



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESOURCES

Ephesians 3:20-21

AIM

The objective of this Sunday School lesson is to inform children that nothing is too big for them, as long as God is involved.

THEME VERSE

Ephesians 3:20-21 (MSG)

God can do anything, you know - far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!
Glory to God in the Messiah,
in Jesus!

Glory down all the generations!
Glory through all millennia!
Oh, yes!

GAME OPTIONS

WALL BUILDING • EVERYONE PARTICIPATES

SUPPLIES: PAPER, PLASTIC CUPS, TABLE

- Choose 2 volunteers to be the builders
- Choose 2 more volunteers to be the protectors
- The rest of the kids are the opposition

When you say "Go", the 2 builders have to make a wall, using as many cups as possible on the table. The wall should be 5 cups high and 7-10 cups long. At the same time that they are trying to build the wall of cups, the opposition is going to be taking their scrunched-up paper balls, and throwing them at the wall that is being built. The protectors have to protect the wall by swatting and paper balls that are being thrown toward the wall. Allow 3-5 minutes of building time before applying it to the story.

CANDY DREAM TOWER • EVERYONE IN GROUPS OF 3

SUPPLIES: REGULAR SIZE MARSHMALLOWS (OR GUM DROPS), ANY STICKY CANDY WITH A BALL SHAPE), SPAGHETTI NOODLES (OR PIPE CLEANERS), MARKERS

- This can be done in groups of 3 or individually, depending on the size of your group.

When you say "Go", participants have 1 minute to make the biggest, most beautiful "Dream Tower" out of the materials given. This tower must be self-sustaining, and cannot be held up by another person. Encourage kids to use their creativity, and don't just go for height, but for originality. Connect to the lesson by saying, **"Each one of us had a different dream in mind for our candy dream towers. God gives each of us a different dream or vision for the world, and our part to play in that. We're going to look at Nehemiah, and what the BIG task that God laid on his heart."**

dream BIG

pray like a child

SONGS

- Building Up The Temple
- He's Got The Whole World In His Hands
- My God Is So Big
- I'm In The Lord's Army
- O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

TEACHING POINTS - NEHEMIAH'S BIG DREAM

NEHEMIAH'S BIG DREAM • BACKGROUND

- 48 years before this story, the Jews were conquered and led away from their homes and into Babylon.
- They were ruled by the Persians.
- Nehemiah was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes
- Cupbearers had an important role, but they weren't very important. They were to sip the King's drinks before the King to make sure that it was not poisoned. If the drink was poisoned, the cupbearer would be the first to get sick.
- The cupbearer is a trusted position, but an expendable one, since they could possibly die any day.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER

- Nehemiah's friend came to him and reminded him that their home was broken and burned down. This made Nehemiah very sad for days.
- Nehemiah then prayed to God saying, "God you are faithful. Please hear your people, we know that we have sinned. We want to do better, we want to go home. Please, let the king have compassion on us."
- A little while later, Nehemiah was bringing a drink to the king, and the king noticed that he was sad and asked why.
- Nehemiah was scared, but responded that he was sad because his home country was broken and burned. Nehemiah then asked to go and rebuild the city he came from.
- The king could have had Nehemiah thrown in jail, but instead he listened, and let Nehemiah return to his home country to rebuild the walls.
- What Nehemiah thought was impossible for a simple cupbearer, became a possibility because he trusted God. That's not the end though, things got harder.

NEHEMIAH'S OBSTACLES

- Nehemiah brought some other builders with him back to his home country for help, and they got to work. He didn't have any experience building walls, so he needed as much help as possible.
- Sanballat heard that Nehemiah was rebuilding the city's walls and became very upset, and started making fun of the workers.

dream BIG

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- The workers got upset, but continued to build the wall.
- Then Sanballat and his followers started attacking the builders on the wall, trying to harm them. Nehemiah told his builders to not be afraid, because the LORD fights on their side.
- From that day on, half of Nehemiah's builders were protecting the wall, and the other half were building.
- Even with the insults and the attacks, Nehemiah's big dream of returning home and rebuilding the walls around his city was completed in 52 days!

APPLICATION

- Nehemiah could have been scared to mention his dream to the King, and never returned to his homeland.
- Nehemiah focused on what God was doing, and how God gave the King compassion. God allowed Nehemiah to be sent home.
- Nehemiah never lost sight of what God called him to do. Even when things got difficult and people were making fun of him, he continued with what God called him to.
- There is no dream too big for you, because our God is bigger than any obstacle.

RESPONSE ACTIVITY

- What is your big dream for your family?
- What is something you can pray for that seems too big for you?
- Write down something big on the card that you want to pray for, it can be anything!
- Take this card home and place it somewhere that you will see it. Maybe in a mirror, or on your dresser. Every time you see this card, say a prayer for your request until something happens. If nothing happens, pray again, and again. Pray until something changes. Maybe God wants to use you to change it?