



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Makin' Plans

Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall
Nehemiah 1:1-2:18

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- MONTHLY CHALLENGE - INITIATIVE
 - Shares stories each week with your groups that showed someone who has initiative.

LARGE GROUP SUPPLIES

- Masking or gaffer's tape
- Balloons, inflated with air; at least one for each small group plus extras

WORSHIP:

- THE BEST IS YET TO COME
- GOOD GRACE

STORY SUPPLIES

- Biblical costume for Host, including a fake beard (if needed)
- High table and chair
- Quill pen (i.e. a regular pen with a large feather attached)
- Binder with printed script (Highlight hosts part)
- Insulated cup
- Calendar
- Camping lantern, toy torch, or large battery-operated candle

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Makin' Plans
Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall
Nehemiah 1:1–2:18

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.
Colossians 3:23a, NIRV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "I'm so glad to see all of you today, and I'm so glad that you're ready to go for this time of worship. Every day, we can follow God and take initiative to do what He's given us to do.

AUDIO: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

AUDIO: GOOD GRACE

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everybody! It's so great to see you! My name is [your name]. I'm so glad you're here today at Mission. This month, we're getting 'ready for launch' and finding out how we can take initiative. Initiative is kind of a big word. Let's see what it means.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"Usually, we wait for someone to ASK us to do things . . . like cleaning our room, feeding the dog, or putting our dishes in the sink. But initiative means that we're always on the lookout for things that need to be done, and we don't wait for someone to ask us to do them. We don't wait for someone ELSE to do them. We just . . . do them!



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“We need initiative whether we’re flying through outer space or right here on Earth. And we don’t have to do it alone, because God is always there to help us.

“Speaking of things that need to be done, we’ve got some asteroids around here (*reference the balloons at the starting line*), and they need to be moved around a little. This is a relay race. So everyone line up with your small group behind this line. (*Reference the tape starting line.*)

Give the small groups some time to line up behind the starting line.

“When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll take turns hopping across the room like this, without dropping your asteroid. (*Demonstrate hopping with a balloon between your knees.*) You’ll carry it between your knees like this as you hop to the other side of the room and back. But be careful that you don’t pop it!

“If you drop the asteroid at any point, you have to stop where you are and put it between your knees again before you continue moving. When you get back to the starting line, you give your asteroid to the next person in line. Then it’s their turn to go to the other side and back. Leaders, you’ll go last. Are we ready to go? (*Pause for response.*) Let’s count it down. Three, two, one, GO!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Provide funny commentary during the relay and celebrate as everyone finishes. This game won’t have a winner, but everyone can celebrate when all teams are done.



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hey, friends! As [Host’s name] told you earlier, we’re talking this month about initiative.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

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

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

“All month, we’ll look at the life of a man who showed a LOT of initiative and took on a very important job. *(Hold up Bible.)* His name was Nehemiah.

“In fact, we just happen to have a brilliant actor backstage who will play the part of Nehemiah. I mean, you’ve never seen such incredible acting before in your life. Playing the part of Nehemiah, please welcome . . . [Host’s name]!

Host enters, bowing, wearing a Biblical costume (and fake beard, if needed).

“Unfortunately, during this time, God’s people just couldn’t bring themselves to follow God and live His way. They kept turning away from God . . . and eventually, God allowed enemy armies to take His people captive and take them away to the Babylonian Empire.

“After 70 years, some of God’s people were allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple that had been destroyed. Meanwhile, in the Babylonian Empire—which was now part of Persia—the Jewish people had settled in and made lives for themselves. Among them was our friend Nehemiah. *(Reference the Host.)*

“In fact, Nehemiah had a pretty important job as the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes.

Hand the insulated cup to the Host.

“That meant that he was always with the king, and before the king would drink anything, Nehemiah would taste it first to make sure it was safe.

Host pretends to take a drink from the (empty) cup, looks thoughtful, then gives a thumbs-up. Then he hands the cup back to the Storyteller.

“The king trusted Nehemiah with his very own life.

“Now, you’re in for a treat today, because as the events of this story unfold, we get to listen in on what Nehemiah might have written in his journal.



Host sits down at the table.

“We don’t know if Nehemiah HAD a journal. But if he did, it might have sounded something like this.”

NEHEMIAH’S BROTHER’S NEWS

AUDIO: “ZEMER ATIK” BY MICHAEL LEVY

Host opens the binder and picks up the quill pen. He pretends to write while reading his lines out loud from the printed script inside the binder.

Host: Be sure to speak slowly and clearly—ideally with a microphone so the kids can easily hear you over the music.

HOST: *(reading from the script)* “My brother, Hanani, returned today from a trip to Judah. I asked him about the people and the city of Jerusalem.

“He and the men with him said to me, ‘Some of the people who returned are still alive. They are back in the land of Judah. But they are having a hard time. They are ashamed. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down. Its gates have been burned with fire.’ (Nehemiah 1:3, NIV)

“Uh-oh. That’s not good.”

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

STORYTELLER: “No . . . that’s NOT good. *(to audience)* During this time in history, everyone knew that a city without walls was in danger of being attacked. Nehemiah was heartbroken to hear this news . . . and he wept.

Host buries his head in his folded arms and pretends to cry. (This should be sincere, not comical.)

“Nehemiah prayed to God.

Host folds his hands and looks upward.

“He reminded God of the promise God had made to His people—that if they returned to Him, He would bring them back together again.”

NEHEMIAH’S REQUEST

STORYTELLER: “Months passed.

Host picks up the calendar and flips through the pages.

“One day, the king noticed that Nehemiah looked sad.

AUDIO: “ZEMER ATIK” BY MICHAEL LEVY



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Host picks up the quill pen. He pretends to write while again reading his lines out loud from the printed script inside the binder.

HOST: "Today, the king asked me if I was sad. I told him what had happened. I told him the wall of Jerusalem had been destroyed, and I asked him to let me go and rebuild it.

"I also asked the king to give me letters to all of the governors in the land so that I could have permission to travel safely. And that's not all. I asked him for a letter to the keeper of the royal park, so I could have logs to build with.

"The king gave me everything I asked for . . . and he's even sending army officers to keep me safe. I am so grateful for the king's kindness to me.

Host sets the quill down, smiles, and takes a deep breath. Then he looks thoughtful and starts to write again.

"I wonder who will taste his drinks, though . . ."

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS

STORYTELLER: "Nehemiah had everything he needed for the journey. He traveled to Jerusalem to see what he could do to help."

AUDIO: "ZEMER ATIK" BY MICHAEL LEVY

Host pulls out the camping lantern, toy torch, or large battery-operated candle and sets it down on the table.

He picks up the quill pen and pretends to write while again reading his lines out loud from the printed script inside the binder.

HOST: "I've made it to Jerusalem. It was a long journey, but I know that God is with me. I wanted to see the wall of the city and find out how badly damaged it is. It was dark, but we went out to look at the wall. I'm not going to lie. It looks pretty bad. But with God's help, I believe we can rebuild it!"

Host nods confidently as he writes the last word and sets down the quill.

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

STORYTELLER: "Nehemiah had seen the damage to the wall, and he knew that something had to be done about it. God's people needed to be safe! Their city shouldn't be a pile of rubble! So Nehemiah took initiative.

Walk over next to the Host.

"He told the officials:



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 2:17 (NirV) and read.

“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.

“The officials agreed with Nehemiah. They said, ‘Let’s start rebuilding.’ (Nehemiah 2:18, NirV) The rest of the people of Jerusalem got on board too, and they got to work!

(to Host) “Nehemiah, thanks so much for joining us today; and for letting us hear what you wrote in your journal. You have quite a story to tell.

Host waves and exits.

(to audience) “And we’re just getting started—because all month, we’ll continue the story of Nehemiah and see how it all turned out!”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “God moved the hearts of the people to want to help Nehemiah. And together, they began the gigantic job of repairing the walls and gates of Jerusalem.

“Nehemiah knew that it was important for SOMEONE to do something to help . . . so why not him? First, he took the initiative to see the problem for himself. Then, he helped the people see how God could work through them as they made plans to rebuild. With God’s help, they could work together to make the city strong and safe!

“Nehemiah’s story shows us something important that we can also do today. Here it is.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.

“When we see something that needs to be done, we don’t have to wait around and hope that someone else will take care of it. We can jump into action and make it better—together. Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for the story of Nehemiah. It’s so cool to see how Nehemiah trusted You and took initiative to help the people of Jerusalem. He showed them how they could work together to fix the problem with Your help. Please help us trust You like he did. Help us look around for ways that we can show initiative . . . and help us take action instead of waiting for someone else to help. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



CLOSER

Host enters (back in normal clothes) as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “What a cool story! It’s pretty amazing how Nehemiah took the initiative to help the people of Jerusalem. I mean, Nehemiah wasn’t even LIVING in Jerusalem. Remember, he was far away in Persia! So it would have been easy for him to think, ‘Well, that’s too bad about what they’re going through . . . but maybe someone else will do something to help.’

“That’s not what Nehemiah did, is it? Nope. He decided that HE would be the one to help. He asked the king to let him go to Jerusalem . . . he saw the damage for himself . . . then he rallied the people to start rebuilding. I think it’s safe to say that God worked through Nehemiah in a BIG way!

“God can work through us, too. **[Basic Truth] We can trust Him no matter what!** He can help us see the things around us that need to be done or the people who need our help. He can help us take initiative and do something to lend a hand.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.

“We can also look at the life of Jesus and see how HE took initiative. When Jesus saw a need, He did something about it! He healed people who needed healing. He taught people who needed to learn. And Jesus took care of our greatest need when He died on the cross for our sins.

“So this week, let’s try to SEE what needs to be done around us . . . then let’s do something about it! If you see your dirty socks lying on the floor, take initiative and toss them in the hamper. If you see that your brother forgot to feed the fish, don’t go tell your mom that he forgot. Feed the fish FOR him, then let him know you’ve got it covered. If you notice that one of your friends seems sad, don’t just walk on by. Stop and ask her what’s wrong. Maybe she just needs a good friend like you to let her know you care!

“Here’s our memory verse for this month, Colossians 3:23.

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

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

“We can take initiative to do what needs to be done—and we can work at it with all of our hearts! Sounds like a plan, don’t you think? You can head to Small Group, and I’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

1. OPENER/CLOSER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Host
- Masking or gaffer's tape
- Balloons, inflated with air; at least one for each small group plus extras

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun instrumental music for the game

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE 252 MEDIA PACKAGE):

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App Transition to Theme

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play. *Note: Legally a song belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their*

members' music. Usually, but not always, PROs give general permission for performances in worship services. We recommend you obtain permission from the PRO representing the song or the publisher of the song you wish to play. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. For a list of PROs in your part of the world: www.iamusic.com. Look at the copyright on the CD or sheet music to discover the PRO or publisher of the song. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song.

- 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.
- Tape a start line and an end line on the floor, about 10 to 15 feet apart. The kids will need to carry the balloon from the start line to the end line then back, using only their knees. Be sure to leave room for the groups to line up behind the start line.
- Inflate the balloons and place them in front of the start line. Be sure to have extras in case any balloons pop.

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "Ready Set Go" from *Little Praise Party-Ready Set Go*
- "Make a Move" from *Make a Move* single (In *Get Reel* there is a *Live Loud* video you can show to help teach and encourage worship in our everyday lives. Consider using this segment before doing "Make a Move.")

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- "Ready Set Go" Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "I Run to You" Live Lyrics Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com) or *Dance Moves Music Video* (available through the 252 Media Package)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.