



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

October 17-18, 2015

DATE

Vision Weekend

LESSON TITLE

Nehemiah; Ephesians 6:10-18; Matthew 6:33

WHERE TO FIND IT

We can make Jesus our king and follow him together.

MAIN POINT

## schedule

*Please follow this adapted schedule:*

- **Connect Time (15 minutes):**  
Start 5 minutes after service starts
- **Large Group Part 1 (15 minutes):** Begin 30 minutes after service start time
- **Group Activity (15 minutes):** In the Large Group script section
- **Large Group Part 2 (15 minutes)**
- **Small Group (10 minutes)**
- **Extra Activities** (keep kids engaged until parents arrive)

## tips

Services will be at least 80 minutes, so the typical flow of the lesson is different. We've got Connect Time, 2 separate Large Group video presentations with a group game in between them and Small Group with two activities (and an additional game if you need more!).

**Before kids arrive**, plan out who wants to lead which parts of the lesson.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, make sure they take their soldier with them and show it to the adult who picks them up.

## large group heads up

Adults are going to be called to battle for God's Kingdom together. Kids will take a step back and recognize that sometimes it's hard to follow Jesus, but that God gives us the tools to fight to obey him. It's a big lesson that covers a lot of ground, but hopefully it will have enough commonalities with what adults hear that it sparks conversations at home.

## 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.*

### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

*\*Play in small groups*

Kids sit in a circle. Go around the circle and play simple improv. Here's how it works:

- Kid A starts by asking Kid B (the kid to their left), "What should I do?"
- Kid B chooses a simple activity like brushing teeth.
- Kid A acts it out briefly.
- Then Kid B turns to Kid C (kid to their left) and says, "What should I do?"
- Kid C acts it out.
- It goes something like this:
  - A: What should I do?
  - B: Tie your shoes
  - (A acts it out)
  - B: What should I do?
  - C: Fight a dragon.
  - (B acts it out.)
  - C: What should I do?
  - D: Sing opera
  - (C acts it out.)
- If kids have trouble coming up with things, feel free to help suggest activities like in the examples above or these: brush your hair, blow your nose, clean your room, clip your fingernails, etc. The important thing is that each kid acts it out on his/her own!

### TALK ABOUT IT

1. How did you feel during that game? Did anybody do something really fun or important? How about something you didn't want to do or didn't understand? Were any of you worried about looking silly?
2. Tell me about a time you did something because Jesus told you to do it. (Or, kids could share the opposite: a time they didn't do something even though they knew Jesus would want them to.)

**Before you go to Large Group, you can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) understand that making Jesus king means following him, (2) recognize that following him can be hard but that God helps us! and (3) identify one way they will follow Jesus this week.

**Why?** Following Jesus is a simple phrase but there are quite a few things (our own sinful nature, other people or wrong things in the world, and the devil) that can make it tough. It's important for kids to be ready for battle!

**Tip:** Use the images to review today's story!

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY (15 min.)

1. What does it mean to follow Jesus? (to make him your king and act like him)
2. (**show image of the enemies**) What did Nehemiah's enemies do to keep him from obeying God? (they made fun of him, tried to attack him, tried to trick him into disobeying)
3. (**show image of crossed out arrow**) What are some things that keep US from following Jesus? (can be general like the devil, fear of what people think, not wanting to obey because we don't feel like it, etc.; but if kids share specific examples from their lives, that's best!)
4. (**show image of finished wall**) How did God help Nehemiah keep following him? (he made Nehemiah strong, he had people warn him about attacks, he answered Nehemiah's prayers)
5. (**show image of arrow**) How does God help US follow him? (in the same ways: gives us armor, answers our prayers, etc.)

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Give each kid an **image of a soldier** in God's armor.
- Have each kid write/draw ONE way they will make Jesus king this week – one thing they will do to obey him.
- Put all the soldiers together in the middle, like an army
- Read through the army of responses and all the ways kids will obey
- **Then ask:** How could this affect a whole city? **Then pray for the kids and ask God to help them obey this week.**

*Extra Time? You could always repeat the Connect Time Game. Or try out the game about following on the next page. Whatever you do, keep kids engaged until an adult picks them up!*

**COPYCAT GAME:**

- Stand in a circle
- Have one kid stand in the center and close his/her eyes (no peeking)!
- Point to a person in the circle, and that person will be the leader.
- The person in the center can open his/her eyes while the leader starts doing whatever they want (examples below)...and you all follow as fast as you can—*so fast* that the person who closed his/her eyes shouldn't be able to tell who's leading.
- The leader continues to do new motions and everyone follows until the person in the center figures out who's leading.
- **Before you begin, do a practice round as an example.** Lead kids in a series of actions, like raising one arm, tapping your nose, stretching a leg out, standing up, twirling, sitting back down, etc. Then choose a person to hide his/her eyes and get started!

## special notes

Large Group is structured differently this week. There will be no live presenter but a video presentation in TWO PARTS. Someone should announce the video, then lead the game in the middle (whole group interactive activity). Then introduce the 2<sup>nd</sup> video.

## presenter tips

Engage with the video to model it for kids.

## script

*\*Click to play intro music.*

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you today. After that fun game, we're going to spend some time hearing part of God's story all together. Believe it or not, that game is actually going to help us understand how to follow Jesus. We'll get to that in a minute. Today, we're going to experience Large Group by watching two videos. I'm not your host...someone on the video is! Let's see what they've got to say to us today:

**Video: LARGE GROUP PART 1 (about 15 min.)**

*(Click to play the Kids' Club loop during the game)*

**ORGANIZED MASS CHAOS GAME** (should take about 15 min. including transitions)

*\*Like the Connect Time game, play as a whole group. Then break into the same small groups as Connect Time to talk about it. Here's the script you can use to instruct kids.*

First of all, let's split into two teams *(Move one half of the room to one side; move the other half to the other side. Make sure there are an equal number of adult volunteers on each side. Create an aisle of space in the middle. Walk down the aisle, scattering **challenge cards**. Also, make sure to place **several sheets of plain paper** in the middle for the paper airplane challenge card. Explain what you're doing):*

I'm dropping cards with different instructions on them. In a minute, I'm going to count to three. Everybody should run to pick up a card and do *whatever* that card says. The one rule is: You can't say "no!" You might have to find somebody to help you because some of them require another person. And if you can't complete your own card, don't worry! Help a teammate complete his/hers—either way, it's a point for your team!



### script continued

Once you've completed the task on the card, head to an adult leader on your team who is holding THIS bucket (hold up **the two buckets**—let kids watch you hand them to one leader on each side). Put the completed card in the bucket. Then pick up a new one from the ground. The team with the most cards at the end of three minutes, wins! Adults, please walk around and make sure kids are *really* completing their tasks. Any questions? (Make sure everybody understands.)

OK, I'm going to start the 3-minute countdown on the count of three. Ready? 1....2....3! (**click to begin the countdown video; help monitor kids**)

(When the timer ends, continue): OK, time's up! Everybody freeze! (Let kids freeze.) Volunteers with buckets, can you count the cards for us? (Continue, as they count and announce the number.) Alright, good job \_\_\_\_ team! (Point to the winning team.)

So what in the world does this game have to do with following Jesus? Let's talk about it. Get back into your small groups from Connect Time. We'll meet back here in a few minutes. (*Come up with some way to gather the groups. Turn the lights on and off, announce it through the microphone, etc. Announce what you plan to do.*)

***\*Put the Kids' Club loop back on during discussion.***

### TALK ABOUT IT

- Did anybody do something you didn't want to do? What were some reasons you didn't want to do it? (it was hard, thought you'd look silly, didn't know how to do it, etc.)
- Why'd you make the choice to obey the card anyway? (to win)
- Was it easier or harder to do things as a team instead of all by yourself, like in the first game? (hopefully most say yes)
- What are some reasons we sometimes don't obey God or make him king? (Answers will vary, but try to include the same things as above.)
- Why do we obey? (we love him)

*(Gather the groups together but make sure all have a chance to finish the discussion!)*

Let's see what our host has to say!

**Video: LARGE GROUP PART 2 (15 min.)**

*(Dismiss kids back to small groups)*



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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

### Per room

Improv game - No supplies needed

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## small group supplies

### Per kid

1 Armor of God soldier

One set of 4 images with copy on the back, printed in color on cardstock (can be re-used per service); templates provided

### Per group

Markers

1 Bible

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## large group supplies

2 buckets

One set of challenge cards per room per service (64 cards per set)

10 pieces of blank paper per room per service

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## 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. Video: Large Group Part 1
3. Kids' Club loop
4. Video: 3-minute Countdown Loop:  
<https://goo.gl/jF62XE>
5. Kids' Club loop
6. Video: Large Group Part 2

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## connect questions

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

How can we treat Jesus as king?

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## parent page