

City SG - 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*

1. Imagine If

What You Need: Markers, pens, paper

What You Do:

- Help kids imagine what would have happened if things HADN'T gone the way they did in this story:
 - What if Nehemiah's family hadn't moved away? (*They might have been there when the wall was destroyed*)
 - What if the king hadn't given Nehemiah permission to leave? (*The wall might not have been rebuilt; maybe he would've snuck away anyway and gotten in trouble*)
 - What if Nehemiah had seen the rubble and decided it was too much and the wall couldn't be rebuilt? (*The wall might not ever have been rebuilt*)
 - What if the wall had never been rebuilt? (*The city might have been attacked*)
 - What if Nehemiah had tried to rebuild the wall totally on his own, without any help? (*He never would've finished; he could have been hurt*)
- Next, talk to kids about some modern day things and what it would be like if they had never happened.
 - What if running water was never invented? (*We would have to get our water from a well*)
 - What if cars and trains were never invented? (*We'd have to walk everywhere*)
 - What if electricity had never been invented? (*We'd have to use candles for lights*)
 - What if computers had never been invented? (*We'd have to write letters and look for information in books*)
- Then pass out paper, pens, markers.
- Ask kids to draw a picture of the room they are in. Instruct them to make it as detailed as possible.
- On the back of the pictures, tell kids to draw the room again, but imagine all those things we just talked about were real—there's no running water, no cars, no electricity, no computers, and none of the other "inventions" that might be in the room such as staplers and pens.

What You Say:

"We are pretty fortunate to live in a time when we have so many things around us that make our lives easier, safer, and more fun. When Nehemiah rebuilt the wall, he took the initiative because he knew it would make his city safer. His story reminds us of our Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** If Nehemiah had waited for someone else to do it, the wall might never have been rebuilt. Just like if the person who invented electricity hadn't done that, we might be sitting here in the dark! **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you saw something that needed to be done and you did it without being asked.)** When I did that, even though no one had asked me to, I felt good because I knew it needed to be done and now it was taken care of. This week, try to keep an eye out for ways you can help too, even when you don't have to."

2. Don't Tip the Scale

What You Need: "Don't Tip the Scale Diagram" Activity Page (one per group); jumbo popsicle stick (one per group); Dixie cups (3 per group); tape (one roll per group); pennies/beans/Skittles or other small objects

What You Do:

- Using the Activity Page as a visual example, tape two Dixie Cups to each end of a jumbo Popsicle stick.
- Then balance the stick on an upside-down third cup.
- The object of the game is to tip the "scale" by making your side heavier before the person on the other side does.
- Start with two kids and let them face off to add pennies/bean/Skittles or other small objects to the cups one at a time.
- Kids can only be holding one object at a time, so they must pick one up off the table every time they want to drop one in (to prevent kids from dropping a whole handful in at one time).
- Get kids started each round with an, "On your mark. Get set. Go!"
- When the cups fall or the scale gets tipped, reset the game and let two more kids face off and have a turn.

What You Say:

"In this game, if you had waited for someone else, you would've lost. You had to take the initiative to keep putting the pennies in the cup or the whole thing would topple. Just like it's important that we **[Bottom Line] don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** If we wait for someone else to do things, they might never get done and then there would be consequences for that. For instance, if your dad was in charge of the laundry, but he waited for someone else to do it, there might never be clean clothes. Or, if your soccer coach just sat on the sidelines and expected you to figure out how to play or what to work on, you would probably never get better at soccer. What are some other things that are important for us not to wait for someone else to do?" (Allow for responses like picking up our bedrooms, taking the dog outside, feeding the fish, tying a little brother or sister's shoe.)

3. Sticky Note Verse

What You Need: Bibles, sticky notes, and markers

What You Do:

- Help the kids look up and read Colossians 3:23a together as a group.
- Below are the motions for this month's Bible Verse:
 - 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 3:23 – *open hands like a book*
- As kids are repeating the verse with the motions, write out each word of the verse, including the reference, on separate sticky notes.
- Then place the sticky notes in verse order on the wall or area around your group.

- Point to each word as you say the verse. Then remove one or two sticky notes and repeat again.
- Continue removing sticky notes and repeating the verse until you can say the verse from memory.

What You Say:

“This verse tells us to work at EVERYTHING with all our hearts. Notice it doesn’t say ‘some things’ or ‘only the things someone else tells us to do.’ When we see something that needs to be done, let’s do it! **[Bottom Line] Don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** If we want to do something like we’re doing it for God, we won’t wait for someone else to do it. We’ll do it ourselves!”

4. Work for It

What You Need: “Work for It” Activity Pages (one per kid), Brick Stickers (1 sheet per 2 kids – each kid can use about 27 stickers)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a Verse Activity Page.
- Read the memory verse together as a group.
- Give the kids the red “brick” stickers and instruct them to make a “**W**” for Work, or a **heart** or a **cross** on the Verse Sheet with the bricks.
- They can hang the sheet somewhere they can see it first thing in the morning to remind them to look for ways to help people every day.

What You Say:

“Work is not always fun. Sometimes it can be something boring or gross or something that we just really don’t want to do. But work is also important for many different reasons and often helps our lives run more smoothly, helps someone else, or earns us the money we need. Even though we might not always WANT to do the work, sometimes we just have to do it. A great way to work as if you’re working for God is this: **[Bottom Line] Don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.**”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Hand out a Bible to each kid.
- Help kids find the book of Nehemiah in the Old Testament.
- Let kids hold the Bible while they pray over the book of Nehemiah.

What You Say:

“God, we thank You that You have given us examples in the Bible of people who weren’t perfect but who did what needed to be done anyway. Thank You for telling us all about how Nehemiah showed initiative. As we go about our weeks, help us to remember this week’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** Amen.”

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

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