



SEPTEMBER THEME

DIRTY JOBS
Somebody's Gotta Do it

BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah 5:1-12

Won't You Please Help Me? |
Nehemiah Helps the Poor

BOTTOM LINE

Don't wait for someone else to help
people in need

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 should treat others the way I want
to be treated, 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: Who do you see being treated unfairly? Initiative isn't just about tasks that people need to accomplish. Often what needs to be done has something to do with how people are being treated and relationships that are broken. With this question, we can start helping families understand and think more about empathy and what we can do to help the people around us.

In week three, we see a different part of Nehemiah's story. In **Nehemiah 5:1-12**, we discover that while everyone was building the wall, an issue arose. Some of the Israelites were severely mistreating each other. Even though Nehemiah was in charge of rebuilding the wall, he stopped the building of the wall to confront the issue. He cared enough about the people to help them figure out a solution.

Bottom Line: Don't wait for someone else to help people in need. When families see people in need, we pray that they take initiative to help instead of thinking it is someone else's problem. God can use us to make an impact in the lives of others.

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 regular attendee by name. Pray that kids would be aware of times when they need to stop what they're doing and help someone in need. Ask God to help them be people who see the needs of others and do something about those needs.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Greet the children as they arrive.
- ASK:
 - What are some ways you showed initiative this past week?
 - What problem did you see and what did you do about it?
 - What task did you complete BEFORE an adult had to ask you?

•• **CHEER UP**

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of



drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Cheer Up” activity pages, markers, pens, scissors

What You Do:

- Hand out a “Cheer Up” activity page to each kid. They can create two “cheer you up” cards with friendly notes by cutting the activity page in half and folding each half into a card.
- Encourage kids to take the cards with them this week and hand them out around school or home.

What You Say: “Those are some really great cards! I think the people you give those to this week are going to be really happy to get them. [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll hear/we heard about a man who cheered up the people around him by meeting their needs.”

[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.

●● **MEET THE NEED** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Needs” activity cards

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to stand up and remove any extra chairs from around your small group table.
- Set one of the “Needs” activity cards on six of the remaining chairs in your small group space (*if you have fewer than six kids in your group, put two cards on some chairs; if you have more than six kids, some chairs won’t have a card*).
- Explain that kids should circle around the table until you say “Stop!”
- Whenever you say “Stop”, the kids should sit down on the chair they are nearest to, picking up any cards that are on that chair.
- Go around the circle and let kids identify the job shown on their card, and then talk about who would benefit from someone completing that job or meeting that need. All group members can add additional thoughts or ideas after the first person has identified the need.

Pictures are as follows...

- A younger sibling crying
- Someone carrying too many things
- Someone planting flowers
- A child sitting alone on the bus
- An empty “Food Pantry” collection box
- A friend who doesn’t understand his homework/class assignment

What You Say: “You guys did a great job brainstorming ways to help people! There are a lot of ways we can help out, and not all of them involve lots of money or time. There are many ways we can help the people around us or the people we live with. For instance, you could help your grandma learn how to do something new on her computer. Or you could help your neighbor rake leaves. Helping someone in need doesn’t always have to be a huge project. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a way you’ve helped someone, such as helping an elderly neighbor or babysitting a friend’s kids.)** Whatever you decide to do this week, I hope you **[Bottom Line] don’t wait**



for someone else to help people in need.”

•• **REVERSE MUSICAL CHAIRS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Small group chairs

What You Do:

- Invite kids to stand up and remove all but one chair from around your small group table.
- Kids should begin walking around the table.
- When you randomly yell “Stop!” (or you can play and then randomly stop music on your phone if you have one available), kids should try to be the first to take a seat in the chair.
- The kid who sat in the chair is the winner of that round, but the game continues.
- Add another chair each round and keep playing, with more winners each round.
- Play until every kid has a chair to sit in.

What You Say: “That was a fun game, and everyone ended up winning! When we were playing, some of you had to be left out because you didn’t have a place to sit. It never feels good to be the one left out. Sometimes people around us can feel left out and we might not even know it. They might need a friend or a smile or for someone to say something nice to them. We need to make sure we keep our eyes and ears open to the people around us and **[Bottom Line] don’t wait for someone else to help people in need.”**

•• **CLAP IT OUT** [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:

- Look up this month’s memory verse found in Colossians 3:23. (NOTE: The NirV version that we have been working with during worship is listed on the left column of the first page this study, but, even if the Bible you have isn’t NirV, it is always valuable to teach kids how to find verses in the Bible.)
- Say the verse as a group while simultaneously clapping out the rhythm of the verse. Use the chanting rhythm Swen and Jess taught you in worship.
- Then see if they can chant the words while you clap the rhythm (without chanting the words).
- Then, sitting in a circle, guide the group to “pass the verse around the circle.”
- Choose one kid to start by clapping and saying the first word.
- The next kid follows with the next word, and so on until the entire verse has been said. (NOTE: kids with multiple syllable word will clap more than one time.)
- Challenge kids to try to get faster and faster without messing up a clap or a word.

What You Say: “You guys worked really hard to pass this verse around the circle! You gave it your best effort! When we are working for people in need, we should also give our best effort. Just because someone isn’t paying us to do a job, that doesn’t mean we shouldn’t do good work. If you decide to help your little brother learn to tie his shoes, you should put just as much effort into it as you would if your mom or dad were paying you ten dollars to do it. This verse tells us to act like we are working for God, and so we should remember: **[Bottom Line] Don’t wait for someone else to help people in need.”**

