

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



OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids to demonstrate who can pat their head with one hand while rubbing their stomach with the other.
- As time allows, challenge them to try other things.
- Move their right foot clockwise while drawing the number six with their right hand.
- Circle their head in one direction and their tongue in the other.
- Hold their arms straight above their head. Start making big shoulder circles forward with their dominant arm while making backwards circles with the other shoulder at the same time.
- Make the thumbs-up sign with one hand and point to it with the index finger on the other hand. Now switch those as fast as possible. See how quickly they can repeat this motion.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now

Nehemiah and Sanballat
Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on what
needs to be done.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The problem with these challenges is that our brains can't focus on doing both activities at the same time. **[Transition] Let's go hear how splitting our focus can stop initiative in its tracks!**"

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

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Initiative—Seeing what needs
to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

MADE TO PLAY

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



*BRICK, SWORD, MESSAGE [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Masking tape path

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Send the teams to different ends of the path.
- Teach the kids the hand signals for this game. (It's just like "Rock, Paper, Scissors.")
 - Brick (closed fist): beats sword, defeated by message
 - Sword (first two fingers upright, the rest curled in to palm): beats message, defeated by brick
 - Message (fingers extended, palm flat): beats brick, defeated by sword
- To play, instruct one kid from each side of the path to hop on one foot, one space at a time, until they meet.
- Once the kids meet, direct them to choose a hand signal and play a round of the hand signal game.
- Instruct the winner of the hand signal game to keep hopping toward the other side.
- Direct the other kid to run back to their team.
- Instruct the team who did not win to send out another kid as fast as possible to meet the oncoming winner.
- When the kid who won the hand signal game has either reached the other side or been beaten in another game, direct that team to send out another kid, hopping as before.
- Play as long as time allows.
- The winner is the team that gets the most kids to reach the end of the path.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our Bible Story last week told us about a big problem that was important enough to stop Nehemiah from working on the wall. But today, we heard about what was NOT worth losing focus over.

"Nehemiah had great initiative in solving problems and helping people, but he had no time for foolish rumors and fears. He could have been up and down those ladders every time someone handed him a new message from his enemies. But he did not. He recognized that all of the talk was a distraction from the real work of strengthening the people and their city.

"Have you ever gotten distracted by what someone else said or did? You want to be kind to your siblings, but they make a rude comment about your hair and you totally forget about kindness. You're working on patience, but a kid cuts in the lunch line and all that work stops while you try to step on the backs of their shoes to get back at them. You don't have to tell me exactly what, but have you ever been distracted by what someone else said or did? *(Invite kids to raise their hands—make sure yours is raised, too!)*

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WEEK
THREE
SEPTEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-3

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

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(* BRICK, SWORD, MESSAGE, CONTINUED)

It's important to remember that those Life Apps we work on are worth sticking to! So when someone says or does something that makes that work tough, remember to **stay focused on what needs to be done.**"

Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What are some ways you might get distracted when doing the following activities?
 - listening in class
 - reading a homework assignment
 - telling someone about Jesus
 - cleaning your room
 - memorizing a Bible verse
 - stepping out of your comfort zone and trying something new
 - praying
 - helping someone in your family
- What are some signals you can watch for that help you know when you are distracted?
- If you know that you will be easily distracted by something, what can you do to remind yourself to stay focused?



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



SPACE DUST

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper confetti or gift wrap filler, plastic cups, buckets

WHAT YOU DO:

- Play outside if the weather allows!
- Divide your group into two teams.
- Instruct both teams to stand on one side of the playing area.
- Put two empty buckets on the opposite side of the playing area.
- Place the paper confetti (or filler) equally in the remaining two buckets.
- Give each team one bucket filled with confetti and each team member a plastic cup.
- Direct kids to fill their cup with confetti and balance the cup on their head while walking to the far bucket. Then they pour the contents of their cup into the bucket and return to their team so the next kid can repeat.
- Play until all players have had a turn and the buckets that started out full are empty.
- The team with the most confetti in their far bucket, wins.
- Consider adding these rules:
 - Allow younger kids to hold the cup on their head with one hand.
 - If a cup falls off, nothing that fell out of it can be picked up, but kids can put it back on their head and keep walking.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"This game sure took focus! I'm glad there weren't a lot of distractions. What would have been the most distracting thing that could happen while you played this game? (Let kids respond: a fire alarm going off, a stampede of elephants, a celebrity sighting, etc.)

"We don't need anything like that to happen in our daily lives for us to get distracted from doing what needs to be done. When you have a chore or school assignment, what distracts you the most? (Invite responses.) Those are the times when you need to remember to **stay focused on what needs to be done.**

[Make It Personal] (Share what distracts you from doing what needs to be done. Also talk about how you get distracted from loving people, serving others, developing patience, etc. Be sure to share hope—what helps you stay focused? A routine? Prayer? Accountability with friends or coworkers?)

"See, everyone gets distracted at times. But that's one of the amazing things about God. He is with us all the time, and He is ready and willing to help us **stay focused on what needs to be done.** You can pray and ask for His help, then look around for what He sends—a friend to coach you through it, a plan to keep going, a parent who can help you work out a tough problem."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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HOME

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: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the group and review the hand signals for the game in “Brick, Sword, Message” Activity
 - Brick (closed fist): beats sword, defeated by message
 - Sword (first two fingers upright, the rest curled in to palm): beats message, defeated by sword
 - Message (fingers extended, palm flat): beats brick, defeated by sword
- Tell the group that the things Nehemiah tried to focus on were the wall and keeping his people safe, NOT the messages from his enemies because they were a distraction.
- Invite the kids to come up with hand signals that symbolize what their focus could be split by.
- Ask the kids to pray silently and ask God to show them which of these things need to be done this week—which of these things needs their focus and initiative.
- Close your group time in prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Dear God, thank You for giving us what we need to **stay focused on what needs to be done**. Please show us the important work You have for us this week. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, set the memory verse posters where families can pick them up.

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