



## GETTING READY

### 1. Opener/Closer

#### What You Need:

- Host
- 3 Large garbage cans (you can use boxes, bins, or whatever you have available)
- “Trash” (recycled newspaper, magazine pages, curriculum pages; enough for every kid and Leader in the room to have a piece)
- Masking tape

#### *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

#### What You Do:

- Place the three garbage cans in front of the three sections of the room.

- Wad up each piece of trash.
- Divide the trash evenly into the trash cans.
- Tape a line across the front of the room, a few feet away from the trash cans.
- *Note: Since all of the pieces of trash are paper-based (and hopefully already used), you should be able to recycle them.*

## 2. Bible Story

### What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Six gray boxes from Week One
- Printed script (for the Storyteller)
- Bible
- Large poster board or foam core signs with the “Bible Story Sign Images” (printed):
  - Grain
  - Money bag
  - Royal hat
  - Hammer

### Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Bible Story Sign Images

### 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.*
- Print the four Bible Story Sign Images from the LGK3\_Images folder and enlarge them to fit on your poster board or foam core. Set up the four signs in a row on stage.

## 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*

**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, NIRV*

**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:** *Theme Slide*

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

### **Opener**

**HOST:** "Hey, everybody! I'm [Host's name], and I want to give all of you a HUGE shout-out for showing up today to [your environment's name]! We've got some super-amazing stuff planned for you. But it wouldn't be nearly as amazing if YOU weren't here! In fact, it'd be weird if I were standing here talking to an empty room. Right? Why don't you give yourself a pat on the back and say, 'Good job showing up, self!'"

**HOST and KIDS:** *(Pat yourself on the back.)* "Good job showing up, self!"

**HOST:** "Yes, yes! You're here, I'm here, and today we're going to play one of my most favorite 'dirty job' games yet. And guess what. EVERYONE gets to play! We're doing some dirty jobs around here because we're talking about initiative.

**CG:** *Initiative Slide*

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

"You show initiative any time you see something that needs to be done and you DO it. If you see that your brother forgot his jacket, you grab it on the way out the door and give it to him. If you see the newspaper on the front porch, you pick it up and take it to your parents. If you notice that the sink is full of dishes, you put them in the dishwasher. Sometimes showing initiative can get a little messy.

**SFX:** *Upbeat game music*

"Do you want to know how to play our fun game? Let me show you! We've got three sections here.

*Use your hands to show that you're dividing the room into three sections.*

"Small Group Leaders, while I'm explaining the game, go to the trash can in front of your section and get one piece of trash for you and every member of your small group.

"The name of the game is 'Taking Out the Trash.' I don't know about you, but I think garbage collectors are heroes. What would our houses, apartments, schools, and churches smell like without someone picking up our trash and taking it away?

"When I say, 'GO,' I'll give ALL of you a chance to do the dirty job of taking out the trash. You'll try to throw your piece of trash into the trash can in front of your section. Do you see this tape? (*Point to the tape line.*) You have to stay behind the line when you throw. If you miss, you can keep throwing your trash or your friends' trash until 30 seconds are up . . . but be sure to stay behind the line when your throwing, okay? The section that gets the most pieces of trash in their trash can in 30 seconds wins!

"Ready? Set? TAKE OUT THE TRASH, and GO!

**SFX: Bring up game music**

*Cheer on each section as they throw. Stop the game after 30 seconds.*

"Now it's time to see who was the best at their dirty job!

*Dump out each trash can and count the trash inside. Count each piece of trash by putting it back in the can. The section with the most pieces of trash in their can wins.*

"Let's hear it for the winning section! (*Applaud.*) ALL of you did great! Now let's see how fast you can throw the rest of this trash away. You can come up close this time!

*Give them a few seconds to throw the rest of the trash into the cans.*

"Great job! Now stay standing, because it's time for us to sing together and worship 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!

#### ***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***

*Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.*

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

### **SETTING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, everyone! All month long we're talking about a great man named Nehemiah because he showed TONS of initiative. (*Point to Bible.*) Today we get to continue his story. But first, let's go back and remember everything that's happened so far.

"When we first met Nehemiah, he was living in Susa, serving as a king's drink taster. Nehemiah's brother traveled to tell him that the city his family was from—Jerusalem—was in trouble. The wall surrounding Jerusalem had been destroyed and its gates had been burned by fire. This made Nehemiah so sad! He asked the king if he could go and rebuild the wall. The king said yes, and Nehemiah took the super-long journey to Jerusalem. He took a look at the wall for himself, and then he brought the people together to start rebuilding it.

*Stack two or three of the boxes on top of each other, like you're starting to build a wall.*

"I've got some signs that I'll use to tell our story today. Every time I point to a sign, I want you to do something in return. It'll make sense; trust me.

*Point to the grain sign.*

“This is a picture of grain. Grain is used to make food.”

*Host enters.*

**HOST:** “Did someone say something about food?”

**STORYTELLER:** “Oh, yeah. I did. And I think you can help us out.”

**HOST:** “Well . . . is there food involved?”

**STORYTELLER:** *(Look at the grain sign.)* “Actually, there is.”

**HOST:** “Okay. How can I help?”

**STORYTELLER:** “When I point to these signs, I need you to lead the crowd in what they should do or say in response. The first one is this.

*Point to the grain sign.*

“When I point to this sign, I want everyone to rub their bellies and say, ‘I’m hungry.’”

**HOST:** “Got it. I do that all the time, anyway.”

*Point to the money bag sign.*

**STORYTELLER:** “When I point to this money bag sign, I want everyone to say, ‘Cha-ching!’

*Point to the royal hat sign.*

“This sign represents the nobles and officials in our story—the people in charge. They were the bad guys in the story. So when I point to this sign, I want everyone to say, ‘Dun-dun-dun-DUNNNN!’ *(a la Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony)*.”

*Point to the hammer sign.*

“This is a hammer. It represents Nehemiah. He’s the one who went to Jerusalem to build the wall. He’s the hero of our story. So when I point to this sign, I want you to make a trumpet noise, like this: *(pretending to play a trumpet fanfare)* ‘Dun-da-da-DAAAAAAA!’

*(To Host)* “Got it, [Host’s name]?”

**HOST:** “Got it!”

**STORYTELLER:** *(To audience)* “Got it, audience? *(Pause for response.)* Great!”

*During the rest of the story, Host leads the audience by doing the motions and sound effects along with them.*

## **PEOPLE COME TO NEHEMIAH FOR HELP**

**STORYTELLER:** “Okay, here we go.

*Note: In this next part, keep the script in front of you so you can keep the action moving and also cue the Host and audience at the right times.*

*(Reading from the script)* “Our hero, Nehemiah . . .”

*Point to the hammer sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** *(Pretending to play a trumpet fanfare)* “Dun-da-da-DAAAAAAA!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Our hero, Nehemiah, heard a group of people crying out. They were so sad. They were so angry. There were many, many people living in Jerusalem now. And there wasn’t enough GRAIN for everyone to eat.”

*Point to the grain sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** *(Rubbing their bellies)* “I’m hungry.”

**STORYTELLER:** “Some of the people were being forced to sell their land and homes just to buy enough GRAIN to stay alive.”

*Point to the grain sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** *(Rubbing their bellies)* “I’m hungry.”

**STORYTELLER:** “You see, the nobles and officials . . .”

*Point to the royal hat sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** “Dun-dun-dun-DUNNNN!”

**STORYTELLER:** “. . . were taking advantage of these people. They were taking everything they had and charging them way more MONEY than they were supposed to.”

*Point to the money bag sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** “Cha-ching!”

## **NEHEMIAH HEARS AND GETS ANGRY**

**STORYTELLER:** “When Nehemiah heard the people, he was furious with the nobles and officials.

*Point to the royal hat sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** “Dun-dun-dun-DUNNNN!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Nehemiah was a real hero, . . .”

*Point to the hammer sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** (*Pretending to play a trumpet fanfare*) “Dun-da-da-DAAAAAAA!”

**STORYTELLER:** “. . . so he wasn’t going to let the nobles and officials treat people that way.”

### **NEHEMIAH GOES TO THE NOBLES AND OFFICIALS**

**STORYTELLER:** “Here’s what happened next. This is Nehemiah talking.

*Open the Bible to Nehemiah 5:6-7 and read.*

*“I heard them when they cried out. And I was very angry when I heard what they were saying. I thought it over for a while. Then I accused the nobles and officials of breaking the law, (NIV).*

“Nehemiah wasn’t afraid to face these important people.”

*Point to the royal hat sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** “Dun-dun-dun-DUNNNN!”

**STORYTELLER:** “He knew God was with him. He knew it was the right thing to do. And he wasn’t going to wait on someone else to do it. He took initiative.

“But Nehemiah didn’t stop there. He also told the nobles and officials . . .”

*Point to the royal hat sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** “Dun-dun-dun-DUNNNN!”

**STORYTELLER:** “. . . that they should respect God more—that they should live in a way that would keep their enemies from saying bad things about them. He told them that he was already loaning money . . .”

*Point to the money bag sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** “Cha-ching!”

**STORYTELLER:** “. . . and grain . . .”

*Point to the grain sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** (*Rubbing their bellies*) “I’m hungry.”

**STORYTELLER:** “. . . to the people at a much better price. Then he told the nobles and officials that they should give the people back their land and homes. It was what God would want them to do. And



you know what? The nobles and officials . . .”

*Point to the royal hat sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** “Dun-dun-dun-DUNNNN!”

**STORYTELLER:** “Well, they came to their senses. They made things right. They did exactly what Nehemiah said.”

*Point to the hammer sign.*

**HOST and KIDS:** (*Pretending to play a trumpet fanfare*) “Dun-da-da-DAAAAAAA!”

*Put the script down.*

**STORYTELLER:** (*No longer reading from the script*) “That was great! (*To Host*) Thanks for your help, [*Host’s name*]. (*To audience*) Let’s give him a hand!”

*Host exits.*

### **WRAPPING UP THE STORY**

**STORYTELLER:** “Every time we hear another part of Nehemiah’s story, we can see another way he showed initiative. He could have charged the people lots of extra money when he loaned them grain and cash, like the nobles and officials did. But he didn’t. He put their needs ahead of his. He was willing to stop what he was doing and defend them when they came to him for help.

“Once everyone had what they needed, Nehemiah and the people were able to get back to the wall—the wall God wanted them to build.

“Nehemiah took initiative. He didn’t wait for someone else to take care of the people who came to him for help. We can do the same thing. We can be ready to help when someone needs a hand.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Don’t wait for someone else to help people in need.**

“It can be tough to look out for other people—especially when we’re in the middle of something we want to do. But God can help us look for ways to help others. Let’s pray together.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### **Pray**

**STORYTELLER:** “God, please help us show initiative like Nehemiah did. I pray that we would always be looking for ways to help people in need. I pray that we would WANT to be the ones to help. Help us to love other people like You love us, so we can help the people around us who need a hand. We love You, and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

### Closer

**HOST:** “You know what God thinks about people in need? He thinks they’re just as important, just as worthy, and just as lovable as anyone else. He wants us to work to make things right for them.

“Sometimes that means we have to stop what we’re doing to help people in need. That’s what Nehemiah did. He stopped building the wall—something that was incredibly important to him—to help the people who were being treated unfairly.

“He understood something that you and I need to remember, too.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Don’t wait for someone else to help people in need.**

“If your little brother or sister is trying to lift something heavy out of the bottom of their closet, offer to help them. If someone is sad and needs to talk, tell them you’ll listen. Stand up for someone who’s being picked on. That’s how you can take initiative and **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.**

“If you see that someone needs help and you’re not sure what to do about it, you can always talk to God. You can talk to your parents, too. They can help you see what people around you need, and together, you can talk about ways to lend a hand.

“You’ll get to talk about that in Small Group right now. Have a great time!”

*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**