



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I Just Want to Celebrate

The Wall Is Rebuilt
Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to celebrate
what God has 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, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Initiative—Seeing what needs
to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

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.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

WORSHIP:

- THERE'S NOTHING THAT OUR GOD CAN'T DO
ZWAY MAKER

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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The Wall Is Rebuilt
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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: "It's the best part of my week right now. You're here. I'm here. We've got a couple of awesome praise songs to sing to God."

AUDIO: THERE'S NOTHING THAT OUR GOD CAN'T DO

AUDIO: WAY MAKER

Host enters.

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

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everybody! My name is [your name], and I am so pumped to be here with you today! All month long, we've talked about initiative."

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

"When you have initiative, you're 'ready for launch!' You're on the lookout for things that need to be done at home, at school, or in your neighborhood. And when you see something that needs to be done, you do something to help! God has given each of us the ability to take initiative and make things better for the people around us."

"I've got a fun game for us that will require some initiative . . . and some paper-folding skills, too!"



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

(Hold up the stacks of paper.) “First, here’s the paper. Leaders, can you please hand out one piece of paper to each kid in your group?”

Hand a stack of paper and some pens or pencils to each Small Group Leader. Give them a chance to pass out a piece of paper to each kid in their group.

“Okay, everyone. When you get your paper, go ahead and fold it into a space shuttle—like this.

Hold up your pre-made paper airplane.

“If you’re not sure how to do it, you can ask your friends or your leader for help. Ready? Fold!”

Give the kids some time to make their paper space shuttles (i.e. paper airplanes).

“Okay, last step: write your first and last name somewhere on your space shuttle.

Give them some time to do this. After they finish, ask the leaders to collect their group’s pens or pencils, then go around to collect them from everyone before you move on.

“All right! If your shuttle is complete, hold it in the air. *(Pause and look around.)* Great! Those look like they’ll fly through the galaxy with ease. When I call your small group, you’ll bring your space shuttle up here to the throw line. *(Point to the tape line on the floor.)* We’ll all count, ‘three, two, one, LAUNCH,’ and everyone in the group will throw their shuttle and try to land it inside the landing zone.

Toss your paper shuttle toward the hula hoop on the floor to demonstrate.

“After all groups have a turn, we’ll open the space shuttles that successfully landed in the landing zone, and we’ll find out who they belong to. Are you ready? Let’s get started. First up, [leader’s name]’s group!”

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Have the first group stand behind the throw line. Let them throw their space shuttles (on your cue) and try to land them inside the hula hoop.

Let each small group have a turn—one group at a time.

After all groups have their turn, pick up the shuttles inside the hula hoop. Read the names of the kids whose shuttles made it into the landing zone.

“That was incredible! All of you did a great job making your space shuttles. Can you help me put them in here before we move on to worship?”

Get the kids to help you collect the remaining paper shuttles in the plastic bin.

“Thanks so much! Now, let’s sing to God and thank Him for being so good to us.”



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PRELUDE

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HOME

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, friends! We’ve been looking all month at the story of Nehemiah. *(Hold up Bible.)* And today, we get to see how it all turned out!

“When we started, Nehemiah was living in the land of Persia. He had an important job as cupbearer to the king. But then he heard that the city walls of Jerusalem were broken and the people weren’t safe. So Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem to see the broken-down walls for himself. He knew that something needed to be done . . . so he took initiative to help! He rallied the people of Jerusalem to help rebuild their city.

“The work must have seemed nearly impossible—especially when the workers faced trouble from people in the lands around them and when Nehemiah had to tell the officials to stop charging the people extra to pay for food. But through all those challenges, God was with His people. In the end, the people stayed focused on the job they had to do. In 52 days, they finished the city wall along with the towers and gates!”

COME TOGETHER

STORYTELLER: “To tell you what happened next, I’d love to have some of you help act it out. Raise your hand if you want to be on stage!

Choose four volunteers. Give each of them a large letter sign to hang around their neck: N for Nehemiah, E for Ezra, and L for the two Levites.

“Okay, actors, I’ll show you the action I need you to do, then you just copy me. But do it even BIGGER, so everyone in the room can see. Cool? Cool.

Walk to “Nehemiah.”

“Nehemiah knew why the people had been successful with their big rebuilding project. It was because God had helped them finish the work.

Show Nehemiah how to extend his hands to indicate “the work” then point up. Pause so he can then do the same motion for the audience to see.

“Nehemiah called all the people together.

Show Nehemiah to do a “come on, everyone!” gesture. Pause so he can do the same motion for the audience to see.

“Men, women, and children gathered at sunrise to hear the prophet Ezra read from God’s Word.



PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

Walk to "Ezra." Have him step on the step stool, and give him a scroll. Show him how to extend the scroll and pretend that he's reading to the people.

"Everyone bowed down as they praised God for all that He had done for them.

Nod to the audience to cue them to bow down.

"Nice job. You can sit up now. (Reference Ezra.) Ezra read God's Word until lunchtime.

Walk to the two "Levites." Give each of them a scroll as well.

"The Levites also read God's laws to the people, and they helped the people understand what those laws meant."

Show the "Levites" how to open their scrolls and pretend that they're reading to the people.

DON'T BE SAD

STORYTELLER: "As the people listened to God's laws, they were sad and began to weep. They realized that they hadn't been following God's laws very well at all.

(to audience) "All right, people, let me hear some sniffles. (Pause for response.) Oh, that sounds so sad! (Reference the kids on stage.) But Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites didn't let their sadness continue. They told the people, 'Don't worry! It's okay!'"

Nod to the kids on stage to get them to repeat after you. (You might have to say your line again to cue them.)

KID VOLUNTEERS: "Don't worry! It's okay!"

STORYTELLER: "Actually, it was more like this. They said . . .

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 8:9 (NirV) and read.

"This day is set apart to honor the Lord your God. So don't weep. Don't be sad.

(Reference Nehemiah.) "Nehemiah told the people . . .

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 8:10 (NirV) and read.

"Go and enjoy some good food 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.

Show Nehemiah how to flex his muscles. Pause so he can do the same motion for the audience to see.

(as Nehemiah flexes) "That's right! 'The joy of the Lord makes you STRONG!' (NirV)



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25 MINUTES

"The people's sadness turned to joy. Quick—everybody jump to your feet, because it's time for a 20-second dance party!

AUDIO: FUN, UPBEAT WORSHIP SONG (SUGGESTION: CHORUS OF "MAKE A MOVE" BY ORANGE KIDS MUSIC)

"Perfect! Thanks so much! *(to audience)* You can have a seat."

THE FEAST

STORYTELLER: "As the people listened to God's laws, they learned that it was time to celebrate an important feast: Sukkot, or the Feast of Booths. It was a way to remember how God took care of His people in the wilderness after He led them out of slavery in Egypt.

Bring out the camping tent and set it on stage, next to the kid actors.

"During this celebration, everyone lived in tents and booths. Maybe the tents didn't look exactly like THIS *(reference the tent)*, but it was kind of like they all went camping together!

"The people cut branches from olive, myrtle, and palm trees and brought them back to the city. They built shelters and lived in them for an entire week while they celebrated what God had done for them. They took the initiative to celebrate all the ways God had helped them over many, many years.

"Speaking of which, I think I feel another 20-second dance party coming on! Everybody up!

AUDIO: FUN, UPBEAT WORSHIP SONG (SUGGESTION: CHORUS OF "MAKE A MOVE" BY ORANGE KIDS MUSIC)

"Whew! I love it! *(to audience)* You can have a seat. Let's give our actors a big hand, as well."

Cheer for the kid volunteers as you send them back to their seats. Collect their letter signs as they go.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "The people were filled with joy as they reconnected with God and began to understand how much He loved them. God's people hadn't celebrated the Feast of Booths in this way in hundreds of years!

"Each day, Ezra read more of God's laws to them. And the people began to understand all that God had planned for them. They had already seen how God had helped them rebuild the city of Jerusalem, and they knew that God would be with them in the future, too.

"God is with US, just like He was with His people back then. He **LOVES** us. He's always there to help us. **[Basic Truth]** **We can trust Him no matter what!** We can take the initiative to thank God and celebrate what He's done in our lives.

"We can do this.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE



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FOUR
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K-3

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

25 MINUTES

“Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

“Let’s talk to God and thank Him for all that He’s done for us.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for being so good to us. You’re always there to help us—just like You were with Nehemiah and the people as they rebuilt the city of Jerusalem. Help us take the initiative to celebrate all the things You’ve done in our lives AND all the things You’re doing in our lives, right now! Help us remember to thank You and give You the honor You deserve. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



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PRELUDE

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25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters with Bible as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “It must have been so amazing for God’s people to be able to celebrate like that—after all their hard work and all that they had been through together!

“But they weren’t just celebrating because they finished the job. Nehemiah encouraged the people to take time to honor God, because God had been so GOOD to them every step of the way. God had always been there to help them, just like He had helped their ancestors so many years before.

“There are so many reasons that we can celebrate what God has done in our lives. God has good plans for us, just like He had good plans for His people all throughout history. He helps us make wise choices. He helps us make things right with others. He LOVES us, and He’s always with us—no matter what!

“Every day, let’s remember to do this.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

“When we look back at God’s Story in the Bible (*hold up Bible*), we can see all the amazing things God has done in the past. We can see how God led His people through all kinds of challenges. We can see how He made each person in His image and how He has an important purpose for each and every one of us. We can see how God loved the world so much that He sent Jesus to be our Savior!

“When we think of all that God has done, it makes us want to celebrate. We can take the initiative to do that, any time! It doesn’t have to be a holiday, like Christmas or Easter. Every day, we can choose to be grateful and tell God how thankful we are for His love.

“Let’s keep the celebration going in Small Group. You can head that way now!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP