

Alley SG - September 15-16, 2018

Bible Story: Won't You Please Help Me? (Nehemiah Helps the Poor) • *Nehemiah 5:1-12*

Key Question: Who do you see being treated unfairly?

Bottom Line: Don't wait for someone else to help people in need.

Memory Verse: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..."
(Colossians 3:23a NIV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: the WALL OF INITIATIVE, "Bricks" (one per kid), pens, die (one per group)

What You Do:

- **Guide** kids to look at the bricks on the WALL OF INITIATIVE.
 - From week one, there should be a few bricks on the wall with places written on them.
 - If not, take a moment to let kids write down some places where they can show initiative. *(Examples could include school, church, home, sports fields, friend's house, grocery store, the park, school bus, etc.)*
- If your bricks have been already prepared, **ask:** Which bricks are places where can you show initiative?
- **Encourage** kids to select bricks from the wall. You will need a total of six examples of places to show initiative.
- **Label** the bricks one through six. (Repeat some of the numbers if you have more than six "location" bricks.)
- **Roll** a die and select the brick corresponding to the number on the die.
- **Challenge** kids to give examples of people in the community shown on the brick.
 - For example: school—teachers, principal, friends, kids, volunteers, substitute teachers, etc.
 - For each example the kids give, **hold** up a finger. When you get to three fingers, roll the die again and repeat for another brick.
- **Keep** the pace moving so kids stay engaged.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: "Bricks" from "Take a Snapshot" Activity, dice (2 per group), Bibles

What You Do:

- **Review** the Bible story (*Refer to Nehemiah 5:1-12*).
- Potential review questions are:
 - Who was in Nehemiah's community? *(farmers, people without money or food, nobles, officials, his relatives, priests. Allow kids to read the selected passage from the Bible a little closer, if needed, in order to answer this question.)*
 - How were some of the people in Nehemiah's community treated unfairly?
 - What was Nehemiah's response to the needs of the people around him? *(Refer to Nehemiah 5:6-11 if necessary—he listened to the people's needs, he was angry, stood up for those being treated unfairly, confronted those who were treating others unfairly, he saw what needed to be done and did it, etc.)*
- **Divide** the group into two teams.
- **Ask** teams roll the die and select the brick labeled with the number showing on the dice. If teams roll the same number, re-roll.
- **Give** teams time to brainstorm a scenario corresponding to the place on the brick where someone from that location could be treated unfairly.
 - If necessary, **remind** teams to think of the people they listed in the Take a Snapshot activity and ask how they might be treated unfairly.
- **Ask** one team to present their scenario, and **ask** the other team to identify ways they could show initiative and help the person being treated unfairly.

- If there is time, **instruct** teams to roll the die again and repeat for other communities.
- *Optional:*
 - Teams can act out their scenarios and the ways they would show initiative.
 - This could also be done as a competition between the two teams to see which can get come up with the most ways to show initiative.

3. Discussion Questions

- When is it difficult to stand up for someone? When is it easy?
- Can you think of a time you were treated unfairly and someone showed initiative to help you? What did they do?
- Can you think of a time you saw someone being treated unfairly and helped him or her? What did you do? Did you wait to be asked? What happened?

4. Verse to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, timer or mobile device

What You Do:

- **Read** Matthew 25:35-36.
- **Set** the timer for either three or five minutes, depending on your group's attention span.
- **Ask:**
 - How could you show initiative to a kid at your school who forgot his lunch and is hungry?
 - How could you show initiative to a kid on your soccer team who forgot her water and is thirsty?
 - How could you show initiative to a kid at your school you don't know but is being treated unfairly in the halls at school?
 - How could you show initiative to a kid who has missed a lot of school because he has been sick?
- **Keep** the conversation hopping—when the timer is done, so is this activity! Limit responses to no more than 3 for each question.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Tell** kids to close their eyes.
- **Explain** that God created each of us in His image and God loves us all. Not only do we need to treat others fairly, but we need to keep our eyes open to see when others are being treated unfairly.
- **Ask:** Is there someone you know who is being treated unfairly? Someone at school, a friend, someone at church?
- **Give** kids time to **reflect** about who in their lives might be being treated unfairly.
- **Close** in prayer.

What You Say:

Dear God, You created everyone in Your image. People matter to You! It is our desire to honor You and to show initiative. God, we can think of situations where people are not treated fairly. Help us to stand up for those who are being treated unfairly. Open our eyes, God, to see people the way You do and to treat people the way You want. Amen.

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH