

March 2025, Week 3

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

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Story, Worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Host enters, wearing a director's beret cap and scarf, and carrying a cheerleader megaphone.

Optional Video (Media Package): Countdown

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Intro

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

OPENER

HOST: (*Into the megaphone*) "Hello, everyone! Welcome, cast and crew! I hope you're as excited as I am to work together today.

(*Without the megaphone*) "I'm your director, [Host's name], and I'm here to lead you through a fun and exciting game. Just like on a movie set, we need everyone to play their part so we can accomplish a common goal!

"I call this game . . . 'Director's Challenge'!

SLIDE: "Director's Challenge"

"Here's how this will work. I'll call out some directions—you know, since I'm the director—and I'll need all of you to *follow* those directions. Easy enough, right? Well, you know here at [name of your environment], we like to add a little extra challenge. As I call out the directions, you'll need to follow what I SAY—NOT what I DO.

"Sometimes what I say will be the same thing as what I do. But when they're different, that's where the game gets interesting. In those cases, if you copy my actions instead of what I say, you'll have to sit down. Your Small Group Leaders will be watching to call you out. We'll see how many of you are still standing at the end of my Director's Challenge!

“And remember—you can cooperate and work together by watching each other. Just be careful, because if someone else does what I DO instead of what I SAY, then you might both be out!

“All right. Everyone up on your feet. Let’s get some movie music going!

AUDIO: *Fun, instrumental movie soundtrack (suggestion: “Night at the Museum” by Alan Silvestri)*

Lead the kids through the game using the printed Director’s Challenge Sheet. Most of the time, do the same thing that you say. From time to time, say the directions under the “Say” column while you simultaneously do the actions in the “Do” column.

Play until you’ve gone through all of the directions, making sure kids sit down if they do the wrong thing. After the last round, congratulate any kids who are still standing.

SLIDE: *Theme*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme Loop*

“Well, crew, that was quite a challenge—but you did a fantastic job following your director’s orders! I saw you working together too, so that you could stay in the game longer. Now let’s all stand up and put our voices together as we sing and worship God.”

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Hi, everyone! I’m ready to worship. How about you? *(Pause for response.)* This first song is called ‘Rain or Shine.’ It reminds me that we can praise God in the good times and the tough times too. Let’s choose to worship no matter what. Sing this with me.

AUDIO: *“Rain or Shine” / track 4 from This Little Light*

Optional Video: *“Rain or Shine” Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video*

“It’s good to remember that we can show God’s love in everything we do. That’s what this next song is about. It says, ‘The world is better when we’re working together to share God’s perfect love.’ Sing that with me one time. *(Repeat.)* Great job! Let’s lift our voices now and sing.

AUDIO: *“Love Like You” / track 9 from Make a Move*

Optional Video: *“Love Like You” Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video*

“So fun! Listen to what Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 5:11: *‘Encourage one another with the hope you have. Build each other up.’* *(NIRV)* Can you think of someone who encourages you to follow Jesus? Maybe it’s someone who is a friend to everyone and always makes people feel like they matter. That’s what we can do for each other . . . and if we do, it’s like we’re shining a bright light for everyone to see. Are you ready to sing ‘This Little Light’? *(Pause for response.)* Let’s go!”

AUDIO: “This Little Light” / track 9 from This Little Light

Optional Video: “This Little Light” Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video

BIBLE STORY VIDEO

WHAT’S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “Wow—Nehemiah went through a lot of ups and downs in that story! Through it all, he trusted God, and he led the people to do something truly great.”

“Think of the help he had along the way. He had help from King Artaxerxes, who allowed him to go to Jerusalem in the first place. And, of course, he had help from all the Israelite people. They stayed strong and didn’t get distracted when others tried to stop them. And because they worked together, they built a new wall around the whole city in less than two months.”

HOST: “This story shows us what God can do through us when we’re willing to cooperate.

SLIDE: *Virtue*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme Transition to Virtue*

“Cooperation is **working together to do more than you can do alone.**”

SLIDE: *Theme*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Virtue Transition to Theme*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme Loop*

HOST “When we have a big problem to face, that’s a great time to cooperate. God can work through us and through others as we work to make things better.”

“And we can lean on our friends and family for help! That’s what we read in our Memory Verse for this month, Ecclesiastes 4:9:

SLIDE: *Memory Verse*

Two people are better than one.

They can help each other in everything they do. (Ecclesiastes 4:9, NIV)

HOST: “We can do way more together when we have wise people around us to help. Sometimes we don’t know what to do to fix something that’s wrong, and we can work with the people God has put around us to come up with a solution. They can help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.**”

“It’s not always easy to cooperate with others. But remember, even Jesus, God’s Son, chose to work with others to do the work God planned for Him to do. When we pray and ask God for help, God can help us find wise people who will be there when we have a problem to solve.”

“God’s Holy Spirit can show us how to cooperate with others instead of just trying to do things on our own. God created us to work together!”

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us cooperate.”

PRAYER

HOST: “Dear God, thank You for putting people in our lives who we can go to when we need to solve a problem. Please give us the courage to work with others . . . and the patience to listen when we’d rather do things our own way. Thank You for the incredible example of Nehemiah and the Israelites and the way they rebuilt the city walls. Their story reminds us that You can do great things through us when we work together. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: *Play high-energy music as the kids exit.*

SLIDE: *Theme*

Optional Video (Media Package): *Theme Loop*