



PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to help kids get excited about taking initiative to get things done. Pray that kids would see initiative as an opportunity to invest in the relationships they have with those they live with and spend time with at school, in the neighborhood, and on the sports field. Ask God to help all of us overcome our natural tendency to say “not my job” and instead jump in and do what needs to be done.

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, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, hand sanitizer, crumpled foil pieces

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct the kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Ask: How has the new school year been so far? (If they haven’t started yet, ask what they hope for in the new school year.)
- As kids arrive, encourage them to toss a “moon rock” around the group.
- Direct the kid who catches the moon rock to name one thing that could “start” or “begin.” (examples a school year, a vacation, a week, a test, etc.)
- For older kids, when they catch a moon rock, ask them to say a synonym for “start.” (examples begin, commence, launch, kick-off, premiere, take-off, etc.)
- When a kid shares an answer, instruct them to toss a moon rock to someone else.



MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Tips below.

LIGHT POPCORN

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Popcorn Poster" Activity Page, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a Bible.
- Look up the memory verse using the Bible Navigation

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***Finding verses with a multi-age group:** Guide all kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, ask a middle elementary kid (2nd–3rd grade) to find Colossians in the list under "New Testament." When the kid finds Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word and say it, explaining that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Ask older elementary kids (4th–5th grade) to help younger ones find the correct page in their Bibles. When they all find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Ask a kindergartner or 1st grader to find chapter 3, and give time for all the kids to turn the pages to find it. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers and ask a middle elementary kid to find verse 23 in chapter 3. Then, read the verse aloud slowly, especially for your pre-readers; or ask older elementary kids to read it to the group*

- Set out the "Popcorn Poster" Activity Page.
- Gather the group in a circle.
- Instruct the group to sit down.
- Ask the kids if they've ever played "popcorn" with a verse or a sentence. One person jumps up and says a word then the person beside them does the next word, etc.
- Explain that you'll play a different version of the game "popcorn." In this version, you choose the kid to start and anyone can say the next word and the word after that. There are a few catches:
 - If two kids say a word at the same time, the group has to start over.
 - Everyone has to say at least one word of the verse or the group has to start over.
 - If no one says the next word in the verse after ten seconds, the group must start again.
- If you have older kids, instruct them not to talk to each other to plan or strategize; not to call someone's name; and not to point or use their hands. They can look at other kids, but can't strategize in any way.
- Tell the first kid the first word of the verse.
- Eventually, the kids will be able to work together to say the verse a word at a time without prompting.
- Be patient and remind kids not to give up.



WEEK
ONE
SEPTEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES**

(LIGHT POPCORN, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

“You did it! How did it feel when you finally got to the end of the verse? *(Invite answers.)* How did you decide when to say what word? *(Pause for responses.)*”

“In this game, you had to be ready to step in with a word at any minute, and you couldn’t wait too long to do it! What would have happened if no one said a word and everyone waited for someone else to do it? *(There wouldn’t be a game at all!)*”

“This game really shows that things do go better if you **don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done**. I’ve seen that happen too!”

[Make it Personal] (Share about a time you took initiative and did a job ‘someone else’ could have—or even should have—done. What happened? Or has someone shown initiative and done a job you should have done or would have had to do without their help? How did that feel?)



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



BIBLE STORY PICTURE REVIEW

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bible Story Pictures: Week 1" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Randomly scatter the "Bible Story Pictures: Week 1" around your small group area, spreading them out as much as possible.
- Instruct the kids that as you read parts of the Bible story, they should search for the picture that matches that part of the Bible story.
- There are enough pictures that each kid will be able to pick up at least one throughout the course of the review. Ask them not to pick up a second picture until everyone has had a chance to get one and bring it back to the group's area.
- Once all the pictures are found, make stacks of pictures that are the same.
- Then lay the stacks in order on the floor in the middle of your group's area.

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Bible Story Plot Points:

1. Nehemiah hears the news about the broken-down walls in Jerusalem and cries. *(a sad face)*
2. Nehemiah wants to help, so he asks the king for permission to go. *(a question mark)*
3. Nehemiah asks for letters from the king to request supplies. *(a big pile of letters/envelopes)*
4. Nehemiah arrives in Jerusalem and inspects the walls at night. *(a lantern or torch)*
5. Nehemiah begins the hard work of rebuilding the wall. *(a large mallet)*

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You really listened to our Bible story today! Great job, friends. We'll talk about Nehemiah all month long.

"When Nehemiah heard about what happened in Jerusalem, he could have stayed right where he was, doing his job for the king. But instead, he decided to boldly do what needed to be done! *(Hold up the 'question mark' page.)* He spoke the king and asked for what he needed. *(Hold up the 'pile of letters' page.)* He inspected the walls. *(Hold up the 'lantern' page.)* Then he started the BIG job of rebuilding. *(Hold up the 'large mallet' page.)*

"Nehemiah understood that people with initiative **don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** They get busy and do what they can to fix the problem."

[Make it Personal] (Share about a time when you heard something needed to be done and instead of making excuses or waiting for someone else to do it, you got busy and finished the job.)



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Wide rubber bands or index cards, pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a wide rubber band or index card and a pen.
- Help the kids write "Don't wait!" on their rubber bands

or index cards.

- Direct the kids to wear their rubber band or hold their index card as you pray.
- Encourage the kids to wear their rubber bands or take their cards home and place them somewhere they'll remember: **don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.**

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Heavenly Father, thank You for the story of Nehemiah and his willingness to help, even when it was a big job. This week, help us see what needs to be done and get busy helping. Thank You for loving us, always. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage the kids to show off their bracelets or cards and tell the adults that today we learned **don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.**

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