



## WEEK FOUR - SEPTEMBER 2018 - KINDERGARTEN/FIRST

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

**Bottom Line:** *Stay focused on 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 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.

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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:** White Board; Dry erase marker

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

- Greet the kids as they arrive
- Spend a few minutes talking to the kids about times in the past when they've said, "I'm bored!" Where were they? Why were they bored?
- Hold up the white board and encourage the kids to think of things they could do when they're bored.
- These could be chores or tasks (like cleaning their rooms or putting things away) or fun things like playing a game or reading a book.
- Write down every answer on the whiteboard.
- Once your list is complete, explain that part of showing initiative is thinking of something you can do before you get to, "I'm bored!" When you stop to think about it, there is always a task or something fun you can do instead.

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

"All month long, we've been learning about how Nehemiah rebuilt the walls around Jerusalem. [Transition] Nehemiah faced some distractions too. Let's go find out what happened."

**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:** *Stay focused on what needs to be done. From cleaning their rooms to finishing their homework, kids have all sorts of things that need to be done. But it often doesn't take long for cleaning a room to become playing with the toys you're supposed to be picking up. We hope kids will see that focusing on the task at hand is important. God has all sorts of jobs for us to do. We can trust Him to give us the focus we need to finish them.*

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

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## 1. I'll Do It Coupon Books

### [Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** "Coupon Book" Activity Page; "Note to Parents" Activity Pages; crayons; scissors; staplers; staples

### What You Do:

- Pass out a copy of the "Coupon Book" Activity Page to each child to color and cut apart.
- As the kids are coloring their pages, read each coupon and talk about each job.
- Encourage the children to draw an additional task of their choice on the blank coupon.
- Explain that they will take these coupon books home and give them to an adult.
- The adult will choose when to "redeem" the coupon. (That means they will tear it out and hand it to the child and the child must complete that task without getting distracted.)
- When kids have cut out the pages, help them assemble the book with the cover on top (the coupons themselves can be in random order) and staple along the edge.
- Write your phone number and/or email address on the parent note and be prepared to hand those out as adults arrive to pick up.

### What You Say:

*"I want you to give these books to your mom, dad, grandma, or any other adult in your house who would like for you to do some extra chores. I'll send this note home that explains how to use them. When you're handed a coupon this week, I want you to complete the task with initiative! And don't let yourself get distracted. A distraction is anything that can pull you away from the job right in front of you, like when the TV is on while you're trying to finish your homework, or the dog keeps sticking her head in the dishwasher when you're trying to put away the dishes. Let's try to **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on what needs to be done so we can complete each one! Do you think you can do it?"*

## 2. Say It With Focus

### [Memory Verse Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Whiteboard; dry erase marker

### What You Do:

- Help the kids look up Colossians 3:23a and review together.
- Write out the words of the verse on the whiteboard as the kids are reciting the verse.
- You can also review the motions from Week One.
  - 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
- Explain that you will point to different kids at different times to say the verse.
  - They must stay focused on saying the verse all the way through while friends around them are reciting the verse at their assigned times WITHOUT getting distracted.
  - They can use the words in the center as reference if they need to.
  - Hopefully by Week Four, they know the verse (and most of the motions) from memory.
  - Point to one child to start reciting the verse. Then wait three seconds and point to another child to begin.
  - Repeat, waiting three or four seconds between each child, until everyone is reciting the verse.
  - They will be talking over one another, but encourage them to use their normal voices with no yelling!

### What You Say:

*"Was it hard to recite the verse when everyone else was talking? It would have been so much easier to complete this task without all the extra voices and distractions. But in real life, we face distractions all the time that want to take our attention away from the job in front of us. If we allow these distractions to stop us, then we'd never get anything done! Let's make an effort this week to [Bottom Line] **stay focused on what needs to be done.**"*

### 3. Pray & Dismiss

#### [Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Kids' coupon books from the earlier activity

**What You Do:**

- **[Make It Personal]** (Tell your few about a time when you had a big job to do but a distraction got in the way. Maybe you were putting together a piece of furniture or working on a big project at work. How did you manage the distraction and stay focused so you could complete the task in front of you?)
- Encourage the kids to hold their coupon books as you pray for them to follow through and complete the tasks when asked and stay focused this week!

**What You Say:**

*"Heavenly Father, thank You for our parents and caregivers who do SO much for us every day. Thank You for the opportunity we have this week to complete these tasks in our coupon books with initiative. Help us to **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on what needs to be done. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."*

*As adults arrive to pick up, give each one a parent note and encourage the kids to hand over their coupon books for redemption this week. Encourage parents/adults to take pictures of their kids completing their coupons and text or email them to you.*