work - tap fists together
 - At everything you do - motion out in a semi-circle with arms
 - With all your heart - place both hands over your heart
 - Work - tap fists together
 - As if you - point to self
 - Were working - tap fists together
 - For the Lord - point up.
 - Colossians 3:23a - open hands like a book
- Repeat several times with motions.

What You Say:

"When it comes to showing initiative, we need to work at everything we do with all our hearts. We need to give the task in front of us our full attention and know that God sees it when we choose to do a job well! Remember this week to be on the lookout for what needs to be done."

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Let the kids take turns naming some jobs that typically need to be done at home or at school.
- Close in prayer asking God to help them be on the lookout this week for the things that need to be done.

What You Say:

"Dear God, we know we can talk to You anytime, anywhere, and that our eyes don't even have to be closed! Help us to keep our eyes open this week so we can be on the lookout for what needs to be done. And when we see a job in front of us, help us to get busy right away. Thanks for giving us arms and legs and hands and feet and eyes and ears to see what needs to be done so we can get busy doing it! In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, talk about what it means to be on the lookout for what needs to be done this week.