

City LG—September 18th-20th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now (Nehemiah and Sanballat) • *Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6*

Today's Bottom Line: Stay focused on what needs to be done.

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, everyone! We're continuing the story of Nehemiah today. (*Hold up Bible.*) We've already seen how God helped Nehemiah show initiative in a BIG way. Let's recap where we've been so far.

“At first, Nehemiah was living in the land of Persia. But then he heard that the city walls of Jerusalem were broken down, which meant that God's people there had no protection. Nehemiah decided to travel to Jerusalem. When he got there, he saw the broken-down walls for himself. He knew that somebody had to do SOMETHING . . . so he talked to the people, and they agreed to help him rebuild.

“There was a problem, though. The people in the lands around Jerusalem weren't very happy about Nehemiah's rebuilding project. They knew that if the wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt, the Jewish people would be able to defend themselves again.”

“Two men in particular, named Sanballat and Tobiah, laughed and made fun of God's people as they worked on the wall. But Nehemiah kept his cool and stayed calm. He trusted God. He didn't let Sanballat and Tobiah distract him. You see, Nehemiah had a plan.

“Nehemiah gave each family or group a part of the wall to rebuild. Sanballat and Tobiah were shocked to see the people making progress on the wall. They made fun of the workers and said mean things about them.

“But Nehemiah didn't listen to those guys. Instead, he prayed to God. The people worked with all their heart, and they rebuilt the wall until it was half as high as they wanted it to be. They were making progress!”

“Sanballat and Tobiah tried to plan with other nations to attack Jerusalem before the wall could be finished. Can you believe that?!?! Let's find out what happened with the help of our video!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 7:00)

“The wall was completed in record time by a group of ordinary, everyday people. It was clear to everyone that God had helped Nehemiah and the people stay focused and finish strong. That's a good lesson for the rest of us, too!

“When there's a job to do, we need to take initiative. We need to remember that God is with us. We need to do this . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “stay focused on what needs to be done.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us.”

PRAY: “Dear God, thank You for helping Nehemiah stand strong, even when people were mean to him. You helped him focus so he could keep going when others tried to distract him. God, we know that we need to stay focused, too. We need to keep doing the things that You want us to do. Help us remember that You’re always with us and that **we can trust You no matter what.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“With God’s help, we can show initiative! God is strong and faithful! He can give us the strength we need as we do what He’s asked us to do.

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “stay focused on what needs to be done.

“That’s something we can see when we look at the way Jesus lived. There was a lot that could have distracted Jesus from doing what He had come to do: die on the cross for our sins. But Jesus stayed focused on what was most important. He had come to save the world and make it possible for us to have a relationship with God, forever!

“So when there’s something you need to do, don’t let things distract you. Don’t let people who are making unwise choices distract you. Ask God to help you **[Bottom Line] stay focused on what needs to be done.**

“You can head to Small Group now and talk about that some more. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups after leading 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