



## GETTING READY

### 1. Welcome/Opener

#### What You Need:

- Dirty jobs themed decorations
- Host

#### *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:

### 2. Communicator Script

#### What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- Host
- Bench from Cafe
- Soccer ball

- Three kid volunteers
- “Hungry” Sign (see “What You Do” below)
- “No Home” Sign (see “What You Do” below)
- “Powerless” Sign (see “What You Do” below)
- “Nehemiah” Sign (see “What You Do” below)

*Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- Upbeat music to use as kids exit the room

*Large Group Visuals:*

- Key Question Slide
- Blank Key Question Slide

**What You Do:**

- Find a bench of some sort and place it on stage as the Communicator is coming out. BENCH FROM CAFE
- Take cardstock and create simple signs that read “HUNGRY,” “NO HOME,” “POWERLESS,” and “NEHEMIAH” so everyone can read them from the audience.
- Volunteers do not need to be preselected. You can choose three kids to come up on stage during that part of the script.

### **3. Worship**

**What You Need:**

- This Is Living
- Alive Again

# Won't You Please Help Me?

**Bible Story:** Won't You Please Help Me? (Nehemiah Helps the Poor) • *Nehemiah 5:1-12*

**Key Question:** Who do you see being treated unfairly?

**Bottom Line:** Don't wait for someone else to help people 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, NIV*

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

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## **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.*

### **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**

*After welcome, Host sits down on the edge of the stage and takes off shoes.*

**HOST:** "I have a random question to kick off this morning. Does anyone ever get tired of wearing his or her shoes? I mean, sometimes I just want to be able to kick off my shoes with RECKLESS ABANDON! So how about this—everyone go ahead and take your shoes off if you feel so inclined! *[beat]* There we go! Isn't that SO MUCH better?!"

"In fact, everyone get with your small group—let's go ahead and put your shoes in a pile with the rest of your small group's shoes on the left wall. Just mix 'em up over there; we don't need 'em! Make sure you keep your small group's shoes together, though, so you can find them later!"

*Host allows kids to pile their shoes on the left wall. If possible, create separation between the different small groups' piles of shoes.*

“That’s the ticket! Just let ‘em air out—let all that sweat in your socks hit that open air . . . let the . . . putrid smell . . . of [*Rough estimate of kids in room*] pairs of stinky feet . . . just . . . waft through the breeze . . .”

*Host overreacts to the “terrible smell” and grabs nose.*

“Ugh! Okay, never mind; this was a horrible idea! We all need to put our shoes back on ASAP, but that would be a big, DIRTY job. Hey, why don’t we make a game out of it?”

“Each small group has their shoes in a pile along the left wall, right? Well, let’s have the small groups line up on the far RIGHT wall, directly across from their shoe pile!”

“When I give my signal, the FIRST person in each small group line will hustle (*walk, run, crawl, hop, crab walk, etc.*) to the other side of the room and grab a pair of shoes from his small group’s pile . . . BUT! That pair of shoes can NOT be your own shoes! You must grab shoes that belong to SOMEONE ELSE in your small group! Once you have that pair of shoes, you’ll RUN back to your small group and help the owner of the shoes put his shoes back on. Once the owner of the shoes has his shoes on, he must rush to grab ANOTHER pair of shoes. Then HE must help the shoes’ owner put his shoes back on! The first team to have ALL their shoes on is the WINNER! Make sense? (*Pause for response.*) Good! Run, grab some shoes, help someone put them on and repeat! If there are no questions, the first person in each group needs to get ready . . . AAAAAND GO!”

**SFX:** *High-energy game music*

*Shoe game chaos ensues. To keep groups at bay, consider placing a sports cone in front of the groups. Instruct them to stay behind their cone.*

“And that’s all she wrote! Great job to ALL of our participants. The smell is still lingering, but it’s already starting to improve. And if you’re wondering why I don’t have my shoes back on . . . well, it’s because my feet smell like roses! (*deep sniff*) Mmmmmm . . . delightful.

## **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!

*This Is Living*

**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!

*Alive Again*

*Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

*CG: Blank Key Question Slide*

## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT

### INTRODUCTION

*Communicator carries bench to center stage upon entrance.*

**COMMUNICATOR:** “There’s this really cool idea I’ve been reading about recently. How many of you have heard of something called a ‘Buddy Bench’? *(Pause for response.)* Teachers and principals have been trying out Buddy Benches in schools all across the country—maybe they’ve already put one at your school! For those who are unfamiliar, the “Buddy Bench” a brilliant idea to help everyone have a friend to play with during recess.”

*Communicator moves to bench and sits down.*

“Let’s say you’re new to a school or, worse, you recently had a big falling out with your bestie. Either way, it leaves you with very limited options of people to hang with during recess. So you make your way to the Buddy Bench.”

*Host enters kicking a soccer ball having an obnoxiously good time.*

**HOST:** “WAHOO! Look at me! I’m playing soccer, and I’m having SO MUCH FUN!”

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As you sit on the bench, you’re really hoping someone will invite you to hang out . . . maybe even kick a soccer ball around.”

**HOST:** “MAN! This is the greatest sport of all time! Look at me having SO MUCH FUN!”

**COMMUNICATOR:** “It wouldn’t take much for someone to ask you to play.”

*Host kicks ball into communicator. Communicator picks up ball and hands it back to Host.*

**HOST:** “Thanks for your help! You seem nice. I’d probably invite you to play if I wasn’t having SO MUCH FUN playing soccer by MYSELF. Good luck finding someone to play with!”

*Host kicks ball off stage and exits. Communicator shrugs his or her shoulders and gets up from the bench.*

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “The Buddy Bench is a way to help others. When someone doesn’t have friend to hang out with, the bench signals to everybody else that he or she could help. I absolutely love helping others . . . most of the time.”

“Full disclosure: there are times I hesitate to help. For example, there was a kid at my school who didn’t have many friends. In our defense, the kid was mean and lied a lot. Nevertheless, I did feel bad when I saw him playing by himself. In my heart, I knew what I SHOULD do, but if I played with him, I ran the

risk of people thinking less of me or even losing some of my own friends. And because I was so focused on my own needs, I never took the time to help this kid.”

“Maybe this is true for you as well. I’m sure most everyone in here likes to help others. However, when we focus on ourselves, we run the risk of not lending a hand to help someone else. *[Name of Host]* didn’t invite me to play soccer because it could have interfered with HIS FUN. I didn’t invite the kid who had a mean reputation because it could mess up MY friendships. You don’t share your extra nerf guns with your neighbor because she could break YOUR toy.”

“But what if there was another way? This month we’ve been following the story of a man named Nehemiah. Let’s see what happened when he faced a similar situation.”

### **TRUTH**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “In case you missed the last couple of weeks, Nehemiah was working for the King of Persia when he heard the capital city of his homeland, Jerusalem, was in need of major repairs, which included rebuilding the city walls and gates. At this point in the story, Nehemiah had come to Jerusalem, and the Israelites were working hard to rebuild the walls, but the collapsed wall wasn’t the only problem facing the exiled Jewish people . . . far from it. Poor residents of Jerusalem started crying out and accusing their fellow Jewish brothers of wrongdoing. In the city, wealthy individuals were lending sums of money to those with less. But the wealthy people would severely punish the poorer people when they were late paying back the loans.”

*Communicator calls a kid volunteer to the stage.*

“As a result, some of the poor families were saying that they and their families had nothing to eat!”

*Communicator asks volunteer to hold up a sign that says “HUNGRY” and asks him or her to sit on the bench.*

“Others cried out that these loan sharks confiscated their homes.”

*Communicator calls another kid volunteer to sit on the bench. Communicator asks volunteer to hold up a sign that says “NO HOME” while sitting on the bench.*

“Some said they lost their fields and vineyards due to missed payments. With no fields, it meant no income. With no income, they were forced to sell their children into slavery. It left them feeling powerless.”

*Communicator calls another kid volunteer to sit on the bench. Communicator asks volunteer to hold up a sign that says “POWERLESS” while sitting on the bench.*

“The people of Jerusalem were suffering—no doubt about that. They needed help. If Jerusalem were a playground, these folks would have definitely been sitting on the Buddy Bench.”

*Communicator holds a sign that says “NEHEMIAH” and acts out the scenarios as Nehemiah.*

“Now, Nehemiah could have just strolled past this bench with endless excuses, and no one would have questioned his reasons. The wall needed a lot of attention. The gates needed to be completely rebuilt. But that’s not what he did—instead of thinking about HIS really long “To Do List,” Nehemiah stepped up and DID something about it!”

“In fact, he got MAD—like really mad. He called for an audience with the nobles and officials of Jerusalem and gave ‘em the what-for! Nehemiah said, (*Open Bible and read Nehemiah 5:9-11*) “*What you are doing isn’t right. Shouldn’t you show respect for our God? Shouldn’t you live in a way that will keep our enemies from saying bad things about us? I’m lending the people money and grain. So are my relatives and my men. But we must stop charging interest! Give the people’s fields back to them. Give them back their vineyards, olive groves and houses. Do it right away. Give everything back to them. Also give them back the one percent on the money, grain, fresh wine and olive oil you have charged them.*” In other words . . .”

*Communicator helps the “HUNGRY” kid off the bench, takes the sign, and sends volunteer back to his/her seat.*

“He was telling the powerful men to let the people grow their food!”

*Communicator helps the “NO HOME” kid off the bench, takes the sign, and sends the volunteer back to his/her seat.*

“He was telling the powerful me to give the people their homes back!”

*Communicator helps the “POWERLESS” kid off the bench, takes the sign, and sends the volunteer back to his/her seat.*

“In short, stop abusing YOUR power and give the power back to the PEOPLE.”

“The nobles and officials did not argue. They knew that Nehemiah was there to help rebuild their city back to its former glory, and they knew he was right. They responded, (*Open Bible and read Nehemiah 5:12*) “*We’ll give it back . . . And we won’t require anything more from them. We’ll do exactly as you say.*” They ceased their excessive taxation, they returned the land to its owners, and they gave back the homes that they had unrightfully seized.”

## **APPLICATION**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Let’s not forget. Nehemiah had a *really* big job to do. The reconstruction of his city projects was a huge burden and time consuming. His job didn’t include listening to the problems of the Jewish people living in Jerusalem. In Nehemiah’s situation, it would have been easy to write the problem off; he was there to rebuild a WALL. Someone else could help these people, but Nehemiah did not pass the problems of the people to someone else. He saw their needs, and he DID something about it!”

“And you know what? You can help others, too. Maybe your school doesn’t have a Buddy Bench, but if you keep your eyes open, I bet you can spot someone who’s in need of a friend. Then you can BE a



friend to that person in a way only you can be a friend.”

“Yes, it’s easier to ignore those who need help, especially when we are only focused on ourselves. But please remember this: people need your help, and maybe it’s help that only you can give. Don’t ignore those in need. Figure out a way you could help others. This requires us to look out for people who have needs.”

“It could be your little brother, someone in a different grade, or a person on a different volleyball team. When you see that person in need, take initiative. Stop what you’re doing and do something about it. Lend a helping hand or be a shoulder to cry on. Stand up for someone who needs a hero. Don’t wait for someone else to help.”

### **LANDING**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “As you’re headed to Small Group, consider this question.”

**CG: Key Question Slide**

**“Who do you see being treated unfairly?”** If you can’t think of anyone, just start looking for someone. Or ask your parents to help you brainstorm. People need help . . . your help . . . all the time. Let’s pray and ask God to help us see the people who need our help and give us the courage to take initiative and do something about it.”

**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: Dirty Jobs Theme Slide**

**Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video**