

Alley SG - September 29-30, 2018

Bible Story: Rebuild This City (Wall Is Rebuilt) • *Nehemiah 3–4*

Key Question: What is God doing in your life that you can celebrate?

Bottom Line: Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

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

1. Just for Fun

What You Need: Cards from “Party On!” Activity Page (1 per group)

What You Do:

- **Play** a guessing game similar to Taboo.
 - Each card contains a “holiday” in October.
 - The goal is for the group to guess what the holiday is without the “clue giver” using any of the off-limit words.
 - Explain that the “holidays” are not necessarily familiar days of celebration and the answers can be crazy.
 - Each card contains an answer and a list of taboo words that cannot be used in the clue.
 - The “clue giver” selects a card from the deck.
 - The “clue giver” can say anything except the taboo words or anything resembling the holiday in question.
 - For example, if the answer is “National **Firefighters’** Day,” the taboo words could be: truck, Dalmatian, house. You cannot say, “Puts out fires” or “Drives a fire truck,” but you could say, “Puts out flames on burning places.”
 - The “clue monitor” reads the card and makes sure all clues given are legit.
- To begin, **select** one kid to be the “clue giver” and one kid to be the “clue monitor.”
 - Both kids look at the “Party On!” card.
 - If the “clue giver” says a taboo word, the “clue monitor” says “BEEP” loudly.
 - The “clue monitor” then becomes the “clue giver”
 - The card is put at the bottom of the deck and a new card is drawn.
 - If no taboo words are said, the kid who correctly guesses the holiday becomes the next “clue giver” and a new “clue monitor” is selected from the group.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Paper squares (100 per bin per service), pens, Bibles

What You Do:

- **Divide** the kids into 2 teams.
- **Give** each team a stack of paper squares and writing utensil.
- **Write** “GOD” on the note cards, putting one letter on each card (G-O-D) and line up the cards in front of each team. (Enlist kids’ help with this part.)
- **Explain** that when you say “GO” teams will come up with words to build on the word “GOD,” like you would in Scrabble or a crossword puzzle.
 - Kids will write their letters on the note cards to add words to their crossword boards. For example, using the “D” in “GOD” they could form the word “DEITY” or using the “O” they could form the word “AWESOME”.

- All the words created should relate to God.
- After time is up, **allow** teams to share their words.
 - Score one point for each word that the majority agrees is related to God.
 - Score one point for each original word that no other team has.
 - Highest score wins.
 - **Encourage** teams to defend their word selections. If someone can quickly find Scripture to support his word, **award** the team an extra point.
- If possible, leave the grids intact to be used during prayer.

3. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, “Bricks” (3 per child), tape (1 roll per group), pens, the WALL OF INITIATIVE, *optional:* mobile device

What You Do:

- **Read** Nehemiah 6:15-16.
- **Ask:**
 - How long did it take to build the wall?
 - *(Dig deeper: Encourage kids to use a mobile device to find an example of a biblical times city wall. Review some of the challenges it would take to build the wall, e.g. enemies trying to distract them, getting materials, lack of cranes and other machinery, etc. For comparison, ask kids how long does it take to build a house. Emphasize that it is NOT possible to build this wall without God’s help.)*
 - Why were the surrounding nations afraid?
 - Think back over the month. What are some reasons Nehemiah could praise God?
 - Where did God show His presence for Nehemiah and the Jews during the construction project?
- **Explain** that Nehemiah’s story is just one example of why we should celebrate God.
 - God has a pattern of seeing what needs to be done and showing up to help us do it.
 - The ultimate way God showed initiative was to send Jesus to rescue us, and that is definitely worth celebrating.
- **Give** kids time to think of three examples of something God is doing or has done in their lives that can be celebrated.
 - To prompt them, encourage them to think of times God has shown up in their lives. Maybe He has put special people in their lives or when they have been nervous He has given them peace.
 - Or maybe it is easier to think of examples of what they are thankful for that God has provided for them.
 - Be prepared to give them a personal example from your own life.
- **Give** kids three bricks and a pencil or marker.
- **Instruct** kids to write each of their examples on a brick and place it on the wall.
- When kids are finished, **group** together similar examples.
- **Discuss** the examples. Potential discussion questions:
 - Which examples might be easy to forget to celebrate? What about a beautiful day? Is that worth celebrating? What about a rainy, cold day?
 - What about things that happen every day? Is it harder or easier to remember to be thankful for the everyday stuff? Why or why not?

4. Discussion Questions

- What are some ways we can celebrate or praise what God has done in our lives?
- How can we remember to see what God has done in our daily lives and remember to thank Him?
- How can we celebrate what God has done even if we were hoping a situation would go differently? For example: You study super hard for a test and you get a lower grade than you wanted.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Grids from the “Take a Snapshot” activity

What You Do:

- **Gather** the group around the grids from the “Take a Snapshot” activity.
- **Challenge** kids to praise God for who He is, using the words from the grids.
 - Each kid should say a one-sentence prayer using one of the words from the grid.
 - If students are shy, they can simply thank God for who He is and name something from the grid.
- Close in prayer by thanking God for showing initiative by sending Christ and giving us a way to live with Him now and forever.

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING

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