



SEPTEMBER THEME

DIRTY JOBS
Somebody's Gotta Do it

BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah 2:19-20; 4; 6
He Came in Like a Wrecking Ball |
Nehemiah and Sanballat

BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on 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 distracts you from doing what needs to be done?
We've all started projects that end up unfinished because we were distracted by something else that was happening. We want families to start thinking about some of those distractions. Some might be out of their control, but for the ones they can control, we hope they can leave with a plan to ignore those distractions and get their jobs done.

In week four, we see how Nehemiah dealt with some distractions in **Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, and 6**. Not everyone liked what Nehemiah was doing. He had enemies who tried to distract the people from finishing the wall. But he saw through their plan and stayed focused on the job God gave him to finish.

Bottom Line: Stay focused on what needs to be done. From cleaning our rooms to finishing homework to yardwork to work projects, we have all sorts of things that need to be done. But it often doesn't take long for cleaning a room to become playing with the toys you're supposed to be picking up or home projects to sit idle while we seek more motivation. We hope families will see that focusing on the task at hand is important. God has all sorts of jobs for us to do. We can trust God to give us the focus we need to finish them.

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. At this phase, most kids will have a hard time recognizing when they're being distracted, so pray for God to give them that self-awareness. Also pray that God would protect kids from distractions so they can do what needs to be done.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Talk to kids about distractions:
—What are they?
—What distracts you the most?



- How do other people distract you?
- What do you do to get back on task after you get distracted?
- Play a game of Simon Says, letting kids take turns being “Simon.”

What You Say: “Wow! How fun! It’s important in Simon Says to focused, isn’t it? In order to be successful you have to pay attention to both what Simon asks you to do and on how he asks it. That’s just like our story for today. It’s all about focus!”

•• WHAT’S YOUR NUMBER?

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to start counting as high as they can.
- As they are counting, randomly start saying other numbers.
- If they get distracted ask them all to stop and start over from one.
- Variation 1: Make them stop counting every few seconds while you say some random numbers, and then ask them to resume counting where they left off.
- Variation 2: Tell kids to partner up. One partner will say random numbers to the other while she tries to count.

What You Say: “It was hard to keep counting with all those distractions getting in the way, wasn’t it? **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we are going to hear/we heard about someone who had to stay focused so he could get a very big job done.**”

[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.

•• ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Copy paper, markers, clear tape

What You Do:

- Hand out a piece of copy paper to each kid. Set out markers where everybody can share them.
- Let kids decorate the paper with drawings that represent something about themselves.
- Encourage them to add things to the paper like what they like to do, what they like to eat, what they’re good at, people in their family, etc.
- When kids are finished, let them take turns sharing.
- When everyone is done sharing, instruct kids to fold their paper width-wise (*the short side*) in half. Then, open the paper and fold each side of the paper to the middle crease. When they are finished, they should have four equal sections.
- Pass out tape so kids can tape their paper into a brick shape.
- When everyone has a brick, use the bricks to build a wall (*lean the bricks against a real wall for support*).



What You Say: “When it was time to build the wall, Nehemiah took action. But it wasn’t as easy as just picking up one brick and stacking it on top of the next one. Sanballat and his friends were determined to distract Nehemiah from what he needed to do. So, instead of listening to their distracting words, Nehemiah prayed, and then he gave each family a job to do. Because everyone was using their gifts and talents to build the wall, there was a little bit of each family represented in the final product. The builders focused on what they were doing instead of on the people who wanted to get in their way. Even when Sanballat sent threats, Nehemiah didn’t get distracted by his fear and was able to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on what needs to be done.**”

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you kept getting distracted, but ultimately you were able to focus and finish what needed to be done.) “Sometimes we have a job to do that we just need to finish. In those times, we have to put distractions aside and not be stopped from what we are doing. This week, when a distraction comes your way, turn away from what’s distracting you and finish the task at hand.”

●● **DON’T DO AS I DO** [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: “Don’t Do As I Do” activity cards (*one set for every two kids*)

What You Do:

- Let kids pair up. Give each set of partners one set of activity cards.
- Ask partners to stand and face each other with the stack of cards face down between them.
- When you say, “Go,” each kid will choose a card from the top of the stack and do that action while facing their partner.
- Let kids keep doing the action for approximately 20 seconds and then say, “Stop.”
- Let each kid draw another card, and repeat as time and interest allow.

What You Say: “Great job! When you guys were doing those actions, you really had to stay focused on what you were supposed to be doing and not what the other person was doing. Even though you were looking at the other person’s actions the whole time, you had to remember what your own action was. Sometimes it can be easy to look around at what everyone else is doing and let it be a distraction from what you are trying to do. For instance, maybe you are finishing up a test but someone near you is already done and they are talking. Or maybe you and your sister are supposed to be cleaning up your room, but your sister just wants to play with all the toys. We have to remember in these situations to **[Bottom Line] stay focused on what needs to be done.** When Nehemiah was distracted, he would pray and ask God to help him finish what he was doing. That is a good way for us to remember to stay focused also. When you get distracted this week, remember to pray and ask God to help you keep going.”

●● **MEMORY VERSE CONCENTRATION** [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, “Don’t Do As I Do” activity cards (*from previous activity*)

What You Do:

- Work as a group to look up Colossians 3:23a.
- Ask for a volunteer to read the verse, and then recite it all together as many times as it takes for the whole group to have it memorized.
- Once your group has the verse memorized, assign each kid one of the actions from the “Don’t Do As I Do” activity cards. Only duplicate actions if you have more than 8 kids in your group.
- Next, challenge your group to recite the memory verse all together again, but this time do it while doing your assigned action.
- Repeat until your group is able to do this pretty well.
- Then, reassign the actions and have them try it again.
- Continue as long as time and interest allow.

