

City SG - 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*

1. Shelter Building

What You Need: Colored paper (1 sheet per child), clear tape (1 roll per group), scissors, Popsicle sticks (4 per child)

What You Do:

- Hand out the materials (1 sheet of paper and 4 popsicle sticks per child) and encourage the kids to build a “shelter” with the items provided.
- Each shelter should be no larger than a sheet of paper and no taller than a Popsicle stick.
- As the kids are working, discuss what happened in the Bible story today using the plot points and questions below.
- Bible Story Plot Points
 - Nehemiah came to Jerusalem to do what? (*Rebuild the wall*) Yes! And now the walls and gates were finally finished.
 - Nehemiah and the people had rebuilt the wall in how many days? (*52*) Jerusalem was now safe from an enemy attack. The enemies were afraid because God had helped them.
 - Now that everyone was safe, they gathered to honor God and celebrate what He had done. Do you remember who read from God’s word? (*Ezra*)
 - Once they heard God’s Word, they began to see that they had wandered far from God. Some began to cry. But Ezra said, “Don’t be sad. Honor God!”
 - The people celebrated the Feast of Booths by building shelters and remembering how God took care of them when they received freedom from slavery in Egypt.
- If time allows, let the kids share their shelters with the rest of the group.

What You Say:

“Your shelters look GREAT! Can you believe that Nehemiah and the people rebuilt the walls and gates around Jerusalem in 52 days? Well, I guess it’s not that surprising since nothing is too hard for God. When they finished building, it made sense for them to celebrate! And soon they were thanking God for all He had done not only in helping to rebuild but also in the past when He’d helped the people flee from slavery in Egypt. It’s a good reminder to us too that we need to **[Bottom Line]** look for ways to celebrate what God has done.”

[Make It Personal] (*Share with your group a time when you chose to celebrate something that God had done in your own life. Maybe you attended a worship service or spent time outdoors enjoying God’s beautiful creation.*)

2. Party Time!

What You Need: No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

- Talk to kids about what kind of party they would have for their birthday if there were no limit to cost or location. Ask:
 - Where would it be?
 - What would be the theme?
 - Who would you invite?
 - What activities would there be?
 - What gifts would you hope to get?
 - What food and drinks would there be?

What You Say:

“Those all sound like an amazing party that I’d love to attend! It looks and sounds like you guys are ready for a celebration! **[Transition] Today in Small Group, we are going to celebrate all that God has done for us!**”

3. Woo-hoo!

What You Need: Party horns (1 per child); white board/marker/eraser (1 per bin)

What You Do:

- Tell kids that the Bible says: *Every good and perfect gift is from God (James 1:17a, NIV).*
- Hand out a party blower to each kid.
- Let kids take turns naming things God has given them (family, a home, food to eat, a good school, a pet, musical talent, athletic abilities, etc.).
- As they talk, use the white board to write down what they say.
- Every time someone names something, everyone should blow the party horns. Let kids cheer and clap too, if you feel like they are able to refocus quickly.

What You Say:

“You guys were able to think of a lot of things to celebrate! **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about something you are grateful for that God has given you.)** Sometimes it can be easy to take for granted all that God has given us. In addition to all the things we named here, God also gave us the most important gift of all—the gift of His Son, Jesus. Because Jesus came to Earth and died for our sins, we can have eternal life with Him. That is REALLY something to celebrate, and that’s what we are going to be celebrating all day today. We have a great list of all the ways God has blessed us, but as you go about your week, don’t forget to **[Bottom Line] look for ways to celebrate what God has done.**”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Party hats (1 per child)

What You Do:

- Hand out the party hats and let kids put them on.
- Ask each child their birthday, what their favorite present they ever got was, and what is their favorite part about celebrating.
- Ask each child what is one thing that they can celebrate about God.
 - Examples: “He loves me”, “He gave me Jesus”, “He has a plan for me”, etc.
- Ask everyone to lift their hands in the air like they are celebrating as they pray.

What You Say:

“God, we can’t thank You enough for all the wonderful gifts You have given us. We are so blessed and so thankful to You for everything we have. Most of all, though, we are thankful for the gift of Your Son. Jesus is the best gift and the most wonderful reason to celebrate. We pray that this week you would help us to **[Bottom Line] look for ways to celebrate what God has done** and that You would help us to be grateful for all You have already done. Amen.”

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

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