



## WEEK THREE – MARCH 2025 – KINDER/FIRST

**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.

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

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### 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

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

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### **Opening Activity**

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

**What You Need:** Dominoes; timer

### **What You Do:**

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team the same number of blocks or dominoes.
- Explain that teams will compete to see who can build the tallest tower before the timer goes off after two minutes!
- Share that if the tower falls, the team must start over.
- Set the timer for two minutes.
- Say, “Go!” to start the game.
- When the timer goes off, check their towers and declare a winner.
- Play another round, this time instructing the kids to place one hand behind their backs as they build.

### **What You Say:**

“Wow! You made amazing towers and worked really well together! *[Transition]*  
**Today, we’ll hear about a group of people who had a big building job to do. Let’s go find out what happened when they decided to cooperate!”**

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

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**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!

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

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**Tower Builders**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Plastic cups

**What You Do:**

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team an equal number of plastic cups.
- Challenge teams to stack their cups as high as they can to build a tower.
- If their cups fall, encourage the kids to discuss why it didn't work and come up with ideas for making their next tower even taller.
- After a few more tries, bring both teams together to build one BIG tower using all the cups and their problem-solving skills!

**What You Say:**

*“Wow, you did a great job, friends! I love how you talked through problems and made your towers better each time. Sometimes, when we face a problem, we try to fix it all by ourselves—but God made us to work together! That’s what cooperation is all about, working together to do more than you can do alone. A friend might*

*have an idea you didn't think of, and you might have a new idea too! God made us so uniquely, and we all have something to share with the people around us! This week, let's ask God to give us patience and courage to cooperate so we can **[Bottom Line] work together to solve problems.**"*

## **Wall Repairs**

### **[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]**

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment*

**What You Need:** LEGOs® (or blocks), and floor tape

### **What You Do:**

- Use floor tape to create a 12" x 12" square on the floor.
- Instruct the kids to gather around the square on the floor.
- Set out the LEGOs® (or blocks) in the group.
- Share that the kids are to work together to build a wall around the taped square using the provided building supplies as you recap the Bible Story.
- One bullet point at a time, read the Bible Story below, instructing the kids to place blocks along the taped square as you review:
  - Nehemiah was an Israelite who lived in Persia and served King Artaxerxes.
    - Invite a kid to place 3 blocks along the taped square.
  - Nehemiah learned the wall around Jerusalem was broken and was very sad.
    - Invite a kid to place 2 blocks along the taped square.
  - Nehemiah asked King Artaxerxes if he could return home to rebuild the wall.
    - Invite two kids to place 2 blocks along the taped square.
  - So Nehemiah traveled to Jerusalem, rallied the people, and they began rebuilding, with each family working on a section.
    - Invite a kid to place 3 blocks along the taped square.

- God's people kept working despite challenges and insults from enemies like Sanballat and Tobiah!
  - Invite two kids to place 2 blocks along the taped square.
- God's people had to arm themselves for protection, working with tools in one hand and weapons in the other.
  - Invite two kids to place 3 blocks along the taped square.
- In just 52 days, God's people rebuilt the entire wall and celebrated by reading God's law.
  - Invite two kids to place 1 block along the taped square.
- Though the wall had been broken for over 100 years, they trusted God, worked together, and completed a huge task!
  - Invite two kids to place 2 blocks along the taped square.
- If there is still space on the taped square, invite the kids to finish building the wall.

### **What You Say:**

*“Great job, builders! Can you imagine fixing a whole city wall in less than two months? The Israelites worked together and trusted God to do what seemed impossible! By cooperating, they made their city safe again.*

*“Do you know who else chose to work together with everyday people? Jesus, God's Son! We can be more like Jesus and cooperate when there's a problem to solve—big or small. If your grown-up is getting ready for dinner and needs some help, you can help out to lighten the load. Or maybe a friend dropped their food on the floor at lunch. If just one person tried to clean it up, it would take a long time, but if everyone at their table works together, the mess gets cleaned up faster! Cooperating with others is not always easy, friends, but it's important! Let's remember to **[Bottom Line] work together to solve problems.**”*

***[Make It Personal] (Tell your few about a time you needed to solve a problem and worked with others to figure it out! Maybe it was a project at work that you couldn't complete on your own. Maybe it was a big building project during a service project or mission trip. How did cooperation—working together—help you solve the problem and get more done?)***

**Pray + Dismiss**

**[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Invite the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Lead the kids in a call-and-response prayer, asking God to help us cooperate and **[Bottom Line] work together to solve problems.**
- Encourage the kids to repeat each line below after you as you pray together.

**What You Say:**

*“Dear God, (pause)*

*We know that two are better than one! (Pause.)*

*Help us to cooperate (pause)*

*and work together to solve problems. (Pause.)*

*Thanks for giving us friends and family (pause)*

*to help us. (Pause.)*

*We love You. (Pause.)*

*In Jesus’ name we pray. (Pause.)*

*Amen.” (Pause.)*

***As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to show off their building skills from the Wall Repairs Activity as they talk about the story, cooperation, and how they’ll choose to [Bottom Line] work together to solve problems this week.***