



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- Two small groups
- Table
- Two sleeves of red plastic cups

#### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

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

#### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Theme Slide
- Initiative Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

#### What You Do:

- Put the table on stage.
- Take the cups out of their sleeves and place one stack on each end of the table.

## 2. Bible Story

### What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Six gray boxes from Week One
- Lantern
- Dimmable lights (if you can only turn them on and off, that will work too)

### *Large Group Visuals:*

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

### What You Do:

- Scatter the six boxes on one side of the stage.
- *NOTE: Be sure to keep these boxes, because you'll use them again in future weeks.*

## 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*

**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:** Theme Slide

*Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.*

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "Hello, everyone! I'm [Host's name], and I'm so glad you're here today at [your environment's name]! If you're glad you're here, give me a good fist pump and say, 'I'm pumped!' (*Do a fist pump.*) Ready?"

*Point to the audience.*

**HOST and KIDS:** "I'm pumped!" (*Do a fist pump.*)

**HOST:** "That's awesome! All month we're talking about how we can show initiative.

**CG:** Initiative Slide

**"Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.**

"If you've ever helped clear the dishes after dinner without being asked, that's showing initiative. If you've ever folded laundry without being asked—yup, initiative! If you saw a candy wrapper on the floor of your sister's room and you threw it away for her, definitely initiative!

"See, there's a difference between doing something you're TOLD to do and doing something without being asked. Initiative is about doing any kind of job—no matter how dirty it might be. Because, after all, SOMEBODY'S got to do it!

"Who's ready to kick things off with a fun game?"

**SFX:** Upbeat game music

“Today’s game is called ‘Cup Builders,’ and it’s all about construction. I need two small groups who love to build things!

*Choose two entire small groups. Bring both groups behind the table so the audience can see what they’re doing.*

*(To the two groups)* “Small groups, go ahead and line up behind your stack of cups. You’ll work together to construct a pyramid of cups—like this. *(Demonstrate by building a quick three-cup pyramid.)* You’ll build it one cup at a time. One person will come up to the table, add a cup, and then go to the back of the line. The first group to use all their cups AND have their pyramid still standing will win!

“Groups ready? *(To audience)* Audience, cheer them on! *(To contestants)* On your marks, get set, go!

**SFX: Bring music up**

*Cheer for the groups as they build. Encourage the audience to cheer as well.*

“Look at that! We have a winner! Let’s hear it for both groups. *(To the two groups)* You all can head back to your seats.

*Send the two groups back to their seats.*

“Now let’s stand up and sing to our awesome God!”

*Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.*

## **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**

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

### **CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

#### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Hello, friends! My name is *[Storyteller’s name]* and I can’t WAIT to pick up our story about Nehemiah. First, let’s remember what happened last week in case you weren’t here.

“Nehemiah was living in Susa, serving as the king’s drink taster. Nehemiah’s brother Hanani came to visit him and tell him some super-sad news. The walls surrounding the city of Jerusalem had been destroyed, and the city gates had been burned by fire. This was a big deal, because the people living in Jerusalem weren’t safe without a strong city wall. Anyone could come in and hurt them or take their things.

“Nehemiah was so upset. The people living in Jerusalem were in danger! So even though Nehemiah was afraid, he prayed to God and went to the king and asked if he could go and rebuild the wall. He took initiative for sure!

“Not only did the king say yes, but he also gave Nehemiah tons of supplies and protection to rebuild the walls and help the people living in Jerusalem.”

#### **NEHEMIAH TRAVELS TO JERUSALEM**

**STORYTELLER:** “Nehemiah left Susa and headed for Jerusalem to rebuild the wall.

“Raise your hand if you’ve ever been on a really long road trip. (*Pause for response.*) Who has been on a road trip that was five hours long? (*Pause for response.*) What about ten hours long—like, all the way through lunch AND dinner? (*Pause for response.*) Has anyone been on a road trip longer than 20 hours long? That’s almost a whole day! You’d be asleep before you got to your destination. (*Pause for response.*) Wow!

“Would you like to know how long it took Nehemiah to travel to Jerusalem? Any guesses?”

*Allow a few kids to guess.*

“We don’t know for sure, but it would have taken Nehemiah more than a few days. More than a few weeks, even. It probably took Nehemiah MONTHS to reach Jerusalem. He must have really, really wanted to take initiative. Am I right?”

“Once he got to Jerusalem, he waited a little while before he did anything. One, . . .

**LIGHTS:** *Dim and bring back up*

“ . . . two, . . .

**LIGHTS:** *Dim and bring back up*

“ . . . three days.

“If I were Nehemiah, and I had traveled dusty roads for months, I would have spent those three days sleeping. Well, maybe I would have taken time for one good bath, but then—lots of sleep.”

### **NEHEMIAH TAKES PEOPLE TO THE WALL**

**STORYTELLER:** “But Nehemiah knew he had to continue to take initiative if the wall was ever going to be built.

**LIGHTS:** *Dim*

*Pick up the lantern and turn it on.*

“He took a bunch of people out at night to look at the wall. He hadn’t told them yet that God wanted him to rebuild it.

*Walk to the scattered boxes and examine them with the lantern.*

“He traveled through the Valley Gate. He checked out the walls of Jerusalem. They had been broken down. He also checked the city gates. They had been burned up by fire. Then he went to a place called the Fountain Gate, but it was so destroyed, the donkey he was riding couldn’t get through.

“He turned back. It was still night. And everything his brother Hanani had told him was right. Jerusalem had no protection—no safety. The wall was in ruins!”

### **NEHEMIAH ADDRESSES THE PEOPLE**

**STORYTELLER:** “Nehemiah went back and told his plan to all the people he had brought outside. Here are the words he spoke to the crowd.

*Open the Bible to Nehemiah 2:17. Use the lantern to read it.*

*“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, (NirV).*

“Nehemiah told the people how God had helped him along the way and how the king had given him supplies and protection. Nehemiah knew that God had been with him up until now. He knew that God would continue to be with the people and help them rebuild.

“Thanks to Nehemiah, the people understood what an important job God had given them to do. *Let’s start rebuilding, they said (Nehemiah 2:18, NIV).* And they got started on the work.”

**LIGHTS: Up**

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Nehemiah knew something really important. He knew that when God wants you to do something, you can do it because He is with you. No one asked Nehemiah to gather the people to build the wall. He didn’t wait for someone else to do it. He took initiative and did it, because he knew that was the job God had for him.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.**

“A lot of times it’s hard for us to take initiative because we think, ‘That’s someone else’s job. Someone else will take care of it.’ Or maybe we just don’t think of doing something to help unless someone asks us. But we can take initiative. We can see the things around us that need to be fixed, and we can decide to do something about them.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us with that.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### **Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “God, it’s so good to know that You’re ALWAYS with us. When You ask us to do something, we know You’ll be with us every step of the way. You make us stronger, braver, and better than we’d ever be without You. Please help us to take initiative like Nehemiah did—to do what needs to be done without waiting for someone else to do it. We love You, and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

### **Closer**

**HOST:** “Think about this for a second. Nehemiah’s job WASN’T construction, was it? He was the king’s drink taster. Really, Nehemiah’s real job wasn’t anywhere close to building things—especially humongous city walls. But Nehemiah did something that wasn’t his responsibility. He **[Basic Truth] made the wise choice.** He took initiative, and he did something to fix the problem that he saw.

“You can take initiative, too! You don’t have to wait around for someone else to do what needs to be done. You can clean up a mess you DIDN’T make even if it doesn’t seem fair. You could decide to go to bed on time so you get lots of rest—without having to wait for your parents to tell you. If you see that a friend in your class is having a bad day, you can ask her what’s wrong or maybe even tell her a joke to make her feel better.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.**

“When we take initiative—when we do something good without waiting for someone else to do it—we show others what Jesus is like. Jesus served us in the biggest way by giving up His life when He didn’t have to.

“When we do what needs to be done, it’s actually like we’re doing it for Him. That’s what it says in our memory verse, Colossians 3:23.

**CG: Memory Verse Slide**

*“Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord (Colossians 3:23a, NIV).”*

“When we do something as simple as picking up trash or being a friend to someone who’s sad, it’s actually a BIG deal to God.

“I know you have lots of great ideas of how you can show initiative this week. You’ll talk about that some more in Small Group!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

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

**CG: Theme Slide**

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