



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.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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 kids 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?
 - Did anyone memorize a "Verse Brick" from last week? *(If anyone did, encourage them to recite the verse they selected last week.)*



●● **GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME**

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.

●● **TAKE A SNAPSHOT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Bricks 4-5” activity cards, pens, dice

What You Do:

- Take a moment to let kids write down some places where they can show initiative. (Examples could include school, church, home, sports fields, friend’s house, grocery store, the park, school bus, etc.)
- Label the bricks one through six. (Repeat some of the numbers if you have more than six “location” bricks.)
- Roll a die and select the brick(s) corresponding to the number on the die.
- Challenge kids to give examples of people in the community shown on the brick.
—For example: school—teachers, principal, friends, kids, volunteers, substitute teachers, etc.
—For each example the kids give, hold up a finger. When you get to three fingers, roll the die again and repeat for another brick.
- Keep the pace moving so kids stay engaged.

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, “Bricks” from “Take a Snapshot” activity, dice

What You Do:

- Review the Bible story (*Nehemiah 5:1-12*) together by discussing the questions below...
—Who was in Nehemiah’s community? (*farmers, people without money or food, nobles, officials, his relatives, priests. Allow kids to read the selected passage from the Bible a little closer, if needed, in order to answer this question.*)
—How were some of the people in Nehemiah’s community treated unfairly? (*forced to sell their land to buy grain to eat, had to borrow*



money to pay the king's taxes, sell their kids as slaves)

—What was Nehemiah's response to the needs of the people around him? (*he listened to the people's needs, he was angry, stood up for those being treated unfairly, confronted those who were treating others unfairly, he saw what needed to be done and did it, etc.*)

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Ask teams roll the die and select a "Brick" labeled with the number showing on the dice. If teams roll the same number, re-roll.
- Give teams time to brainstorm a scenario corresponding to the place on the "Brick" where someone from that location could be treated unfairly.

—If necessary, remind teams to think of the people they listed in the "Take a Snapshot" activity and ask how they might be treated unfairly.

- Ask one team to present their scenario, and ask the other team to identify ways they could show initiative and help the person being treated unfairly.

- If there is time, instruct teams to roll the die again and repeat for other communities.

- Ideas...

—If you have a group that likes to move, invite teams to act out their scenarios and the ways they would show initiative.

—If you have a group that likes competition, you could challenge the two teams to see which can get come up with the most ways to show initiative.

•• DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [Live for God | Application Activity]

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:

- Ask...

—When is it difficult to stand up for someone? When is it easy?

—Can you think of a time you were treated unfairly and someone showed initiative to help you? What did they do?

—Can you think of a time you saw someone being treated unfairly and helped him or her? What did you do? Did you wait to be asked? What happened?

•• VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 25:35-36.

- Ask:

—How could you show initiative to a kid at your school who forgot his lunch and is hungry?

—How could you show initiative to a kid on your soccer team who forgot her water and is thirsty?

—How could you show initiative to a kid at your school you don't know but is being treated unfairly in the halls at school?

—How could you show initiative to a kid who has missed a lot of school because he has been sick?

- Keep the conversation hopping! Limit responses to no more than 3 for each question.

