

City LG - September 1-2, 2018

Bible Story: If I Had a Hammer (Nehemiah Hears about the Wall) • *Nehemiah 1:1–2:9*

Bottom Line: Be on the lookout for what needs to be done.

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: “Every Beat” and “At the Top of My Lungs”

(Worship Leader Prays)

Begin Large Group...

Costume Needed: Hard Hat and Safety Vest. Large Group Script attached to Clipboard.

“What’s up, everyone? How are you doing? I’m glad you’re here. It’s a brand-new month, which means a brand-new topic. As you can see from our area here today, The City is under a little bit of construction. Why is that? Well, this month we’re going to take on some ‘Dirty Jobs’. This month, we’re learning about . . .

CG: Misspelled Initiative Slide

(Realizing the slide is misspelled) “Uh . . . in-i-ta-tive? Oops. That’s not quite right. That’s supposed to say ‘initiative.’ Can we try that again?”

CG: Initiative Slide

“There we go! That’s better: initiative. **Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.** Kind of like fixing that slide. *(To the tech team/person)* Thanks!”

“Raise your hand if you’ve ever seen something that needed to be done and then you did it. *(Raise your hand.)* Yeah! All of us have to do some jobs sometimes. And sometimes those jobs are downright dirty jobs—things we don’t really WANT to do. But you know what? SOMEBODY’s got to do them. When we see something that isn’t the way it should be, we have a choice to make. We can ignore it and pretend it doesn’t exist, OR we can take the initiative to fix it!”

“This is something that God has been doing for us right from the start. He saw our greatest need and sent Jesus to fix it! In fact, the Bible is full of stories about people God used to show some initiative. And there’s one guy who stands out from the rest. His story is SO epic that we get to talk about him all month! His name was Nehemiah.

“You can read about Nehemiah in the book of—any guesses? *(Pause for response.)* Yep! Nehemiah. *(Hold up Bible.)* Let’s take a look at his story!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:00)

“You see, Nehemiah had a plan. Now that he knew about the problem in Jerusalem, he wasn’t just going to sit around and be sad. With God’s help, he was going to DO something about it!”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “**Be on the lookout for what needs to be done.** That’s what Nehemiah did. That’s what we can do, too. Instead of waiting to be asked to do something, we can use our eyes and ears to notice the things around us that need to be done. Then we can **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and jump into action!

“We need God’s help to do that, don’t we? God can give us the courage we need to do what needs to be done. Let’s talk to Him about that now.”

Pray: “God, we know that You can work through us in big ways. We know there are so many things around us that aren’t the way they should be. Help us to SEE those things. Help us not to ignore them, but to be brave enough to DO something about them. Help us to be like Nehemiah and rely on You to lead the way. Help us to be on the lookout always for the things that need to be done. We love You, and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“Look and listen. Keep an eye out for the things around you that need to be done. Don’t wait for someone to have to tell you to do those things. Take initiative! **[Bottom Line] Be on the lookout for what needs to be done.**

“You know what else is really cool about Nehemiah’s story? He put his HEART into it. He was really sad about Jerusalem, and that’s what made him take initiative. Don’t just do things because you’re supposed to. Do them with all your heart. It’s like what Paul wrote in our memory verse for this month: Colossians 3:23.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord (Colossians 3:23a, NIV).”

“That’s where real initiative comes from! Work like you’re working for God. Before we head to Small Group, let’s take some time to 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’s a picture of Kenyan homes!”

CG: Picture of Kenyan Homes

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 offering container! (*show offering container*).”

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

Dismiss kids to their small groups.