



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

What You Need: "Needs" activity cards, crayons

What You Do:

- Greet the children as they arrive.
- Hand out a set of "Needs" activity cards to each child. Set out crayons where everybody can share them.
- As kids are coloring, 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?



●● **MEET THAT NEED**

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 from the previous activity

What You Do:

- Have the kids stand up so you can set one of the needs activity cards on each chair in your small group space. *(Make sure you use all six cards at least once. Double up if you have more than six chairs.)*
- Explain that kids should circle around the table until you say “Stop!”
- Whenever you say “Stop”, the kids should pick up the card on the chair they are nearest to, and sit down at 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.

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: “Great job, friends! By completing these jobs, you would definitely help someone else and meet their need. **[Transition]** Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll find out/we found out what happened when Nehemiah saw a big need while he was building the wall.”

[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.

●● **PICTURE ORDER** [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: “Bible Story Pictures” activity cards

What You Do:

- Set out the “Bible Story Pictures” activity cards on your small group table.
 - Work together as a group to set the cards in the correct order to retell/discuss today’s Bible story.
1. Wall being rebuilt
 2. People who are hungry
 3. Greedy king surrounded by money
 4. Angry Nehemiah approaching a group of leaders
 5. Group of leaders—one shaking Nehemiah’s hand in agreement
 6. Men helping each other

What You Say: “Nehemiah already had a VERY big job to do with rebuilding the wall. But when he heard that the people were being



treated unfairly and that they were starving, he knew he needed to do something to help. Talk about initiative! Nehemiah certainly knew that you **[Bottom Line] don't wait for someone else to help people in need.** He could have ignored the people and kept working on the wall but instead, he chose to stop what he was doing and help!

[Make It Personal] *(Tell the kids about a time when someone saw your need and helped you. If applicable, talk about how that person didn't have to stop what they were doing to help you but did. What impact did it make on you? Did it challenge you to help others too?)*

●● **JOBS AND NEEDS** [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: "Food," "Jacket," "Band-Aid," and "Ball" activity pages

What You Do:

- Hold up each activity page and lead kids to figure out how the item pictured could be used to help someone:
 - Canned good: donate food items to a food bank; help your mom put away the groceries
 - Jacket: donate outgrown clothing items to a clothing closet; let a friend who's cold borrow it
 - Band-Aid: help someone at school who is hurt; visit a friend who is sick
 - Ball: play with someone who is all alone on the playground; invite a new kid to play with you
- Select one kid to stand about five feet from the group. He will be the "Friend in Need."
- Line up the remaining kids. They are the "Helpers."
- Instruct the "Friend in Need" to pantomime needing one of the four items discussed. For example, he should rub his tummy to indicate that he is hungry, rub his arms and shiver to indicate that he is cold, fall down indicate that needs first aid, or look sad/lonely to indicate that he needs a friend to play with.
- Instruct the first "Helper" in line to grab the appropriate activity page and give it to the "Friend in Need."
- When finished, the "Helper" will stay put as the next "Friend in Need" while the original "Friend in Need" will put the activity page back on the table and go to the end of the line.
- Kids will continue down the line—first giving the help and then receiving it—until everyone has had a turn to play both roles.

What You Say: "When we see a need, we aren't always willing to stop what we're doing to help. But sometimes it's important to do just that. **[Bottom Line] Don't wait for someone else to help people in need.** When you see someone in need, you should help. Get your parents involved if you need to. But whatever you do, don't assume that someone else will offer help. Decide that you will be the one to do something about the need you see, just like Nehemiah did!"

●● **MEMORY VERSE MOTION HELP** [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:

- Review this month's memory verse, Colossians 3:23a, found on the left column of the first page of this study.
- Tell your group that you need help remembering the actions you learned last week.
- Let different kids "help" you relearn the various actions to the verse.
- If you all need a refresher, here are the instructions:
 - 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
 - As if you | point to self

