



WEEK  
**THREE**  
SEPTEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



*Before kids arrive, take some time to pray for your group. Ask God for wisdom and patience as you seek to connect with your kids relationally and work toward pointing them to God's best for them. Pray that they will be able to see a situation in their lives that they can be focused on with God's help.*

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

### Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now

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

## JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, uncooked spaghetti, mini marshmallows

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage kids to place their offerings in the container.
- Form groups of two to three kids.
- Give each team about 25 pieces of uncooked spaghetti and 25 mini marshmallows.
- Challenge kids to see which team can build the tallest tower within a set amount of time by using the marshmallows to connect the pieces of spaghetti to form a tall, free-standing structure.

## TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

**What distracts you from doing what needs to be done?**

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Stay focused on 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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.**



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



### TAKE A SNAPSHOT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Choose one kid to be the Captain and explain that the remaining kids are his crew.
- Set up the game by sharing the following scenario and rules.
  - The Captain and the crew are scheduled to launch into space today, but unfortunately the entire crew has come down with a case of "lame excuse-itis."
  - The Captain will leave the room as you give the crew their lame excuse for why they can't go into space today. All the crew has the same excuse. They can make sounds as they act, but can't actually say what their excuse is.
  - The Captain can return to room when they hear the crew say, "Captain, we can't go into space today!"
  - By watching the crew and asking only YES or NO questions, the Captain must try to figure out the "lame excuse" his crew is suffering from.
  - After several guesses, if the Captain doesn't figure it out, let the Crew reveal their excuse.
- Choose another kid to be the Captain and play again as time allows.
- Here are a few ridiculous excuses you can suggest for kids to act out or let them come up with their own.
  - They think they are chickens
  - They are scared of space spiders
  - Their hair is on fire
  - The only word they know how to say is their name – spelled backwards
  - The lights are too bright
  - They are walking in their sleep
  - They can only say words that rhyme with "toast"
- Wrap up by transitioning from the ridiculous to the real. Ask:
  - What are some actual excuses or distractions that keep us from doing what needs to be done?
  - Which ones do you relate to the most?
  - What are some consequences you've faced for not being able to stay focused on what needs to be done?

*NOTE: Be sensitive to kids who deal with Attention Deficit Disorder or other things that might complicate their ability to stay focused at times. Target the "distractions" that are within our ability to change or control.*

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## MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

### WHAT YOU DO:

*Note: If you didn't do the Bible Story Extension Activity (above), be sure to use the discussion questions in that*

*activity to review the Bible story as well as the conversation starters below to help kids think through how to apply what they've learned.*

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### Ask:

- Give examples of 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 being 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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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



### MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Refer back to some of the distractions kids mentioned earlier in discussions or during "Take a Snapshot."
- Encourage kids to share what distractions they find most difficult to avoid and why.
- Ask kids to pray for each other. If willing, let them pray out loud for the person next to them.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

Dear God, even when others tried to distract Nehemiah or when those around him were discouraged, Nehemiah stayed focus on what You wanted him to do. Help us to follow Nehemiah's example this week. When we start to get distracted by fears, problems, or (name some distractions kids mentioned earlier), remind us to ask for Your help. Amen.

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