

# City LG - September 15-16, 2018

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

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

**Memory Verse:** "Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord." *Colossians 3:23a, NIV*

**CG: 2-minute Countdown Video**

**CG: Welcome Video**

**While Welcome Video is playing, Large Group Leader/Worship Leader enthusiastically greets children and invites them to stand for Worship.**

**WORSHIP: "We Are Royals" and "Rising Up"**

**(Worship Leader Prays)**

"Hey, guys! All month we're telling the story of this great man from the Bible named Nehemiah who REALLY knew what initiative was about.

"Before we get into today's story, let's start with a recap. When our story began, Nehemiah was the drink taster for the king.

**CG: Goblet JPEG**

"But then he heard a report from his brother. Jerusalem, God's city, was in ruins! And its walls were a crumbled mess.

**CG: Clipboard JPEG**

"Nehemiah was devastated to hear it. I'm talking REAL tears!

**CG: Kleenex JPEG**

"But he prayed. He asked God for help. He went to the king and asked if HE could be the one to go rebuild Jerusalem and its walls. He asked the king for letters that would give him a safe journey. He also asked for building supplies. The king said yes to everything!

**CG: Firewood JPEG**

"Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem. It would have taken MONTHS.

**CG: Sandals JPEG**

"He inspected the city walls at night. Sure enough, they were in bad shape.

**CG: Flashlight JPEG**

"So Nehemiah rallied the people. He told them: *Let's rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:17, NIV)*. And they agreed.

**CG: Megaphone JPEG**

"The wall began to take shape."

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:00)**

“Nehemiah understood something that we need to remember, too. God thinks people’s troubles are important! He wants us to work to make things right.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Don’t wait for someone else to help people in need.**

“Think about what Nehemiah did. He was in charge of this massive rebuilding project. He wanted so badly to finish what he had started. But he pressed pause! He chose to put the needs of other people ahead of his own.

“He listened. He felt what THEY felt. He took time to think about what he could do to help.”

“After Nehemiah made things right and the leaders changed their ways, THEN he was able to continue his work on the wall. You know, sometimes it’s important to take a step back and stop what you’re doing—even if you’re right in the middle of doing something big.”

“That’s what Nehemiah did. He took time away from the wall to help the people who were being treated unfairly. He cared enough about them to really put himself in their shoes. He spoke up for them and made things right when they couldn’t do it for themselves.

“When you decide to press pause, you can see and understand what other people need. You can think of ways that YOU can be part of the solution. People matter WAY more than things. You never know how God might use you to help people—whether it’s a friend, someone in your family, or even someone you’ve never even met before. He might use you to DO something for them. He also might use you to be there for them.”

“If you see someone being picked on, don’t look the other way. Don’t try to pretend it’s not your problem. Tell someone. Tell that kid who’s doing the bullying that it’s not okay. No one should have to feel afraid. There are times when you might see someone who needs help, and you’re not sure what to do. Remember, you can always talk to God about it. You can talk to your parents or your Small Group Leader, too. The important thing is that we’re on the lookout for people who need help. They might be people you see every day, people who live in our community, or people who live halfway across the world. I bet you have some great ideas of ways YOU can help. You’ll get to talk about that together in Small Group, but before we head there, let’s worship God with our offering!”

**Offering Time:**

“Offering time is a chance for us to bring our money to God, so he can use it to make somebody else’s life better. For us, here in the City, we give our offering to an organization called ‘Missions of Hope’ to help kids in Kenya have food, clothes, and learn about God’s love for them.”

Here at (your Campus name), we bring our offering to help support:

**Homer Glen: Victor**

**New Lenox: Daniel**

**Orland Park: Michael and Valerie**

**CG: Picture of Child**

If you brought your offering today, you can bring it up now and place it here in our brand new offering container! (*show offering container*).”

“Thank you for your kindness and generosity City! Have fun in Small Groups!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*