

City SG - 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*

1. Let Me See

What You Need: A tray/plate (1 per group); a variety of small toys that will fit on the tray (1 plastic bag of 12 toys per group); cloth napkin or towel (1 per group); scrap paper; pens

What You Do:

- Put 10 of the toys on the tray and cover it so the kids can't see what you are doing.
- Bring out the tray and tell the kids that they will have 30 seconds to remember as many things as they can from the tray.
- Uncover the tray and time kids for 30 seconds.
- Then quickly pass out paper and a pen to each kid and instruct kids to write a list of all the things they remember being on the tray.
- Then uncover the tray and see who was able to remember the most things.
- If time allows, try out these variations:
 - Secretly take one item off of the tray and see if kids notice which item you removed.
 - Secretly add a new item and see if they can tell what's new.
 - Give kids a chance to be the ones to add or remove items.

What You Say:

“Wow! I'm amazed at how good your powers of observation are! **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we heard about Nehemiah who noticed something very important. We can be the same way, by taking initiative!**”

2. Writing on the Wall

What You Need: “Build It Up” Activity Pages (6 per group per service); bibles, markers; scissors (campus supplies)

What You Do:

- Look up Colossians 3:23a as a group.

Finding verses with 1st-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Colossians in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the first part of verse 23 in chapter 3.

- Read the verse together.
- Then divide kids into groups of three or four.
- Give each group an Activity Page or two, depending on how long your preferred translation of the verse is.
- As a group together, they should cut the bricks apart and then write one word of the verse on each brick.
- Kids can color the bricks if they finish before the rest of the group.
- Bring the groups back together and have them lay out their bricks on the floor or on a table and pretend their brick wall is vertical.
- All the groups can stack their brick verses together to make a bigger wall

What You Say:

“This verse tells us that we should work hard at whatever we do, but we have to **[Bottom Line] be on the lookout for what needs to be done** so we know what work there is to do. We should always make sure we are not taking shortcuts when we are doing our work—whether it’s chores or homework or a project—because God tells us that we should act like we are doing our work for Him and He always deserves our best.”

3. Let Me Help

What You Need: Paper plates (25 total each bin, Red X on 1 Side, Green X on the other)

What You Do:

- Divide kids into two teams.
- Assign one team green and the other team red.
- Tell kids to flip the plates as fast as they can so their team’s color is facing up.
- Tell kids that they cannot touch or run into each other on purpose while flipping plates.
- Stop the kids at a random time.
- When the kids stop, whichever team has the most X’s of their color showing is the winner.
- Play again. Continue as long as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“You guys did a great job of flipping those plates! Do you think you would have been just as successful if you had played with your eyes closed? Probably not—you wouldn’t have been able to see which side was the right color! When we say to **[Bottom Line] be on the lookout for what needs to be done**, we really mean to be looking for what needs to be done—with both your eyes and your ears. What are some ways you might see and hear things that need to be done? When you walk through the kitchen, what might you see that needs to be done? What about in the halls at school? (*Pause for responses.*) You might notice the trash needs to be emptied so you ask if you can take it outside. Or maybe you hear your teacher say that she has a lot of papers to hand out so you offer to help her. If you weren’t paying attention and making sure you’re on the lookout, you might miss being able to help in those ways!”

4. Double Take

What You Need: “Double Take” Activity Page (1 per group), paper (1 sheet per kid), Markers (campus supplies)

What You Do:

- Hand out the paper and set the markers where kids can all reach them.
- Place the Activity Page illustration somewhere everyone can see it, such as in the middle of your circle or taped to a nearby wall.
- Ask kids to copy the picture on the Activity Page by drawing it as best they can on their own paper.
- However, tell them to change a few things—maybe put a hat on one of the horses, make one of the men’s beards a different shape, or color something a different color.
- When everyone is finished drawing, instruct kids to trade drawings with a partner.
- They should now take their friend’s drawing and circle the things that are different from the Activity Page.

What You Say:

“Those pictures were pretty detailed! Sometimes it was really silly and obvious what was different, and sometimes you really had to look closely. We’ve been talking today about how if you aren’t paying attention, you won’t be able to see what needs to be done. What did Nehemiah see that needed to be done? Did anyone come and tell him to rebuild the wall? If Nehemiah had only thought about his own job and his own life, would he have thought to go and ask for permission to rebuild the wall? (*Allow for responses after each question.*) **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time someone did something for you without you having to ask them to.)** At home and at school this week, try to **[Bottom Line] be on the lookout for what needs to be done.**”

5. Motions for Memory

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Use the navigation tips below to look up Colossians 3:23a as a group.

Finding verses with 1st-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Colossians in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Colossians starts with the letters C-O. When the kids find Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 23 in chapter 3.

- Read the verse aloud several times together.
- Teach the following motions to the kids to help them learn the verse from memory. (These motions were designed specifically for the NIV);
 - Work – *tap fists together*
 - At everything you do – *motion out in a semi-circle with arms*
 - With all your heart – *place both hands over your heart*
 - Work – *tap fists together*
 - As if you – *point to self*
 - Were working – *tap fists together*
 - For the Lord – *point up.*
 - Colossians 3:23a – *open hands like a book*
- Repeat several times with motions.

What You Say:

“When it comes to showing initiative, we need to work at everything we do with all our hearts. We need to give the task in front of us our full attention and know that God sees it when we choose to do a job well! Remember this week to **[Bottom Line] be on the lookout for what needs to be done.**”

6. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Start off with the kids standing and facing a wall.
- Ask kids what they think Nehemiah might have been nervous about when he left the palace to go build the wall. What do they think he might have been afraid of?
- Pray together as a group, asking kids to hold their hands over their eyes like they are visors, shielding their eyes from the sun, looking at the wall that needs to be rebuilt.

What You Say:

“God, sometimes it might be easier for us to look the other way or ignore the things that need to be done. However, we have learned today that we should **[Bottom Line] be on the lookout for what needs to be done.** Please help us to keep our eyes and ears open so we can help others and do what needs to be done. Show us that following You means helping others, and give us good attitudes this week to help those around us. Amen.”

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

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