

CITY LG– March 15 - 16, 2025

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

WORSHIP

Something Good

Live Differently

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, everyone! It's always great to be here with you in the City. We have so much fun here every week!

If you think about it, it's kind of like we're all part of one big cast and crew—like the actors and people who work on a movie or TV show. Why? Because everyone has a part to play! God created us to work together. That's true here in the City, and it's true in other parts of our lives too.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

Our memory verse this month says, "*Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.*" Ecclesiastes 4:9. Today we are talking about working together and how it can help you solve problems.

Before we get into it today, I've got a question for you to talk about. Circle up with your small group and discuss this question: How **has someone helped you solve a problem?** Go ahead and discuss this in your group...

Large group leader should walk around listening to groups as they answer this.

Give them a couple of minutes.

Today we're looking at an amazing story from the Bible (*hold up Bible*) of how God's people worked together.

If we go back to the beginning, we see how God created a beautiful, perfect world. People turned away from God, and the world was broken. But God had a plan to make things right and bring us back to relationship.

God chose one man named Abraham and promised to bless the whole world through his family. Abraham's family grew and became known as the Israelites. Sometimes they listened to God . . . and sometimes they didn't.

Eventually, God's people were captured and taken to a faraway land. But after 70 years, a new king allowed some of the people to return to their home in the land of Judah. Some of the people returned and worked to rebuild God's temple in the city of Jerusalem. But the wall that protected the city was still broken down, which meant that the Israelites could be attacked by their enemies.

Let's check out what happened next in the story.

VIDEO: Bible Story 10:32

Nehemiah and God's people were up against an incredibly difficult problem. The walls of Jerusalem had been broken down, and it was a BIG job to fix them. Not only that, some people tried to stop them and distract them from finishing what they'd started.

But the Israelites chose to work together, and to trust that God was with them. That's how they were able to complete a job that must have seemed almost impossible. Let's check out our bottom line.

VIDEO: Bottom Line Video

SLIDE: Bottom Line

Work together to solve problems.

SLIDE: Theme

Nehemiah and the Israelites managed to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, together. And with God's help, they finished the job in less than two months!

It's good to remember that God designed us to work together—to cooperate.

One of the best times to cooperate is when there's a problem you need to solve. Like maybe you have a tough project to do for school, and you're not sure how to begin. You can ask your sibling or parent or another adult to help you get started. Or maybe one of your friends is going through a hard time, and you don't want her to feel all alone. So you and your friends work together to make a card to give her—to help her feel better, and to let her know you care.

It's not always easy to cooperate with others. But it's important! Even Jesus, God's Son, chose to work together with people like His disciples to do His work in the world.

If you need to solve a problem, remember that you can always talk to God about it. Ask God to give you the patience and courage you need to work together with others, instead of trying to do it alone. Let's pray and talk to God now.

Dear God, thank You for the way You helped Nehemiah and the Israelites and showed them how to work together. Thank You for giving them the courage they needed to keep going and finish the job. Thank You, God, for giving us friends and family members who are there to help us and support us when we face tough things in life. Help us to remember that we need to make the wise choice by cooperating with others. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

CHECK THE TIME: There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part.

OFFERING:

We are collecting our offering to support a mission partner called La Liberte' Church (La Lib-er-tay) in Africa. La Liberte' Church is in a financially challenged area in The Congo. The kids at the church don't have access to a lot of food so this church feeds 700 children a meal every weekend! Each meal costs \$2.00 and our goal is to help feed as many kids as we can! Check out this video....

VIDEO: Offering Video