



WEEK THREE – MARCH 2025 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls* | *Nehemiah 1-4; 6:15*

Bottom Line: *Work together to solve problems*

Memory Verse: “Two people are better than one. They can help each other in everything they do.” - *Ecclesiastes 4:9 (NirV)*

Virtue: *Cooperation – Working together to do more than you can do alone*

Series Overview: Cooperation isn't always something that may happen naturally, but it is something that is near and dear to God's heart. Since the beginning of creation we see how God created us to be in community with one another. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God, and throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish God's plan for the world. When we work together, we reflect Jesus to others, and our love for one another can point people to Him as we explore what God wants us to do together.

Bottom Line: Work together to solve problems. Have you ever been stumped by a problem and no matter how many times you faced it, couldn't figure out a way to solve it? Sometimes all it takes is another pair of eyes. When you work together with someone else, you can do BIG things, just like the people of Israel did in our story.

8:45 - 9:00 | 10:45 – 11:00 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Connection Centers

Connect: a time that invites kids to share with others and leaders

What You Need: Activity Bins + Coloring Sheets (find on your shelves in space)

What You Do:

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
 - Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for giving you and your few wisdom and creativity. Ask God to help the kids learn how to collaborate, solve problems, and recognize that we are better together.
- *DURING CONNECTION TIME*
 - Greet each child by name and with a high five or fist bump!
 - **Make sure to grab second sticker from the child + place it on your sticker sheet**
 - Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
 - Pull out your activity bins + set aside some coloring sheets for kids to partake in your small group space
 - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them...you can use these :
 - “What’s something nice you did for someone this past week?”
 - “What’s something that made you happy this week?”
 - “Can you tell me about something you are thankful for?”
 - “What’s your favorite thing to do with your family?”
 - “What’s the best part of your day when you are at school?”
 - “Who do you like to play with at home or school?”
- *AFTER CONNECTION TIME*

- *Use this time to review over how to be successful in small group time as well as Flatirons Kids by using the SG Structure 101 sheet featured on your activity shelf*
 - Go over each rule to create a great small group experience
- Transition into the Opening Small Group Activity

9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

Opening Activity

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Divide kids into groups of two.
 - A group of three is fine!
- Instruct the pairs to sit on the ground with their backs to each other.
- Direct the kids to reach behind their backs and link arms with each other.
 - If you have a group of three, direct all three kids to link arms behind their backs in a circle.
- Explain to the kids that on your “Go,” each group must attempt to stand up without separating or unlinking their arms.
- Encourage kids to work together to figure out how to overcome the challenge of standing up without unlinking arms.
- Say, “Go!” and begin the challenge.
- Offer tips or demonstrate as needed if kids are struggling, but let the kids try to solve the challenge on their own first.
- Mix up the groups if time allows.
- Invite the kids to try again.

What You Say:

“Was trying to stand up challenging? (*Invite responses.*) You did a great job working together to figure out how to conquer a difficult challenge. You couldn’t have done it alone, but by working together, you succeeded! *[Transition]* Today, we’ll hear a story about a group of people who worked together and overcame challenges to do something amazing!”

9:15 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: In Week 3, we head to Nehemiah 1–4; 6:15, where Nehemiah and the Israelite people face a HUGE problem. They had returned home to Judah where the city walls had crumbled. Nehemiah rallied the people together and led them to work together to rebuild the wall in just 52 days!

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Together We Are Better

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Memory Cards” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Explain to the kids that the group will play one big memory card game.
- Invite the kids to form teams of two or three.
- Mix up the cards from the “Memory Cards” Activity Pages and place them face down in a grid.
- Instruct the teams to sit around the memory cards.
- Explain the memory card game:
 - Each team will get a chance to flip over two cards during their turn.

- The team must consult with each other before flipping the cards.
 - If a team matches two cards, they keep the pair and their turn ends,
 - If not, they turn the cards back over, and it's the team to their left's turn.
- Choose a team to start the memory card game.
 - Continue the game until all cards are matched, ensuring each team has at least one set of matching cards.
 - After all the matches are made, instruct the teams to place their cards face up.
 - One card at a time, invite the groups to share how the pictures on the cards relate to today's Bible Story.
 - Give each kid a card to take home as a reminder of today's story and Bottom Line.

What You Say:

“Who has played a matching game like this before? (Invite responses.) This time, you worked as a team instead of playing alone and relying on your memory. How did working together help? (Invite responses.) It's always easier when we have others on our team!”

*“In today's Bible Story, building the wall was a big job. What other problems did they face? (Invite responses, like: Sanballat and Tobiah making insults.) Exactly! When God's people chose to trust God and work together, they finished the wall in just two months! God knows that we can accomplish more together, so God wants us to **[Bottom Line]** work together to solve problems instead of tackling them alone.”*

[Make It Personal] (Tell the group about a time when you worked with a group to face a problem. Maybe you were working on a church or home project and ran into some big challenges. Cooperation made solving the problem much easier than working alone.)

Verse Tower

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bibles, and prepared plastic cups

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Give each team a Bible and six prepared plastic cups.
- Guide the teams to look up Ecclesiastes 4:9 in the Bible using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:*** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Ecclesiastes in the list under “Old Testament.” When the kids find Ecclesiastes, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Ecclesiastes. Help the kids find the page. When they find Ecclesiastes, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 4. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 9 in chapter 4.
- Direct each team to place the six cups on the floor in verse order.
- Once the cups are in verse order, encourage the teams to read and recite the verse.
- After each group has put the cups in verse order, mix up the cups.
- On your “Go!”, encourage the teams to work together to stack the cups into one tall tower in the correct verse order (*put the first word on the bottom*).
 - Instruct the kids to alternate the cups upside down and right side up so the ends match.
- If the tower falls, instruct the teams to recite the entire verse before starting again.
- Once a team successfully builds their tower, end the game.

- Direct the entire group to recite the verse together.

What You Say:

“You did a fantastic job building that tower! Was it easy to work together and get the cups in the correct order? (Invite responses.) Our Memory Verse reminds us that when we work together, we can do more than we can do alone. One person might have struggled to stack all those cups or remember the verse, but together, you made it happen.

*“Friends, God designed us to help each other in everything we do! Like a friend who might cheer you up or listen to something that’s bothering you. Or think about how sports teams work together—they work together to pass the ball, or make a goal, or encourage each other when they feel discouraged. Cooperation is all about doing more together than we can do alone. Let’s keep our eyes open to see how we can **[Bottom Line] work together to solve problems.**”*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Small whiteboard (or poster board), and dry-erase marker (or washable marker)

What You Do:

- I Invite the kids to sit in a circle.
- Explain that praying together is a great way to support a friend, family member, or anyone who might need prayer. Asking God for help can oftentimes be the most powerful thing you can do!
- Ask:
 - Is there anything you would like us to pray for?
- Write each kid’s prayer request on the whiteboard (or poster board).
 - Give kids the option to keep their prayer requests unspoken.
- Close the group in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be with us and help us. We pray for all the prayer requests written on this board. Please help (insert names and prayer requests). Remind us that we are never alone and that You are with us no matter what. Help us remember to pray for our friends, family, and those who may need help solving a problem. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, ask the kids to show them their memory game cards and share that part of today’s Bible Story.