



GETTING READY

1. Welcome/Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Three kid volunteers
- One Small Group Leader volunteer
- Four storage containers
- Sand (to look like kitty litter)
- 3 Litter scoops (the leader does not get one)
- Tootsie Rolls
- Wet wipes
- Tootsie Roll for prize

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Dirty Jobs Theme Slide

What You Do:

- Using Sand and four large storage containers, create realistic-looking used litter boxes for volunteers to dig through. Shape the Tootsie Rolls to look less like candy and more like cat droppings. As long as the Tootsie Rolls are covered in the litter, the more Tootsie Rolls in the

kitty litter the better. You will only have three scoops. The script is written for the Small Group Leader to end up being the one without the scoop. Have wet wipes available for the Small Group Leader to clean off his or her hands.

- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. These graphic motion loops are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

2. Communicator Script

What You Need:

- **Visuals Only**

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals (downloadable from the website):

- Key Question Slide
- Six Nehemiah images
- Blank Key Question Slide

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Every Beat
- Unshakeable Love

I'm Working on a Building

Bible Story: I'm Working on a Building (Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall) • *Nehemiah 2:11–18*

Key Question: What keeps you from doing what needs to be done?

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, NIV*

Life App: Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: Dirty Jobs Theme Slide

Host enters.

CG: Blank Theme Slide

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host discusses recent/upcoming events: College Football Season Kickoff, NFL Season Kickoff, Labor Day, National Blueberry Popsicle Day, National Cheese Pizza Day, movie opening (Small Foot) a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

Opener

NOTE: If you are truly not a cat-person, feel free to edit this to make a big deal about why you are definitely not a cat-person. That would also work as the set up for this game.

HOST: "I know the 'cats versus dogs' debate is a Hot Button Issue, but I've got to be real—I'm definitely a cat person. Dogs are great, sure, but having a dog is like having a big baby follow you around everywhere. Except that baby chews on its fanny and then tries to lick your face."

"Having a cat is like having a cool roommate, except it's okay to laugh at him when he falls off the top of the refrigerator. Honestly, the only bad thing about owning a cat is having to scoop kitty tookies out of that ranky, stanky cat box. It feels like EVERY time I go to check the box my little feline friend has filled it with a treasure trove of cat nuggets, and it. Is. NASTY. It's SO nasty, in fact, that I've decided to

outsource my cat box duties to a few VERY eager volunteers—YOU! Sooooo, who wants to play a game?”

Host selects four volunteers—three kids and one Small Group Leader. Host wheels out four storage containers filled with cat litter. In these storage containers are Tootsie Rolls, shaped to represent . . . well, you know. Make it realistic.

“There’s no easy way to say this, folks—my cat goes to the bathroom a LOT. That’s why I’ve brought ALL FOUR cat boxes here for you guys to help me clean out. Each of you is going to dig through the litter and excavate all of those foul little kitty presents for me. Fortunately for you, I’ve brought four litter scoops, so all of you can . . .”

Host hesitates. Checks each of the storage containers but realizes they are short one scoop.

“. . . oh, oops. I guess I left one of the scoops at home. Okay, THREE of you can use scoops; ONE of you is going to have to use your hands. I nominate [Name of Small Group Leader]! Sorry! That’s unfortunate. Anyway, whoever is the FIRST to clean out his or her cat box COMPLETELY will be declared the WINNER and will leave the stage with a stinking awesome PRIZE! Sound good to everyone? Well then . . . let’s get to it! As soon as you hear music, start scooping! Any questions? Great!”

SFX: High-energy game music

Cat box madness ensues.

“Wow! Big congrats to our big winner today—and to the rest of you who didn’t quite make it, big THANKS for helping me with my incredibly dirty job! Our winner gets a delicious, nutritious TOOTSIE ROLL . . . and the rest of you, uh, can go wash your hands. Here are some wet wipes!

Announcements

Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.

HOST: “I’m so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it’s your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you, get a high five and show you around. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. Mission is for YOU!

I have just a few announcements for you all today...

Share any/all announcements.

Now let’s all stand up, get close, give someone a high five and let’s sing and worship together!

Host exits and Worship Leader enters.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Thank you, *[Name of Host]*. Let’s get up and get loud as we sing and dance for who God is and what he’s done for us!

Every Beat

WORSHIP LEADER: “That was amazing! *(Take a moment to say something about the next song)*. So let’s give everything we have and worship God together!

Unshakeable Love

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Key Question Slide

COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, everybody! As we get started, think of all the people you love. You know, friends, neighbors, or grandparents. No doubt you have a long list. My list is pretty long, too.”

Communicator shares a personal story about someone who makes a big mess they noticed but did nothing to clean it up. You can use the following as an “imagine if” scenario or use a similar idea from your life for the story you choose to share.

“Imagine there was someone on that list who you LOVE but just has a bit of a quirk. Maybe it’s your mom? Of course, you love her with everything you have. She’s a great person with SO many redeeming qualities—she’s kind, she’s compassionate, she can do a pose-perfect lip sync of any Backstreet Boys (or other popular band) song, and the list of awesomeness goes on and on and on. BUT maybe she just CAN’T seem to get rid of leftovers! I’m talking meatloaf, green bean casserole, lasagna, potato salad . . . you get the picture. If it doesn’t get eaten the day after, it’ll just sit there . . . in the fridge . . . festering. Imagine that year for Christmas she made a big ol’ spiral ham—so huge you only ate half of it. The rest of it went . . . you guessed it, right into the fridge. And in the fridge it sat. For days. For weeks! And every time you opened that fridge, the ham looked a little greener around the edges . . . but hey, you didn’t put it in there. There was NO WAY you are going to touch that ham. Mom put it in the fridge. SHE should be the one to throw it away!”

“Then imagine that two months went by. The ham started to smell . . . pretty funky. Not too dissimilar from the cat boxes [Name of Host] brought in this morning but maybe a bit more . . . hammy. But hey, that still wasn’t any of your business; you could just hold my breath when you used the fridge. By this time, the ham is starting to look less like a ham and more like something dug up by archaeologists in an ancient Egyptian tomb. But you decided that, no, this is still not your problem. You figured eventually Mom would cave and clean up her mess. Ultimately, though, neither you nor your mom ended up throwing the ham out . . . because it had gotten so perilously, grotesquely repugnant. In the end, your dad took the initiative threw the ham away.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “I don’t know about you, but when I was growing up, this was my stance on the messes that I didn’t create: if someone else made the mess, then the mess was someone else’s problem! It wasn’t mine to clean up. ‘THEY’ needed to take care of the mess, ESPECIALLY if they created it. You know what I mean?”

“Why should I get dirty? Why should I have to stop what I was doing because ‘THEY’ aren’t responsible enough to clean? Like with the ham: I wasn’t the one who put those leftovers in the fridge, so it’s not my problem to deal with it! It was a ‘THEY’ problem.”

“But what if everybody else’s mess wasn’t a ‘THEY’ problem? What if it was an ‘I’ problem? How would the dirty jobs of life look different if we helped others out instead of waiting for ‘THEY’ to clean them up? How would the ham story have ended differently?”

“Today we’re going to continue our journey looking at the life of Nehemiah. I want everyone to listen to how Nehemiah addressed problems he didn’t create.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Although he was of Jewish heritage, Nehemiah was a cup bearer working for the Persian King Artaxerxes. At the time, Jerusalem, the Jewish capital of Judah, was in bad shape. Even though God’s people had been slowly returning to the city for decades, much of the city was still in ruins, including the surrounding wall and gates.”

CG: Truth Slide 1 – Wall in Ruins Image

“When Nehemiah learned about the problem, he got permission from King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem to see what he could do to help. The king gave him letters of safe passage and an army escort for extra protection. So with that blessing, Nehemiah traveled the great distance to Jerusalem.”

CG: Truth Slide 2 – People on Horseback Image

“Though this city was the home of Nehemiah’s family, he’d never actually seen Jerusalem. Upon arrival, he rested for several days quietly taking in the destruction and assessing the damages. Nehemiah chose not to tell others in the city of his plans until the time was right. On the third day of his stay, Nehemiah waited for dark to fall, chose a few people to go with him, hopped on his trusty steed, a donkey, and stole into the night to see what needed to be done.”

CG: Truth Slide 3 – Nehemiah on Donkey at Night Image

“Nehemiah and his few friends rode straight outside of the wall of Jerusalem . . . or, perhaps more accurately, what *used* to be the wall of Jerusalem. The stone had been smashed to rubble—broken pieces of what used to be the proud fortification of Jerusalem lay all over the place. While the rebuilt temple stood high on the ridge, streets and houses were in shambles. At one point, the rubble was so thick that Nehemiah’s donkey was unable to make passage. Nehemiah resorted to inspecting the rest of the section on foot.”

CG: Truth Slide 4 – Nehemiah Standing on Rubble Image

“The gates that used to grant entry to the city were totally useless . . . not only were they burned to the ground, but since the rest of the wall had fallen, there was no NEED for gates! Anyone could get in at any time.”

CG: Truth Slide 5 – Charred Wood Image

“That’s what worried Nehemiah the most: Jerusalem was already worse for wear from the violent exile of the Jewish people. A single invasion could completely finish the city off . . . and without a wall, they had no way to prevent it.”

“The Jewish people living in Jerusalem needed help; that much was certain. These people had low morale, and without a wall, the question of getting invaded wasn’t so much an ‘if’ as it was a ‘when.’ Nehemiah had seen enough. It was time to tell the officials and the people the plan to rebuild the gates and walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah garnered an audience with some of the people of Jerusalem.”

CG: Truth Slide 6 – Nehemiah with Crowd Image

“With courage in his voice, he said, *(Open Bible and read Nehemiah 2:17)* “*You can see the trouble we’re in. Jerusalem has been destroyed. Fire has burned up its gates. Come on. Let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Then people won’t be ashamed anymore.*” No doubt some in the audience would have thought Nehemiah was talking crazy talk. The wall was stretched around the entire city. The job would be monumental . . . seemingly impossible.”

“Regardless, the people agreed to start this important job. They set out to work on rebuilding the wall.”

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “We have to remember that Nehemiah’s job was testing the king’s drinks for poison. He was not a construction worker. His job was not rebuilding a broken-down wall. The crumbling wall and torn-down gates was a ‘THEY’ problem, not a ‘Nehemiah’ problem. Somebody else destroyed the city and walls and sent the Israelites into exile. He could have waited around for someone else to do it. That’s what other people were doing. Yet Nehemiah left his trusted position with the king so he could do something that wasn’t his responsibility. When he heard about the problem, a call inside of him said, ‘I MUST DO SOMETHING.’ God had chosen Nehemiah for the work and said, ‘You can help this situation.’ Was this a dirty job? Absolutely! But Nehemiah knew that God would give him the strength to see it through.”

“Have you ever not wanted to do something because it wasn’t your job? ‘THEY’ may have created the mess of nerf guns and darts on the floor. Sometimes ‘THEY’ may not have the time to clean it up. ‘THEY’ might have left their lunch trays on the table in the cafeteria. ‘THEY’ might have too much on their minds and forgot. ‘THEY’ might have looked past the old ham in the fridge because life got really busy.”

“If you think to yourself, ‘THEY should take care of that,’ maybe you’re the person who should take care of it. Don’t wait around for someone else to do what needs to be done. Clean up a mess you didn’t make, even if it doesn’t seem fair.”

“Our actions can point others to Jesus by serving and helping the way He did—when He didn’t have to help. It is true that the mess may gross you out or be a huge job. In those situations, it’s important to remember that when God wants you to take something on, you can do it because He’s with you.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “Think about this question as you head to Small Group . . .”

CG: Key Question Slide

“**What keeps you from doing what needs to be done?** Why don’t you jump to complete the work? If you’re not sure how to answer that question, don’t worry. You’ll talk more about it in Small Group, but before we leave, let’s pray.”

CG: Blank Key Question Slide

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video