

# City LG - September 22-23, 2018

**Bible Story:** He Came in Like a Wrecking Ball (Nehemiah and Sanballat) • *Nehemiah 2:19-20; 4; 6*

**Bottom Line:** Stay focused on 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: “We Are Royals” and “Rising Up”**

**(Worship Leader Prays)**

“Hey everybody! Welcome to The City! As you can see, we are continuing our lessons on taking initiative, and doing some “Dirty Jobs”. Today we will continue learning from the life of our Bible hero Nehemiah, but first, let’s play a game!”

**GAME: Cup Stacking Competition**

**Supplies Needed: 200 Plastic Cups (100 per team), 4 packs of Skittles/Starburst (per service)**

*How to Play: Pick 2 Boys and 2 Girls to compete in a Cup Stacking Competition. The team that has the highest wall at the end of the 90-Second Countdown wins. Encourage the boys and girls to cheer their team on. Award both teams with the prize.*

**CG: 90-Second Countdown**

*After the game...*

“Let’s hear it for both teams! Great job! Well, today we continue our story of Nehemiah, and a guy named Sanballat that kind of gave him a hard time about building the wall. Let’s take a look!”

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 7:45)**

“Nehemiah and the people had finished the HUGE job they had started. They kept working even when Sanballat tried to distract them because they knew it was what God wanted them to do. After more than 100 years, the wall was complete! Jerusalem and the Israelites FINALLY had a strong wall around their city to protect them from their enemies.

“You and I can follow Nehemiah’s lead. We can ask God to help us focus on what HE wants us to do instead of getting distracted when life gets in the way.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line] “Stay focused on what needs to be done.**

“Do you think we need God’s help to do that? You bet we do. He can help us stand strong when others are trying to distract us or discourage us. He can help us focus when the pressure’s on. I know I learned a lot from Nehemiah’s story today. For one thing, it’s really hard to throw a balloon.”

“You know what else I noticed, though? I saw how Nehemiah stayed focused on building the wall even when he had every reason to get sidetracked by Sanballat’s tricks. You can be like Nehemiah.”

“What kinds of things distract you? When you’re supposed to be doing your homework, what keeps you from focusing? Maybe the TV is on, or your dad’s phone keeps buzzing. Maybe there’s a noise in your house that makes it hard to think—like a dripping faucet. Drip . . . drip . . . drip. Maybe it’s hard to focus because you’ve just got so much to THINK about. There’s so much swirling around in your head.

“How do you STOP all that noise? How do you focus on what you know you need to do?”

“Well, you can do what Nehemiah did. You can talk to God and ask Him to keep you from getting distracted. It’s always the **[Basic Truth] wise choice** to go to Him. You can also ask a friend or a parent to help you. Maybe they can remind you and encourage you to keep going. Maybe if you ask, they’ll even take a look at that that leaky faucet!”

**[Bottom Line]** “**Stay focused on what needs to be done.** It’s not always easy, but it’s worth it! Now it’s time to head to Small Group and talk some about how YOU can stay focused and do what needs to be done! Let’s talk to Him and ask Him to help us.”

**Pray:** “God, it’s amazing to hear about Nehemiah and the way he stayed focused on You! We know there are lots of things in our lives that can distract us from doing what You want us to do. Help us to stay focused. Help us to finish what we’ve started and to do what needs to be done—no matter what. We love You, and we pray in Jesus’ name, amen. Before we head to Small Groups today, 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’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.*