



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 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.
- 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 couldn't start right away? 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.]

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## 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:**

- Talk through today's Bible story by working together as a group to fill in the blanks 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.

**What You Say:** In this week's story, we continue learning about Nehemiah. Do you remember where he was from? (pause for answers) \_\_\_\_\_. That's right! He was from Jerusalem! And he learned that there was something wrong in Jerusalem. Do you remember what it was? (pause for answers) \_\_\_\_\_ Right! The walls around the city were broken down and the gates were burned. So when Nehemiah heard about this, he asked the King, whom he worked for, if he could go to Jerusalem. What did the King say? Do you remember? Did he say "Yes" or "No" when Nehemiah asked if he could go help? (pause for answers) \_\_\_\_\_ Right! The King let him go! Now, Nehemiah had to take a journey from Susa where he worked for the King to Jerusalem. Do you think it was a long or short journey? (pause for answers) \_\_\_\_\_ It was really, really long. In fact, it probably took him months to get there! When Nehemiah first arrived, do you know how long he stayed? (pause for answers) \_\_\_\_\_ That's right! He stayed three days. Now, he did something kind of silly. When he went to look at the walls and all the damage, do you remember when he did it? (pause for answers) \_\_\_\_\_ At night! Any ideas why he would do it at night instead of during the day? (pause for answers) \_\_\_\_\_ Right! He didn't want everyone to know what he was doing quite yet. So what did he find when he inspected the walls/gates around the city? (pause for answers) \_\_\_\_\_ He sure did! He found that the damage was bad and that the walls definitely needed to be rebuilt. When Nehemiah finally spoke to the people about rebuilding the wall, how did they feel about his help? Were they happy he was going to help them or sad? (pause for answers) \_\_\_\_\_ Right! They



were very, very happy! Was it Nehemiah's job to rebuild the wall? (*pause for answers*) \_\_\_\_\_ No, remember, he worked for the King. He was just being nice and living out our **[Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done**, wasn't he? Are there some jobs at home that you could help with, even if they aren't "your job" to do? Maybe helping set the table or cleaning up the toys? Maybe helping with the yard work or emptying the garbage? (*pause for some ideas*)

**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" activity coloring pages (*from "Early Arriver Idea" activity*)

**What You Do:**

- Invite a volunteer 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:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Read this month's memory verse (*found on the left column of page 1 of this study guide*) to your group.
- Teach the following motions to the kids to help them learn the verse from memory. (*Wednesday groups: this will be review; have volunteers try to remember each action before you review them.*)
  - Work | tap fists together
  - At everything you do | palms up, start in the center and move hands outward
  - With all your heart | place both hands over your heart
  - Work | tap fists together

