

City LG - September 29-30, 2018

Bible Story: Rebuild This City (The Wall is Rebuilt) • *Nehemiah 3–4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17*

Bottom Line: Look for ways to celebrate what God has 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 “We Are Royals”

(Worship Leader Prays)

CG: Baptism Class Promo JPEG

Promo: “If you have ever wanted to be baptized, wondered what it means, or how to take that next step in your friendship with Jesus, Baptism Class is for you! Our next class is October 14th, right here at (your campus)! Talk to your parent/guardian about signing up today.”

“Hey, everyone! Welcome to The City! If you’ve been here along the way, then you know the back story of who Nehemiah is and how we got to this point. But let me catch all of us up really quickly.

Read this recap directly from the script so it goes quickly.

(Reading from the script) “Nehemiah was a man who loved God, but he didn’t live in God’s city, Jerusalem. He worked for the king in Susa as his drink taster.

“Then Nehemiah’s brother Hanani arrived from Jerusalem. Hanani gave a report and said the city was in ruins, and its wall was broken down.

“Nehemiah was so sad to hear what had happened to God’s city!

“He prayed to God. He went to the king and asked if he could go rebuild Jerusalem and its wall. He also asked the king for some building supplies, like wood. The king agreed.

“Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem.

“He went out at night and got a good look at the damage to the city wall and gates.

“He talked to the people and rallied them to rebuild the city’s wall.

“But Nehemiah wasn’t too busy to stop and listen when some people told him their troubles.

“He got angry when he found out how they were being mistreated.

“He thought of ways he could help them.

“When some of the Israelites’ enemies tried to distract him, Nehemiah prayed to God. He stayed focused. Eventually, he and the people finished the job!

(No longer reading from the script) “Whew! Now that’s one epic story!”

“Nehemiah and the people had done it. They had rebuilt the city walls and gates in 52 days. Jerusalem was safe and protected. Now it was time to celebrate! That’s what our story is about today. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:00)

“The people were filled with JOY as they began to remember all that God had done for them—both back during the time of Moses and now, during the time of Nehemiah. God had taken them from broken-down walls and burnt gates to a strong, bright future—because Nehemiah had shown initiative. Nehemiah chose to **[Basic Truth] trust God no matter what**, to ACT when he saw something that needed to be done, and to do whatever it took to finish the job.

“As the people celebrated the Feast of Booths, they recognized all that God had done for them along the way. *(Point to the icons on the wall of boxes.)* And it did their hearts so much good. We can do the same!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

“After all, God deserves our praise. He wants us to celebrate the good things He’s done for us. I know He’s done great things for you, for me, and for everyone here in this room. He cares about us. He’s always with us. We’re never alone because of His great love.”

“You know, sometimes it’s hard for us to take time to celebrate what God has done in our lives. We don’t MEAN to forget, but we get so busy with everything going on all around us.

“When Nehemiah and the people finished building the wall, they got together at a time when God wanted them to celebrate. When they heard God’s Word, they got sad. But Nehemiah and the priests reminded them that it was no time for sadness. God wanted them to throw a party!

“We tend to take extra time to celebrate God when it’s a natural time to do that—like Christmas and Easter. And that’s awesome! There’s a reason why there are special times of year when we really focus on God. It’s kind of like the Israelites with the Feast of Booths.

“If you think about it, though, God deserves our praise ALL the time.

“That’s why we’ve got to **[Bottom Line] look for ways to celebrate what God has done.**

“On a normal Tuesday, when you’re taking the dog for a walk, you can talk to Him and thank Him. You and your friends can remember to thank God when something really great happens. As you drift off to sleep at night, you can think about some of the prayers God has answered before in your life. Best of all, you can remember how He sent Jesus to die on the cross and pay for your sins, so you can have

the promise of life with Him forever!

“There are so many ways to celebrate God and remember what He’s done for you. You get to talk some more about that in your small group. 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.