



K-2

November 22-23, 2014

DATE

Nehemiah

LESSON TITLE

Book of Nehemiah. Philippians 4:6

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 trust him.

check-in/out

Ask kids about the city they created; what did they include in it, how did they build it, etc.

large group heads up

We'll be connecting Nehemiah's story to Jesus' story; how Nehemiah helped rebuild a wall, and Jesus is going to rebuild God's kingdom!



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*

- Break kids into groups (with one leader per group)
- Have the kids in each group sit in a circle.
- Each leader will make up a sentence (any sentence you want!) and will whisper it to a kid in the circle. That kid then whispers it to the next kid in the circle. This repeats until every kid in the circle has whispered the sentence.
- Once the sentence gets around the circle and back to the leader, the leader will say it aloud to see if it's still the same sentence.
- After you're finished, ask kids **1) Why did the sentence change after going around the circle?** And **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. Why did Nehemiah go to 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? (Be nice to your sibling, pray before bed, invite a friend to church, etc.)
6. What do you need God's help with?

A NEW CITY

- Hand each kid a **piece of construction paper** and set out **collage materials, glue sticks and markers**.
- Tell kids they get to build their own city on their paper. They can use the collage paper to create buildings, houses, city walls, etc. They can use **markers** to add details like doors, windows, people, decorations, etc.
- This creation can remind them that God creates and rebuilds things out of nothing. Even things that have been completely destroyed!
- As kids work on their cities, ask them about what they're drawing and why.

Prayer 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

The God's Story video for Nehemiah, as well as worship videos for "More Like You Are" and "All That You Need", can be found on www.crossroadskidsclub.net/weekend

script

**Click to play intro music*

Hey everybody! It is so good to see you here today, welcome to Kids' Club! Can I have a few volunteers tell me what your group's sentence was? (Let a few kids respond.) Wow, those are some funny sentences! Were they different from how they started? (Let kids respond.) They probably were! I wonder why it was so hard to keep the sentence exactly as it started? Who wants to tell me what happened as you whispered it around the circle? (Let a kid respond.)

You're right! You all probably didn't hear the sentence well enough! We had to listen really closely, didn't we? Raise your hand if you ever have to listen to someone? (Let kids raise hands.) Yep, we all have to listen sometimes. In fact, listening is a great thing to do! We're going to learn about a man today who listened very closely to the most important person ever...God!

INTRO: NEHEMIAH

Nehemiah has his own book in the Bible, and it starts with him being a very important person. He got to live in a fancy house, hang out with really cool friends, and he worked for the king! Raise your hand if you would like that job? (Let kids respond.) But more importantly than all that stuff, he loved God with all his heart!

While Nehemiah was serving the king, he heard that God's people were in trouble! They were living in a city called Jerusalem. **(Click to show slide.)** Can everybody repeat that me? (Repeat "Jerusalem" with kids.) 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.

Once Nehemiah heard about this, he knew God had a job for him to do. He listened really hard to what God said to him! Do you all think God ever wants *us* to listen to him? (Let kids respond.) Awesome! Well now we're going to watch a video about what happens next; as you



script continued

watch, try to figure out what God wanted Nehemiah to do.

VIDEO: GOD'S STORY/NEHEMIAH

What an amazing story! Why did Nehemiah go to Jerusalem? (Let a kid respond.) Who helped Nehemiah rebuild the wall? (Let a few kids respond.) Yep, Nehemiah definitely had a lot of help from the people around him. He also had a lot of help from God!

NEHEMIAH RELIES ON OTHERS

One of the really amazing things about how Nehemiah rebuilt the wall was that he worked with all kinds of different people. Back then, people mostly stayed with others like themselves. 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 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. He still wants his family to work together in the same way. It's a way to show love to each other!

On the count of three, I want everyone to shout the name of someone you know that God might want you to show love to! Ready? One, two, three! (Shout name along with kids.)

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. When we feel discouraged, it can feel like nothing is going our way, and that can make us feel pretty sad. 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 tried to use a lot of different ways to defeat him. 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 all these 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 everybody 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!



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Ready? **“OUR GOD WILL FIGHT FOR US!”**

JESUS WILL REBUILD US TOO

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! Do you all know who that was? (Let kids respond.) 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! How does that make you all feel? (Call on a few kids to respond.) Wow, that's great!

Let's celebrate God's amazing power now by singing and dancing to some worship songs!

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.



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PREP needs



connect time supplies

Telephone game – no supplies needed

small group supplies

Per kid: One piece of paper, multi colored collage materials (cut up construction paper squares, 3"x3")
Per group: Bible, bean bag, markers, glue sticks

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Slide: Jerusalem
3. Video: God's Story/Nehemiah
4. 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!"
5. Video: More Like You Are
6. Video: All That You Need

connect questions

Tell me about Nehemiah.
Why does God want us to work together?

parent page

Daily talk starts – sep doc