



SEPTEMBER THEME

DIRTY JOBS
Somebody's Gotta Do it

BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah 2:11-18

I'm Working on a Building | Nehemiah
Plans to Rebuild the Wall

BOTTOM LINE

Don't wait for someone else to do
what needs to be done

MEMORY VERSE

"Work at everything you do with
all your heart. Work as if you were
working for the Lord."

Colossians 3:23a, NIV

LIFE APP

Initiative | Seeing what needs to be
done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice, and
with God's help...I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **INITIATIVE** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

This WEEK: Key Question: What keeps you from doing what needs to be done? Sometimes we are unaware a need exists. Other times, we actually see the need, but for whatever reason, never get to it. This week, we want families to think about the things that get in the way of taking initiative and figure out a plan for how we can get the job the done.

In week two, we find out what Nehemiah does with what he found out about the wall in Jerusalem. In **Nehemiah 2:11-18** we see that he took initiative and set out to fix the wall. When no one else would step up, he went straight to King Artaxerxes and took action. And it's that initiative that inspires the entire community to get involved.

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 might think that someone else will take care of it. But what would happen if we saw it was possible to be part of getting the job done? We want families to realize that when they see what needs to be done, God might be telling them they can be the one to do it. And if they can't do it all on their own, they can ask someone for help.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each group member by name. Ask God to remove the common attitude of "not my job," and to instead give kids hearts that are willing and eager to help. Pray that kids would become people who make a difference by making others' lives easier.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

Made to Explore | *An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

What You Need: "Inventions" activity page

What You Do:

- Show kids the activity page and ask them to guess what the 4 objects have in common.
- Explain that (*in addition to other correct guesses provided*) these things weren't always around; someone had to invent them.
- For instance:
—Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone.



- Thomas Edison invented the lightbulb (*and movies*).
- Karl Benz helped invent the car.
- The Wright Brothers are credited for inventing the airplane.
- Who else do they know of or have they heard of who has done great things?
- Have they learned about anyone in school or at church who did something amazing?

•• BEST THING EVER!

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Copy paper, pens, markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of copy paper. Set out drawing utensils where everybody can share them.
- Ask them to each draw something they think was the best thing ever invented.
- When they have finished creating, let them share what they drew and why they think it is the best thing ever.

What You Say: “You guys definitely had some good ideas and strong opinions about the best things ever invented. Some of those things are necessary for our everyday lives, and some of those things just make our lives a lot easier or more fun. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll hear/we heard about a man who saw something that needed to be done and did it, just like the people who invented the things we’ve been talking about.”**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• IMAGINE IF... [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Help kids imagine what would have happened if things HADN’T gone the way they did in this story:
 - What if Nehemiah’s family hadn’t moved away? (*They might have been there when the wall was destroyed*)
 - What if the king hadn’t given Nehemiah permission to leave? (*The wall might not have been rebuilt; maybe he would’ve snuck away anyway and gotten in trouble*)
 - What if Nehemiah had seen the rubble and decided it was too much and the wall couldn’t be rebuilt? (*The wall might not ever have been rebuilt*)
 - What if the wall had never been rebuilt? (*The city might have been attacked*)
 - What if Nehemiah had tried to rebuild the wall totally on his own, without any help? (*He never would’ve finished; he could have been hurt*)
- Next, talk to kids about some modern day things and what it would be like if they had never happened.
 - What if running water was never invented? (*We would have to get our water from a well*)



- What if cars and trains were never invented? (*We'd have to walk everywhere*)
- What if electricity had never been invented? (*We'd have to use candles for lights*)
- What if computers had never been invented? (*We'd have to write letters and look for information in books*)

What You Say: “We are pretty fortunate to live in a time when we have so many things around us that make our lives easier, safer, and more fun. When Nehemiah rebuilt the wall, he took the initiative because he knew it would make his city safer. His story reminds us of our Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** If Nehemiah had waited for someone else to do it, the wall might never have been rebuilt. Just like if the person who invented electricity hadn't done that, we might be sitting here in the dark! **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you saw something that needed to be done and you did it without being asked.)** When I did that, even though no one had asked me to, I felt good because I knew it needed to be done and now it was taken care of. This week, try to keep an eye out for ways you can help too, even when you don't have to.”

●● **RACE TO THE FINISH** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: 2 decks of playing cards

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams and hand each team a deck of playing cards.
- The object of the game is to organize the deck into its original order, with the four suits arranged in numerical order.
- Get kids started with an, “On your mark. Get set. Go!”
- When the first team finishes the task, focus their attention by reading the following paragraph and asking the following questions.

What You Say: “In this game, if you had waited for someone else to do the work, you would've lost. You had to take the initiative to keep sorting the cards until the job was complete. Just like it's important that we **[Bottom Line] don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** If we wait for someone else to do things, they might never get done and then there would be consequences for that. For instance, if your dad was in charge of the laundry, but he waited for someone else to do it, there might never be clean clothes. Or, if your soccer coach just sat on the sidelines and expected you to figure out how to play or what to work on, you would probably never get better at soccer. What are some other things that are important for us not to wait for someone else to do?” (*Allow for responses like picking up our bedrooms, taking the dog outside, feeding the fish, tying a little brother or sister's shoe.*)

●● **WORK FOR IT** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Work for It” activity pages, white glue, construction paper

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Work for It” activity page.
- Read the memory verse together as a group.
- Let kids make tiny rocks or bricks from the construction paper by tearing little pieces off.
- Instruct kids to trace the word “Work” with glue.
- Then let them stick the bricks or rocks they made from the construction paper to the glue to spell out “Work.”

What You Say: “Work is not always fun. Sometimes it can be something boring or gross or something that we just really don't want to do. But work is also important for many different reasons and often helps our lives run more smoothly, helps someone else, or earns us the money we need. Even though we might not always WANT to do the work, sometimes we just have to do it. A great way to work as if you're working for God is this: **[Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.**”

