



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

What You Need: "Jobs" coloring pages, crayons

What You Do:

- Greet kids as they arrive and hand out the "Jobs" coloring pages and crayons.
- As kids are coloring, discuss the jobs they have to do at home and/or at school. ASK:
 - What is your LEAST favorite job?
 - What job are you always happy to do?
 - What is a job you would like to do but you aren't quite old enough?
 - What is a job that an adult in your house always does that you think is not important?
 - What might happen if they didn't do this job?

•• **BEAT THE CLOCK WALL BUILDING**



Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Craft sticks

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team a pile of craft sticks.
- Explain that you will give each team one minute to build the tallest wall.
- To make this more challenging, instruct kids to build using only one hand, placing the other behind their backs.
- After you say, "Start," time the groups for one minute as they build.
- When time is called, survey both walls and declare a winner.
- The losing team will incur a 30-second penalty for the next round.
- Play again but only allow the losing team to start building after 30 seconds have passed.
- Again, when time is called, survey both walls and declare a winner.

What You Say: "How did it feel when you had to wait because of the penalty? What would happen if you ALWAYS waited when there was a job to be done? (*Allow for responses.*) **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we'll find out/we found out if Nehemiah waited or if he got busy doing the job before him.**"

[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.

- **BUILD THAT WALL** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: "Bricks" activity cards

What You Do:

- Work together as a group to answer the review questions below.
- When the first question has been answered correctly, hand a brick card to one of your group members.
- Continue with the remaining questions, evenly distributing brick cards among the kids.
- When all of the questions have been answered, guide your group to work together to build a wall with the brick cards.

Review Questions:

1. Where was Nehemiah's family from? (*Jerusalem*)
2. There was something wrong in Jerusalem. What was it? (*The walls were broken down and the gates were burned*)
3. Nehemiah had asked the King, whom he worked for, if he could go to Jerusalem. What did the king say? (*The King allowed him to go*)
4. Nehemiah had to take a journey from Susa where he worked for the King to Jerusalem. Was it a long or short journey? (*A long one; it would have taken months*)
5. When Nehemiah first arrived, how long did he stay? (*Three days*)
6. When did Nehemiah choose to inspect the walls? (*At night*)
7. Why did Nehemiah choose to go see the walls at night instead of during the day? (*He didn't want everyone to know what he was doing yet*)
8. What did he find when he inspected the walls/gates around the city? (*Things were as bad as he'd been told; they needed to be rebuilt*)
9. When Nehemiah finally spoke to the people about rebuilding the wall, what did they say? (*They agreed with Nehemiah and wanted*)



to get busy rebuilding the wall)

10. What did Nehemiah really do for a living? (*He was a cupbearer or drink taster for the King*)

11. Was it Nehemiah's job to rebuild the wall? (*No, he'd never even been to Jerusalem, but when he heard about the problem, he was willing to do something about it*)

12. Today we learned that you don't wait for someone else to what? (*To do what needs to be done*)

13. What is a job that isn't normally "your job" that you could help with this week?

14. Why do you think we should help with things that aren't normally our jobs?

What You Say: "It would have been easy for Nehemiah to hear the news about the walls around Jerusalem and to simply stay where he was to continue working for the King. But instead, he chose to travel all the way to Jerusalem and then to get busy rebuilding the wall. He didn't wait for someone else to do what needed to be done. Instead, he showed initiative and chose to rebuild the walls. We can show initiative too when we see a job that needs to be done. **[Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** Let's choose to help when we see a job that needs to be done, even when we think it's someone else's responsibility."

[Make It Personal] (*Tell about a time when you saw a job that needed to be done—especially a job that wasn't necessarily your responsibility—and you did it. What happened? Did anyone notice? If not, why was it still a good thing that you got the job done?*)

●● **WHAT JOB IS IT?** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: "Jobs" coloring pages (*from "Early Arriver Idea" activity*)

What You Do:

- Select the kid with the closet birthday to today to go first.
- Encourage that child to randomly pick a color sheet and look at the picture of the job.
- If the child is unsure what the job is, help him to know what is happening in the picture without letting the rest of the group hear you.
- Once the child is clear what the picture is depicting, let him act it out for the group to guess the job.
- If you need to help kids figure out what actions to pantomime, here are some suggested actions for various tasks...
 - Folding or putting away clothes: point to shirt or pants first and then pantomime folding them and putting them away
 - Making the bed: lay head down as if on a pillow; then get up to a standing position and pantomime pulling up the sheets and covers
 - Taking out the trash: point to the trash can; then pantomime picking up pieces of trash
 - Feeding the cat: get on all fours and act like a cat; then stand up and pretend to fill up a food bowl
 - Water flowers: crouch down like a seed and then grow tall

What You Say: "We can all name LOTS of jobs we see every day that need to be done. But if we're honest, sometimes we think that someone else will take care of it, so we wait for someone else to do it. But initiative means that we see what needs to be done and we get the job done! That's what Nehemiah did, and by rebuilding the wall, he protected SO many people! **[Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.** Instead, decide that you are the perfect person for the job and get to it."

●● **MOTIONS FOR MEMORY** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Use the navigation tips below to look up Colossians 3:23a as a group...

Finding verses with Kindergartners + 1st graders: Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. Find Colossians in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find Colossians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Colossians. Help the kids find

