

CITY SG – 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

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: “Buddy Interview Questions” Activity Page (a few copies)

What You Do:

- Greet each kid as they arrive and help them feel welcome!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask kids who were there last week if they did anything to show cooperation this week?
- Spread the “Buddy Interview Questions” Activity Pages around in the middle of your space.
- Instruct the kids to turn to the person next to them so they each have a partner.
 - If there is an uneven number, join with someone.
- Direct the partners to interview each other using the “Buddy Interview Questions” Activity Page with as many questions as time allows.
- After the interviews, encourage the pairs to introduce each other to the group.

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Together We Are Better

Bible Story Review

What You Need: “Memory Cards” (one set per group)

What You Do:

- Explain to the kids that the group will play one big memory card game.
- Invite the kids to form teams of two or three.
- Mix up the cards from the “Memory Cards” Activity Pages and place them face down in a grid.
- Instruct the teams to sit around the memory cards.
- Explain the memory card game:
 - Each team will get a chance to flip over two cards during their turn.
 - The team must consult with each other before flipping the cards.
 - If a team matches two cards, they keep the pair and their turn ends,
 - If not, they turn the cards back over, and it's the team to their left's turn.

- Choose a team to start the memory card game.
- Continue the game until all cards are matched, ensuring each team has at least one set of matching cards.
- After all the matches are made, instruct the teams to place their cards face up.
- One card at a time, invite the groups to share how the pictures on the cards relate to today's Bible Story.
- Ask, "In today's Bible Story, building the wall was a big job. What other problems did they face? (*Invite responses, like: Sanballat and Tobiah making insults.*)"
- Say, "When God's people chose to trust God and work together, they finished the wall in just two months! God knows that we can accomplish more together, so God wants us to **work together to solve problems** instead of tackling them alone."

2. Verse Tower

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, and 12 prepared plastic cups

- Make two sets of cups for each Small Group and keep the two sets in separate stacks.
- Write these phrases on the cups: *Two people are / better than one. / They can help / each other in / everything they do. / Ecclesiastes 4:9*

What You Do:

- Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
 - *Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do. Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV)*
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team six prepared plastic cups.
- Direct each team to place the six cups in verse order.
- Once the cups are in verse order, encourage the teams to read and recite the verse.
- After each group has put the cups in verse order, mix up the cups.
- On your "Go!", encourage the teams to work together to stack the cups into one tall tower in the correct verse order (*put the first word on the bottom*).
 - Instruct the kids to alternate the cups upside down and right side up so the ends match.
- If the tower falls, instruct the teams to recite the entire verse before starting again.
- Once a team successfully builds their tower, the game ends.
- Direct the entire group to recite the verse together.

3. Building Activity

Application Activity

What You Need: Jenga Blocks

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team the same number of blocks or dominoes.
- Explain that teams will compete to see who can build the tallest tower before the timer goes off after two minutes!
- Share that if the tower falls, the team must start over.
- Set the timer for two minutes.
- Say, "Go!" to start the game.
- When the timer goes off, check their towers and declare a winner.
- Play another round, this time instructing the kids to place one hand behind their backs as they build.
- Ask, "Was it always easy to cooperate? (*Invite responses.*) Sometimes, everyone has different ideas of how things should be done, and that can be hard. But you listened to each other and stuck with it!"
- Say "Solving a problem on your own can be tempting when things get tough. Remember to ask God for help and work with others. You. This week, let's find ways to **work together to solve problems.**"

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)"
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...
"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be with us and help us. We pray for all the prayer requests written on this board. Please help (*insert names and prayer requests*). Remind us that we are never alone and that You are with us no matter what. Help us remember to pray for our friends, family, and those who may need help solving a problem. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home to bring back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their memory game cards and share that part of today's Bible Story.