

## City LG—September 4th-6th, 2021

**Today's Bible Story:** Makin' Plans (Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall) • *Nehemiah 1:1–2:18*

**Today's Bottom Line:** Don't wait for someone else to do 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

"Hey, friends! We're talking this month about initiative.

**SLIDE: Initiative**

**"Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.**

"All month, we'll look at the life of a man who showed a LOT of initiative and took on a very important job. (*Hold up Bible.*) His name was Nehemiah. Unfortunately, during this time, God's people just couldn't bring themselves to follow God and live His way. They kept turning away from God . . . and eventually, God allowed enemy armies to take His people captive and take them away to the Babylonian Empire.

"After 70 years, some of God's people were allowed to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple that had been destroyed. Meanwhile, in the Babylonian Empire—which was now part of Persia—the Jewish people had settled in and made lives for themselves. Among them was our friend Nehemiah. In fact, Nehemiah had a pretty important job as the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes.

"That meant that he was always with the king, and before the king would drink anything, Nehemiah would taste it first to make sure it was safe. The king trusted Nehemiah with his very own life. Now, you're in for a treat today, because as the events of this story unfold, we get to listen in on what Nehemiah might have written in his journal. We don't know if Nehemiah HAD a journal. But if he did, it might have sounded something like this. Let's take a look at this week's video!"

**CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 7:00)**

"God moved the hearts of the people to want to help Nehemiah. And together, they began the gigantic job of repairing the walls and gates of Jerusalem. Nehemiah knew that it was important for SOMEONE to do something to help . . . so why not him? First, he took the initiative to see the problem for himself. Then, he helped the people see how God could work through them as they made plans to rebuild. With God's help, they could work together to make the city strong and safe!

"Nehemiah's story shows us something important that we can also do today. Here it is.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] "Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.**

“When we see something that needs to be done, we don’t have to wait around and hope that someone else will take care of it. We can jump into action and make it better—together. Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

**PRAY:** “Dear God, thank You for the story of Nehemiah. It’s so cool to see how Nehemiah trusted You and took initiative to help the people of Jerusalem. He showed them how they could work together to fix the problem with Your help. Please help us trust You like he did. Help us look around for ways that we can show initiative . . . and help us take action instead of waiting for someone else to help. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“What a cool story! It’s pretty amazing how Nehemiah took the initiative to help the people of Jerusalem. I mean, Nehemiah wasn’t even LIVING in Jerusalem. Remember, he was far away in Persia! So it would have been easy for him to think, ‘Well, that’s too bad about what they’re going through . . . but maybe someone else will do something to help.’

“That’s not what Nehemiah did, is it? Nope. He decided that HE would be the one to help. He asked the king to let him go to Jerusalem . . . he saw the damage for himself . . . then he rallied the people to start rebuilding. I think it’s safe to say that God worked through Nehemiah in a BIG way!

“God can work through us, too. **We can trust Him no matter what!** He can help us see the things around us that need to be done or the people who need our help. He can help us take initiative and do something to lend a hand. Remember . . .

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] “Don’t wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.**

“We can also look at the life of Jesus and see how HE took initiative. When Jesus saw a need, He did something about it! He healed people who needed healing. He taught people who needed to learn. And Jesus took care of our greatest need when He died on the cross for our sins.

“So this week, let’s try to SEE what needs to be done around us . . . then let’s do something about it! If you see your dirty socks lying on the floor, take initiative and toss them in the hamper. If you see that your brother forgot to feed the fish, don’t go tell your mom that he forgot. Feed the fish FOR him, then let him know you’ve got it covered. If you notice that one of your friends seems sad, don’t just walk on by. Stop and ask her what’s wrong. Maybe she just needs a good friend like you to let her know you care! Here’s our memory verse for this month, Colossians 3:23.

**SLIDE: Memory Verse**

*“Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.  
(Colossians 3:23a, NIV)”*

“We can take initiative to do what needs to be done—and we can work at it with all of our hearts! Sounds like a plan, don’t you think? You can head to Small Group now, and if you have offering you can place it in our bin!”

*Lead offering then dismiss kids to groups.*

**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