

City LG - September 8-9, 2018

Bible Story: I'm Working on a Building (Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall) •
Nehemiah 2:11-18

Bottom Line: Don't wait for someone else to do 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)

"Hi there City! Who was here last week and remembers who our Bible Stories are about this month? *(Pause for response.)* Yes! Nehemiah! If anyone knew about initiative, it was Nehemiah. He saw what needed to be done, and he DID it!"

"Let's pick up his story where we left off. You might remember that Nehemiah was the king's drink taster. He made sure that no one was trying to poison the king. Nehemiah didn't live in Jerusalem, but he heard a report from his brother that Jerusalem was in ruins. The walls were in ruins and the gates had been burned to the ground."

"This was a big deal because Jerusalem was God's city. It was supposed to be beautiful! Plus, a city with broken down walls was an easy target for enemies. Jerusalem was also where Nehemiah's family had lived in the past, even though he had never seen it himself. Nehemiah was so upset that he cried when he heard the news."

"But then Nehemiah decided to act. He prayed and asked God to help him. He bravely went to the king and asked for permission to go rebuild Jerusalem—and really, its walls. He asked the king to write letters to the people in charge of the land he'd be traveling through so he could have a safe journey. He also asked the king for a letter that would provide the wood he would need to build. Amazingly, the king said yes to all of those requests! Let's take a look!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:23)

"The city was in bad shape. Nehemiah had seen it with his own eyes. But he didn't wait for someone else to take action. He saw what was possible. He took it on himself to rally the people, and together, they began to rebuild. Nehemiah knew that God had chosen him for this important job—to lead the people and make the city strong and safe again. God had led Nehemiah every step of the way. And even now—with a BIG job ahead—Nehemiah knew that God would give him the strength to see it through. Was organizing a whole group of people to start building a wall his job? Nope. Not even close. But Nehemiah took initiative. It wasn't his job to fix the walls, but he didn't wait around for someone else to do it. He did something that

WASN'T his responsibility. If he didn't, who would?"

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done. If someone's coming over to your apartment and you see a pile of your little brother's toys on the floor, clean them up! Is it fair? No. Is it the right thing to do? Absolutely! If you notice that someone else drew on a desk at school, is it YOUR job to wipe off the ink? Nope. But COULD you be the one to take care of it? You bet! When we know that we are working for God, like our verse says, it's easier to take initiative. When we take initiative in helping others, people see God in us.”

CG: Bible Verse (Colossians 3:23a)

“Someone leaves their lunch tray on the table by mistake. Could you let someone else deal with it? Sure. Could YOU deal with it? Sure, you could! All the time, we see things that need to be done. But we think, ‘Someone else will take care of it.’ ‘That's not my job.’ ‘I would, but I've got stuff to do.’ What if you decided you weren't going to wait for someone else to do it? What if you decided YOU were going to do it even though you didn't have to? Remember, you can point others to Jesus when you serve people. After all, that's what Jesus did for us! You can **[Basic Truth]** make the wise choice and do what needs to be done even if it's not your job to begin with. Let's pray before we worship God with our offering. Would you pray with me?”

Pray: “God, thank You for giving Nehemiah the courage to do what needed to be done. We can look at his story and see how he wouldn't let anything stand in his way. Other people wanted to help, too, because of how excited HE was. Help us to be like him—to do what needs to be done, instead of thinking it's someone else's problem. Help us to see what needs to be done and do it! We love You, and we pray in Jesus' name, amen.”

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.