



Lesson
30

2s & 3s

THE STORY OF NEHEMIAH

March 21 & 22

**GOD IS WORTHY
OF PRAISE**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: The people of Israel were taken away from their home and had to live in Persia because they kept breaking God's rules. The Persians tore down the walls and made the Israelites their slaves. Nehemiah was a servant to the King and made sure his food was safe to eat. Nehemiah heard about Jerusalem and wanted to help them. He told the king about it and the king helped him create a plan. Eventually, God helped Nehemiah and the people rebuild the wall. And the Israelites learned about how they needed to follow God's rules. They gave him all the credit because He is the one true God who helped them rebuild the walls.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that God is powerful and can do things that seem impossible. Because of who God is, He is worthy of our praise!

Nehemiah 1-7



KEY VERSE:

"Lord and King, how great you are!
There isn't anyone like you. There isn't
any God but you."

2 Samuel 7:22, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

FEEDING FAMILIES

You can make a difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout El Paso County by bringing non-perishable food items to your campus.

Your non-perishable donations help Woodmen's ACTs team provide weekly food bags to over 300 local families at our partner schools. Donations are needed year-round.

**Let's see if we can fill the
Feeding Family bins!**



5:45-6:10pm
8:45-9:10am
10:45-11:10am

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

6:10-6:25pm
9:10-9:25am
11:10-11:25am

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



MAKE: Build a Wall Craft

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Nehemiah page, small paper plates, stampers, paint, God Statement Sticker



DO:

Pass out one Nehemiah page per child. Have them take the paint and stampers to stamp the color on the walls. Then have them add the God Statement Sticker to the craft.



SAY:

God is worthy of our praise! Today we get to learn about how God helped Nehemiah. Nehemiah praised God! Let's create a craft to help us prepare for our story today.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by discussing the Big 3 questions.



SAY:

Answer THE BIG 3 questions to help kids prepare for the lesson

1. Who is our story about today?

God, Nehemiah, the Israelites

2. What is the problem?

The wall around Jerusalem was torn down, leaving God's people unsafe. Nehemiah wanted to help fix it, and prayed to God to know what to do.

3. What will God do?

God heard Nehemiah's prayers. God helped Nehemiah and the Israelites rebuild the wall in just 52 days!



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



SAY:

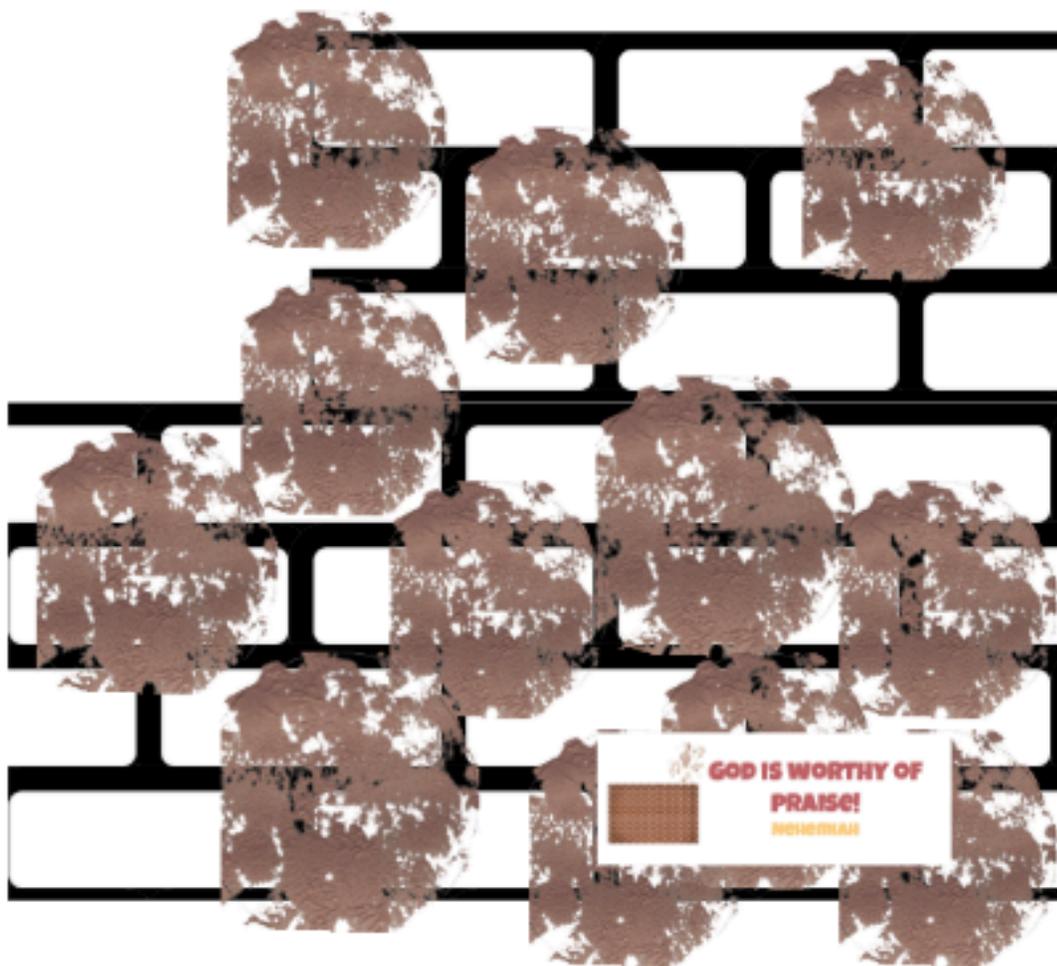
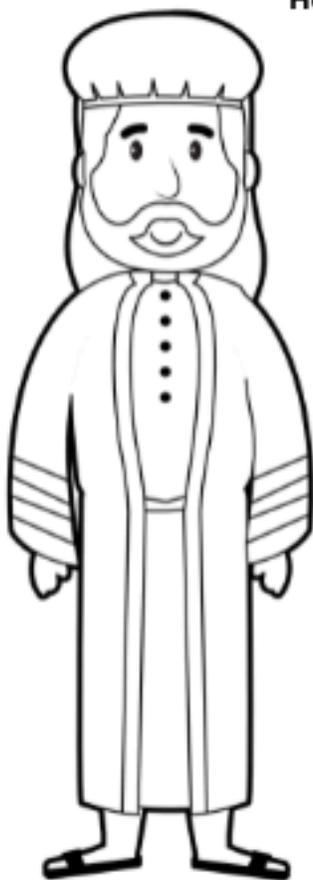
Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."



God is worthy of our praise!

Help Nehemiah finish the wall by coloring in the bricks!



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6:25-6:40pm
9:25-9:40am
11:25-11:40am

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video ([Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s](#))

SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!

DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to [Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s](#) folder.

SONG 1: Hosanna

SONG 2: God is With Me

SONG 3: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Supplies: "Hosanna" worship song in Plex (repeat from earlier)

God is worthy of our praise! That means we can and should tell God how amazing, special and great He is! Let's do that right now as we sing a song of praise together. ***Invite kids to stand and worship together. If you have ribbons or instruments in the classroom, pass those out to allow kids to worship in different ways.***



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you give God all the praise today and every day in all you do because He is worthy! He can do impossible things!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: building blocks



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.



SAY:

Hi Hamilton! **Hamilton is putting blocks together.** What are you doing? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** You're building a special wall? **Hamilton nods excitedly.** Our story today is about a special wall that God helped his people build! Friends, if you're ready to hear our Bible story, can you wiggle your ears with me? **Wiggle ears together.** Let's dive in!



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.



SAY:

There was a man named Nehemiah who lived a long long time ago in Bible times. Some mean people knocked down the city walls where he lived. This made Nehemiah very sad. **Can you show me your sad face?** It made all the people in the city afraid.

Nehemiah loved God with all his heart. He prayed to God and said, "God, please help us!". **Can we all fold our hands like we're praying too?** What do you think God answered? God said, "I will help!"

All the people started to work together to rebuild the great big wall. They started stacking bricks. **Hamilton stacks his blocks together.** Yes, Hamilton! Just like that! Friends, can you stand up and pretend to stack bricks with me? **Invite kids to stand and pretend to stack bricks from the ground up as tall as they can reach.**

It was hard work. Some people didn't think they would ever finish, but God helped them! And guess what? The wall was finally finished! God helped them build the wall. God is powerful and can do hard things! God helps us too! This is why God is worthy of our praise! This means we can and should tell God how amazing, special and great He is! **God is worthy of our praise!**

6:40-6:55pm
9:40-9:55am
11:40-11:55am

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the students remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing simple motions to help them remember the phrase.



SAY:

Today our God statement is **God is Worthy of Praise!**

Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.



DO:

Use simple hand motions to help kids remember the God Statement as you say it together.



ACTIVITY- Building the Walls & Praising God!

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the students can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: Classroom toys that can be stacked (duplos, blocks, magnetiles, etc.) or cups



SAY:

The wall around Jerusalem was torn down, leaving God's people unsafe. Nehemiah prayed to God and asked for help. God heard Nehemiah's prayers. God helped Nehemiah and the Israelites rebuild the wall in just 52 days! They knew this was only possible because of God so they praised Him! Let's pretend to build the wall and praise God together!



DO:

Give each kid one item (block, duplo, cup, etc.). Have each kid stack their item on the tower. When they've placed their item, encourage the kids to say, "God is worthy of praise!" Repeat until you've created a tower.

For fun, the kids can knock over the tower and then work together to rebuild it again and again until they lose interest.

6:55-7:10pm
9:55-10:10am
11:55am-12:10pm

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class.



DO:

- Face Copy Game (happy, sad, silly)
- Picture Naming (“What do you see?”)
- Stuffed Animal Toss
- Read a book or a story out of picture Bible
- Gather paper and crayons and practice drawing
- Follow the Leader (walk like animals, tiptoe, march)
- Body Part Pointing (“Where’s your elbow?”)
- Animal Movements (hop like a frog, slither like a snake)
- Organizing toys (by item, by color, by shape)
- March + Stop (march until you say “STOP!”)

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their Explore craft, utilize the prayer station or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.