

May Weeks 4 and 5



May 23rd /24th
May 30th /31th

OVERVIEW CARD

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Key Question:

Who can help others?

Bottom Line:

I can help others.

Memory Verse:

"Be kind and loving to each other."
Ephesians 4:32, NCV

Bible Story Focus:

You can lead others to help.
Nehemiah
Nehemiah 1-6

Coloring Page:

Nehemiah rebuilds the walls.

Music:

Great Big God
Love One Another
I Can Do All Things

Bible Lesson:

God's Story for Me Bible
Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls
Pages 226 to 229

Story:

If Jesus Walked Beside Me
by Jill Roman Lord

Service Time:

66 minutes (week 1)
66 minutes (week 2)

Memory Verse –

"Be kind and loving to each other."

Ephesians 4:32, NCV

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ACTIVITY 1

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Which Cup?

Big Idea:

“Which Cup” is an activity that uses visual tracking and concentration skills to introduce the Bible lesson words cupbearer and bricks.

What You Need: 3 cups and a small LEGO[®] or block

What You Do:

During the activity: You will play a memory game with the children. Refer to the LEGO[®] or block as a brick throughout the game. Place the three cups upside down in front of the children on a table. Put the brick under one of the cups. Tell the children to watch closely as you move the cups around. When you stop moving the cups, ask the children to guess which cup the brick is under. Continue playing as long as the children are interested.

What You Say:

During the activity: “Look at the cups I have. Count them with me. One, two, three! Yay! Three cups. Now watch while I put this little brick under this cup. Did you see it? *(Pause.)* Keep watching because now I’m going to move the cups around. *(Move the cups.)* Do you think you still know where the brick is? *(Pause.)* Are you sure? *(Pause.)* Okay, let’s see if you know which cup has the brick.” *(Allow the children to guess where the brick is. Continue playing as long as the children are having fun.)*

At the end of the activity: “Our Bible lesson today was about a man named Nehemiah. He was a cupbearer. Can you say cupbearer? *(Pause.)* Good! A cupbearer is someone who serves a king and helps take care of his drink. *(Hold up a cup.)* One day he left his job with the king to go do something with bricks. *(Hold up the brick.)* Do you remember what he wanted to do?”

Memory Verse –

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ACTIVITY 2

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Build the Wall

Big Idea:

“Build the Wall” is an activity that uses dramatic play to introduce the children to the concept of building talked about in the Bible lesson.

What You Need: A large amount of colored blocks and baskets

What You Do:

Before the activity: Scatter the colored blocks all over the room.

During the activity: Divide the children into two groups. Assign each group certain colors of blocks. Give each group a basket. Instruct the children to pick up only the blocks that are assigned to their group. Once all of the blocks have been picked up, have the children take the blocks to the table and work together as a team to make a wall. Once completed, talk about each wall and tell them how proud you are of them for working together to build the walls.

What You Say:

“Let’s pretend we are God’s people trying to do his work. We are going to play a fun game and build our own wall. Each team will build their very own wall, just like the one Nehemiah and God’s people built in our lesson today. When I say go, we will work together with our team and pick up all of the blocks that are our team’s colors. Once all the blocks have been picked up, we will bring them over to the table and make our very own wall. Are you ready? Let’s go!!!

In our lesson today, we learned Nehemiah had a big job to do. In fact, it was too big for him! So Nehemiah got on his knees. He asked God to help him. This was Nehemiah’s job: to fix the crumbled-down wall all around the city of Jerusalem! Nehemiah talked to God’s people about fixing the wall. The wall was important. It would keep enemies out. It would keep the people safe inside. Everyone wanted to help! Everyone worked, even the children like you. We can help people just like Nehemiah did in our lesson. **Who can help others? I can help others.”**

Memory Verse –

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ACTIVITY 3

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Hammering Dough

Big Idea:

“Hammering Dough” is an activity that uses fine motor skills to complete a task and reinforce the Bible lesson.

What You Need: Play-Doh® for each child, several toy tools including a hammer

What You Do:

Before the activity: Give each child some Play-Doh®.

During the activity: Instruct children to shape the dough into rectangles or bricks. When they finish a brick, allow them to use a hammer and gently smash the brick. Encourage the children to share the hammers with their friends. Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Today we are going to hear a Bible lesson about someone who built a wall. Do you know what we need to build a wall? *(Pause.)* Yes, we can use many different things, including bricks. Bricks will make a very strong wall.”

During the activity: “Let’s make our own bricks! We can use Play-Doh®. *(Give each child some Play-Doh®.)* Shape your dough into a brick by making a rectangle. *(Demonstrate.)* Great job! I love your bricks! When building a wall you have to hammer the bricks into place. *(Give out hammers.)* Now take turns with your friends and use the hammers to hammer your bricks. Remember to only hammer your brick gently.”

At the end of the activity: “You are wonderful brick builders! People build walls for many different reasons. Do you remember why it was so important for Nehemiah to help rebuild the wall?”

Memory Verse –

“Be kind and loving to each other.”

Ephesians 4:32, NCV

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ACTIVITY 4 – 2's/3's

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Walk the Bricks

Big Idea:

“Walk the Bricks” is an activity that encourages kids to recite this month’s Memory Verse as they walk along a brick path.

What You Need: Construction paper (in brick colors), and painter’s tape

What You Do:

Before the activity: Lay the construction paper on the floor making a circular path in an open area in the room. Tape to secure.

During the activity: Say the Memory Verse as you walk along the brick path.

At the end of the activity: Say the Bottom Line with the kids.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Come stand on the path with me. *(Pause.)* Get ready to march along the path as we say our Memory Verse.”

During the activity: “Ready? Start marching! *(Start marching slowly around the circle.)* ‘Be kind and loving to each other,’ Ephesians 4:32. Great! Keep going! *(Repeat as many times as desired.)* Super job!”

At the end of the activity: “Find a brick and stand super still. *(Pause.)* You all did such a great job saying the Memory Verse today! What does the Bible tell us to do? *(Pause.)* ‘Be kind and loving to each other.’ We can help people just like Nehemiah did in our lesson. **Who can help others? I can help others.**”

Memory Verse –

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ACTIVITY 4 – 4's/5's

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Rebuild the Wall

Big Idea:

"Rebuild the Wall" is an activity that uses fine motor and listening skills as well as oral recitation to create a take-home activity that reviews the Bible lesson and Memory Verse.

What You Need: "Brick Wall" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, scissors, glue sticks, and crayons
(Note: You will also need one completed Activity Page to use as an example for the children.)

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make a copy of "Brick Wall" on white cardstock for each child.

During the activity: Give each child a copy of "Brick Wall." Identify the pictures in the wall and along the picture strip at the bottom of the page. As you identify each picture, guide the children to the words, "Be (*bumble bee*) kind (*smiley face*) and loving (*heart*) to each other" (*group of friends*). Next, assist the children when needed as they cut out the four picture bricks along the bottom of the page, match them to the pictures within the wall, and glue them in place. Use a completed Activity Page as you point to the pictures and repeat the Memory Verse several times.

What You Say:

During the activity: "This is a picture of a brick wall. Nehemiah led his people to rebuild a wall in our Bible lesson today. Nehemiah was a super Happy Helper! Let's look at the pictures on this brick wall. Do you see a bee? (*Pause.*) I see two bees. There's one on the wall and one at the bottom of the page. Let's point to the bees while we count them. One bee. Two bees. Good job! Do you see a smiley face? (*Pause.*) I see two smiley faces. Let's point to the smiley faces while we count them. One smiley face. Two smiley faces. Good job! I think of the word 'kind' when I see a smiley face. Can you say 'kind'? (*Pause.*) Yay! Kind means nice! Do you see a heart? (*Pause.*) I see two hearts. Let's point to the hearts while we count them. One heart. Two hearts. Good job! I think of the word 'loving' when I see hearts. Can you say 'loving'? (*Pause.*) Yay! Loving is a person who loves people. Do you see a group of people? (*Pause.*) I see two groups of people. Let's point to the people while we count them. One group of people. Two groups of people. Good job! Another word for a group of people is 'others.' Can you say 'others'? (*Pause.*) Good job!"

"This time when we point to the pictures on the brick wall, I want you to say what I say. 'Be (*bee*) kind (*face*) and loving (*heart*) to each other' (*people*), Ephesians 4:32.

"Now it's time to cut and glue! I want you to cut out the pictures at the bottom of your page and match them to the pictures in the brick wall. I'll come around and help you."

At the end of the activity: "Nehemiah led his people to help rebuild the brick wall around his home. You helped make a brick wall that has our Memory Verse on it! Let's say our verse together while we point to the pictures. 'Be (*bee*) kind (*face*) and loving (*heart*) to each other' (*people*), Ephesians 4:32. (*Repeat.*) You can help others just like Nehemiah did. **Who can help others?** (*Pause.*) **I can help others.**"

Memory Verse –

"Be kind and loving to each other."

Ephesians 4:32, NCV

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ACTIVITY 5 – 3's/4's

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Building a Wall

Big Idea:

“Building a Wall” is an activity that uses coordination and teamwork while reinforcing the concept of the Bible lesson.

What You Need: Cardboard blocks (make sure you have one box for each child)

What You Do:

Before the activity: Place the blocks in a pile in the middle of the play area.

During the activity: Have the children each take a block and, one at a time, allow them to stack the blocks. If the blocks fall, help the children restack them. Make sure each child has a turn to stack a block. If you have a large class, you may want to encourage the children to build several smaller walls instead of one large wall.

At the end of the activity: (Option: After the blocks have been stacked you may consider allowing the children to knock down the walls that they have created.)

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Let’s help each other build something! I have many blocks and we can work together to build a wall!”

During the activity: (Give each child a block.) “When I tell you it is your turn, you can go and stack your block to build a wall.” (Call the children by name to go and place their blocks.)

At the end of the activity: “Wow! Look at this awesome wall that we have built together. I am so glad to see all you Happy Helpers helping each other. Today we heard an EXCITING story about someone else who built a wall. (OPTION: Encourage children to work together to knock the wall down.) Do you remember who it was?”

Memory Verse –

“Be kind and loving to each other.”

Ephesians 4:32, NCV

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ACTIVITY 5 – 5's

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Jenga Wall

Big Idea:

“Jenga Wall” is an activity that helps the children visualize and understand the Bible lesson.

What You Need: 10-15 small Jenga Blocks

What You Do:

Before the activity: Place the blocks in disarray around the activity area. Have the children sit in a circle around the blocks.

During the activity: Begin retelling the Bible lesson as you build a wall with the blocks.

At the end of the activity: Knock down your wall and invite the children to help you rebuild it.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Today in our Bible lesson Nehemiah saw that the city he lived in was not safe because the wall had fallen down. He was very sad and wanted to help. Rebuilding the wall would be a HUGE job! He asked other townspeople to help him and they said YES!” *(Start stacking the blocks in a wall formation.)*

During the activity: “Nehemiah and his helpers worked very hard together and started to rebuild the wall. *(Continue building the wall as you talk.)* Even though it was a really hard job they all worked together and built the wall.” *(Finish building the wall.)*

At the end of the activity: “Jerusalem was safe again all because Nehemiah and his friends worked together and helped the city. God wants us to help others. *(Knock down the wall.)* Nehemiah had his friends help him build his wall. Will you help me build mine? *(Have children help you.)* **Who can help others? (Pause.) I can help others!**”

Memory Verse –

“Be kind and loving to each other.”

Ephesians 4:32, NCV

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ACTIVITY 6 – 4's/5's

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Pass Those Bricks Hot Potato

Big Idea:

"Pass Those Bricks" is an activity that uses large motor skills and teamwork as the children review the Bible lesson idea of Nehemiah building a wall.

What You Need: Large cardboard bricks, cd player and music.

What You Do: Use the large cardboard brick to play a game of hot potato with the children. If you have more than one brick you can divide the children into smaller groups of nine and ten.

What You Say:

At the beginning of the activity: "We are going to play a fun game of Hot Potato. How many of you have played this game before? *(Pause)* Great! You can help our friends who haven't played. However, instead of passing a potato or a ball, we are going to use this block or brick. Are you ready, let's start!"

At the end of the activity: (Gather the children around you as you hold the brick) "That was fun! Did any of you notice what we were playing with? Yes! This is a brick. Today, we learned about a man named Nehemiah who showed his friends how to help each other rebuild a wall with bricks! Rebuilding the wall would be a HUGE job! He asked other townspeople to help him and they said YES! Nehemiah and his helpers worked very hard together and started to rebuild the wall. Even though it was a really hard job they all worked together and built the wall. Jerusalem was safe again all because Nehemiah and his friends worked together and helped the city. God wants us to help others. *(Knock down the wall.)* Nehemiah had his friends help him build his wall. **Who can help others?** *(Pause.)* **I can help others!"**

Memory Verse –

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CRAFT – WK 1

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Help Nehemiah

Big Idea:

“Help Nehemiah” is an activity that uses fine motor skills to review the Bible lesson and Bottom Line.

What You Need: “Blank Wall” from the Activity Pages, scissors, kitchen sponges, clothespins, brown paint, small plastic bowls, and wet wipes

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make a copy of “Blank Wall” on white cardstock for each child. Cut your sponges into small brick shapes.

During the activity: Give each child a copy of “Blank Wall.” Pour some brown paint into a bowl. Pick up a sponge with a clothespin for each child. Show the children how to hold the clothespins while they dip their sponges in the paint and press it to their page to make brick prints.

What You Say:

During the activity: “Our Bible lesson today had lots of Happy Helpers! First, Nehemiah helped lead the people so they would know how to rebuild the wall. Then all of the people started working together and before long they had helped Nehemiah do it! They rebuilt the wall! Today we’re going to help Nehemiah make a brick wall with some paint and sponges.”

At the end of the activity: “Your walls look great! You can take them home and tell everyone about how Nehemiah helped others and how you can help others too. **Who can you help? (Pause.) I can help others!**”

Memory Verse –

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Ephesians 4:32, NCV

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CRAFT - WK 2

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Blooms of Love

Big Idea:

"Blooms of Love" is an activity that uses fine motor and listening skills as well as color recognition to make a take-home craft that reviews this month's Memory Verse.

Be sure to list the foods you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" from Other Resources on the Website and post it at the door to your room.

What You Need: "Flowerpot" from the Activity Pages on the Website, light brown paper, light yellow or blue cardstock, scissors, glue sticks, shallow pie pans, wet wipes, finger paint in a variety of bright colors, and green paint

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make enough copies of "Flowerpot" on light brown paper so that when cut out each child can have one flowerpot cut out. Pre-cut your flowerpots.

During the activity: Give each child a "Flowerpot" cut out and a light yellow or blue piece of cardstock. Turn the cardstock portrait style. Assist the children in gluing their flowerpot in the bottom middle of their paper. Pour some green paint in a pie pan. Assist the children in pressing their hand in the green paint and then right above their flowerpot on their paper. It should look like their green handprint is growing out of their flowerpot. Wipe their hands. Now you're ready for the flower petals. Pour small amounts of the different colors in a clean pie pan. Show the children how to press a fingertip into the paint and then make several prints of that color on the end of one of their green "stems." Wipe that finger with a wet wipe and choose a different color. Do the same for each green stem. The result should be five different colored flowers on the tips of the green stems.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "Have you seen the pretty flowers growing, now that it's getting warm and sunny again? *(Pause.)* I love watching the colorful flowers grow. There's something else I like to watch grow, and our Memory Verse talks about them. Our verse says, 'Be KIND and LOVING to each other,' Ephesians 4:32. It makes me smile when I see kindness and love growing. And the more we help others, the more kind and loving we will be! I'm going to help you make something you can take home that will remind you to be kind and loving to each other. Are you ready? *(Pause.)* Roll up those sleeves! This could get a little messy!"

During the activity: "The first thing we have to do is glue our flowerpot in place. We need a flowerpot to grow our flowers! And the special thing about this flowerpot is that it has our Memory Verse on it. It says, 'Be kind and loving to each other,' Ephesians 4:32. Next is the messy part. We're going to use our hands to make the green flower stem. There! Now we're ready for some pretty flowers! All we do to make the flowers is dip our fingertip in the paint and then press it on the ends of our green flower stems like this. *(Demonstrate using a child's hand.)* Ooo ... those are pretty! I'll set them by the door to dry."

At the end of the activity: "Let's say our Memory Verse together with the motions while our flowers are drying. 'Be kind and loving to each other', Ephesians 4:32. Being kind and loving to each other is a great way to help others. **Who can help others? *(Pause.)* I can help others!**"

Memory Verse –

"Be kind and loving to each other."

Ephesians 4:32, NCV

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SMALL GROUP

I CAN HELP OTHERS!

Small Group Time

What you Need: Provide a “Small Group” poster, marker and stickers for each classroom.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Wow! Nehemiah was an awesome leader! He was a Happy Helper AND he got other people to be Happy Helpers. He helped people help others! That is the best! We can do that too. We can help people help others too. **Who can help others?”**

CHILDREN and SGL: “I can help others.”

SGL: “Let’s think of some ways we can do that and write them on our “Small Group” poster. Hmm ... how can we help people be Happy Helpers?”

(Suggestions include: asking friends to help as you clean up at school, after practice, or after playing with toys at home; asking a brother or sister to help you set the table; asking a friend if she wants to help you make get well cards for a sick friend.)

(Write down the children’s names and what they say. Remember to print the words so they can recognize their names and the letters.)

SGL: “This is a great list! If you do these things, you will be leading others to be Happy Helpers just like Nehemiah did! Hey, I just thought of one more thing we can do. It’s in our Memory Verse! We can help our friends be KIND and LOVING to others by being KIND and LOVING to them! Let’s say our Memory Verse a few times before we pray.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “Be kind and loving to each other’, Ephesians 4:32.”

Repeat the verse a few times together.

SGL: “You sound great! Knowing that verse will help you remember to be kind and loving. I think we’re on our way to being amazing Happy Helpers! It’s time to pray. Would anyone like to say your own prayer before I pray?” *(Pause.)*

(Give each child that wants to pray the opportunity to do so and then close with a prayer that includes the list the children made.)

Memory Verse –

“Be kind and loving to each other.”

Ephesians 4:32, NCV