

NEHEMIAH - THE WALLS REBUILT

KIDS' LIFEGROUP GUIDE

WEEK: 2/2/20 - 2/8/20

OVERVIEW:

- **Part 1:** Catch Up On Life (15 Minutes)
- **Part 2:** Kidtown Lesson Review (15 Minutes)
- **Part 3:** Reflection (15 Minutes)
 - Optional - Part 3a: Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)
 - Optional - Part 3b: Snack (5 Minutes)
 - Optional - Part 3c: Sing (5 Minutes)
- **Part 4:** Prayer Time! (20 Minutes)

PART 1: CATCH UP ON LIFE (15 minutes)

Setting: Sit in a circle with kids and adults interspersed! Adults sitting amongst the kids helps everyone engage and pay attention. Parents - you are always responsible for your kids, but you're also looking to engage with other kids in your group.

- *Leader Note: If your group eats dinner with your kids, this is the best part of the guide to do together while you eat. Add 15 minutes for everyone to get their plates and start eating. Then shift into intentional conversation as the kids are starting to finish their food.*

Vision: God calls the church -- and our LifeGroup -- to be family! Because of this, we want our kids to know our adults and our adults to know our kids. The best way to get to know each other is to ask each other questions and tell each other about our lives.

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, you can ask kids if they remember why we ask each other questions. Help them to remember that God's making us family, so we want to get to know each other.*

Questions:

- 1.) What was your high and low from the week?
- 2.) **Kids Pick!** Let each kid ask the adults in the group one question.
 - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Kids to ask Adults if they're having a hard time thinking of any.
- 3.) **Adults Pick!** Have each adult ask the kids in the group one question.
 - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Adults to ask Kids if they're having a hard time thinking of any.

PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (15 minutes)

Vision: God uses the Bible to show Himself to us. He also uses it to help us love Him and others better. We don't only want to learn *about* the Bible; we're also called to apply it to our lives -- to change the way we think (Head), what we love and value (Heart) and what we do (Hands).

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, ask kids if they remember why we study the Bible.*

Lesson: The Walls Rebuilt

Bible Passages: Nehemiah

REVIEW:

- 1.) **Kids what do you remember from the story you learned about on Sunday?** (Pause and let them think of what they can remember.)
- 2.) **Can anyone remember the main characters?**
 - God (*Leader Note: Almost always a right answer. Helps reinforce that the entire Bible is about God and points forward to Jesus*)
 - Nehemiah, the King of Persia, Jerusalem's enemies (Sanballat)
- 3.) **Ok, does anyone remember any of the story points?**

Story Point #1: God perfectly placed Nehemiah at his job.
Story Point #2: Jerusalem's enemies did NOT want the wall rebuilt.
Story Point #3: God used Nehemiah to save Jerusalem from its enemies.
- 4.) **Awesome! And can anyone remember how this story connected to Jesus?**

Christ Connection: God used Jesus to save us from our greatest enemy, SIN!

Transition: That was awesome! Y'all did a great job remembering. Ok let's watch the video and see if we remember anything we forgot or notice anything new this time.

WATCH THE VIDEO STORY:

Click [here](#) to watch the Gospel Project Video Story.

TALK THROUGH THE STORY POINTS:

Leader Note: If your kids are younger, it helps to give them journals. For each question, have them write their answers first and then go around the circle and share.

Leader Note: Say each story point and have the kids repeat it.

Story Point #1: God perfectly placed Nehemiah at his job.

- Question: Who did Nehemiah work for? *The King of Persia*
- Question: What did Nehemiah's position put him in the position to do? *To ask permission from the king to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls.*

Story Point #2: Jerusalem's enemies did NOT want the wall rebuilt.

- Read: Nehemiah 4:1-2
 - Question: What did Israel's enemies do when they saw that they were rebuilding the wall? *They made fun of them, and some even attacked them to try to discourage them from building.*
- Question: Why do you think these enemies wanted to keep God's people from rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem? *For one thing, not having walls would make it easier to attack and hurt Israel!*

PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (CONTINUED)

Story Point #3: God used Nehemiah to save Jerusalem from its enemies.

- Read: Nehemiah 4:14
 - Question: What did Nehemiah remind God's people of when they got discouraged? *He reminded them that God was in charge and would protect them and their families.*
- Question: How long did it take God's people to rebuild the walls? *Only 52 days!*

REVIEW THE CHRIST CONNECTION AND APPLY IT:

Christ Connection: God used Jesus to save us from our greatest enemy, SIN!

- Teach: How cool is that?! Jesus came to rescue us from our greatest enemy, sin. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue everyone who would trust in Him!

Main Application(s): God puts us in positions to love and serve the people around us.

- Adults first then kids - Just like Esther last week, God put Nehemiah where he was--in Persia, in the palace, etc.--to use him for His purposes. Where has God put you? *e.g. School, neighborhood, classes.*
 - How do you think He can use you where you are to love and serve the people around you?
- Adults first then kids - God's people needed encouragement in order to finish the wall around Jerusalem, and Nehemiah reminded them that God was in charge over everything and would protect them from harm. How can you encourage others with truths that you know about God and how good He is? *Guide kids to think about situations where the people around them may need to be encouraged. Remind them of some things that we know to be true about God that they can use to encourage people. (e.g. He never changes, Malachi 3:6; He is powerful, Psalm 33:6; He is good, Psalm 119:68)*

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE:

Ask any of the kids if they can remember the key passage. Help lead them through it leaving out words and see if they can fill them in.

The God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while.

1 Peter 5:10

PART 3: REFLECTION (10 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child or tell them to get their journals. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- What is one thing I need to do in light of this story? (Help the kids think of ways they can grow, how they might pray for help or practical steps of repentance they can take.)

After the kids have had time to write down their reflection questions, go around the circle and share one at a time (kids and adults).

OPTIONAL - PART 3a: LESSON ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

OPTION #1: Not Very Many!

Instruct everyone to stand in a circle. Read a list of criteria, one statement at a time. Kids who meet that criterion must keep standing, and those who don't will sit down. Continue reading the statements until only one person remains standing. (Sample criteria: born in this city, owns a pet, has a brother, can play a musical instrument, is on a sports team, and so forth)

Say • Two to three million Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. But only about 50,000 people returned to Jerusalem. That's not very many! A *remnant* is a small remaining number of people. Do you think it surprised God that only 50,000 people were left of the nation of Israel? Of course not. Can anyone tell me what your Big Picture Question is right now in Kidtown? *Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth.* God was even in control over the number of Jews who returned to Jerusalem out of exile. He would work through those people to fulfill the promised blessing He had made to Abraham so many years earlier—sending the Messiah, Jesus.

OPTION #2: Brainstorming

Encourage children to name ways that they can help others in Columbia. Write their suggestions on a dry erase board or large sheet of paper. Guide them to think of tasks, such as picking up trash on the playground or in your neighborhood, collecting food for hungry people, smiling at people who seem sad, talking to someone who seems lonely, and telling people about Jesus.

Say • Nehemiah lived in Persia. He did not live in Jerusalem, but he still loved Jerusalem because he was one of God's people. He asked the men who came from Jerusalem about the city and how God's people, the Jews, were doing. They told him sad news! Nehemiah was sad, but God made a way for him to help! Nehemiah led God's people to rebuild the walls around their city. We can help others where we live as well. You named many good ways to help! God can use us to help our city, just as He used Nehemiah.

OPTIONAL - PART 3b: SNACK (5 minutes)

If your group doesn't eat dinner together, now is a great time to stop for a snack break before spending time praying together and talking about living on mission. For Kidtown we keep snacks simple with Goldfish for most kids and Gummy snacks in case a kid has Gluten allergies.

OPTIONAL - PART 3c: SING (5 minutes)

Play one or more of these videos (or pick another that you like) and sing and dance along!

- [Who You Say I Am](#) - *Just like God's people needed a reminder that God was with them to encourage them, this song reminds us who we are in Christ to encourage us.*
- [The God of All Grace](#) (Key Passage Song)

PART 4: PRAYER TIME! (20 minutes)

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER: (10 minutes)

Vision: God calls His people to love each other, pray for each other and help each other carry burdens.

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- How do you need prayer this week?
- What is one thing you need Jesus to help you with this week?
- What is one way you're hoping Jesus will help you grow this week?

Pray: Invite each kid to write down the other kids' prayer requests. Then have each kid pray for the person on their right!

PRAY FOR JESUS' MISSION: (10 minutes)

Vision: God calls His people to share with others the good news of Jesus. This means that we try to love others with our actions and with our words. We want all our friends to know about Jesus and His great love for them.

Questions to Ask (pick 1):

- What friends or neighbors of yours can we pray for today?
- How can you show God's love this week to someone who might not know Him?
- Who could we invite to do something fun with our LifeGroup friends this month?

Pray: Invite each kid to pray for their friends or someone else's friend to come to know Jesus. Have one adult close out the time, thanking God for how we get to be family together and asking God to bring more people into His family!