

Nehemiah 3

“Teamwork!”

Scripture: Nehemiah 3

Memory Verse: Mark 3:24-25 *“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”*

Lesson Focus: This is another special interactive lesson that we think you and the kids will really enjoy! The last several weeks we have been studying Nehemiah as a man of prayer and godly leadership. The text today shows his leadership in action as he inspired the people of Jerusalem to work together as a **TEAM** to rebuild the city. The text lists all of the people and the portions of the city that they restored as a **TEAM**. We are going to use this text to teach the kids about teamwork! We will “transform” The Summit Room into the ancient city of Jerusalem and assign each class a section of Scripture and portion of the city that they will be responsible to rebuild as a team.

Supplies: We will provide you with empty boxes, scissors, and tape with which you will use to build your portion of the city. You will also be given poster board which will serve as a sign attached outside your doorway to indicate your part of the city and what you have built. Please be encouraged to bring in your own additional supplies to add to it!

Teachers: See each section of Scripture below assigned by grade and the sections of the city that you can focus on to build. Read the Scripture to your kids and pick one or more of the landmarks to build. On the poster board that we will hang up, indicate what it is that you built. You will have 20 minutes to build your portion of the city in your classroom. Be creative and have fun, but also encourage the kids to work together as a team. Consider assigning them some of the names of the folks in the text for fun. Afterwards, each group will go on a “tour of the city” inspecting everyone else’s work and you will vote on the class that you think did the best work. You cannot vote for your own! (We will choose the winner if there is a tie). **There will be prizes for the winner!**

Schedule:

- 1) Please bring kids into the main sanctuary 5-10 minutes after service starts which is 5 minutes EARLIER than usual (we will start countdown earlier).
- 2) After worship, we will read some of our text from the Bible and then play a quick game to get the kids thinking about teamwork. *
- 3) Then we will provide instructions and dismiss you to the classroom to get to work!
- 4) You will have 20 minutes to build in your classroom. Then all classes will come back out and “tour the city” to inspect and vote for which classroom had the best work.
- 5) We will wrap it up with a quick teaching and dismiss you back to your classrooms for some small group activities and/or discussion (see below). *

Building Assignments (pick at least one site to build)

1st Grade: Nehemiah 3:1-2

- Sheep Gate, Tower of the Hundred, Tower of Hananel

2nd Grade: Nehemiah 3:3-8

- Fish Gate, Old Gate, Broad Wall

3rd Grade: Nehemiah 3:9-14

- Tower of the Ovens, Valley Gate, Refuse Gate

4th Grade: Nehemiah 3:15-22

- Fountain Gate, Wall of the Pool, Ascent to the Armory

5th Grade: Nehemiah 3:23-32

- King's Tower, Wall of Ophel, Horse Gate

Classroom Time Afterwards:

While it would be OK if you just prayed with the kids and then let them play, we also ask that you would consider going deeper with the kids into some other team-building games and follow-up discussion. We will give you a hula-hoop and try one (or both) of these team-building games below. Also consider leveraging the Bring It Home questions.

Hula Hoop Pass (Recommended for 1st-2nd grade)

- Have kids stand in a big circle. Place a Hula-Hoop on one kid's arm and then have them join hands with the student next to them (be sure to sanitize hands before and after playing!). With the kids all connected in a circle, have them pass the Hula-Hoop all the way around the circle without unclasping hands. See here for demonstration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2wrv5iT030>

Hula Hoop Lowering Challenge (Recommended for 3rd-5th grade)

- Have the kids stand in a circle and raise their arms with only their index fingers extended. Place the hula hoop so that it rests on the tips of their fingers. Explain to them that they must maintain a fingertip on the hula hoop AT ALL TIMES, but are not allowed to hook their finger around it. It must just rest on their fingers. Then challenge them to lower the hoop to the ground without dropping it. See here for demonstration: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIVKwQ8HJXE>

Let the kids fail at first and then talk about it. Reference our memory verse (**Mark 3:24-25**) where Jesus reiterates that a team needs to be unified to be successful! This is also true of the church! On subsequent tries, help them more and more as their leader!

Qs: What was frustrating? What does it mean to be a team-player? What can you do to be more of a team-player? Why do they need to work together as a team for this to work?

Bring It Home

Download at: <https://rmcalvary.org/volunteering/childrens-ministry/family-resources/>

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Memory Verse: Mark 3:24-25 *“If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”*

Teachers/Parents: During class we pretended to be among the builders in Jerusalem during Nehemiah’s day. Each classroom was assigned a section of Scripture and the corresponding part of the city to rebuild. The class came together as a team to rebuild their part of the city. Ask your child what they built and what lessons they learned about teamwork.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **Nehemiah 3:1-3**. The whole chapter continues listing the people and the portions of the city that they were responsible for repairing and building. What are some responsibilities that you each have in your home and how do you need to work together as a team to keep your home environment healthy?
- 2) Read **Nehemiah 2:18** which shows us how Nehemiah inspired the people to get to work. What did he say to them?
- 3) During class we talked about how there is “no ‘I’ in team”. What does this expression mean and do you agree with it?
- 4) In the same way, there is “no ‘I’ in church”. The Bible repeatedly uses the phrase “one another” when describing the church. Check out **Romans 12:4-5**, **Colossians 3:13**, **Galatians 5:13**, **Ephesians 4:32** for just a few examples. What does this “one another” mean?
- 5) Read **Mark 3:24-25** which are the words of Jesus. Why can’t a kingdom or a house stand if it is divided?
- 6) Is there any division in your home or your life that is causing difficulty? Read **Matthew 5:9**. What are some ways that you can take initiative to obey Jesus Christ and be a peacemaker in this situation?