



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- 4 small buckets
- Plastic bugs
- 4 Toy butterfly nets

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 plastic bugs into the small buckets. Count out more bugs than you think you'll need

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Six gray boxes from Week One
- Hammer
- Clock
- Party hat
- Party supplies, such as:
 - Party hats
 - Horns/blowers
 - Streamers
 - Confetti guns
 - Balloons
 - Beach balls

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Build the wall out of the six boxes—center stage, like it was set up the previous week.
- Open the three boxes that make up the top layer of the wall. In each one, place one of the following: hammer, clock, party hat.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Every Beat
- Alive Again

Rebuild This City

Bible Story: Rebuild This City (The Wall is Rebuilt) • *Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17*

Bottom Line: Look for ways to celebrate what God has 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 can trust God no matter what.

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, hello! I’m so pumped to see everyone here today at [your environment’s name]. If you like having a good time with friends, you’ve come to the right place!”

“All month long we’ve been talking about initiative.”

CG: *Initiative Slide*

“Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.”

“We’ve talked a lot this month about how we can see what needs to be done and then do it! I want to hear from you. Can you think of ways we can do that? Any ideas?”

Allow a few kids (and Leaders) to share their ideas.

“Awesome! I think you guys know more about initiative now than I do!”

“Sometimes initiative means doing things that you don’t WANT to do, because you know they need to get done. Sometimes those jobs can be icky or messy or dirty. But no matter how dirty the job might be, SOMEBODY’s got to do it. That ‘somebody’ could be you!”

SFX: *Upbeat game music*

“Who’s ready for today’s game? I need 4 volunteers and their small group leader. But I’ve got to warn you—it’s another dirty job. Today, all of you get to be exterminators! An exterminator’s job is to keep

harmful insects and bugs out of our homes. I don't know about you, but I don't want to wake up in a bed of ants and roaches. Ewww! I'm so glad exterminators see what needs to be done and do it.

"To play this game, each kid needs a bucket and each leader needs a net

"Kids, go ahead and take 10 steps away from your Leader. Leaders, hold up your nets. When I say, 'Go,' all of you kids will try to throw your bugs into your Leader's net. If you miss, you can keep trying—but remember to stay five steps away! I'll give you 30 seconds. The group that catches the most bugs in their net wins!

"Are you ready? Set . . . GO!

SFX: Bring up game music

Cheer on each group. Give a play-by-play of groups who seem to be in the lead. Stop the action after 30 seconds.

"Okay, Leaders, how many did you get?

Let each Leader call out how many bugs they caught. The group with the most is the winner. If there's a tie, that's fine, too.

"It looks like we have a winner! Great job catching those bugs, everyone. If there are any bugs left on the floor, go ahead and put them in your Leader's net and our friends will collect them.

Worship Leaders collect the nets (with the bugs in them).

"Now let's all stand up and sing to our great God!"

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!

Alive Again

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, everyone! All month long we’ve been talking about a pretty incredible guy named Nehemiah. *(Hold up Bible.)*

“If you haven’t been here, or if you don’t remember Nehemiah’s story, let’s recap really quick.

Walk over to the mini-wall of boxes. Take two or three of the boxes off as you talk.

“The city of Jerusalem had been destroyed, along with the wall that protected it. A group of people had been allowed to go back into the city, but they found that it was in ruins.

“When Nehemiah heard that even the city walls were broken and the people in it had no protection, he knew he had to do something. He traveled to Jerusalem and gathered the people. Together, they worked hard to rebuild the city’s wall AND all of its gates.”

Put the boxes back in place on the wall.

JERUSALEM’S ENEMIES ARE AFRAID

Open up one of the top boxes and pull out the hammer. Hold it up.

STORYTELLER: “Nehemiah and the people built the wall in only 52 days! Do you know how big of a wall we’re talking about? It wasn’t small, like this one. We’re talking about a wall that protected an entire city! It must have been SOME wall.

“And its gates were like new. At one time they were burned and broken, but now they were fixed. Jerusalem was safe!

“You know what happened next? The surrounding cities—including Jerusalem’s enemies—heard about what happened. They all became afraid. They realized that God had helped the people of Jerusalem

finish their wall.

“Remember Nehemiah’s brother Hanani? He was the one who told Nehemiah that the city walls were broken to begin with. Nehemiah put Hanani in charge of the city, which is a pretty cool thing to do for your brother!”

Place the hammer on top of the box it was in.

EZRA AND THE PEOPLE HONOR GOD

Open up one of the top boxes and pull out the clock. Hold it up.

STORYTELLER: “Jerusalem was a strong city again, and everyone wanted to take time to honor God. A priest named Ezra was one of those people.

“Ezra read God’s law to all the men, women, and children who could understand. It says he read from sunrise until noon! Can you believe that? That’s, like, six hours! I can’t really sit still for six minutes, much less six hours!

“But the people were so grateful to God for all He had done. They really wanted to learn more and more about Him. They wanted to understand how He wanted them to live. So they sat and listened quietly—adults and kids!

“When Ezra opened the book, the people lifted up their hands, turned their faces toward the ground, and worshipped God. They didn’t care how long they spent—they just wanted to say thank you to God.”

Place the clock on top of the box it was in.

NEHEMIAH COMFORTS THE PEOPLE

STORYTELLER: “All the people in Jerusalem had been listening to the laws. They began to realize that they had not obeyed God. They realized they had broken many of His laws. They had sinned. They hadn’t lived the way He had wanted them to. So they started to get really sad. They started to cry.

“Nehemiah spoke up. He looked at the people who were sad and feeling bad about what they’d done. Listen to what he said.

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 8:10 and read.

“Go and enjoy some good food and drinks and sweet drinks. Send some of it to people who don’t have any This day is holy to our Lord. So don’t be sad. The joy of the Lord makes you strong, (NIRV).

Open up the last top box and pull out the party hat. Hold it up.

“Nehemiah understood why the people were sad. It was good that they wanted to change their ways and start living God’s way again. But Nehemiah also wanted them to take time to see something important. He wanted them to stop and celebrate all that God had done for them along the way.

“You see, they had gathered together during an important time of year. It was a special holiday they celebrated each year called the Feast of Booths. They made booths—or tents—out of branches. They set up these booths on the roofs of their houses and in their courtyards. It was a way for them to remember how God had taken care of them long ago and led them out of slavery in Egypt.

“Nehemiah wanted the people to celebrate what God had done for them in the past AND how He had helped them finish the huge job of rebuilding the city walls and gates.” (*Point to the wall of boxes.*)

Place the party hat on top of the box it was in.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “The people listened to Nehemiah. They celebrated with great joy. They understood that God loved them. He still had BIG plans for them, no matter how much they had disobeyed in the past.

“Nehemiah knew something important.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“He knew that we should **[Bottom Line] look for ways to celebrate what God has done.**

“That’s something WE can do, too. We can take time to celebrate the good things God has done for us. He’s done amazing things through all the people we read about in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) He’s done amazing things in your parents’ lives, and your Leaders’ lives, too. He’s done amazing things in YOUR lives, too. I bet each one of you could tell me lots of things that God has done for you. That’s definitely worth celebrating, don’t you think?”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

“Let’s pray and talk to God right now.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for all the different ways You’re working in our lives. We can see how you worked through Nehemiah and the people as they rebuilt Jerusalem. We know You can work through us, too. Help us to see all that You’re doing in us and around us each day. Help us to take time to celebrate You and remember what You’ve done. We love You, and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “You know, sometimes it’s hard for us to remember to **[Bottom Line] celebrate what God has done.** We get busy and we forget. But you know what? We can celebrate God all year long. Not just at Christmas or Easter—all the time!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“We can **[Bottom Line]** look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

“We can thank God for prayers He’s answered. We can thank Him for the sunrise or the rain. We can thank Him for our pets, our friends, and our families. We can thank Him for being a God **[Basic Truth]** **we can trust no matter what**. And just when you think God hasn’t given you anything to celebrate, I want you to think about this.

“God created the world and everything in it. And when He was finished, it was perfect. There was no death, no sadness, no hurt. Everything was TRULY perfect. But then something happened, right? Adam and Eve disobeyed God. That’s called sin. And when they sinned, they broke God’s perfect world. Since God can’t be close to sin, everyone became separated from Him. It made God so, so sad.

“But God LOVES us. He wanted to be close to us. So He showed the greatest level of initiative the world has ever seen. He made a plan to fix a problem He didn’t make. He had one Son—one special, perfect Son. His name is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life. When Jesus died on the cross, He took our sin on Himself, and then rose again. Now we can be close to God again. We can be in His family. If we put our faith and hope in Jesus, we can live with God in heaven one day—and forever!

“I don’t know about you, but I think that’s definitely something worth celebrating. You guys can talk some more about that in Small Group—but right now, I want to do what the city of Jerusalem did. As soon as they finished building the wall, they threw a huge party. Do you want to do that right now? Me too! Let’s sing and celebrate what God has done!”

Worship Team enters. Host stays and sings in the audience.

Worship

“Yes! I love having a praise party. Let’s celebrate God and thank Him with everything we’ve got. Don’t hold back. Get loud. Let’s sing and shout this song: ‘At the Top of My Lungs!’”

SFX: “At the Top of My Lungs” / track 1 from At the Top of My Lungs

Optional CG: “At the Top of My Lungs” Live Lyrics Video or Dance Moves Music Video

Volunteers enter and hand out party supplies. Use confetti guns, balloons, streamers, beach balls—whatever you want to use to create a fun celebration!

At the end of the song, Host jumps up on stage and dismisses kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide

Optional CG (Media Package): Theme Loop Video