

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that God would give kids opportunities to see the injustices around them and be empowered to do something to help make things right. Ask God to help kids see how He wants them to be a part of His story of restoration. Pray that kids would look for ways to help others and that they would have the resources they need to stand up and make things right.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Help!

Nehemiah Helps the Poor
Nehemiah 5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to
make things right.

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 should treat others the way
want to be treated.

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, hand sanitizer, foil "moon rocks"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Welcome kids by name to Small Group as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to put it in the offering container.
- Direct kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Line the kids up along the wall or edge of your small group area.
- Give the first kid in line a "moon rock."
- Challenge the group to move the moon rock from one end of the line to the other without stepping out of order or using their hands.
- Some ideas:
 - Pass the moon rock with their elbows
 - Sit down and use their feet to pass the rock
- As more kids arrive, add them to the line or set up another line with another rock.
- Talk about the overlooked ways to move "moon rocks."

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through



MAKE IT RIGHT

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper plates, craft sticks, stapler, tape, markers, (optional) space-themed stickers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid two paper plates, a marker, and a craft stick. If you have stickers, hand these out.
- Instruct the kids to create a "Make It Right" sign.
 - Direct the kids to tape the top of their craft stick to the bottom of one of their plates to use as a handle.
 - Instruct the kids to place the insides of their plates together.
 - Help each kid staple the rim of the plates together.
 - Instruct kids to write "Make It Right" on their sign.
- Invite the kids to use the markers and stickers to decorate their signs.
- As you read through the review questions, instruct them to stand up and hold up their sign when they hear Nehemiah "making it right."

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Review Questions:

1. What problem did Nehemiah see as he was building the wall? (*People were in need, didn't have food to eat, and had to sell their land to buy food.*)
2. How were people being treated unfairly? (*Officials were charging them too much when they had to borrow money.*)
3. Did Nehemiah keep working on the wall and ignore the need he saw? (*No, he stopped working on the wall and helped.*)
4. What did Nehemiah do first in working towards a plan to help the people? (*He took time to think about it.*)
5. What did Nehemiah do after he thought about it? (*He went to talk to the officials and told them they were not treating the people fairly.*)
6. What did Nehemiah tell the officials that they should do? (*give everything they took from the people back to them*)
7. Did the officials listen to him? (*Yes, they agreed to give everything back.*)
8. How can we help others like Nehemiah did in our story today? (*answers will vary*)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Nehemiah didn't just look for what needed to be done. Nehemiah took the initiative and helped the people who needed help. It would have been easy for Nehemiah to just focus on building the wall. He could have kept working and ignored the people in the city who were hurting. But Nehemiah realized that the wall wasn't the only thing God wanted to use him to fix. God wanted to use him to stand up for the people who were treated unfairly.



WEEK
TWO
SEPTEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(MAKE IT RIGHT, CONTINUED)

“Have you ever seen someone being treated unfairly or unkindly? *(Allow time for responses.)* Those are all great examples of opportunities God has given us to see something that’s not fair in our world around us. God doesn’t want us to just see the wrong. He wants us to take initiative and **look for ways to make things right**. Just like God used Nehemiah, God wants to use you to stand up for others when they are treated unfairly because of how they look, what they have, or even how different they are from you. He wants to use you to change the world! How awesome is that?”



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WATCH FOR IT!

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up Colossians 3:23a together in the Bibles.
- Gather the kids in a circle and invite them to sit down.
- Send one kid to the other side of the room so they can't see what happens.
- Silently select a kid still in the circle to be the Alpha Leader.
 - Direct them to make motions that the group must follow: clapping hands, patting their heads, snapping fingers, etc.
 - Instruct the kid to vary the movements occasionally.
- Choose a kid to be the Beta Leader.
- Instruct the Beta Leader to do a different motion than the Alpha Leader (like when the Alpha Leader claps, the Beta Leader can pat their legs).
- Instruct the kids to do the motions of the Alpha Leader, except for the Beta Leader, who will do something different.
- Call the kid back and have them guess both the Alpha and Beta Leaders.
- Continue playing, choosing new leaders each time.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Not only did you have to find the Alpha Leader of the group, but you also had to spot the Beta Leader who was out of sync. It took some time for sure! Our memory verse reminds us to work with all our hearts, and there is no better work than to **look for ways to make things right.**"

"It might be difficult at times. You might have to show kindness to someone when you'd rather ignore them and play with the friends you already know. You might need to stop doing something you want to do in order to make things right for someone else.

"How do you think Nehemiah felt about stopping work on the wall to deal with the problems in Jerusalem? (*Invite answers.*) He might have just kept working hard at what he was doing and let someone else take care of the problem. But he knew that as important as the wall was, making sure his people were treating each other fairly was even more important. Nehemiah knew to **look for ways to make things right.**"

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Discuss big and small ways we can stand up for others around us and even around the world!
- Close your group time in prayer.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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Nehemiah Helps the Poor
Nehemiah 5

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Dear God, thank You for giving us what we need to help other people! You've given us a voice, resources, the ability to pray, and the ability to love people who need it. Whether it's our neighbor or someone in another country who we've never met, You will help us **look for ways to make things right!** Please open our eyes and ears to ways we can stand up and help! We want to help make things right for Your glory. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to make things right.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their bracelets and prompt them to share what their bracelets will help them remember this week. Remind them that God wants to use them to stand up for others and that they can ask Him to help them **look for ways to make things right** this week.

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