



## WEEK TWO - SEPTEMBER 2018 - KINDERGARTEN/FIRST

**Bible Story:** *I'm Working on a Building* · Nehemiah 1:1-2:9

**Bottom Line:** *Don't wait for someone else to do 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 3:23a NIrV*

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

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

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

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### **1. Early Arriver Idea**

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

**What You Need:** Paper; scissors; crayons; pencils; brown lunch bag

#### **What You Do:**

- Cut the paper in half and give a half sheet to each child.
- Encourage the kids to draw a job they have to do either at home or at school.
- Suggestions (if needed): make their bed; feed the dog, take the dog for a walk, put away clothes, fold laundry, wash dishes, take dirty plates to the kitchen, clean the toilet, water the plants, dust or vacuum, take out the trash
- As kids are working, discuss the jobs they have to do. ASK:
  - What is your LEAST favorite job?
  - What job are you always happy to do?
  - What is a job you would like to do but you aren't quite old enough?
  - What is a job that an adult in your house always does that you think is not important?
  - What might happen if they didn't do this job?
- Encourage the kids to bring their drawings to you to look at without showing the rest of the group.
- Make sure you can tell what is happening in the picture, fold it in half, and place it in the bag. You will use these drawings in the "What Job Is It?" activity after Large Group.

#### **What You Say:**

*Let's go to Large Group and find out if Nehemiah waited or if he got busy doing the job before him."*

**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:**

**Bottom Line:** *Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. When kids see something that needs to be done, they might think that someone else will take care of it. But what would happen if our kids saw it was possible for them to be part of the job? We want kids to realize that when they see what needs to be done, God might be telling them they can be the one to do it. And if they can't do it all on their own, they can ask someone they trust for help.*

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

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## **1. Build That Sticky Wall: Part Two**

### **[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.
- Explain that when you say, "GO" the first person on each team must walk backward, carrying his "brick" to the wall.
  - The first person to arrive (you will determine which player is first if there is a dispute) will have a chance to answer a question from the Bible story.
  - If correct, he or she may add a "brick" to that team's side of the wall.
  - If the player answers incorrectly, the other team's player has a chance to answer and add his/her team's brick.
  - The two players return to the end of their lines and play repeats in the same manner with the next two players in line.
  - Continue play with the remaining questions.
- Review Questions
  - Where was Nehemiah's family from? (Jerusalem)
  - There was something wrong in Jerusalem. What was it? (The walls were broken down and the gates were burned)
  - Nehemiah had asked the king, whom he worked for, if he could go to Jerusalem. What did the king say? (The king allowed him to go to Jerusalem to rebuild)

- Nehemiah had to take a journey from Susa where he worked for the King to Jerusalem. Was it a long or short journey? (A long one; it would have taken months)
- When Nehemiah first arrived, how long did he stay? (Three days)
- When did Nehemiah choose to inspect the walls? (At night)
- Why did Nehemiah choose to go see the walls at night instead of during the day? (He didn't want everyone to know what he was doing yet)
- What did he find when he inspected the walls/gates around the city? (Things were as bad as he'd been told; they needed to be rebuilt)
- When Nehemiah finally spoke to the people about rebuilding the wall, what did they say? (They agreed with Nehemiah and wanted to get busy rebuilding the wall)
- What did Nehemiah really do for a living? (He was a cupbearer or drink taster for the king)
- Was it Nehemiah's job to rebuild the wall? (No, he'd never even been to Jerusalem, but when he heard about the problem, he was willing to do something about it)
- Today we learned that you don't wait for someone else to what? (To do what needs to be done)
- What is a job that isn't normally "your job" that you could help with this week?
- Why do you think we should help with things that aren't normally our jobs?

### **What You Say:**

*"It would have been easy for Nehemiah to hear the news about the walls around Jerusalem and to simply stay where he was to continue working for the king. But instead, he chose to travel all the way to Jerusalem and then to get busy rebuilding the wall. He didn't wait for someone else to do what needed to be done. Instead, he showed initiative and chose to rebuild the walls. We can show initiative too when we see a job that needs to be done. [Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. Let's choose to help when we see a job that needs to be done, even when we think it's someone else's responsibility."*

***[Make It Personal] (Tell your few about a time when you saw a job that needed to be done—especially a job that wasn't necessarily your responsibility—and you did it. What happened? Did anyone notice? If not, why was it still a good thing that you got the job done?)***

## **2. What Job Is It?**

### **[Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** The bag filled with the half sheet drawings from "Early Arrival"

**What You Do:**

- Guide the kids to circle up to sit on the floor.
- Select the kid with the closet birthday to today to go first.
- Encourage that child to take a page from the bag and look at the picture of the job.
- If the child is unsure what the job is, help him to determine what is happening in the picture without letting the rest of the group hear you.
- Once the child is clear what the picture is depicting, let him act it out for the group to determine the job.
- If you need to help kids figure out what actions to pantomime, here are some suggested actions for various tasks
  - Folding or putting away clothes: point to shirt or pants first and then pantomime folding them and putting them away
  - Making the bed: lay head down as if on a pillow; then get up to a standing position and pantomime pulling up the sheets and covers
  - Taking out the trash: point to the trash can; then pantomime picking up pieces of trash
  - Feeding the dog: get on all fours and act like a dog; then stand up and pretend to fill up a food bowl
  - Putting away your bike/scooter: pantomime riding a bike/scooter; then jump off, hold onto the "handlebars," and put it away

**What You Say:**

*"We can all name LOTS of jobs we see every day that need to be done. But if we're honest sometimes, we think that someone else will take care of it, so we wait for someone else to do it. But initiative means that we see what needs to be done and we get the job done! That's what Nehemiah did, and by rebuilding the wall, he protected SO many people! [Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. Instead, decide that you are the perfect person for the job and get to it."*

### **3. Sticky Note Verse**

**[Memory Verse Activity]**

*Connect: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain & taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Bibles; sticky notes; markers

**What You Do:**

- Help the kids look up and read Colossians 3:23a together as a group.
- Review the motions from last week with the kids.
  - 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 3:23 - open hands like a book
- As kids are repeating the verse with the motions, write out each word of the verse, including the reference, on separate sticky notes.
- Then place the sticky notes in verse order on the sticky wall.
- Point to each word as you say the verse. Then remove one or two sticky notes and repeat again.
- Continue removing sticky notes and repeating the verse until you can say the verse from memory.

#### **What You Say:**

*"This verse tells us to work at EVERYTHING with all our hearts. Notice it doesn't say 'some things' or 'only the things someone else tells us to do.' When we see something that needs to be done, let's do it! [Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. If we want to do something like we're doing it for God, we won't wait for someone else to do it. We'll do it ourselves!"*

#### **4. Pray & Dismiss**

##### **[Prayer Activity]**

*Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding & application*

**What You Need:** N/A

#### **What You Do:**

- Gather the kids in a tight circle, sitting with legs crisscross and close enough that their knees are touching.
- Explain that today's prayer is a "call and response."
- You will make a statement about a job that needs to be done—that's the "call"—and the kids will answer with, "Don't wait!"—the response.

#### **What You Say:**

*SGL: "God, we want to show initiative this week! So when we see a friend who can't carry all her stuff on her own . . ."*

*KIDS: "Don't wait!"*

*SGL: "Or when our mom or dad is putting away laundry . . ."*

*KIDS: "Don't wait!"*

*SGL: "Or when there are dirty dishes in the sink . . ."*

*KIDS: "Don't wait!"*

*SGL: "Or when there's trash on another friend's desk . . ."*

*KIDS: "Don't wait!"*

*SGL: "That's right! Help us to remember not to wait but to get the job done just like Nehemiah did. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."*

*As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to say this month's memory verse (Colossians 3:23a) using the motions and to teach it to their families when they get home.*