



K & 1ST SEPTEMBER WEEK 3

BIBLE STORY: Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now - Nehemiah and Sanballat - Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6

BOTTOM LINE: Stay focused on what needs to be done.

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: Three Hula Hoops

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into three teams.
- Give each team a hula hoop.
- Instruct the teams to form a circle around their hula hoops.
- Direct the kids to rest and balance the hula hoop on their fingertips—not wrap their fingers around it.
- Explain that the goal of the game is to lower the hula hoop to the floor using only their fingertips. (Teams will have to work together to lower the hoop at the same time.)
- If a group is able to lower the hula hoop to the ground on their first try, repeat but establish a new rule for how they communicate to each other.
 - » only use a whisper voice
 - » only one person can talk
 - » no talking at all
- Challenge the kids, telling them that if anyone's fingertips come off the hula hoop, the group has to start over.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Was this harder or easier than you thought it would be? When you first heard the instructions, it may have sounded pretty easy! But to play, you had to really focus so you could lower your hula hoop all the way to the floor.

[Transition] In our Bible story today, we'll hear about how important focus is when it comes to initiative."

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: Bible Story Tower Review

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic Cups, “Review Questions” Sheet

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team an equal number of cups.
- Demonstrate how to stack three cups in a pyramid formation to create a strong tower.
- Instruct each group to stack three cups to start a tower.
- Tell kids that you will ask questions about today’s Bible story, and each team will have a chance to answer.
- Each time a team answers correctly, direct both teams to add two new cups to their tower.
- The goal is for both teams to build the tallest tower they can before it falls.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“Can you believe it? They finished the wall! Think about ALL the work it took to finish such a big job! And not only that, they had all these distractions. Sanballat and Tobiah tried as hard as they could to get them to stop working. But Nehemiah he was doing something great, So he couldn’t lose focus and stop working! Nehemiah chose to stay focused on what needs to be done. And because he stayed focused, they rebuilt the walls and towers and gates.”

[Make it Personal] (Tell the kids about a time you finished a BIG task. Maybe you completed a big home improvement project or finished a degree. Talk about the distractions along the way and how you chose to stay focused so you could get the job done.)

ACTIVITY #3: Have A Look

WHAT YOU NEED: “Verse Work Bricks” Activity Page cards, Bible, crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand out the “Verse Word Bricks” to the kids.
- Set out the crayons and let kids color the bricks.
- Open the Bible to Colossians 3:23 and read the verse out loud.
- Collect the “bricks” from the kids, shuffle each set, and lay them out face down on the floor on one side of your small group area.
- Divide kids into two teams and line each team up across from a pile of “bricks.”
- Encourage the kids to race, one at a time, to the pile of bricks, collect one, and bring it back, then tag the next friend in line.
- Once all the bricks are collected, instruct the kids to work together to put them in verse order.
- When the kids finish, encourage them to sit down.
- Review by reading the verse together.
- If time allows, repeat the verse again with the motions.

NlrV motions:

“Work (*pound fists together*) at everything you do (*fan arms out in front of you*) with all your heart (*both hands over heart*). Work (*pound fists together*) as if you (*point thumbs to chest*) were working (*pound fists together*) for the Lord,” (*point to the sky*) Colossians 3:23.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“We all have big jobs to do. It’s easy to get distracted and think about giving up before the job is done. But it helps when we remember that God is with us! He will help us. Let’s do everything—every big or small task—as if we’re working for God! Then when we’re tempted to get off course, let’s **stay focused on what needs to be done.**”

PRAY AND DISMISS