

November Weeks 2 and 3



November 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>  
November 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>

# OVERVIEW CARD

## NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL

**Key Question:**

Who are you thankful for?

**Bottom Line:**

I am thankful for people who help me.

**Memory Verse:**

"Always give thanks to God."

*Ephesians 5:20, NIV*

**Bible Story Focus:**

I am thankful for my community.

Nehemiah Builds a Wall

*Nehemiah 1-6*

**Coloring Page:**

Nehemiah rebuilds the walls.

**Music:**

WooHoo I Can Help You  
Praise the Lord Everyday  
Together

**Bible Lesson:**

The Beginner's Bible  
Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls  
Pages 226 to 229

**Story:**

I'm Thankful Each Day  
by P.K. Hallinan

**Memory Verse –**

**"ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO GOD."**

**Ephesians 5:20, NIV**

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# ACTIVITY 1 – 2's/3's only NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL

## I am Thankful for People who Help Me

### Big Idea:

*Children will say the Bottom Line together and then shake off the toy stress bricks.*

**What You Need:** Parachute and stress bricks

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Lay the parachute on the floor and place the stress bricks in the center of the parachute.

*During the Activity:* Have the children stand around the parachute and pick it up off the ground. Encourage the children to say the Bottom Line, “I am thankful for people who help me” while holding the parachute and then shake off all the bricks. Collect the bricks and complete again. Repeat several times.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “Everyone come sit in a circle with me. *(Keep the parachute closed with bricks hidden inside as you review the lesson.)* I loved today’s lesson about a man named Nehemiah. Nehemiah had a BIG job. What did he rebuild? *(Pause.)* Yes! A BIG wall. Jerusalem was the city that Nehemiah lived in, and it had a wall around it to protect it. But there was a big hole in the wall! What did Nehemiah use to fix the hole? *(Pause.)* Yes, he used bricks to fix the hole, but it was a REALLY big job and he needed help, so he asked God for help. God always helps us when we need it! He sent people in the community to help Nehemiah build the wall.”

*During the Activity:* “I need help too! *(Open the parachute and slowly reveal the bricks inside.)* Take a look at all these bricks. They are just like the ones Nehemiah used in our lesson today. I thought it would be fun for us to work together to shake off all these bricks. Can you help me? *(Pause)* Great! But before we shake off all these bricks, I need you to say, “I am thankful for people who help me.” Now stand up and slowly take two steps back. *(Pause)* Super! Let’s give it a try!”

*After the Activity:* “WOW! You did a really great job shaking off all those bricks! I love how you worked together just like Nehemiah and the community worked together. God helps us when we need help. He gives us people to help us! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**”

## Memory Verse –

**“ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO GOD.”**

**Ephesians 5:20, NIV**

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## ACTIVITY 2 – 2's/3's only NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL

### Building a Wall

#### Big Idea:

*Help the children build a wall with toy cardboard blocks.*

**What You Need:** Cardboard blocks (*make sure you have one block 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 just like Nehemiah did in our lesson today!”

*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. You did a really great job! I love how you worked together just like Nehemiah and the community worked together. God helps us when we need help. He gives us people to help us! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**”

### Memory Verse –

**“ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO GOD.”**

**Ephesians 5:20, NIV**

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# ACTIVITY 3 - ALL NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL

## Add a Friend Verse

### Big Idea:

*Practice saying the memory verse together then choose one child to say it aloud then ask a second child to join and continue to add one child at a time until all are included.*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Gather the children in an open area of the room.

*During the Activity:* Say this month's memory verse together as a group with the motions you learned last week. Choose one child to say the verse aloud to the group. Then choose a second child to join the first child and repeat the verse aloud to the group. Continue adding one child at a time and repeating the verse each time until all the children are included. Explain that we need our friends to say the verse together!

### What You Say:

*During the Activity:* "Today I want to say our memory verse together that we learned last week. Do you remember our motions? Let's say it together: *Always* (arms up around to side) *give thanks* (ASL thank you) *to God* (both hands pointing up), Ephesians 5:20." (Open your hands like a book.)

"Great! Now I want one friend to say the verse for all of us. (Select one child and be prepared to help if needed.) Way to go! Now I need another friend to help him repeat the verse. (Select a second child to join the first child.) Let's keep adding friends, one at a time, until we're all saying it together!"

*After the Activity:* "Great job, everyone! Did you notice how much louder we were when all our friends said the verse together and helped each other? Thanks for your help with the memory verse, friends! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me. And I am thankful for each one of you too!**"

## Memory Verse –

**"ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO GOD."**

**Ephesians 5:20, NIV**

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# ACTIVITY 4 – 4's/5's only NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL

## Which Cup?

### Big Idea:

*Children will play a memory game where they have to guess which cup the brick is under.*

**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? Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the broken wall around his city. Nehemiah needed a lot of help to rebuild the wall. Did his community help him? *(Pause.)* Yes, they did! They worked together and got the job done. Do you think Nehemiah was thankful for his community? *(Pause.)* I do too! If we asked Nehemiah, ‘**Who are you thankful for?**’ he would probably say, ‘**I am thankful for people who help me.**’”

## Memory Verse –

**“ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO GOD.”**

**Ephesians 5:20, NIV**

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## ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's only NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL



### Building Relay

#### Big Idea:

*Children will have relay race to see who can build the wall fastest.*

**What You Need:** Toy blocks (Jenga game set)

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Divide the children into two teams. Have each team line up in a single-file line.

*During the Activity:* Give each child in both lines a block. Designate a place for each team to stack their blocks. When you say, “GO,” send the first child in each line to their designated area and encourage them to place their block down to start their team’s wall with their toy pieces alternating their direction on each level. *(Be prepared to help them build a base to get started.)* Have the other children go down one at a time from each line to continue to stack the blocks.

*After the Activity:* If the wall should fall over before the activity is finished, you may start over, or stop the activity and repair it.

#### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “Let’s see if we can build a wall like Nehemiah!”

*During the Activity:* *(Divide the children into teams and give them blocks.)* “Now, the first person in each line will go and lay their block down to start the wall. Then when it’s your turn, you go and lay your block down to keep building the wall higher and higher! Are you ready?” *(Pause.)*

*After the Activity:* “You all did such a great job working together and building your wall! Things go much better and faster when you have help. I bet it would’ve taken Nehemiah a lot longer to build the wall if he didn’t have any help. God gives us people to help us! **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**”

### Memory Verse –

**“ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO GOD.”**

**Ephesians 5:20, NIV**



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# CRAFT WEEK 2

## NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL

### Help Nehemiah

**What You Need:** “Blank Wall” Activity Page on white cardstock, kitchen sponges, clothespins, brown paint, small plastic bowls, and wet wipes

#### What You Do:

*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 was about a man named Nehemiah! 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 finish the wall! 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. We should be very thankful to God for our helpers, just like Nehemiah was in our lesson today. God has given us so many helpers in our community. **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me!**”

### Memory Verse –

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# CRAFT WEEK 3

## NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL



### Thank You Cards

**What You Need:** “Thank You Card” Activity Page on white cardstock, markers, and heart, flower and fall stickers

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* You need one half-page per child. Fold into thirds to create an “envelope.” Set out the markers, crayons, and stickers in the center of the table.

*During the Activity:* The children will create a thank-you card for someone in their community that helps them. You might want to remind them of some of our community helpers to give them some ideas. They can draw that community helper and use the stickers to decorate their card any way they choose.

#### What You Say:

*During the Activity:* “There are so many people in our community that help us. And I think it’s important to say thank you to them. So today we’re going to make thank-you cards for our community helpers. I want you to decorate a card for the community helper you would like to thank. You can draw a picture of that helper and use the stickers to decorate too. Remember a community helper is someone like a firefighter or a nurse or teacher or mailman! Let’s get busy decorating!”

*After the Activity:* “These cards are so special! Thanks for taking the time to create them. I am so thankful for people like doctors and police officers and teachers who help us every day. I know you are thankful for them too. **Who are you thankful for? I am thankful for people who help me.**”

Memory Verse –

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**Ephesians 5:20, NIV**



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# SMALL GROUP NEHEMIAH BUILDS A WALL

## Small Group Time

**What you Need:** Parent Take Home Card, Playdoh, People Cookie Cutters, Rolling Pins, and Sticker Roll

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** “It makes God happy when we have a thankful heart. Today we’re talking about being thankful for our community. Community is kind of a big word, isn’t it? Community is another word for the place where we live. So, every time we say community, we’re talking about the place where we live and the people who live there too.”

“Our community is filled with all kinds of people who help us every day. The people at the grocery store help us with our groceries. The people at the library help us find great books. The people at the fire station help keep us safe. We have a lot of people to be thankful for right here in our community.”

“Nehemiah needed a lot of help from his community in our Bible lesson today. He needed help rebuilding the broken wall around their city. Did his community help him? *(Pause.)* Yes, they did! They worked together and got the job done. Do you think Nehemiah was thankful for his community? *(Pause.)* I do too! If we asked Nehemiah, ‘**Who are you thankful for?**’ he would probably say, ‘**I am thankful for people who help me.**’”

“What about you? **Who are you thankful for?**”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** “I am thankful for people who help me.”

**SGL:** “Today we’re going to tell God thank You for some of the people in our community. Think about all the people you know in our community—football coaches, construction workers, doctors, teachers, even Small Group Leaders like me! When I say your name, I want you to tell me one person from our community you want to thank God for.”

“Ok, it’s time to review our lesson. I am going to ask you some questions and you will get a sticker for answering them. I have some really cool stickers today. Are you ready? *(Pause.)* Great! *(Ask the children the questions from the “Parent Take Home Cards”. You can also make up additional questions from our video lesson. Don’t forget to ask them to say their memory verse for another sticker. You can repeat the same questions over and over as repetition is good for preschoolers.)* You are such great listeners!”

“Now I’ll pray before it’s time to say goodbye until next week.”

## Memory Verse –

**“ALWAYS GIVE THANKS TO GOD.”**

**Ephesians 5:20, NIV**