



WEEK THREE - SEPTEMBER 2018 - KINDERGARTEN/FIRST

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

Bottom Line: *Don't wait for someone else to help in need.*

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 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 - 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 are some ways you showed initiative this past week?
 - What problem did you see and what did you do about it?
 - What task did you complete BEFORE an adult had to ask you?

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: *Don't wait for someone else to help people in need. When kids see people in need, we pray that they take initiative to help instead of thinking it is someone else's problem. God can use them along with the trusted adults in their life to make an impact in the lives of others.*

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

1. Picture Order

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: "Bible Story Pictures: Week Three" Activity Page; crayons; construction paper; glue sticks; scissors

What You Do:

- Pass out a set of pictures to each kid to color and then cut apart.
- Discuss the parts of today's Bible story and help the kids to put them in order.

- Once they've arranged their pictures in the correct order on the floor in front of them, encourage the kids to glue the images in order to a piece of construction paper.
 - Wall being rebuilt
 - People who are hungry
 - Greedy king surrounded by money
 - Angry Nehemiah approaching a group of leaders
 - Group of leaders—one shaking Nehemiah's hand in agreement
 - Men helping each other

What You Say:

"Nehemiah already had a VERY big job to do with rebuilding the wall. But when he heard that the people were being treated unfairly and that they were starving, he knew he needed to do something to help. Talk about initiative! Nehemiah certainly knew that you [Bottom Line] don't wait for someone else to help people in need. He could have ignored the people and kept working on the wall but instead, he chose to stop what he was doing and help!"

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when someone saw your need and helped you. If applicable, talk about how that person didn't have to stop what they were doing to help you but did. What impact did it make on you? Did it challenge you to help others too?)

2. Jobs & Needs

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Canned Item; blanket; jacket; ball

What You Do:

- Hold up each item and lead kids to figure out how it could be used to help someone:
 - Canned good: donate food items to a food bank; help your mom put away the groceries
 - Blanket: give a younger brother your favorite blanket when he's sad; donate blankets to a local homeless or woman's shelter
 - Jacket: donate outgrown clothing items to a clothes closet; let a friend who's cold borrow it
 - Ball: play with someone who is all alone on the playground; invite a new kid to play with you
- Select one kid to stand about five feet from the group. He will be the "Friend in Need."

- Line up the remaining kids. They are the "Helpers."
- Instruct the first Helper in line to grab all four items (canned good, blanket, jacket, and ball) and walk to the Friend in Need.
- Once there, she must help the Friend in Need put on the jacket, hand him the canned good, drape the blanket over his shoulders, and then roll the ball back and forth TWO times. (If your group has good motor control, you can let them gently toss the ball.)
- When finished, the Helper will stay put as the next Friend in Need while the original Friend in Need walks back to the line, hands the four items to the next Helper, and then walks to the end of the line.
- Kids will continue down the line—first giving the help and then receiving it—until everyone has had a turn to play both roles.

What You Say:

*"When we see a need, we aren't always willing to stop what we're doing to help. But sometimes it's important to do just that. [Bottom Line] **Don't wait for someone else to help people in need.** When you see someone in need, you should help. Ask your parents if you need to. But whatever you do, don't assume that someone else will offer help. Decide that you will be the one to do something about the need you see, just like Nehemiah did!"*

3. 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.
- Remind them to look for the needs around them this week and to think about how they could meet those needs.
- Make sure they know that in some cases, they will need to ask a parent or trusted adult how best to meet the need they see.
- Pray together.
- Ask if anyone would like to pray out loud (no pressure!) and then close in prayer.

What You Say:

*"Dear God, thank You for reminding us that sometimes showing initiative means helping someone in need. Help us to get a plan together so we [Bottom Line] **don't wait for someone to help people in need.** We want to do our part in helping others, and we know that You will be with us. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen."*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to talk about how Nehemiah chose to stop what he was doing to help the people in need around him.