



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

November 8-9, 2014

DATE

Nehemiah

LESSON TITLE

Book of Nehemiah, Philippians 4:6  
Adventure Bible (pp. 538, 1306)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God Redeems Everything

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

Nehemiah's story is pretty long, but boils down to a few things. He heard God's call and obeyed it. And when the job that God called him to do turned out to be pretty hard, he trusted that God would be faithful and help him.

## check-in/out

Ask kids about the new cities they created! What are they like? Why did they make them?

## large group heads up

We've got some brand new music videos; be sure to look them up online or listen to the new Love Beats CD!



## connect time

**Goal:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### **BUILDING ACTIVITY**

*\*Break into small groups for this activity*

- Each group should get a **large tear off sheet of paper** and **markers**. Make sure the paper is big enough for all the kids to reach it at the same time.
- Tell kids that they're going to build their own city, but they have to work together to do it.
- Encourage them to use their imaginations and make it the coolest city they can create. It should be a place they would want to live. Include things like houses, restaurants, parks, racetracks and toy stores, etc. They can make it however they want!
- Make sure every kid gets a chance to contribute to the city.
- Bring your city to large group and be prepared to share it as a group.
- Once you're finished, ask kids:
  1. What do you think is the most important thing to have in a city or a place to live?
  2. What were the best and worst parts of your week?

**Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will **(1)** retell the story of Nehemiah **(2)** understand how Nehemiah trusted and obeyed God and **(3)** identify how God can redeem us from anything.

**Why:** Nehemiah listened to God's call and trusted God completely; we need to do the same in our lives when we come across obstacles from the enemy.

**Tip:** Emphasize how God is a rescuer and will fight for us. He'll stick up for us when we feel hurt or unsafe.

## small group

### REVIEW AND DIG DEEPER:

**\*Pass around a bean bag to the person who's speaking. Each group member should be prepared to hold the bean bag and answer questions.**

1. Why were God's people in trouble?
2. What did Nehemiah do when he realized his people weren't safe in Jerusalem?
3. What did Nehemiah do when his enemies kept trying to stop him from doing his job?
4. What did Nehemiah and God's people do when the wall was finished?
5. What is something that you think God wants you to do?
6. Do you have any battles, or hard things in your life, that you need God's help with?

### ACTIVITY NAME

- Tell kids to go get the paper they taped on the wall and bring it back.
- Ask if anyone wants to share what they wrote down.
- Hand each kid a **piece of construction of paper** and set out **collage materials, glue sticks and markers.**
- Tell them to design a new city, house, building, or wall (they can be creative!) on their paper using all these random materials that don't seem like much right now. Encourage them to use the materials to create something completely new!
- This creation can remind them that God creates and rebuilds things out of nothing. Even things that have been completely destroyed!

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**Pray, Thank God for redeeming us, no matter how bad things may seem. Ask him to help us obey whatever he calls us to do.**

***Extra time?** Go around the group and ask kids to share their creation and why they made it the way they did. What kinds of people live there? What would they do there? Is it imaginary or is it a place they know already?*

## special notes

Think of a specific time in your life when you felt discouraged, or one bad thing kept happening after another. How were you able to trust God through that experience? Use that example during the lesson today.

## presenter tips

We'll be watching a video about the story of Nehemiah!

We have some awesome new music videos today: "More Like You Are" and "All That You Need"

## script

*\*Click to play intro music*

Hey everybody! It is so good to see you here today, welcome to Kids' Club! We have some amazing cities that you all just created, so let's get started by learning about what you've just built together! Let's start with *this* group, can you tell us about some of the things you've included in your city? (Pick one of the groups to stand up and show their city to the rest of the room). Wow, that was awesome! Let's hear from the next group! (Continue going to each group until everyone has had a chance to share their city.)

Those cities were amazing! You all did a great job of imagining awesome places to live. Now I want to ask you something that you talked about in your groups. What makes a city, or a neighborhood, or anywhere at all, a *great place to live*? (Allow a few kids to respond.) Thanks guys, those are great answers!

What do you think is the only thing a city **NEEDS** to be a city? **(Click to show slide.) PEOPLE!** If it didn't have people it would be just a bunch of buildings, roads and houses. Today, we're learning about how God used someone special to help rebuild a city that was completely destroyed. His name was Nehemiah, and he had a lot of help from other people!

### **INTRO: NEHEMIAH**

Nehemiah has his own book in the bible, and it starts with him being a very important person. He was a high official who worked for the king. Today, it would be like someone that works as an assistant or advisor to the President. He had it made. He had the best job possible, lived comfortably, and had powerful friends. Most importantly, though, he loved God.

During Nehemiah's time, God's people were in trouble. They were living in a city called **Jerusalem**. **(Click to show slide.)** This city was supposed to be their home, but their enemies had destroyed it. The walls around the city had been ruined, and now God's family wasn't safe.



## script continued

Once Nehemiah heard about this, he knew God had a job for him to do. Something that took a lot of guts. We're going to watch a video about what happens next; as you watch, try to figure out what helped Nehemiah do his job.

### VIDEO: GOD'S STORY/NEHEMIAH

What an amazing story! Why did Nehemiah go to Jerusalem? (Let a kid respond.) What helped Nehemiah get through all the hard things that got in the way of rebuilding the wall? (Let a few kids respond.) Nehemiah definitely had a lot of help from the people around him, and most of all, from God.

### NEHEMIAH RELIES ON OTHERS

One of the really amazing things about how Nehemiah rebuilt the wall was that he worked alongside all kinds of different people. Back then, people mostly stayed with others like themselves. If you were wealthy, you only hung out with other wealthy people. If you were a servant, you hung out with other servants. But when Nehemiah built this wall, everyone—priests, servants, rich people, poor people, men, woman, children—they all worked together, side by side, to help finish this job.

God *wanted* Nehemiah to work this way. He had a purpose in it. He wanted his people to join together, no matter what they did or where they came from, because that's how he wanted his whole kingdom to be in the future.

### OBSTACLES IN NEHEMIAH'S WAY

Nehemiah had a lot of obstacles in his way. Things that would be discouraging and make him want to give up. Raise your hand if you've ever felt discouraged? Me too. (Share a personal example of a time you felt discouraged and had to trust and rely on God.)

God's enemies decided to use a lot of different tactics. They made fun of him. They tried to attack him. They tried to trick him into leaving. They tried to mistreat the Israelites. They tried everything they could, and still, Nehemiah didn't budge! Why was he able to be so strong? (Let a kid respond.) That's right. It wasn't his own strength he was relying on. It was God's strength.

As Nehemiah prepared his people to stand guard in case of attack, here's what he said:

**SLIDE: Nehemiah 4:19-20: "Then I spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people. I said, "This is a big job. It covers a lot of territory. We're separated too far from one another along the wall. When you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us at that location. Our God will fight for us!"**

How incredible is that? Nehemiah has so much faith in God that he knows he can trust him to fight for his people and win any battle that comes their way. I want everyone to close your eyes for a minute. Imagine that you're a soldier in the Israelite army. You've got a shield on one arm, and a spear or a sword in the other. You're ready for an attack at any moment. Now I want us all to repeat, "Our God will fight for us" together as loud as you can! Yell it like a battle cry! Ready? **"OUR GOD WILL FIGHT FOR US!"**



script continued

## **GOD REDEEMS EVERYTHING**

Here's the best part of the story: No matter how bad things seem, God can redeem anything. Even a city that had been completely ruined! Because his people trusted and obeyed him, God restored their home. Let's look at this word **redeem**. I'm going to show you 3 choices of the definition, and we'll try and figure out which one it is.

### **SLIDE: "Redeem" Definition**

Do you think it's

- A. To love someone **(Click to show)**
- B. To race across an ice rink on top of a large turtle **(Click to show)**
- C. To rescue something or someone by paying a price **(Click to show)**

Raise your hand if you think it's A? Raise your hand if you think it's B? Raise your hand if you think it's C? Okay, let's see...**(Click to show only option C.)** Wow, good guesses everybody! So when God says he redeems us, that means he's rescuing us by paying a price for us! He loves us so much, that he's willing to do anything to save us from harm!

## **RESPONSE ACTIVITY**

Nehemiah is kind of similar to someone else who helped rebuild. Someone that God sent to us, not just to rebuild a wall, but to rebuild his entire kingdom! It was Jesus, and he had a really important job to do while he was here. He came to rescue each and every one of us from all the sin and hurt in this world.

(Call up some leaders to pass out **paper** and **markers** to kids.) You're going to get a piece of paper and a marker right now. In your spot, I want you to take a minute and ask God about what job he wants you to do. I don't mean a job like something that you get paid to do. I mean something that God wants you to do to show love to the world. It could be something like being kind to a kid at school that gets picked on, or who is a bully. Maybe God wants you to invite a friend to church, or maybe he wants you to read the Bible or pray more. Once you've decided, write it down on your paper in really big letters, so that it fills the whole page!

These pages are going to make up the stones of our own wall! Once you're finished writing, come up to the wall over here (point to where you want them to hang their papers) grab some **tape**, and stick it on the wall. Stack them on top of each other so that all of our papers make a big giant wall that we build together, just like the wall in Jerusalem!

**VIDEO: MORE LIKE YOU ARE**

**VIDEO: ALL THAT YOU NEED**

## **PRAYER**

God, thank you for helping us do whatever job you give us. We worship you for being so powerful, and that you can defeat any enemy that tries to hurt us. We love you, Amen.



**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per group: 1 large tear off sheet of paper, markers

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## small group supplies

Per kid: 1 piece of construction paper

Per group: 1 bean bag, 1 Adventure Bible (pp. 538, 1306), markers, glue sticks, collage materials

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## large group supplies

Per group: Several tape dispensers

Per kid: Paper, marker

Adventure Bible (pp. 538, 1306)

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1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
  2. Slide: People
  3. Slide: Jerusalem
  4. Video: God's Story/Nehemiah (to be uploaded soon)
  5. Slide: Nehemiah 4:19-20: "Then I spoke to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people. I said, "This is a big job. It covers a lot of territory. We're separated too far from one another along the wall. When you hear the sound of the trumpet, join us at that location. Our God will fight for us!"
  6. \* "Redeem" Definition:
    - a. Slide: A) To love someone
    - b. Slide: B) To race across an ice rink on top of a large turtle
    - c. Slide: C) To rescue something or someone by paying a price
    - d. Just option C) To rescue something or someone by paying a price
  7. Video: More Like You Are (to be uploaded soon)
  8. Video: All That You Need (to be uploaded soon)

\*Slide 6 a, b, and c should all appear on one slide, but be clicked separately. Slide d should remove option A and B, so only C remains

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## connect questions

What did God call Nehemiah to do?

What way could you obey God's call this week?

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## parent page

Daily Talk Starts – Separate doc