

City SG - 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*

1. Another Brick in the Wall

What You Need: Red paper (1 sheet per child), markers, clear tape (1 roll per group)

What You Do:

- Hand out a piece of red paper and some markers to each kid.
- Let kids decorate the construction paper with drawings that represent something about themselves.
- Encourage them to add things to the paper like what they like to do, what they like to eat, what they're good at, people in their family, etc.
- When kids are finished, let them take turns sharing.
- Then instruct them to fold the paper long side two times and in half once to make a rectangle.
- Pass out tape so kids can tape their paper into a brick shape.
- When everyone has a brick, use the bricks to build a wall on a flat surface
- Tape the paper wall together.

What You Say:

“When it was time to build the wall, Nehemiah took action. But it wasn't as easy as just picking up one brick and stacking it on top of the next one. Sanballat and his friends were determined to distract Nehemiah from what he needed to do. So, instead of listening to their distracting words, Nehemiah prayed, and then he gave each family a job to do. Because everyone was using their gifts and talents to build the wall, there was a little bit of each family represented in the final product. The people focused on what they were doing instead of on the people who wanted to get in their way. Even when Sanballat sent threats, Nehemiah didn't get distracted by his fear and was able to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on what needs to be done.**”

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you kept getting distracted, but ultimately you were able to focus and finish what needed to be done.) “Sometimes we have a job to do that we just need to finish. In those times, we have to put distractions aside and not be stopped from what we are doing. This week, when a distraction comes your way, turn away from what's distracting you and finish the task at hand.”

2. Don't Do As I Do

What You Need: “Don't Do As I Do” Activity Pages (1 per pair of children), scissors, timer

What You Do:

- Let kids pair up and work with their partner to cut apart the Activity Pages and make a set of cards.
- Each set of partners should have one set of cards.
- Ask partners to stand and face each other with the stack of cards face down between them.
- When you say, “Go,” both kids will choose a card from the top of the stack and do that action while facing their partner.
- Let kids keep doing the action for approximately 20 seconds and then say, “Stop.”
- Let each kid draw another card, and repeat as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“Great job! When you guys were doing those actions, you really had to stay focused on what you were supposed to be doing and not what the other person was doing. Even though you were looking at the other person's actions the whole time, you had to remember what your own action was. Sometimes it can be easy to look around at what everyone else is doing and let it be a distraction from what you are trying to do.”

For instance, maybe you are finishing up a test but someone near you is already done and they are talking. Or maybe you and your sister are supposed to be cleaning up your room, but your sister just wants to play with all the toys. We have to remember in these situations to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on what needs to be done**. When Nehemiah was distracted, he would pray and ask God to help him finish what he was doing. That is a good way for us to remember to stay focused also. When you get distracted this week, remember to pray and ask God to help you keep going.”

3. I'll Do It Coupon Books

What You Need: “Coupon Book” sheet (1 per child) and “Note to Parents” Activity Pages (1 per child), markers, scissors, staplers (1 per group), and staples

What You Do:

- Pass out a copy of the “Coupon Book” Activity Page to each child to color and cut apart.
- As the kids are coloring their pages, read each coupon and talk about each job.
- Encourage the children to draw an additional task of their choice on the blank coupon.
- Explain that they will take these coupon books home and give them to an adult.
- The adult will choose when to “redeem” the coupon. (That means they will tear it out and hand it to the child and the child must complete that task without getting distracted.)
- When kids have cut out the pages, help them assemble the book with the cover on top (the coupons themselves can be in random order) and staple along the edge.
- Hand out the Parent Note to adults as they arrive to pick up child.

What You Say:

“I want you to give these books to your mom, dad, grandma, or any other adult in your house who would like for you to do some extra chores. I'll send this note home that explains how to use them. When you're handed a coupon this week, I want you to complete the task with initiative! And don't let yourself get distracted. A distraction is anything that can pull you away from the job right in front of you, like when the TV is on while you're trying to finish your homework, or the dog keeps sticking her head in the dishwasher when you're trying to put away the dishes. Let's try to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on what needs to be done** so we can complete each one! Do you think you can do it?”

4. Say It With Focus

What You Need: Large cardstock (1 per group, per service), marker, Bibles

What You Do:

- Help the kids look up Colossians 3:23a and review together.
- Write out the words of the verse on the construction paper/poster board as the kids are reciting the verse.
- You can also review the motions from Week One.
 - 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*
- Explain that you will point to different kids at different times to say the verse.
 - They must stay focused on saying the verse all the way through while friends around them are reciting the verse at their assigned times **WITHOUT** getting distracted.
 - They can use the words in the center as reference if they need to.
 - Hopefully by Week Four, they know the verse (and most of the motions) from memory.
 - Point to one child to start reciting the verse. Then wait three seconds and point to another child to begin.

- Repeat, waiting three or four seconds between each child, until everyone is reciting the verse.
- They will be talking over one another, but encourage them to use their normal voices with no yelling!

What You Say:

“Was it hard to recite the verse when everyone else was talking? It would have been so much easier to complete this task without all the extra voices and distractions. But in real life, we face distractions all the time that want to take our attention away from the job in front of us. If we allow these distractions to stop us, then we’d never get anything done! Let’s make an effort this week to ***[Bottom Line]* stay focused on what needs to be done.**”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- If possible, dim the lights in the room or turn off just half of them.
- Ask the group to give examples of distractions that come along and make it hard for them to get chores, homework, and other things finished.
- Talk to kids about quieting their minds and focusing on nothing but talking to God for the next few moments.
- Pray in a quiet voice.

What You Say:

“God, there are so many distractions in the world—everything from noise to screens to other people. We even get distracted by our own minds and the thoughts that come in and out of them. Please help us this week to ignore these distractions and ***[Bottom Line]* stay focused on what needs to be done.** When distractions come, we pray that You would help us remember to ask You for peace and for focus. Amen.”

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

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

HAND OUT “PARENT NOTE” TO EACH PARENT AS THEY PICK UP CHILD