



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-5

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

NOTE: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Won't You Please,
Please Help Me?
Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls
Nehemiah 1-4; 6:15

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work together to solve problems.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Two people are better than
one. They can help each
other in everything they do.
Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Cooperation—Working together
to do more than you can do alone

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

PRELUDE: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

10
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction
Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

30
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways
WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God
Opener
Worship "Alive" from Hillsong, and "Our God" by Yancy)
Bible
Story Bottom Line
What's Our Part in the Story?
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-5

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Won't You Please,
Please Help Me?
Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls
Nehemiah 1-4; 6:15

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Work together to solve problems.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Two people are better than
one. They can help each
other in everything they do.
Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Cooperation—Working together
to do more than you can do alone

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Welcome, everyone! Halfway through March, hopefully the madness hasn't gotten to you. Some of those basketball games have been pretty tense! "Speaking of tense—I know when I get super tense, there's one sure-fire way I can relax—and that's by doing a puzzle. I just love puzzles. I don't like the ones that don't click together perfectly, but the ones with the thicker pieces? The ones that have cool and varied pictures, and not just cats or license plates or something? Love those. Anyone else like puzzles?"

Pause for responses and then move over to the table with the Fractured Picture Pieces on them.

"They're fun, right? Well, good thing you think they're fun, because I've got a puzzle-y challenge for you. Set before me are stacks of pieces. There are twelve pieces in each stack, and the pieces are completely mixed together. It's your job to work together and form the picture. . . as fast as you can! Who's up for a game called 'The Cast & Crew Fractured Puzzle Party'?"

SLIDE: "THE CAST & CREW FRACTURED PUZZLE PARTY"



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2025



25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Choose 16 volunteers to join you at the front (or 8 see note below). Hand the stack to one of them, instructing them to not flip it over or look at the pieces. There are three stacks. One is a picture of an alligator riding a unicorn in front of a rainbow, one is of a flag, but on the flag is a huge, fully loaded cheeseburger, and the last one is of a large tree, but the tree is sprouting pizzas like apples.

“The timer will start when I say ‘Go,’ and you’ll have to hand out the pieces, flip them over, decipher the picture, and then hold them up in the air in a grid to form the picture! We’re not setting them down on the ground . . . you have to hold them up flat, in order, and in place so that everyone can see it! I’ve got my timer set. Are you ready? And . . . go!

AUDIO: FUN BACKGROUND MUSIC

Play the game! Choose a new set of volunteers for each puzzle. Time each one, and the group with the lowest time is declared the winner.

NOTE: Depending on the size of your Large Group, you could have each person hold two pieces at a time . . . and then you’ll only need 8 volunteers to complete the puzzles instead of 16.

Once a winner is declared, applaud all volunteers.

“Brilliant! You really worked together to get those done! One group that *really* knows how to work together is our Worship Team. Let’s welcome them to the stage and get ready to worship our awesome God together!



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-5

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, it's time for us to lift our voices and worship God together. Let's go 'all in' today and give God all we've got. Can we do that? It's always more fun when you give 100 percent to whatever you're doing. Clap your hands. Jump up and down! Sing with all of your heart! Let's give God all our praise!"

VIDEO: "ALIVE" LIVE LYRICS

Wow, you guys sang 'Alive' with so much energy! It's amazing to remember that God makes us new. Now, let's keep that excitement going as we sing about how powerful our God is! Remember, like Romans 8:31 says, 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' So, let's lift our voices and sing 'Our God' together!"

VIDEO: "OUR GOD" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO

WORSHIP LEADER: Amazing! Let's pray.



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2025



25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: "In the beginning, God created a beautiful, perfect world. (*Hold up Bible.*) We can read about that all the way at the very beginning of the Bible, in Genesis. Even when people turned away, God had a plan to restore us to relationship. God chose one man, Abraham, and promised to bless the whole world through his family.

"Sometimes that family, the Israelites, listened to God . . . but over and over, they broke their promises. Eventually, the people were captured and taken to a foreign land. And that's where our story begins today.

"The Israelites were living in this faraway land . . . but after 70 years, a new king allowed some of the people to return to their home, Judah. The people went to the city of Jerusalem and found that it was in rough shape.

Reveal the building blocks/pieces representing the broken-down wall.

"The people worked hard to rebuild God's temple. But the city walls of Jerusalem were still broken down. This meant that the people had no protection if enemies decided to attack.

FAVOR FROM THE KING

LEADER: "While some of God's people had returned to Jerusalem, an Israelite named Nehemiah still lived in Persia.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 1 (NEHEMIAH)

"Nehemiah served as the drink taster for the king—King Artaxerxes.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 2 (NEHEMIAH AND KING ARTAXERXES)

"Can you say that with me?"

LEADER AND KIDS: "Artaxerxes."

LEADER: "Good. When Nehemiah heard that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down, he was so upset that he cried.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 3 (NEHEMIAH CRYING)

"For days, Nehemiah ate nothing, and he prayed to God.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 4 (NEHEMIAH PRAYING)

"We can read his prayer here in the book of Nehemiah. (*Hold up Bible.*) He said that he was sorry for the way the Israelite people had turned away from God . . . and he asked God to bring them all back together in the city of Jerusalem. He said:

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 1:11 (NIRV) and read.



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2025



25 MINUTES

“Lord, please pay careful attention to my prayer. Listen to the prayers of all of us. We take delight in bringing honor to your name. Give me success today when I bring my request to King Artaxerxes.” (NirV)

“You see, Nehemiah had an idea. He wanted to ask the king for permission to go to Jerusalem and rebuild the city walls.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 5 (SAD NEHEMIAH AND KING ARTAXERXES)

“One day, Nehemiah brought a drink to the king . . . and the king noticed that he looked sad. The king asked what was wrong, and Nehemiah told him about the broken walls in Jerusalem. The king asked Nehemiah what he wanted, and Nehemiah asked permission to go to Jerusalem.

“Sure enough, the king agreed to Nehemiah’s request. He even offered to send soldiers along to protect Nehemiah, as well as some supplies that Nehemiah would need to rebuild.

VISITING JERUSALEM

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 6 (NEHEMIAH TRAVELS)

LEADER: “The journey might have taken months of travel. It was a long trip! But at last, Nehemiah and the men with him arrived in Jerusalem. Nehemiah looked at the damage to the walls, and then he gathered the priests, officials, and all of the people.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 7 (NEHEMIAH SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE)

“Here’s what he said.

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 2:17 (NirV) and read.

“You can see the trouble we’re in. Jerusalem has been destroyed. Fire has burned up its gates. Come on. Let’s rebuild the wall of Jerusalem.” (NirV)

“The people agreed—it was time to start rebuilding!

“The problem was, there were some guys who lived nearby, named Sanballat and Tobiah, who were not happy to hear about Nehemiah’s building project.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 8 (SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH)

“They made fun of Nehemiah and the Israelites . . . but Nehemiah told them, ‘*The God of heaven will give us success.*’ (Nehemiah 2:20, NirV)

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 9 (PEOPLE BUILDING—WIDE VIEW)

“Now, this was a HUGE job that Nehemiah and the people were trying to do. The wall needed to be high and thick, and there were lots of gates to be repaired. To top it off, few of the people, if any, were builders.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 10 (NEHEMIAH DIRECTING)



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-5

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

“But Nehemiah had a plan. Each group or family was responsible for one section of the walls or gates. They divided up the work, and quickly, the wall began to take shape!

Move behind the table and start stacking the blocks until they're about halfway up. (Don't use any of the "COOPERATION" blocks yet.)

FINISHING THE JOB

LEADER: “While they were building, Sanballat and Tobiah continued to say mean things to Nehemiah and the Israelites.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 8 (SANBALLAT AND TOBIAH)

“But Nehemiah kept going. He kept praying and asking God for help. Soon, amazingly, the wall had reached nearly half its height! This made Sanballat and Tobiah very angry. Along with some other neighboring groups of people, they made plans to attack Jerusalem before the wall could be finished. But Nehemiah heard about their plan.

“He encouraged the people, saying:

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 7 (NEHEMIAH SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE)

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 4:14 (NIRV) and read.

“Don't be afraid of your enemies. Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful. So fight for your families. Fight for your sons and daughters. Fight for your wives and homes.” (NIRV)

“Nehemiah told half of the people to work, and half to stand guard. The people returned to work, with tools in their hands and weapons at their sides.

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 11 (PEOPLE BUILDING—WIDE VIEW—HIGHER WALL)

Continue stacking the blocks on the table. Start to put the letter blocks in place so that they say “COOPERATION” (facing away from the kids).

“Sanballat and Tobiah tried even more tricks, but Nehemiah refused to be distracted. He and the Israelites finished the entire city wall in 52 days!

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 12 (COMPLETED WALL—WIDE VIEW)

Finish building the wall on the table. The top should be level, and the “COOPERATION” letters should be visible (facing away from the kids, not revealed yet).

“This was an incredible act of cooperation! With God's help, the Israelites had worked hard to complete the job *together*. “Later, they celebrated together, and the priests read God's law. This actually made the people sad because they realized they hadn't been following God. But Nehemiah realized that the day was actually a holy day to the Lord—a day of celebration! So he told them:



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2025



25 MINUTES

SLIDE: STORY IMAGE 7 (NEHEMIAH SPEAKS TO THE PEOPLE)

Open the Bible to Nehemiah 8:9-10 (NirV) and read.

“This day is set apart to honor the Lord your God. So don’t weep. Don’t be sad. . . .

“Go and enjoy some good food and sweet drinks. Send some of it to people who don’t have any. This day is holy to our Lord. So don’t be sad. The joy of the Lord makes you strong.” (NirV)

Move in front of the table as you wrap up.

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “Together, Nehemiah and God’s people solved a BIG problem. They rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem so the city could be safe and secure. They trusted God and chose to work together . . . and that’s how they were able to complete a job that must have seemed impossible.

“Here’s an important part of cooperation that we need to remember:

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Work together to solve problems. Say that with me.”

LEADER AND KIDS: “Work together to solve problems.”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WHAT’S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

LEADER: *(Hold up Bible.)* “This story shows how God can work through us when we work together. Nehemiah and the Israelites managed to build a wall around the whole city—In less than two months. And it just goes to show that God designed us to work together . . . to cooperate.

*Carefully turn the table to reveal the word “COOPERATE,” spelled out in (or on) the blocks .
Alternatively, you can have the kids move to the other side of the table to see it.*

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

“Cooperation is about working together to do more than you can do alone.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2025



25 MINUTES

“One of the best times to cooperate is when there’s a problem to solve. And it doesn’t need to be a giant wall-sized problem, either. Maybe you want a place to play ball, but your backyard or your neighborhood yard is full of weeds and brush. You could work with your family and maybe even some friends to clear it out.

“Or maybe you wish the cafeteria had some better, healthier food choices for lunch. You could invite your classmates and teachers to write notes to the principal explaining why you’d all like to see a change.

“Cooperating with others isn’t always easy. But it’s something God created us to do. Even Jesus, God’s Son, chose to work together with others to do His work in the world. So when you see a problem that you want to solve, ask God to give you the patience and courage you need to cooperate with others.

“Here at [name of your environment], we say: *[Basic Truth]* I need to make the wise choice. And cooperation is definitely the wise choice! “Let’s talk to God and ask for help as we try to cooperate with each other.”

PRAYER

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for making us to live in community. Thank You for giving each of us different strengths and gifts. The world would be so boring if we were all the same, and it would make solving problems extra-difficult. But we know that when we **work together to solve problems**, we can do more together than we could alone. Please give each of us in here the strength and humility to cooperate. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP