

City LG—September 11th-13th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Help! (Nehemiah Helps the Poor) • *Nehemiah 5*

Today's Bottom Line: Look for ways to make things right.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.* Colossians 3:23a (NIRV)

WORSHIP: Something Good and Believe It

“Hi, everybody! Today we're looking at another amazing example of initiative as we continue the story of Nehemiah. (*Hold up Bible.*) Nehemiah had traveled all the way from the king's palace in Persia to see the broken-down city of Jerusalem. With God's help, Nehemiah got the people of Jerusalem to help him repair the city wall. Each family or group took a different part of the wall to work on. They had everything they needed as they started the work.

“But the job wasn't easy! People from other cities and countries made fun of God's people and yelled at them as they worked. Still, Nehemiah and the people found a way to ignore those mean words and keep working. It seemed like nothing could stop their rebuilding project . . . until new trouble showed up. But the trouble didn't come from outside the city walls. This problem was on the INSIDE. The families who were helping rebuild the wall began to complain. Let me read you what they said.

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 5:2-4 (NIRV) and read.

“Some of them were saying, ‘There are now many of us. We have many sons and daughters. We have to get some grain so we can eat and stay alive.’ Others were saying, ‘We're being forced to sell our fields, vineyards and homes. We have to do it to buy grain. There isn't enough food for everyone.’ Still others were saying, ‘We've had to borrow money. We needed it to pay the king's tax on our fields and vineyards.’

“Uh oh. That doesn't sound good. The people were upset because there wasn't enough food for everyone. And they were upset because they had to sell their fields and vineyards to buy grain. The people had to borrow money to pay the king's taxes . . . and the officials charged them EXTRA money to borrow the money they needed. Some of the people even had to send their children to work for the officials since they owed them so much money. Nehemiah saw what was happening, and he knew that it wasn't right. So he took initiative! He called the officials to a meeting. Let's find out what happens next with the help of this week's video!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 5:30)

“All the other governors had made the people give them silver, food, land, and anything else they had. But not Nehemiah! (*Hold up the Nehemiah action figure.*) Nehemiah didn't want to make things difficult for the people. He kept his focus on the job they had to do—and he made sure the people had what they needed to do their part, too. He even invited 150 people to eat the food at his own table!

“It was important for Nehemiah to take care of the people. So when he saw that they were treated unfairly, he took initiative. He spoke to the officials and asked them to make things right. We can do the same thing. When we see that people are being treated unfairly or when we see something happening that we know is wrong, we can . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “look for ways to make things right.”

“You can always ask an adult if you’re not sure HOW to help. But the important thing is that we can take initiative—together—and work to make things right for others. Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

PRAY: “God, thank You for the story of Nehemiah. Thank You for helping us see how we can **[Bottom Line] look for ways to make things right**. When we see a problem that needs to be fixed or someone who’s not being treated well, give us the courage to step up and do something to help. Please show us how we can make things better for the people around us. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“Nehemiah had a big job to do. He was trying to lead the people to rebuild the city wall of Jerusalem. But he still wasn’t too busy to notice that something was wrong. He looked around and saw that some of his people were being treated unfairly because they were poor. So he did something about it! He stood up for the people and worked to make things fairer.

“That’s something we can do, too. We can stand up for people who are being treated unfairly because of the way they look, where they’re from, how much money they have, or what they believe. We can think about what the people around us are going through . . . and if we notice something that needs to change, we can be PART of that change. We can step up and work to make things right for others.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

“We can **[Bottom Line] look for ways to make things right**.

“That takes some initiative, doesn’t it? That’s **seeing what needs to be done and doing it**. It’s not always easy for us to pay attention to other people and think about what THEY need, but God is always there to help us. He is always good. He always does what’s right. When we work to make things right for others, we can be part of the important work God is doing all around us, every day! Think about how Jesus treated people when He lived on Earth. Jesus really SAW people. He showed them how valuable they were by loving them, no matter what. And Jesus helped people see how they could love others, too. He helped people understand that each day they could choose to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way they’d want to be treated**. So how do we **[Bottom Line] look for ways to make things right**? That’s what you get to talk about in Small Group! I’ll see you next time, friends!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups after offering.

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here’s a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering, you can bring it up now!”

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri, New Lenox: Daniel, Homer Glen: Victor