

City SG - 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*

1. Help on Wheels

What You Need: Paper plates (2 per kid), Brads (1 per kid), Scissors (campus supplies) Markers/Pens (Campus Supplies)

What You Do:

- Give each kid two paper plates.
- Show kids how to divide the front of one of the plates into eight quadrants by drawing four lines.
- Brainstorm ideas of ways they can help others in need (give food to a food bank, volunteer to serve at a shelter for people in need, comfort a friend who's sad or upset, share some lunch with someone who forgot theirs, ask someone who looks lonely to play with your group at recess, read to a younger sibling, donate clothes and toys, raise money for an organization, etc.).
- Instruct kids to write eight ways to help people in need—one in each of the slices.
- Then tell them to draw eight quadrants on the back of the other plate by drawing four more lines.
- Poke a small hole in the center of both plates with a pen.
- Instruct them to cut out one of the quadrants on the second plate **BUT to not quite cut all the way in to the hole**, as a brad will need to go there.
- Show them how to use a brad to connect the two plates in the middle.
- Talk to kids about using these wheels to select different ways to help people in need

What You Say:

"You guys did a great job brainstorming ways to help people! I hope you will use these wheels this week to help you think of a way to help someone. There are a lot of ways we can help out, and not all of them involve lots of money or time. There are many ways we can help the people around us or the people we live with. For instance, you could help your grandma learn how to do something new on her computer. Or you could help your neighbor rake leaves. Helping someone in need doesn't always have to be a huge project. ***[Make It Personal]*** (Tell kids about a way you've helped someone, such as helping an elderly neighbor or babysitting a friend's kids.) Whatever you decide to do this week, I hope you ***[Bottom Line]*** don't wait for someone else to help people in need."

2. Picture Order

What You Need: "Bible Story Pictures: Week Three" Activity Pages (one per kid), markers, colored card stock (one piece per kid), glue sticks, scissors

What You Do:

- Pass out a set of pictures to each kid to color and then cut apart.
- Discuss the parts of today's Bible story and help the kids to put them in order.
- Once they've arranged their pictures in the correct order on the floor in front of them, encourage the kids to glue the images in order to a piece of construction paper.
 1. Wall being rebuilt
 2. People who are hungry
 3. Greedy king surrounded by money
 4. Angry Nehemiah approaching a group of leaders
 5. Group of leaders—one shaking Nehemiah's hand in agreement
 6. Men helping each other

What You Say:

“Nehemiah already had a VERY big job to do with rebuilding the wall. But when he heard that the people were being treated unfairly and that they were starving, he knew he needed to do something to help. Talk about initiative! Nehemiah certainly knew that you **[Bottom Line] don’t wait for someone else to help people in need**. He could have ignored the people and kept working on the wall but instead, he chose to stop what he was doing and help!

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when someone saw your need and helped you. If applicable, talk about how that person didn’t have to stop what they were doing to help you but did. What impact did it make on you? Did it challenge you to help others too?)

3. Reverse Musical Chairs

What You Need: Paper Plates (one per kid); *Optional: Cell Phone to Play Music*

What You Do:

- Start with everyone standing around one paper plate.
- Play music from your phone, or hum a song, and then stop randomly.
- When the music stops, kids should try to be the first to take a seat on the paper plate.
- The kid who sat on the plate is the winner of that round, but the game continues.
- Add another plate each round and keep playing, with more winners each round.
- Play until every kid has a plate to sit on.

What You Say:

“That was a fun game, and everyone ended up winning! When we were playing, some of you had to be left out because you didn’t have a place to sit. It never feels good to be the one left out. Sometimes people around us can feel left out and we might not even know it. They might need a friend or a smile or for someone to say something nice to them. We need to make sure we keep our eyes and ears open to what other people need and **[Bottom Line] don’t wait for someone else to help people in need.**”

4. Clap It Out

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Say the verse as a group while simultaneously clapping out the rhythm of the verse.
- Then see if they can say the words while you clap the rhythm without saying the words.
- Try one more time as a group while clapping on every other word instead of saying it aloud.
- Then, sitting in a circle, guide the group to “pass the verse around the circle.”
- Choose one kid to start by clapping and saying the first word.
- The next kid follows with the next word, and so on until the entire verse has been said.
- Challenge kids to try to get faster and faster without messing up a clap or a word.

What You Say:

“When we are working for people in need, we should still give our best. Just because someone isn’t paying us to do a job, that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t do good work. That means if you decide to help your little brother learn to tie his shoes, you should put just as much effort into it as you would if your mom or dad were paying you ten dollars to do it. This verse tells us to act like we are working for God, and so we should remember: **[Bottom Line] Don’t wait for someone else to help people in need.**”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Direct kids to sit on the floor in a circle.
- Go around the circle and encourage kids to name things people might need such as food, water, a home, a smile, a kind word, a Bible, socks, help with chores, etc.
- When everyone has had a turn to say something, pray together.

What You Say:

“God, You know all the needs of the people in the world. Sometimes the needs seem too big for us, but we also know there are things we can do to help. Please remind us this week: ***[Bottom Line]* Don’t wait for someone else to help people in need.** We pray that we would be the ones to step forward and help someone this week. Amen.”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING

IF CHILDREN BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE A PRIZE!