



# K & 1ST SEPTEMBER WEEK 2

**BIBLE STORY:** Help! - Nehemiah Helps the Poor - Nehemiah 5

**BOTTOM LINE:** Look for ways to make things right.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.” Colossians 3:23a, NIV

## **ACTIVITY #1: Opening Activity**

### **WHAT YOU NEED:**

“What’s Wrong” Activity Pages

### **WHAT YOU DO:**

- One at a time, hold up each of the “What’s Wrong” Activity Pages for ten seconds so all the kids can see the picture. (Make sure the playground picture is last!)
- When ten seconds are up, put the picture face down in front of you.
- Ask the kids: What was wrong with the picture?
- Repeat with the remaining pictures.
- Show the playground picture last—there are four errors in this picture!

### **WHAT YOU SAY:**

“That was fun! In these pictures, it was easy to see what was wrong. You had to pay close attention. But seeing the problem is only the first part. **[Transition] Let’s head to large group to find out what else we need to do!**”

## **LARGE GROUP TIME - WORSHIP + LESSON**

Please remember to have your group sit together and encourage them to engage in large group time as **YOU** engage in large group time!

### **PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE:**

“Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.”

Colossians 3:23a, NIV

## **ACTIVITY #2: Thumbs-Up For True**

### **WHAT YOU NEED:**

No supplies needed

### **WHAT YOU DO:**

- Read the following statements about today’s Bible story.
- Direct the kids to stand and give a thumbs-up if they think the statement is true and a thumb-down if they think the statement is false.
- For every false statement, challenge the kids to think of what needs to change about the statement to make it true.

## True or false statements:

1. Nehemiah decided to rebuild the wall all by himself.  
(False! Nehemiah gathered the people living there to help with the rebuilding.)
2. Each family or group worked on a different part of the wall to get the work done. (True)
3. People from neighboring nations were super-excited the wall was being rebuilt.  
(False, they taunted and made fun of the people rebuilding the wall.)
4. A group of Jews came to Nehemiah with sad news. The taxes were so high they had to borrow money then couldn't pay the high interest. (True)
5. When Nehemiah heard about how hard things were, he just ignored the problem.  
(False, Nehemiah took it so seriously that he stopped work on the wall.)
6. Nehemiah gathered all the leaders charging the high interest and said, "What you are doing is not right." (True)
7. Nehemiah told them to give back anything they had taken as payment, even the interest. They said, "NO" and pitched a big fit.  
(False, they immediately agreed to give it all back.)
8. Once this big problem was taken care of, work on the wall began again. (True)
9. Nehemiah made the choice to look for ways to make things right. (True)
10. Jesus chose to love people and help them. Because He loves us, we can look for ways to make things right. (True)

## WHAT YOU SAY:

"Nehemiah had a BIG job to do. Rebuilding the wall was important work, and it was a huge task. But when Nehemiah saw that the people were hurting, he took initiative to help. Jesus took initiative when people were hurting, too. He loved and cared for people. He healed the sick and paid attention to people others didn't think were important. When we see something that's wrong or someone treated unfairly, we need to figure out a way to help. Let's do our best this week to look for ways to make things right."

[Make it Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you saw someone treated unfairly or heard about a situation that wasn't right and you stepped in to help. If possible, give an example of how you did this as a kid.)

## ACTIVITY #3: Have A Look

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Pipe Cleaners, safety scissors, butcher paper, markers

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid two pipe cleaners.
- Lead the kids to make a pair of pipe cleaner glasses!
- » Instruct the kids to fold one of their pipe cleaners in half.
- » Demonstrate how to leave a small gap on one end and bring the other end back to the center to make a circle. Wrap the small gap end around to secure.
- » Repeat with the other side so you have two circles with a small gap in the center for your nose.
- » Instruct kids to fold the second pipe cleaner in half and cut it to create two equal parts. These will be the earpieces. (Be prepared to help with cutting. Consider cutting the pipe cleaners ahead of time.)
- » Demonstrate how to twist one end of your earpiece several times around the side of one of the circles (eye piece).
- Repeat with the other half of your pipe cleaner, attaching it to the circle on the other side.
- Encourage the kids to put on their glasses and bend the ends of the pipe cleaners over their ears to fit.
- Once the kids have their glasses on, give each kid a marker and set out the butcher paper.
- Read the scenarios below.
- Ask the kids to brainstorm ways to help in that situation and write or draw a simple picture to illustrate their answers on the butcher paper.
- Scenarios:
  - » You notice a kid at recess who everyone else is ignoring. He sits by himself. What could you do?
  - » A kid in your neighborhood can never get the ball in the basket when you shoot hoops. Some of the other kids laugh. What could you do?
- The kids can keep their glasses on through the rest of the activities. They will use them during prayer.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"We don't have to have special glasses to see what needs to be made right, but they certainly make it more fun! Use these to be on the lookout. When you see a need, you can get busy with initiative and find a way to help! There is always something you can do. Sometimes that means telling an adult and asking for help. Sometimes that means offering to play with someone who's being left out. Sometimes it means offering a snack to a friend in your neighborhood. Let's pay attention and **look for ways to make things right.**"

# PRAY AND DISMISS